

**CALLED MEETING OF THE  
BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010, AT 9:00 A.M.**

*Judge Beard called this meeting to order. Officers present are listed as follows:*

|                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>VAL CLARK BEARD</b>          | <b>COUNTY JUDGE</b>        |
| <b>ASA "COOKIE" STONE</b>       | <b>COMMISSIONER PCT. 1</b> |
| <b>KATHY KILLINGSWORTH</b>      | <b>COMMISSIONER PCT. 2</b> |
| <b>RUBEN ORTEGA</b>             | <b>COMMISSIONER PCT. 3</b> |
| <b>MATILDE "WACKY" PALLANEZ</b> | <b>COMMISSIONER PCT. 4</b> |
| <b>STEVE HOUSTON</b>            | <b>COUNTY ATTORNEY</b>     |
| <b>BETTY JO ROONEY</b>          | <b>TAX ASSESSOR</b>        |
| <b>RONNY DODSON</b>             | <b>SHERIFF</b>             |

***To discuss and take action as appropriate on the following:***

*Judge Beard noted that an election is being held in the Commissioners Courtroom today, and that is why the meeting is being held in the County Courtroom.*

***1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance***

*Judge Beard lead the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.*

***2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval***

*The minutes from the March 23, 2010, meeting were presented for approval.*

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

***3. Treasurer***

***A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the bills as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth abstained from 65323 and Judge Beard abstained from any KALP bills.*

***B. Infrastructure Projects Bills / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Judge Beard said there are a couple of significant library bills which the County has paid and for which it will be reimbursed.*

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the infrastructure bills, which was seconded by Commissioner Killingsworth, and passed unanimously.*

***C. Authorization to pay general bills & infrastructure projects bills in interim until May 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting***

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to give authorization to the Treasurer's Office to pay bills through May 10, which was seconded by Commissioner Killingsworth, and passed unanimously.*

***D. Other administrative matters related to Treasurer's Office / Discussion and appropriate action***

***4. Officials' Monthly Reports***

*No reports were given.*

***5. Road & Bridge Department / Community Facilities***

***A. Road & 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), equipment rentals; 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); permits for boring or trenching for utilities across County Roads***

*Road & Bridge Superintendent Frenchie Causey said he has sealed the dump truck beds to prevent leaking. Crews have been working on Terlingua Ranch Road patching potholes and mowing the right-of-ways. He said they got a second coat on Loma del Norte and Mile High. He said they are preparing for a second coat in North Double Diamond. They have also been helping at the Terlingua site, and doing some normal maintenance at Pena Park. Crews have been*

*prepping the driveway and parking lot at the Alpine Fire Station for paving. He said the gas company will come in later and replace some pipes. He said he will have a couple of guys working to rebuild the gazebo in the next couple of weeks.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth said there is a boring and trenching permit request from Big Bend Telephone Co. in order to place fiber along Sul Ross Ave. up to the university.*

*She said she finds that everything is in order, and made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

*Commissioner Ortega said the flag pole at the Marathon Community Center is bent and he is worried that a good wind will snap it in half. Travis Roberts said he will provide the pipe for the pole.*

***B. TxDot Border Colonia Access Paving Grant / General Update / Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with grant project***

*Travis Roberts, project engineer, said they have the plans and are 99 percent finished in Marathon. They will begin the bidding process soon for new pipes for the SBWC.*

***C. Possible Speed Limit changes on State Highway 170***

***1. Update & Procedures for requesting changes in speed limit by Commissioner Pct. 2, Kathy Killingsworth***

*Commissioner Killingsworth said they have been talking about these changes with J.P. Jim Burr and local law enforcement. She outlined what the speed limits would be in certain areas, such as those with little population and those with higher populations. The procedure is that Commissioners Court asks for the changes; TxDOT then does the appropriate studies.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to approve the changes, following review by TxDOT. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

***2. Discussion and appropriate action***

***D. Requested changes in Platted Streets & Alleys in Town of Marathon / Commissioner Pct. 3, Ruben Ortega***

***1. Request to open East 7<sup>th</sup> between J & K***

2. ***Request to close alley between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Street (between Lee & Albert on West side)***
3. ***Request to open 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Lee & Albert***
4. ***Discussion and appropriate action***

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion authorizing the changes in platted streets and alleys in Marathon outlined in items 1-3. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

- E. ***Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Road & Bridge Department to go forward***
6. ***Personnel Matters / County & County Affiliated Appointed Boards / Expired terms, vacancies & pending vacancies / Discussion and appropriate action concerning filling expired terms & vacancies (Brewster County Emergency Service District #1, Tourism Council, Historical Commission, Central Appraisal District, Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District, Child Welfare Board)***

- A. ***Executive Session Pursuant to § 551.074, Government Code, VTCA, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, compensation, or dismissal of a public officer or employee***

*At 9:38 a.m., Judge Beard announced that Commissioners Court was going into Executive Session pursuant to Section §551.074, Government Code, to discuss personnel matters related to County & County Affiliated Appointed Boards.*

***Reconvene in Open Session***

- B. ***Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session***

*At 9:40 a.m., the Commissioners Court reconvened in open session. Judge Beard said that the Court had been in Executive Session pursuant to Section §551.074 of the Government Code. Judge Beard asked if any action was to be taken as a result of the Executive Session.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to appoint Tommy Mangrem as the Brewster County representative to the Brewster County Central Appraisal District Board. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

*The County makes its appointment for two-year terms and it is the County's year to make an appointment.*

## **7. Emergency Management Department**

### **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 public and private insurance coverage and personnel issues related to emergency response / Discussion and appropriate action***

*EMC Tom Santry reported that there have been two small fires. He said the Alpine VFD has picked up the new rescue truck, and would like to bring it to the courthouse during the next meeting so the Commissioners can see it.*

### **B. Courthouse / County Facilities / Fire Plan Report for 911 / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Mr. Santry said a laminated copy of a map of the courthouse exits and locations of fire extinguishers has been given to each employee. Three of them are posted in different hallways in the courthouse. He said once the plan has been in place for a while, a fire drill is planned. The alarm system will consist of two blasts from an airhorn, which also have been distributed throughout the courthouse.*

### **C. Request to approve CareStar as nonexclusive provider for Air Ambulance in Brewster County / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Commissioner Killingsworth said CareStar is used quite a bit for emergency services in South County, and that this item is a formality to approve them as a non-exclusive provider.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to approve them as a provider for air ambulances, which was seconded by Commissioner Ortega, and passed unanimously.*

### **D. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Emergency Management Department to go forward**

## **8. Census Update / Commissioner Pct. 2, County Complete Count Chair**

### **A. General Review & Review of recent issues concerning undelivered Census packets in rural areas & related issues**

*Commissioner Killingsworth said the first phase has been completed, but it has been noted that there are many areas which haven't received Census packets, specifically Gates 2 and 4 at Terlingua Ranch, the north side of Lajitas, many of the populated areas and rural parts of the County.*

*Brewster County is now in the El Paso Area for the Census, and Commissioner Killingsworth has contacted Bill Ashton to let him know about these concerns before workers are pulled to other areas. She is very concerned that the workers will quit and move on before everyone is counted. She is also concerned with how the surveys are being distributed.*

*Charlene McBride from the Census Bureau explained that she cannot speak informatively about the operations side of the Census. However, she said there are many phases and each are prepared for/planned in different ways. She said there has been a change in postal deliveries. Ms. McBride said the next phase will include sending people out to deliver Census packets. Currently, Alpine is at a 56 percent return rate.*

*Judge Beard asked if there is some place where citizens can get packets. Ms. McBride said they can be picked up at the Sunshine House and the Alpine Community Center.*

*Judge Beard asked how we can go about informing the people about the Census and what is coming up. Ms. McBride said there is a phone number included in the PSAs.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth said they tried to get forms mailed to post office boxes for people who said they hadn't received a packet yet, and the Census Bureau indicated this would not be done. Some forms have been mailed to post offices boxes, but many have not. She said she is concerned because if those people couldn't get a form then, how can we be sure they will get one by hand?*

*Judge Beard said Commissioners are extremely frustrated because they, along with the Complete Count Committee, have worked very hard on this. She said there is now a whole other layer in El Paso that seems almost completely detached from the Midland operation, with which the County has worked very well. Judge Beard said the El Paso operation is ignoring Brewster County, and it looks as though the County will be short-changed like it was following the 2000 Census.*

*Commissioner Ortega asked if there is anyone that can be petitioned to have the forms mailed. Ms. McBride said Bill Ashton should be contacted.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth asked if the County is going to be shorted in the second phase like it was in the first.*

***B. Discussion and appropriate action concerning getting an accurate Census count***

***9. Recognitions***

***A. Recognize Brewster County Historical Commission upon receipt of Distinguished Service Award from Texas Historical Commission / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Judge Beard said that a couple of months ago, Travis Roberts was recognized by the State for his volunteer work with the THC. That was followed by recognition for our entire County Historical Commission.*

*Judge Beard asked Mr. Roberts to tell Commissioners about the award, and to recognize any other members present.*

*Mr. Roberts said the THC requires an annual report to be filed by the end of February, and Brewster County has been recognized for its effort for six years in a row. He said of the 254 Texas counties, only about 50 are recognized, and Brewster County is one of two west of the Pecos River selected.*

*Accomplishments include the restoration of county maps, a historical marker for the Holland Hotel, helping the Tourism Council with signage, assisting youth with school projects, organizing field trips, and helping to try to obtain a grant for courthouse restoration.*

*Other members present included Matt Walter, Kay LaForge and Berta Garcia.*

*Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the County Historical Commission.*

***B. Designation of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which was seconded by Commissioner Killingsworth, and passed unanimously.*

***C. Recognize National County Government Month / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to recognize National County Government Month, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.*

***D. Volunteer Big Bend Luncheon / Judge's proposal to invite chairs of***

***County & County Affiliated Boards to attend Luncheon /  
Discussion and appropriate action***

*Judge Beard said it would be nice to send the chairs of the volunteer County boards to the VBB luncheon. She said, unfortunately, it is not within the County's means to send every County volunteer. Those included will be the chairs of the Historical Commission, Child Welfare Board, Tourism Council, Groundwater District and ESD.*

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to recognize those volunteers by sending them to the VBB luncheon. Commissioner Killingsworth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

***10. Pending Infrastructure Grant Matters***

***A. Colonia Construction Fund Application / (2<sup>nd</sup> Septic Tank Replacement Grant Application for S. Brewster County)***

***1. Update on Project & Application Process***

*Commissioner Killingsworth said they are still waiting on income guidelines from HUD. She said as soon as they are received, they will be able to move forward.*

***2. General administrative matters related to going forward with program / Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with grant program***

***B. 2007 Texas Department of Rural Affairs Infrastructure Grant /Study Butte Water Corp. Improvements / Discussion and appropriate action (Note: TDRA was previously known as ORCA)***

***1. Update & General Administrative Matters regarding grant***

*Commissioner Killingsworth said they are waiting on a valve assembly at the bottom of the tank, and that there is a question on a couple of other valve connections. They are close to completion.*

***2. Study Butte Water Corporation Tank Project***

***a. General update on completing project***

***b. Discussion and appropriate action for project to be completed***

***C. 2009/2010 Texas Department of Rural Affairs Rural Community Affairs Grant Program***

***1. Update***

*Commissioner Killingsworth and Mr. Roberts agreed that pad will be needed at the site, but nothing as extensive as the one built for the current tank project.*

***2. Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with Grant***

***11. Pending Community / Public Safety Infrastructure Projects / Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with all projects, including:***

***Major Projects:***

***South County Emergency Response Center (Housing for Terlingua Medics, Terlingua VFD, Deputy, J.P. & related support space)***

***Alpine/N. Brewster County Area Emergency Response Center (Fire Station for Alpine VFD & Brewster County Emergency Operations Center)***

***Marathon Law Enforcement Facility (Housing for Deputy, J.P. Pct. 3 & training room), Brewster County Jail Renovation***

***Construction Assistance for Alpine Public Library, a non profit corporation***

***Smaller Projects:***

***Vehicle & Equipment Storage Building (shed design) for South Brewster County on 23221 FM 170, near Terlingua & Study Butte, covered outdoor area for Marathon Town Square Repairs & Modifications to Old County Library Building, 203 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, A Alpine, Outdoor Meeting Space for Marathon Town Square, adjacent to Community Center***

***Helipad at S. County Community Center or other location***

***A. Project Updates***

**1. Marathon Justice Center / Discussion and appropriate action to complete project**

**a. Update on status of project**

*Commissioner Ortega said they be staining the floors soon. Judge Beard said the plans for the porch are being wrangled over by the engineer and the construction manager. She said the issue is that the plans show she porch being tied into the roof, which will not work.*

**b. Discussion and appropriate action to complete project**

**2. Alpine VFD Fire Station / Paving and other matters related to preparing for building occupancy / Discussion and appropriate action to complete project**

*Judge Beard said they are getting ready to pave; once that is complete, the station will be complete. Road and Bridge Superintendent Frenchie Causey said he has ordered more caliche for the site.*

**3. South County Emergency Response Center**

**a. Update on status of project including exterior & interior finish work, cabinetry, and related items**

**b. Utility issues related to permanent meters and water tap (Study Butte Water Corp.) & Rio Grande Electric Corp. / Discussion and appropriate action to conclude issues related to utilities**

*Commissioner Killingsworth said the water tap and meter are in. The water department wants to put another vault on the west side of the site. Also, the ESD has approved all the furnishings and they have been ordered.*

*Judge Beard said Troy Sheldon is back in town and will be able to build cabinets for the kitchen area.*

**c. Discussion and appropriate action to complete project**

**4. Alpine Public Library / Construction for Alpine Public Library, a non profit organization (Tom Hatch, Architect) /**

*Judge Beard said the rough-in electrical is done. She said she is going to ask John Milan, the courthouse custodian, to go over there and do a sweep and*

clean. The library site has had some issues related to timing of so-called “earmark” federal funding. The library has designated some funding for HVAC based on information from Congressman Rodriguez’s office that the money would be received in March. That information is inaccurate. The application for funding came in March, but it could take 90 days or more until the funding is available.

The library board is going to be looking at shifting those federal funds to the end of the project for paving, cabinetry, final finish, etc, but this is all tentative.

***B. Overview of major projects at this point / Discussion concerning possible completion dates, scheduling of smaller projects and related matters***

***C. Furnishings for all Projects / Updates***

***D. Local Management of South County ERC & Marathon Justice Center / Update***

Commissioner Killingsworth said she feels like the Commissioners need to be in charge of the buildings and areas. There will be multiple users and schedules. She said there need to be rules of operation. She said they have talked about having a representative of each user formulate the guidelines together and list the other services they will need. She said it’s important to have it set up correctly from the very beginning.

Commissioner Ortega said there aren’t going to be as many different types of users in Marathon, but things still need to be properly maintained.

Commissioner Killingsworth said they have also talked about each user picking up after themselves, and having an overall custodian to perform day to day duties.

***E. Exterior Signage for facilities & Designation of Formal Names for all Facilities***

Judge Beard said that it’s going to be time pretty quickly to look at exterior signage for the buildings. She said the names have been pretty much designated.

She said the Alpine fire station is a County building, and suggested calling it the North Brewster County Emergency Response Center, and also designate it as “Home of the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.”

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the name for the Alpine site, which was seconded by Commissioner Ortega, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the name South Brewster County Emergency Response Center, which was seconded by Commissioner Killingsworth, and passed unanimously.

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the name Marathon Justice Center, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth said the west side of the South County ERC will house the EMS while the east side will house the Sheriff, so she said it is important that the signage properly direct the public.*

## **12. Courthouse Security Issues**

### ***A. Executive Session Pursuant to § 551.076, Government Code / Deliberation regarding security devices or security audits, (1) the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or (2) a security audit and Pursuant to § 551.074, Government Code, VTCA, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation reassignment, duties, compensation, or dismissal of a public officer or employee***

*At 10:17 a.m., Judge Beard announced that Commissioners Court was going into Executive Session pursuant to Section §551.076, Government Code, to discuss courthouse security issues.*

### ***Reconvene in Open Session***

### ***B. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session concerning Courthouse Security***

*At 10:38 a.m., the Commissioners Court reconvened in open session. Judge Beard said that the Court had been in Executive Session pursuant to Section §551.076 of the Government Code. Judge Beard asked if any action was to be taken as a result of the Executive Session.*

*No action was taken.*

## **13. Brewster County Sheriff's Office**

### ***A. 2009 Citation Data statistics / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Sheriff Ronny Dodson presented the 2009 citation data which is recorded with and made a part of these minutes.*

### ***B. Pending Litigation / Notice of Intent to File Suit; Pascual Olibas d/b/a Freedom Bail Bonds vs. Ronny Dodson / Confer with County Attorney***

*Judge Beard noted that this item was posted as “intent to file,” but the suit has, in fact, been filed since the agenda was posted.*

**1. Executive Session - § 551.071, Government Code, VTCA, Pending Litigation and Consultation on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the government body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this Chapter (Privileged Matters)**

*At 10:39 a.m., Judge Beard announced that Commissioners Court was going into Executive Session pursuant to Section §551.071, Government Code, to discuss pending litigation. The courtroom was cleared of all but Commissioners Court, the County Attorney and the County Sheriff.*

**Reconvene in Open Session**

**2. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session**

*At 11:12 a.m., the Commissioners Court reconvened in open session. Judge Beard said that the Court had been in Executive Session pursuant to Section §551.071 of the Government Code. Judge Beard asked if any action was to be taken as a result of the Executive Session.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to authorize the County Judge and the County Attorney to select legal counsel to represent the County and the Sheriff in the suit filed April 8, 2010, by Pascual Olibas. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**C. Stonegarden Grant 2010**

**1. Issues related to time & resources required to manage grant**

*Judge Beard noted that a discussion was held at a previous meeting related to time and resources for grant management. She said it was a good session and lead to further analysis.*

**2. Discussion and appropriate action concerning whether or not to continue with this grant**

*Sheriff Dodson said the 2010 Stonegarden grant has been sent back three times by the agency for correction. He said the agency sends the application to the state, which sends it to FEMA, which then awards money to the state, which is managed by the Border Patrol.*

*At present, the Sheriff's Office is still involved and using the 2008 funding. He said they are having issues with the budget being so time-consuming. He said there are other grants which are administered through the TBSC, but they have a staff to deal with the paperwork. However, the grants don't cover additional personnel, just overtime.*

*He said he would like to decline 2010 Stonegarden and re-apply in 2011 because, at present, it is more a hindrance to his office rather than a benefit. He needs additional personnel to keep up with the paperwork, and the grants are also creating additional work in the Treasurer's Office.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth asked where the County stands on funding for 2008 and 2009.*

*Chief Deputy Ryan Skelton said they are about finished with 2008 funding; he noted that they must complete funding for one year before they can start with the next.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth asked Sheriff Dodson if his office is the only one affected.*

*Sheriff Dodson said that declining funding will have an effect on several other agencies, and they have all been notified by Deputy Skelton.*

*Deputy Skelton said the idea behind declining funding is to slim down a little bit, get caught up and figure out what they have.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to approve the withdrawal of the 2010 Stonegarden application. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

#### ***D. Jail / Request for Part-time Cook / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Judge Beard asked Sheriff Dodson to discuss the jail population and current staffing.*

*Sheriff Dodson said they have two openings for jailers right now. They have a lack of trustees as present. They currently have several federal inmates, and inmates being held for murder, rape and burglary – all of which cannot be used as trustees. They don't have any state prisoners who are eligible.*

*Sheriff Dodson said they would like the federal prisoner board to be increased, hopefully to \$61.*

*He said the jail is in need of a part-time cook. The current cook is working as many as 130 hours in a pay period, including weekends. A part-time cook would save overtime pay.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth asked if this would be a permanent position, or if it is a temporary fix to help with the current situation at the jail.*

*Sheriff Dodson said he believes that making the position permanent would be best, and would be of the most benefit to the operation of the jail.*

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to authorize the hiring of a part-time cook at the jail. Commissioner Killingsworth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**14. Proposed Appropriate Use Policy for Courthouse Internet / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Judge Beard said there has been some back and forth discussion about use of the internet in the Courthouse. She said there is one department that does not want the internet used at all, except for very limited purposes, and there are differing opinions about what is to be considered “abuse” of the internet.*

*She said Commissioner Killingsworth sent her the internet use policy for Terlingua CSD, and her office adjusted that policy for Brewster County. She said Conrad Arriola has pointed out that each department head should be responsible for their employees’ use of the internet, and for having their employees sign an agreement.*

*Commissioner Killingsworth said she thinks it is necessary to have an internet use policy, and that Commissioners should possibly review it on an annual basis.*

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion to accept the policy as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.*

**15. Paving & Planning Workshop Session with Road & Bridge Department / Discussion and appropriate action**

*Judge Beard said there are questions about what the County will and will not go forward with this year. She said, basically, she would like to reaffirm the goals which were set out during last year’s budget session.*

*Supt. Frenchie Causey said he is concerned with the costs of paving materials. He said he doesn’t want to overspend the budget, but he wants to be able to continue to maintain the roads.*

*Commissioner Stone said they are getting good feedback from what is being done, but they need to stay within the budget.*

*Mr. Causey said that if they continue on with the current plan, including paving at Terlingua Ranch and seal-coating, they will not stay within the budget.*

*Judge Beard noted that Treasurer Ofenstein isn’t present at the meeting, so it’s difficult to discuss the budget without her. She said she thinks it would be best to let the Road & Bridge Department forge ahead until the next meeting in May, and re-evaluate the priorities at that time.*

**16. County Clerk / Elections / Request to attend HAVA Funded Training in June, 2010, sponsored by International Association of Clerks, Recorders,**

***Election Officials & Treasurers (IACREOT) / Discussion and appropriate action***

*Judge Beard said that HAVA-funded training will be held in Chicago in June. HAVA will reimburse the costs of the training for up to four people. Judge Beard said it has been suggested that County Clerk Berta Martinez, Elections Clerk Alicia Garcia and Assistant Treasurer Megan Antrim attend the training. She said it is important to send as many people as possible to develop as much expertise as possible.*

*Commissioner Ortega made a motion approving the attendance of those suggested, which was seconded by Commissioner Killingsworth, and passed unanimously.*

***17. Public Comment***

*A citizen in attendance commended the Road & Bridge Department for their work on Mile High Road.*

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

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***VAL CLARK BEARD, COUNTY JUDGE***

***ATTEST:***

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***BERTA RIOS MARTINEZ, COUNTY CLERK***