

**CALLED MEETING OF THE BREWSTER
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. and the following were present:

<i>Eleazar 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>Berta Rios-Martinez</i>	<i>County Clerk</i>
<i>Ruth Staton</i>	<i>County Treasurer</i>

1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Treasurer's Office

- A. Executive Session pursuant to Section § 551.071, Government Code, to confer with legal Counsel about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter concerning the County Treasurer**

*Judge Cano and the Court convened Executive Session at 9:14 A.M.
Court reconvened in Open session at 10:55 A. M.*

*Court recessed at 10:55 A.M.
Court reconvened in open session at 11:02 A.M.*

No action taken in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071.

- B. Executive Session pursuant to Section § 551.074, Government Code, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, compensation, or employment related issues pertaining to the County Treasurer**

*Court convened into Executive Session at 11:03 A.M.
Court reconvened into Open Session at 11:35 A.M.*

C. Reconvene in Open Session and discussion and appropriate action following Executive Session concerning the County Treasurer and her proposed salary

It is recommended to make adjustments to the Treasurer's Salary that includes compensation for her duties which is \$40,866.96; and the supplements of \$ 5,000 for the Hotel/Motel Tax Administration Support, \$4,000 for Tri-county Probation Administrative Support and \$2,000 for Grant Administrative Support to be diverted to the County Auditor.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the base Salary of the County Treasurer to \$40,866.96 and to move the supplement salaries of \$5,000, \$4,000 and \$2,000 move the County Auditor position. Commissioner Novovitch seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. 2016 Budget Workshop / Discussion concerning all aspects of County revenues/expenditures & current finances 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 & other matter related to 2016 budget / public comment

4. Matters related to 2015 Tax Rate & 2016 Budget

A. Salaries for Elected County Officials

1. Rescind the motion to approve Elected Officials Salaries passed at July 28, 2015, in Commissioners Court Meeting

Judge Cano informed the Court of the changes in his salary is due to the change in his State Supplement for the County Judge's position of \$200.00. The supplement was actually \$25,200 and not \$25,000 informed Judge Cano. Judge Cano clarified by stating that the original supplement was 15,000 and the increase was 10,200, for a total of 25,200.

Commissioner Ortega moved to rescind the motion passed on July 28, 2015 for Elected Officials. Commissioner Garrett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Propose salaries & appropriate notices / Discussion and appropriate action

Discussion took place of the procedures on the salaries and the posting of notices for final approval.

Judge Cano informed the Court that the only changes to the salaries that were proposed on July 28, 2015 are the same excluding the salary of the Treasurer, removing her supplemental salary that total \$11,000 and the \$200 difference in the State supplement of the County Judge's position.

Commissioner Novovitch moved to approve the changes as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Cano informed the Court that the proper notification will be provided to the affected elected officials and changes would be made prior to posting.

B. Time Line for Public Hearings on 2016 Budget and 2015 Tax Rate and Adoption of 2016 Budget and 2015 Tax Rate / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano asked if Commissioner Garrett would present the dates based on the information obtained from Greg Hudson of Hudson & O'Leary. The Court reviewed the dates based on the gathered information and discussed the plan. Commissioner Ortega reminded the Court of a training on September 18, 2015 and need to look into changing the adoption of the budget.

Discussion of the position of an Elections Administrator took place. with the budget in place. Dr. Christophersen asked to provide a comment and was granted by Judge Cano. Dr. Christophersen shared his thoughts on having the position filled by October 2015 or wait until January 2016. Commissioner Garrett strongly feels that an Elections Administrator position is necessary and added that the Election Commission has not come up with a plan that can be reached with the money available. Commissioner Garrett strongly voiced his thoughts on having a plan in place today for an Election Administrator or not. Dr. Christophersen stated that the Election Commission meet and come back to the Court. Commissioner Novovitch stated that the bottom line is money does exist for this position. Commissioner Ortega stated that the County does not have the money to provide the appropriate employee for the position. Judge Cano does not feel comfortable to put a position in place with the current problems. However, the position has been created but not funded. Judge Cano recommended stating that the EA position will not happen in 2016. Commissioner Ortega stated the unknown is what is concerning.

A brief discussion of providing money for the Post Park in Marathon, and the work it will take to bring it where it could be. Commissioner Ortega informed the Court of what needed to be done to clean out the water at the Post Park.

The Court reviewed the budget provided to them and discussed what needed to be done to provide a good budget a make it possible for the positions needed in the County. Judge Cano will work on the numbers with increasing the tax rate and present it at later date. Please see the attachment of the time line for public hearings and 2015 Tax Rate.

5. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn at 12:56 P.M... Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Eleazar Cano, Judge Cano

August 3, 2015

Called Meeting

Commissioner Court

ATTEST:

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk