

**CALLED MEETING OF THE
BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, AT 10:00 A.M.**

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 |
| BETTY JO ROONEY | TAX ASSESSOR |
| JERRY SOTELLO | J.P., PRECINCT 1 |

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

1. Public Hearing on 2011 Proposed Budget

A. Review of 2011 Proposed Budget

Judge Beard briefly reviewed the highlights of the budget.

She said the budget includes no new employees and no substantial new programs. There are no salary increases for elected officials, and there is no COLA for employees, although job classification funds have been included.

The budget notes that the County receives substantial funding through grants.

Professional services will increase substantially due to the cost of redistricting.

Brewster County remains one of the lower taxing counties in the state.

The budget totals \$5,301,574.

Deputy Treasurer Megan Antrim said the Treasurer's Office expects a smooth transition from this year to next.

B. Public Comment regarding 2011 Proposed Budget

No public comment was made.

C. Discussion among members of Commissioners Court and Public

Commissioner Stone said Judge Beard and the Treasurer's Office have done a fantastic job.

NOTE: This proposed budget will not raise more total property taxes than last year's budget. The proposed budget is on file in the Brewster County Clerk's Office or may be viewed at www.brewstercountytexas.com

General Agenda

To discuss and take action as appropriate on the following:

1. 2011 Proposed Brewster County Budget

A. Discussion

B. Adoption, Amendment or other appropriate action concerning 2011 Budget

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to adopt the proposed budget, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone.

Commissioners Pallanez, Stone, Killingsworth and Ortega all voted in favor of adopting the proposed budget.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

The minutes from the Aug. 25, 2010, 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

Deputy Treasurer Megan Antrim said she had nothing to report concerning the general bills. However, she said there is one walk-in bill from the Odessa American for \$146 for advertising.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the general bills and the walk-in bill, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, which passed unanimously.

B. Infrastructure Projects Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Ms. Antrim said there is one infrastructure bill for \$21,630 from Dinosaur Valley.

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

C. Receipt of Proposals to provide County Electrical Power

1. Review & Discussion of Proposals

Ms. Antrim said the County signed with Reliant Energy three years ago. The contract term has now ended. Reliant has a state contract through the GLO.

The County has a total of 20 meters in North Brewster County. (South Brewster County receives energy from RGEC.)

Four companies replied to the RFP, including Reliant, Cavallo, Suez and Center Point Energy. The Treasurer's Office has prepared a spreadsheet showing these proposals.

Currently, the rate is between four and five cents depending on the length of the contract. Options for the length run from one to four years. The Treasurer's Office doesn't want to do less than two years at a time.

All four companies are proposing rates which are lower than what the County pays now.

The Treasurer's Office would prefer to deal with a company which has a state contract through the GLO, which includes Reliant and Cavallo.

Ms. LuAnn Morgan, a representative Cavallo was present and spoke to Commissioners. She said that using a company that is backed by the GLO is more costs effective because the County would save by not having to pay Public Utility Commission fees or transmission fees.

Commissioner Killingsworth asked Ms. Antrim if she has a recommendation on the length of the term.

Ms. Antrim said not less than two years.

More discussion among Commissioners followed.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to accept Cavallo's proposal for a two-year term. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and appropriate action concerning selecting Electrical Provider

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

Ms. Antrim said there are no changes recommended. The rate is 9.61 percent, which is a decrease from last year, and is reflected in the 2011 budget.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to renew the plan at 9.61 percent. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

4. Officials' Monthly Reports / Discussion and appropriate action

No reports were presented.

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

Commissioner Stone said the Road and Bridge Department has been busy. They are going to start paving in South County at the ERC Monday or Tuesday.

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

Commissioner Killingsworth said the plans for Marathon have been approved by TxDOT. Grant Administrator Jerry Carvajal said he plans to start advertising for bids next week.

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

6. 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

B. Ambulance Service in North Brewster County

1. Update on request for proposals process

Mr. Santry said the current contract expires Sept. 30. While the County doesn't have any issues with West Texas Ambulance, the current provider, they feel the need to seek competitive rates.

Mr. Santry said an advertisement will run this Thursday requesting proposals. The deadline for submission is Sept. 30. A fact sheet is available which outlines the geographic area, how many runs are made, etc.

2. Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with RFP Proposals

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

7. 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***
- 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 there are some little things to tie up at the site.

3. South County Emergency Response Center

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

Commissioner Killingsworth said they are working to tie up the loose ends and get things cleaned up for the dedication Sept. 22. Phone jacks and computer ports need to be installed, and they are waiting on a few chairs.

- b. Paving, landscaping & other work to complete finish of area surrounding building / Discussion and appropriate action***
- c. Discussion and appropriate action to complete project***

4. Brewster County Jail / Update on completing refurbishment of control room / Discussion and appropriate action to complete

Judge Beard said the electronic locks were serviced at the same time the new console was installed.

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

- A. Update on plumbing, insulation & HVAC work***
- B. Discussion concerning County's role as Construction Manager in project / Discussion and appropriate action regarding continuing construction assistance to APL & completing project***

Judge Beard said there are some ongoing discussions about construction management amongst the APL Board. She said that for construction management to work, everybody has to be on the same page, so she will be participating in some discussion and figuring out what the County's role will be in completing the project. (The construction manager has to be in charge or things get chaotic.)

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

Commissioner Ortega said they are patiently waiting.

7. Multipurpose concrete pad at Pattillo Community Center

a. Update

Commissioner Killingsworth said they know where the pad will be located; otherwise, they, too, are patiently waiting.

b. Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with project

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

The Border Patrol Color Guard will be present, and the Student Council of Big Bend High School will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The Government class will be present.

Commissioners discussed some details, including hanging the bunting, transporting the P.A. system and other details.

9. Pending Infrastructure Grant Matters

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

1. Update on Project & Application Process

Mr. Carvajal said the bid from A.G. Hays, the only qualified bidder, was received last Friday.

The bid is for 12 systems and is \$84,800. A contract will be signed with each home owner and Mr. Hays.

Commissioner Killingsworth corrected the name of one applicant.

Construction should start in October.

2. Approval of additional Applicants for Program / Discussion and appropriate action

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

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the bid by A.G. Hays, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

B. 2009/2010 Texas Department of Rural Affairs Community Grant Program (Study Butte Water Tank Project)

1. Update

Mr. Carvajal said the contracts have been signed by all parties. He will talk with the engineer about a start date.

2. Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with grant

C. Upcoming 2011 / 2012 Texas Department of Rural Affairs Grant Program / Discussion and appropriate action to approve projects / Discussion and appropriate action to go forward with grant application

The contracts are due Oct. 8. The engineer has already started work with the Water Corporation on the reverse osmosis upgrade.

Mr. Carvajal will need to be on the agenda for Sept. 13 in order to present a resolution.

D. State Comptroller's Energy Efficiency Grant (Energy Efficient upgrade of Annex HVAC System)

1. Update / Conrad Arriola

Mr. Arriola said he needs to talk with the state about ordering the equipment. Once it is ordered, he will have to coordinate with the state on a monthly basis.

Judge Beard commented on the paperwork and time related to this grant.

2. Discussion and appropriate action concerning going forward with project

10. Permian Basin Community Centers for Mental Health Deputy Services / Amendment to extend Contract Term/Cap Adjustment / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Beard explained that this contract been helpful to both MHMR and the Sheriff's Office. The amendment to the contract is to not exceed \$47,000 in the time period.

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

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