

**CALLED MEETING OF THE
BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2012, AT 10:00 A.M.**

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

VAL CLARK BEARD	COUNTY JUDGE
ASA "COOKIE" STONE	COMMISSIONER PCT. 1
KATHY KILLINGSWORTH	COMMISSIONER PCT. 2
RUBEN ORTEGA	COMMISSIONER PCT. 3
CAROL OFENSTEIN	TREASURER
BETTY JO ROONEY	TAX ASSESSOR

1. Texas Association of Counties Health Insurance Coverage for County employees & Officials (Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan administered through TAC)

A. Presentation by Paul Martin, County Health Insurance Representative *

1. Evaluation of current plan & consideration of new TAC rate

Judge Beard said we have been with TAC Blue Cross for many years, and it has been a good plan for our employees. It is a substantial benefit, and is an important tool in job retention.

2. Consideration of possible modifications or changes to plan, including co pays & deductibles & related matters

Treasurer Ofenstein explained that there is an increase of 5.6 percent this year. The average rate per employee goes from \$592.56 to \$625.74 a month. There is a \$20 copay and a \$250 deductible.

Mr. Martin was contacted by telephone, and Judge Beard turned the meeting over to him.

The renewal is effective Oct. 1, and will cost the County an additional \$2,200 per month.

The increase will come with some sort of rebate. In past years, we've known the amount of the rebate. This year, rather than giving a monthly credit, the County will be sent a single check in the third quarter.

The rebate will be calculated based on how long the County has been with TAC, and its claims history.

Mr. Martin said claims this year have been high. He said a 5.6 rate increase is probably very reasonable. It is better than what he is seeing outside of TAC.

There will be no increase for either eye or dental coverage, which is paid by the employee.

Treasurer Ofenstein said that TAC has now notified her about the rebate, which will be \$6,058, and will come in early September or October.

3. Evaluation of current plan in context of changing federal legal & regulatory environment

Following the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), keeping the same benefits will “grandfather” the County.

4. Consideration of any suitable alternative health insurance plans and/or providers

Commissioners agreed that they do not want to search for an alternative. The TAC plan has provided good coverage at a fair price.

B. Discussion and appropriate action concerning renewal of TAC Health Insurance Coverage for County Employees & County Officials Plan

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to accept the renewal notice as presented for TAC Blue Cross/Blue Shield employee health insurance plan. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

1. Treasurer’s Office

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Treasurer Ofenstein noted a reimbursement from FEMA for labor by the Road & Bridge Department during last year’s wildfire season.

Commissioners asked that the reimbursement be transferred into the Emergency Management Department and disbursed from that department.

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

Judge Beard abstained from the KALP transmitter site reimbursement.

B. County Credit Cards/ Update on securing credit cards/ Discussion and appropriate action

Treasurer Ofenstein said she has checked with several banks, and was informed by all of them that they will not issue cards without names on them.

She said this way, if someone lost a card, only that card would be cancelled and other could continue to use the account.

Commissioner Stone said each department head should have a card issued in their name.

An application is required and includes the employees' name, date of birth and Social Security number.

Judge Beard said she is sensitive about an employee having to give their Social Security number on a card application.

Judge Beard noted that if an employee is sent somewhere with the Department Head's card, the employee likely won't be able to use it because his/her name isn't on the card.

She said that makes the situation impossible.

Commissioner Killingsworth asked if Mrs. Ofenstein would speak with the bank president.

Treasurer Ofenstein said she would.

C. Budget Amendments/ Line item transfer for County Emergency Management Department (no net increases)

At the last meeting, a pay increase of \$100/month was approved for Betse Esparza for additional duties as the Deputy EMC.

For the amendment, Treasurer Ofenstein said she needs authorization for an appropriate account in the budget, which she has created in the amount of \$600 for the rest of the year.

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

Increases in FICA and retirement are also necessary in the amount of \$45.90 and \$61.

The money for the pay increase, FICA and retirement will be taken from Volunteer Services (\$406.90) and Travel (\$300).

Commissioner Killingsworth made a motion to approve all of the benefits and pay increases associated with the additional duties assigned to Betse Esparza. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Other general administrative & procedural matters related to

***Treasurer's Office / Discussion and appropriate action for work of
Treasurer's Office to go forward***

2. 2013 County Budget Workshop / Discussion concerning all aspects of County revenues/expenditures 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

Judge Beard said she believes our assessed property valuation is going to be pretty much flat.

Treasurer Ofenstein said she has provided Commissioner with two different reports. One shows the experience from 2010 and 2011.

Another spreadsheet includes a pay increase and the increase in medical insurance and retirement.

She has decreased the PILT to \$577,500 because she would rather be conservative. The million dollar amounts were only guaranteed through this year. So she went back to the 2007 amount, before the increase was made.

Commissioner Killingsworth asked about debt payments. Treasurer Ofenstein said, for now, she has left the tax rate flat, until Commissioners direct her on the I&S rate.

Judge Beard said that, until we got the PILT increase, what we tried to keep in reserves was three months' operating expenses, plus the previous year's jail payment and the PILT.

Following the same plan now would be substantial and probably isn't sustainable, which is something to consider for the next several years.

Treasurer Ofenstein reviewed additional revenue sources, including delinquent tax payments, sales tax, licenses and permits, fees, fines, federal prisoners, etc.

Commissioners will review the information the Treasurer has provided, and will discuss the budget again at the regular meeting Monday.

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

1. CJIS Disposition Completeness Reporting / Request to establish monthly meeting of Departments involved for Criminal Justice Information System Data Reporting Improvement plan pursuant to C.C.P. Article 60.10 to review reporting & compliance / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Beard said that last week, Joel Brewer, a DPS representative, made another visit to the Courthouse. His goal is to get the County into compliance with

CJIS reporting. He spent time with various offices. CJIS is criminal history reporting required by the State. If CJIS reporting is not at a 90 percent rate, it has been proposed that a County becomes ineligible to receive Homeland Security funding.

Judge Beard has asked Conrad Arriola to help oversee the reporting on a monthly basis.

DPS has also set up some new disposition codes, including for those who abscond after a warrant has been issued.

The issue is statewide, and locally, there are entities which the Commissioners Court doesn't control, but whose help we need.

2. Commissioners Court request to all reporting agencies asking for cooperation / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Stone made a motion authorizing Judge Beard to send a letter to all of the reporting agencies, asking for their help. Commissioner Killingsworth seconded the motion, which 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