

**CALLED MEETING OF THE
BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010, AT 9:00 A.M.**

VAL CLARK BEARD	COUNTY JUDGE
ASA "COOKIE" STONE	COMMISSIONER PCT. 1
KATHY KILLINGSWORTH	COMMISSIONER PCT. 2
RUBEN ORTEGA	COMMISSIONER PCT. 3
MATILDE "WACKY" PALLANEZ	COMMISSIONER PCT. 4
CAROL OFENSTEIN	TREASURER
BERTA RIOS MARTINEZ	COUNTY CLERK

To discuss and take action as appropriate of the following:

1. 2011 Budget Workshop

A. Discussion concerning all aspects of the 2011 Budget & County Finance

The latest draft of the budget shows a \$99,000 positive balance.

Judge Beard noted that if the census goes above 10,000, Judge DeHart will be required to appoint an auditor. She said she is going to budget \$10,000 for contingency.

Additional funding is going to be required for the Juvenile Probation Department. CASA has asked for \$5,000. Judge Beard said she favors putting something in the budget for CASA.

In other words, Judge Beard said, the \$99,000 will actually become much lower.

This draft includes a \$750/employee job classification increase. There is no increase for elected officials.

Commissioners did a page by page review of the draft.

Judge Beard suggested no total increase for the library, but rather to roll the capital contribution into the operating funds which the County gives the library. The contribution is \$2,500. Commissioners concurred. They will consider another capital campaign contribution at a later date.

For CASA, Judge Beard said the County cannot afford \$5,000.

Commissioner Killingsworth suggested \$1,000.

Judge Beard said she will put \$1,000 in for CASA.

If there is an increase in the federal prison rate, Judge Beard said she will come back to Commissioners with a plan for setting aside some dedicated funds for the jail system and repairs.

Judge Beard noted that if the grants utilized by the Sheriff's Office terminated, there is no way to maintain the current level local of law enforcement in Brewster County.

Commissioners agreed that the budget is looking good and that they believe they are close to a final draft.

B. Presentations by Contracting Agencies / Discussion

Alpine Public Library

Director Paige Delaney spoke to Commissioners about library services. She said the County's funding is a cornerstone of the library budget. She said operating expenses have increased by 30 percent since 2004. They expect an increase in revenue in book sales once the new library opens; however, they expect a 35 percent increase in operating costs as well.

The library is asking for a 10 percent increase in County funds.

Marathon Branch Manager Carol Townsend said several improvements have been made to the building. They have received a couple of program grants, as well. She said they appreciate the support of the County.

Tri County Juvenile Probation Department

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Jerry Castellano explained the mission of the Juvenile Probation Department. The department encompasses more than 12,000 square miles and hold several conferences for educational purposes throughout the year. They stress prevention and strive to keep children out of the court system.

Since 2002, the federal government has been providing a grant called Title 4E. This year, the grant money decreased significantly and has to be made up with local funds from Brewster, Presidio and Jeff Davis counties. Chief Castellano said he asking Brewster County for a \$3,550 increase in the budget.

Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District

General Manager Conrad Arriola passed a copy of the 2010 budget as approved by the District's board. He said he has been managing the District for six years, and during that time, the District has evolved slowly, but efficiently. There is currently one vacancy on the board.

The District is charged with approving new wells, and encourages citizens to register wells drilled previous to 2002.

The District has about \$17,000 in savings.

The board recently adopted Desired Future Conditions on a 50-year plan, and became a party to the hearings for Fort Stockton Holdings' pending permit in Pecos County.

Big Bend Little League

The Little League presentation has been rescheduled for the next meeting.

Frontier CASA, Inc.

Jane White, the treasurer for Frontier CASA, read a letter from the board explaining the services provided. The letter outlines a request for an increase in funding from each County served by CASA. She noted that, following the swearing-in of a new CASA member last week, Judge Kenneth DeHart said he depends on CASA for children's services and reports to his court.

2. Finalize schedule for adoption of Budget & Setting Tax Rate / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Beard reviewed the schedule with Commissioners. The final budget workshop, if another is necessary, will be held on or about August 25. About that time, Judge Beard plans to file the budget in the Clerk's Office for public review.

The schedule is somewhat abbreviated because what is being proposed this year is that no more taxes will be collected this year than last.

3. Propose 2010 Tax rate to be adopted (no final action)

Commissioner Stone made a motion to propose a tax rate of .32247, which was seconded by Commissioner Ortega, and passed unanimously.

4. Texas County & District Retirement Plan Assessment / Discussion and appropriate action concerning retaining or modifying plan

Judge Beard said this issue is not pressing, and suggested waiting until Treasurer Ofenstein can be present for the discussion.

5. Sheriff's Office / Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System ("TLETS") Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Moore County in support of COPsync, Inc. / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Beard said this is an agreement which facilitates the COPsync program.

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

6. 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

Commissioner Stone said the crews are busy and moving right along.

B. Commissioner Pct. 2 / Designate speed limits and appropriate signage on School Road (Road to Terlingua CSD facilities)

Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to propose designating a speed limit on the school road at 25 mph. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

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 said Brewster County sponsored a week-long dispatch court last week. Twenty-three students from around the area attended. The course was funded with Homeland Security grant money.

B. Ambulance Service in North Brewster County (outside of Alpine City Limits) / Discussion concerning request for proposals process

1. Request to go forward with request for proposals / Bid Process

Mr. Santry said the City and County both have been approached by an individual other than the current provider who would like to bid on ambulance service. Santry stressed that there is not dissatisfaction with the current service; he is not receiving complaints.

Judge Beard said if the County goes forward with seeking proposals, she does not want to do it without the advice of attorney Greg Hudson. She said it is a complicated process.

The proposals would be for service to the City and County.

Judge Beard said it is important that service is never jeopardized; in years past there has been no interest from other providers.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to authorize Mr. Santry to move forward with seeking RFPs. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Request to consider utilizing services of outside expert to assist with evaluating proposals / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Beard said the outside expert would be Greg Hudson, who could recommend a firm to help with evaluations.

She emphasized that there have not been any problems with the current provider.

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

8. 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), Brewster County Jail Updates

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 porches for Marathon Community Center, Multipurpose slab for Pattillo Community Center & Terlingua Fire & Medics

A. Project Updates

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

Commissioner Ortega said things are moving along and looking good.

- 2. Alpine VFD Fire Station & Emergency Operations Center / Update on final matters necessary to complete and close out project / Discussion and appropriate action to complete project***

Judge Beard said she has nothing new to report.

- 3. South County Emergency Response Center***

- a. Update on status of project and last work necessary to complete project***

The phone company has been scheduled to bring all the lines into the building.

- b. Parking space for RV behind ERC / Update / Discussion and appropriate action to complete installation of permanent RV parking space***
- c. Water for firefighting / rain catchment system for ERC site and related issues / Update / Discussion and a***

appropriate action regarding going forward with rain catchment system

Commissioner Killingsworth said a four-inch line has been installed for catchment.

d. Discussion and appropriate action to complete project

Commissioner Killingsworth said intermediate responder training in the building is almost done.

4. Brewster County Jail / Update on replacement of camera monitors in Jail, replacement of console cabinetry and other minor repair work on jail / Discussion and appropriate action to complete this work

A walk-through by Commissioners Court will be scheduled soon.

5. Alpine Public Library Project / Construction for Alpine Public Library, a non profit organization / Update

A. Update on work to be scheduled

Judge Beard said she believes some plumbing work will start today.

B. Discussion and appropriate action to continue construction assistance to APL

6. Porches for Marathon Community Center / Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with work

This project is in process.

7. Multipurpose concrete pad at Pattillo Community Center

a. Update

Commissioner Killingsworth said there is rebar in place for the pad.

b. Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with project

B. Furnishings for all Projects

1. Updates on arrival of furnishings

Commissioner Killingsworth said they are waiting on some chairs, but all of the big pieces are in.

2. Discussion and appropriate action

C. General Discussion concerning public dedication events for projects / Discussion and appropriate action concerning scheduling and planning dedication events

The Border Patrol has offered their Color Guard for the dedication in South County. The fire department is going to cook lunch for the dedication. Invitations are being printed at Printco.

D. Architect's & Accessibility Inspections for all projects conducted on August 10th & 11th, 2010 / Report / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Beard said the architect did his inspection, and his punch list included very minor items. All of the buildings passed the accessibility inspections; a photograph sent to the inspectors verifying that a few minor things have been corrected should suffice.

9. Proposed New EPA Air Quality Standards as related to impact on Brewster County / Discussion and appropriate action to comment on impact of standards on County

Judge Beard that, because there is an air quality monitor in BBNP, and because standards may be tightened, Brewster County may be caught up in standards that are costly.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion authorizing Judge Beard to comment, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

10. 2009 Audit / Presentation by Shaw Skinner / Discussion and appropriate action

Auditor Shaw Skinner presented the 2009 audit. He reviewed the highlights of the audit with Commissioners Court. He said he found no instances of unprofessionalism and there were no disagreements with management.

Total revenues increased \$625,000, mostly due to grant revenue. Debt decreased \$145,000. Most departments underspent their budgets in 2009.

Commissioner Killingsworth asked about fund balances in special funds.

Mr. Skinner explained that, in the normal course of business, those accounts would be cleared; however, Treasurer Ofenstein said there are some special funds which have balances that she needs to research.

Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to accept the audit as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

A copy of the audit is attached and made a part of these minutes.

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

VAL CLARK BEARD, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

BERTA RIOS MARTINEZ, COUNTY CLERK