

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016, AT 9:00 A.M.**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order and the following Elected Officials were present:

<i>Eleazar R. Cano</i>	<i>County Judge</i>
<i>Luc Novovitch</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 1</i>
<i>Hugh Garrett</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 2</i>
<i>Ruben Ortega</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 3</i>
<i>Mike "Coach" Pallanez</i>	<i>Commissioner Pct. 4</i>
<i>Betty Jo Rooney</i>	<i>Tax Collector-Assessor</i>
<i>Ronny Dodson</i>	<i>Sheriff</i>
<i>Suzanna Gonzales</i>	<i>JP #3</i>

1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Judge Cano led the Court in an Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Comment

No public comments

3. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

Minutes for April 10, 2016, April 27, 2016 May 10, 2016, May 17, 2016, May 24, 2016, and May 31, 2016. Commissioner Pallanez addressed a minor change to the April 19, 2016 minutes and Commissioner Garrett addressed minor changes to the May 10, 2016, May 24, 2016 and May 31, 2016 minutes. All changes will be made prior to recording the documents.

Commissioner Garrett moved to approve the minutes for April 10, 2016, April 27, 2016 May 10, 2016, May 17, 2016, May 24, 2016, and May 31, 2016 with corrections noted. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Recognitions

A. Brewster County Historical Commission, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding preservation work accomplished in the 2015 year of service

Judge Cano acknowledge Travis Roberts of the Brewster County Historical Commission receiving the Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding preservation work in the 2015 year.

Mr. Roberts spoke on behalf of the accomplishments made and informed the Court that this award has been given to him for 15 of 16 years.

Judge Cano read into record the letter from the Texas Historical Commission on recognition of Travis Roberts and expressed his appreciation for all the work he does for the County.

B. Brewster County Road & Bridge Department / Recognize the Road & Bridge Crew for the outstanding job they did on Saturday, June 18, 2016, Dump Day

Judge Cano expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Causey and the Road & Bridge Crew for the hard work during the Dump Day around Brewster County. Judge Cano also expressed his thanks to Commissioner Novovitch for getting out there and helping. The organization for this event was great and Road & Bridge had everything organized and ready, stated Judge Cano.

5. Road & Bridge Department / Community Facilities

- A. Road & Bridge Superintendent's Report, General updates on maintenance and repairs for all county roads & state of County Roads System; road materials including, fuel, supplies including usage & inventories & future needs; budgetary matters; equipment including heavy equipment, (maintenance repairs, future needs, replacement and additions), pickups, trailers and other light vehicles and accessories, and small equipment, (usage, future needs), equipment rentals; facilities (yards in Alpine, Marathon and S. County) cattle guards, fences and other means of containing livestock; safety issues and equipment; and community facilities (assistance with maintenance and other related issues); assistance to other governmental entities and emergency responders; personnel issues, (vacancies, new hires, discipline, performance, safety and other general personnel matters); permits for boring or trenching for utilities across County Roads / Discussion and appropriate action**

Superintendent Frenchie Causey reported that they have taken 28000 pounds of tires already from the Dump Day in the County. Superintendent Causey report that the trash is also being dumped and mowers are running in Marathon and Alpine. There is a crew working on the District Court room and a crew in Marathon getting ready for the July 4th event at the Post Park and bladed Mile High Road, informed Superintendent Causey.

Commissioner Ortega encouraged everyone to come out to the Post Park in Marathon for the July 4th festivities.

- B. TxDot Agreement to Contribute Funds (Fixed Price) / Brewster County Participation in Right of Way Cost / Bridge Replacement on Highway US 90 and Approval of Resolution and Order / Discussion and appropriate action**

Judge Cano explained a letter was received in his office regarding TXDoT work on a bridge on Highway 90. Judge Cano and Superintendent Causey met with Mr. Hernandez of TXDoT in reference to this project.

Work will be done on this bridge and the County will need to commit to \$3,619.00 to service easement for the right of way at this location, informed Judge Cano. Judge Cano also explained that this is the Brewster County part of funding the project.

Commissioner Garrett made a motion to approve the resolution for Brewster County to participate in Right of Way cost for bridge on Highway 90. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Cano read into record the Resolution.

C. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Road & Bridge Department to go forward

Nothing further at this time.

6. County Emergency Management Office

A. General Report including:

Recent emergency responses; emergency planning update; recent work with cooperating emergency responders: (ESD #1, all VFD's and EMS); update on needs, programs, training, recent work with other governmental entities; equipment for emergency response and updates regarding needs, maintenance, repairs, replacement and additions; emergency management issues related to burn bans; emergency management issues related to communications & public information; emergency management issues related to County insurance coverage; personnel issues related to emergency response, exercises & drills; matters related to pending & future Homeland Security & FEMA Grants and other funding, matters related to 911 EMS in County and matters related to 911 & 911 addressing / Discussion and appropriate action

Emergency Manager Matt Van Ostrand was out of the office on assignment and Commissioner Garrett made the report. Commissioner Garrett reported that there was minor flooding on Peachtree, although no evacuations were necessary. Commissioner Garrett stated that there is \$570.00 left over from the grant for the back-up generators. Van Ostrand has turned in a request to use the fund for a fence around the generators and waiting on approval.

Commissioner Garrett also informed the Court that ETP provided a training for all local law enforcement and fire departments regarding the TransPecos Pipeline.

A general discussion of ambulance service during pipeline construction took place.

B. Discussion and appropriate action for general administrative work of the Emergency Management Department to go forward

Nothing further.

Court recessed at 10:00 A.M.

Court reconvened at 10:11 A.M. 7. Treasurer's Office

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Treasurer Mann reported the General Bills total \$202,179.50 with walk-ins totaling 15,135.86 and a grand total of \$ 217,315.36. Treasurer Mann stated that there were two penalties to the IRS, one from last year and one from this year.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills and the walk-ins as presented. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Mann reported that the money for PILT was received and will get that to the bank today. Judge Cano informed the Court that it was written for \$1,201,991.00.

B. Financial Reports / Updates, Discussion, Review and appropriate action concerning the following:

Cash Receipts & Disbursements	Payroll Reports
Statement of Revenue & Expenses	Check Register
Receipt Register	Grant Reports
Other Financial Reports	
as requested by Commissioners	

Nothing at this time.

C. 2016 Budget Amendments / Discussion and appropriate action

Treasurer Mann reported that there was an amendment for the DA Investigator. The position is funded by a grant and needs to be re-classified in its own category.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the amendment from funds 010 to 022. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Health Insurance Budget Amendment

Auditor Watson informed the Court that the Health Insurance payments are behind for October, November and December. This was not paid in for retirees that are paying for family members, informed Auditor Watson. Auditor Watson stated that the premium was behind \$84,000 and the premium for July would be paid in June thus putting the balance to transfer \$154,000. She stated that she is unable to access those funds since it was last year's funds. Auditor Watson added that the money for this year is being used to catch the Health Insurance up and will exceed the amount budgeted.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve an amendment for \$154,000 from the Fund Balance to the General Fund. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Other general administrative & procedural matters related to Treasurer's

Office / Discussion and appropriate action for work of Treasurer's Office to go Forward

Nothing further at this time.

8. Officials' Monthly Reports

Commissioner Pallanez read the report into record reading only the District Clerk totals. Commissioner Pallanez informed the Court that all other numbers were presented at the last meeting.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Official Monthly Reports as read. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Big Bend Telephone / Approval of Agreement for the County's Network Managed Services for Brewster County / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano informed the Court that this is a follow up to a presentation done by Big Bend Telephone about a month ago.

Erik Rodriguez with Big Bend Telephone explained that there was one change to move Terlingua to Alpine which is a deregulated area.

Mr. Rodriguez further explained the process of the network.

Commissioner Novovitch moved to approve the contract for the County's Network Managed Serviced for Brewster County to be with Big Bend Telephone.

10. Sheriff's Office

A. The Yarborough Foundation / Discuss and take action on the Possible 2016 Grant of Tires Exclusively for the Brewster County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Ronny Dodson explained The Yarborough Foundation has donated money to the Cheyenne Tire Company for tires used throughout the year for the Sheriff's office. Sheriff Dodson explained that this in addition to the \$7000.00 is budgeted.

Commissioner Ortega moved to accept the funds provided by the Yarborough Foundation to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$5000.00. Commissioner Novovitch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Courthouse Security / Transfer of Courthouse Security Keys from County Judge's Office to Sheriff's Office / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano explained that having the keys in the Sheriff's office is better than in the Judges Office. This is due to any kind of an emergency that there is always a deputy who could access the keys if needed, informed Judge Cano.

Commissioner Garrett moved to transfer key from the Judges Office to the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Texas Association of Counties Health Insurance Coverage for County employees & Officials (Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan administered through TAC)

A. Presentation by Mindy Seahorn, County Health Insurance Representative

1. Evaluation of current plan & consideration of new TAC rate

Mindy Seahorn stated that the deadline for any changes is July 19, 2016. Mrs. Seahorn reviewed the current plan and informed the Court of a 2% increase.

Mrs. Seahorn stated that there were 85 employees enrolled at this time which include dependents. Ms. Seahorn also reported the County would receive a \$94,134.00 rebate of premiums for the current year.

2. Consideration of possible modifications or changes to plan, including co pays & deductibles & related matters

Mrs. Seahorn reviewed a few modifications the County could make to the current plan as well changes to the plan which would change the rate plan and deductibles.

Please see attached plans/options offered by Mrs. Seahorn.

B. Discussion and appropriate action concerning renewal of TAC Health Insurance Coverage for County Employees & County Officials Plan

Discussion of plans and what options were available and what would be best suitable for the County. Commissioner Ortega stated that if he is looking at the numbers correctly the County is looking at \$14.00 a month increase. Commissioner Novovitch asked to be able to review the documents. Further discussion took place along with questions and answers. Commissioner Garrett stated that he was comfortable voting today.

Commissioner Ortega moved to keep the same Health Insurance Coverage for the County. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

12. 2017 Budget Workshop / Discussion concerning all aspects of County revenues/expenditures and upcoming financial needs for all county departments and other entities funded by the County / Scheduling issues related to adoption of Budget and setting Tax Rate

A. Presentations from Elected Officials on 2017 budget requests

Suzanna Gonzales of JP #3 presented her budget and asked for an additional \$100.00 for supplies and another file cabinet. Mrs. Gonzales said that it can be one that no one needs anymore.

Court recessed for lunch at 11:42 A.M.

Court reconvened at 1:01 P.M.

Elected Officials Steve Houston, County Attorney Office, Treva Watson, Auditor, Rod Ponton, District Attorney, County Judge, Eleazar R. Cano, Logan Boswell of the Extension Office reported their request in person. Matt Van Ostrand, the Emergency Manager, JP#2, James Burr, Roy Ferguson, District Judge and Road & Bridge submitted their forms but were not present.

Commissioner Ortega suggested looking into the fund that used to be available for all computers. He stated that there used to be someone who used to keep track of all the computer equipment to know what is the oldest to the newest in order to keep it updated.

Commissioner Garrett asked Mr. Boswell about the salary received from Jeff Davis County. Mr. Boswell stated that nothing has been provided to him but he would submit it to the Court upon receipt.

Discussion of interns took place for the Emergency Manager's Office. The Court discussed miscellaneous items to help improve working procedures throughout offices in the County.

C. Proposed Timeline for adoption of 2017 Budget and 2016 Proposed Tax Rate

Judge Cano stated that the budget should be wrapped up by August if things go according to the time line.

Please see attached.

13. Schedule next Commissioners Court Regular Meeting on July 12, 2016

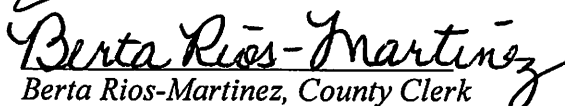
Judge Cano informed the Court that the next meeting would be July 12, 2016 @ 9:00 A.M.

14. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn at 2:21 P.M.. Commissioner Novovitch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.


Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:


Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk