

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M.**

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

KATHY KILLINGSWORTH	COUNTY JUDGE
ASA "COOKIE" STONE	COMMISSIONER PCT. 1
TOM WILLIAMS	COMMISSIONER PCT. 2
RUBEN ORTEGA	COMMISSIONER PCT. 3
MIKE PALLANEZ	COMMISSIONER PCT. 4
DELLA SHACKELFORD	TREASURER
BERTA RIOS-MARTINEZ	COUNTY CLERK
RONNY DODSON	SHERIFF
JERRY SOTELLO	J.P., PRECINCT 1

To discuss and take action as appropriate on the following:

1. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

The minutes from the Jan. 28, 2013, 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

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

B. Financial Reports / Updates, Discussion, Review and appropriate action concerning the following:

Specified Activity Report	Payroll Reports
Cash Flow Predictions	Check Register
Budget Analysis Usage Report	Transfers
Receipt File Listings	Personnel/Overtime Reports
Cash Report	Other Financial Reports as

Grant Reports

Requested by Commissioners

Treasurer Shackelford discussed the reports with Commissioners. She said they are still working on streamlining the reports to make them more efficient.

C. Request to do a Budget Amendment to transfer Mauricio Cordova's salary and related payroll accounts from Courthouse funds to Sheriff's Office funds / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the budget amendment, effective with the February payroll period. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Designation of Diette Berry as Assistant Treasurer

Treasurer Shackelford said this would require having Ms. Berry bonded. Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the designation, which was seconded by Commissioner Williams, and passed unanimously.

E. Add Hotel/Motel Stipend of \$4,000 Annually to Assistant Treasurer's Salary

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

F. Transfer Employee's Activity Fund 11-250-211 to Employee Enrichment 10-409-418 in General Fund

Treasurer Shackelford said the balance is \$633.93. The account is being used at this time. The enrichment account was created in January.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve the closure of the activity fund and transfer the amount to the enrichment fund. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

G. Cease Activity Fund payroll deductions for Commissioners Court Members

Commissioner Williams made a motion to cease the payroll deductions, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

H. Texas Association of Counties Representatives to discuss wellness and the Affordable Care Act and how it could affect the county

TAC Representative Ernesto Ruiz addressed current issues related to 2014, including some fees which are being covered by

In 2015, an employer with 100 or more employees becomes subject to the ACA employer regulations. Brewster County has less employees than that at this time.

Brewster County has a grandfathered status right now.

Many Texas counties may begin to move toward a non-grandfathered status over the next few years due to cost savings.

TAC is going to begin a larger focus on wellness in order to keep health costs down, and addressed benefits already available to employees, and how to get employees engaged in their own well-being.

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

Treasurer Shackelford said \$18,235 should be received from the HIDTA grant in the next couple of weeks. A couple more submissions for reimbursement should be sent in soon.

She said the Indigent Defense payment for 2013 has been received, as has part of the 2014 payment.

HIDTA training is scheduled for Feb. 27.

3. Officials' Monthly Reports / Discussion and appropriate action

No reports were submitted.

4. Brewster County Historical Commission / Update / Discussion and appropriate action

Chairman Travis Roberts said the Commissioners meeting quarterly. They met last Thursday, and about 21 members were present.

Mr. Roberts will submit the annual report on Friday. The group has been reviewing the History Fair for the high school and middle school students in the area. They are working on a historical picture display for the Old Library building. Dr. Jerry Eoff is working on updating the website. Historical road sign work is still underway.

The THC Commissioners will meet in Alpine July 30-31.

5. Veterans Service Officer

Mr. Roberts said sort of memorial for Veterans of Foreign Wars is in the works, possibly close to the flag pole near the Tax Office.

6. Road & Bridge Department / Community Facilities

A. Road & Bridge Superintendent's Report

General updates on maintenance and repairs for all county roads & state of County Roads System; road materials including, fuel, supplies including usage & inventories & future needs; budgetary matters; 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) cattle guards, fences and other means of containing livestock; safety issues and equipment; and community facilities (assistance with maintenance and other related issues); assistance to other governmental entities and emergency responders; personnel issues, (vacancies, new hires, discipline, performance, safety and other general personnel matters); permits for boring or trenching for utilities across County Roads / Discussion and appropriate action

Supt. Frenchie Causey said they have completed demolition of the bridge on the Cemetery Road. The concrete and filler still needs to be hauled away. They are still hauling milling material out to Hovey Road. They picked up two loads of pre-mix for the parking lots at the schools in Marathon. Crews are still working on the shower at the shop.

B. Terlingua CSD Track Construction Cooperative Project

1. Update

Mr. Roberts said all the concrete curbing is finished. The asphalt will be next and they are working to find a source for the hot mix.

2. Discussion and appropriate action to conclude project

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

7. County Emergency Management Office

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 burn bans; emergency management issues related to communications & public information; emergency management issues related to County insurance coverage; personnel issues related to emergency response, exercises & drills; matters related to pending & future Homeland Security & FEMA Grants and other funding, matters related to 911 EMS in County and matters related to 911 & 911 addressing / Discussion and appropriate action

EMC Betse Esparza said firefighters responded to two small fires which were quickly extinguished.

The First Responders Preparedness Planning Group meeting which was scheduled for Feb. 13 was postponed until March 13.

B. Discussion and appropriate action for general administrative work of the Emergency Management Department to go forward

8. Sheriff's Office

A. 2013 Operation Stonegarden Law Enforcement Grant

1. Update

2. Request to purchase budgeted equipment / Southern Software System that interfaces with current COPsync System

Chief Deputy Ryan Skelton said that a sole source letter has been received from CopSync noting that Southern Software is a sole source in the way it works with CopSync. This notation is required to receive an exemption from the bidding process. The County's auditor has reviewed the letter and agreed.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the purchase of Southern Software Systems for use for jail and records management and dispatching. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. 2015 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program / Request to apply for grant which allows for additional law enforcement officers, equipment and supplies

1. Request from Treasurer's Office to maintain and keep up with 2015 JAG Program

Sheriff Dodson said the grant covers the cost for two salaries, vehicles. Once the grant money is gone, the County does not have to cover the costs. While they're requesting two deputies, they may only get one. The positions would cover the southern part of the County.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to authorize application, with the understanding that zero matching funds are required from the County. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and appropriate action

C. Request to transfer 2009 Dodge Charger Vehicle to the Alpine Police Department / Discussion and appropriate action

Sheriff Dodson said this is an asset forfeiture vehicle, and has been impractical for the Office's use. Chief Russell Scown said the APD could use it.

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

9. Contract for Services with local Non-Profit entities for FY 2014 (Alpine Public Library, Marathon Public Library, The Sunshine House, Family Crisis Center, Frontier CASA, Inc., and The Children's Advocacy Center of the Big Bend) / Discussion and appropriate action concerning contracts for services in 2014

Judge Killingsworth said she has been working with attorney Greg Hudson on these contracts, which have been renamed "Agreement for Services."

As long as these entities maintain their non-profit statuses, the County can continue to fund them.

The agreement also makes clear that the funding is based on ad valorem taxes, and that decreases could mean a loss in funding.

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to approve the agreements as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Williams, and passed unanimously.

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

KATHY KILLINGSWORTH, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

BERTA RIOS- MARTINEZ, COUNTY CLERK