

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

Judge Beard called this meeting to order. Commissioner Kathy Killingsworth was out of town. Officers present are listed as follows:

VAL CLARK BEARD	COUNTY JUDGE
ASA STONE	COMMISSIONER PCT. 1
RUBEN ORTEGA	COMMISSIONER PCT. 3
MATILDE PALLANEZ	COMMISSIONER PCT. 4
BETTY JO ROONEY	TAX COLLECTOR
CAROL OFENSTEIN	TREASURER
RONNY DODSON	SHERIFF
BERTA RIOS MARTINEZ	COUNTY CLERK

1. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

The minutes from the Jan. 12, 2009, meeting were presented for approval.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Treasurer Ofenstein noted the quarterly payment for the Appraisal District, and that about \$3,000 was paid out on the solid waste grant. Also, the Chevrolet trucks were purchased with Linebacker grant funds, as were radio kits, for a total of \$88,000.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to accept the general bills, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

B. Other matters related to Treasurer's Office / Discussion and appropriate action for Treasurer's work to go forward

Judge Beard said the Commissioners will be receiving a written report from her and the Treasurer about a meeting held last week with Department Heads to discuss the budget in the context of the current economic times.

3. Officials' Monthly Reports / approval

Commissioner Stone read the monthly reports for the record.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the reports, which was seconded by Commissioner Pallanez, and passed unanimously.

4. Request for contract recreational funds from the Big Bend Amateur Softball Association / Discussion and appropriate action

Mo Morrow from the softball association was unable to attend the meeting.

5. Sheriff's Office

A. Proposed Jail Inmate Telephone System Contracts

1. Review of proposals by County Treasurer and Sheriff

Jail Administrator Albert Alvidrez said that he, the Treasurer and the Sheriff have reviewed the contracts and they feel that the proposal from Crown Correctional Telephone is the best proposal. Judge Beard asked Mr. Alvidrez if he expects good service from that company. He said he feels satisfied. Treasurer Ofenstein said she, too, feels satisfied with the choice.

2. Discussion and appropriate action concerning awarding Jail Inmate Telephone System Contract

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to accept the proposal from Crown Correctional Telephone, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

B. Stonegarden Law Enforcement Grant

1. Approve Grant and Resolution

Chief Deputy Ryan Skelton said he plans to apply for an additional Stonegarden grant. The application is due in the next couple of days, and he needs the Commissioners' authorization and a signature from Judge Beard. The funding would include more overtime for the deputies and some additional equipment.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to authorize the grant application, which was seconded by Commissioner Pallanez.

Judge Beard asked what kind of equipment was being requested in the application. Deputy Skelton said he is asking for a mobile surveillance system which can be

placed in a location for up to six months and be viewed remotely; a contraband kit with density meters, fiberoptic scopes and mirrors; body armor; handheld and vehicle GPS systems; MapTech mapping software; and the CopSeek information sharing system which is used during traffic stops.

The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Approve outside grant for electronic equipment

Deputy Skelton said the CopSeek company will also write a grant to help the County, with authorization from Commissioners Court.

3. Discussion and appropriate action concerning Stonegarden Law Enforcement Grant

C. Purchase of New Lap Top Computer from Asset Forfeiture Account / Discussion and appropriate action

Deputy Skelton said the Sheriff's Office purchased a laptop computer a couple of years ago. It got a virus that has completely shut it down. He is in the process of trying to recover the information, but will need to transfer it to a new computer.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the purchase, which was seconded by Commissioner Pallanez, and passed unanimously.

6. Pending Grant Matters / Consider the preparation and submission of a Program Year 2009 Colonia Construction Fund Application of the Office of Rural Community Affairs / Discussion and appropriate action

Grant Administrator Jerry Carvajal said the applications are due March 26. He said the priority this year is to provide first time water and sewer service to Colonia areas.

He said he needs the Commissioners' authorization to proceed with the application. One public hearing will be required, and he suggested that it be held in South County.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to proceed with the application, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

7. Road & Bridge Department / Community Facilities

A. Road and Bridge Superintendent's Report

General updates on maintenance and repairs for all county roads; road materials including fuel, supplies, including usage & inventories & future

needs; 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); facilities (yards in Alpine, Marathon and S. County) and community facilities (assistance with maintenance and other related issues); assistance to other governmental entities and emergency responders; personnel issues, vacancies, new hires, performance and safety

Supt. Frenchie Causey said crews are working mostly at the library site. The first test on the pad was done Monday. The pad was hard enough, but didn't have enough moisture, so the crews watered it and left it overnight. It was tested again this morning, and passed. A building permit has been secured from the City.

The construction fence was installed at the Marathon site. Crews have also been doing equipment maintenance.

Mr. Causey said he issued a trenching permit to the City of Alpine for Old Marathon Highway.

B. Request to purchase TxDOT Surplus Oil Trailer / Discussion and appropriate action

Mr. Causey said he spoke with TxDOT about a surplus oil trailer for \$3,000. It has a heater in it that can be used to heat asphalt. It is a 1975 model but it passes DOT inspection. It is being housed in Amarillo. He sent a fax to request a purchase. He got a letter this morning saying the County could buy the trailer.

Commissioner Stone said he thinks the purchase would be fantastic, and would save lots of gas and mileage.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the purchase, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

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

8. Treasurer & County Judge's request for 5-year equipment plans from all Departments / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Beard said she and Treasurer Ofenstein would like the Commissioners' authorization to request five-year equipment plans from all departments to forecast what they want and to break it down in order of priority.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the request, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

9. Acceptance of Property from Big Bend Regional Hospital District / Discussion and

appropriate action

Judge Beard said that a while back, Commissioners agreed to accept a gift of property in South County from BBRHD. The consideration was that the County would help them move to their new facilities. The District has moved, but did not seek the County's help, so Judge Beard said they may need to think of some other way to help, as consideration.

10. Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense / Acceptance of Indigent Defense Grant Award / Discussion and appropriate action

Treasurer Ofenstein said the County has been approved for the grant, which is about \$9,000/year.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to accept the grant, which was seconded by Commissioner Ortega, and passed unanimously.

Judge Beard announced that the first regular meeting in February, scheduled for Feb. 9, would start at 9 a.m. due to a lengthy agenda, including a construction workshop. Proposed floor plans and elevations on the two major projects should be available.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Pallanez, and passed unanimously.

VAL CLARK BEARD, COUNTY JUDGE**ATTEST:**

BERTA RIOS MARTINEZ, COUNTY CLERK