

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014, AT 9:00 A.M.**

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

**KATHY KILLINGSWORTH
ASA "COOKIE" STONE
TOM WILLIAMS
MIKE PALLANEZ
DELLA SHACKELFORD
JERRY SOTELLO
ROD PONTON**

**COUNTY JUDGE
COMMISSIONER PCT. 1
COMMISSIONER PCT. 2
COMMISSIONER PCT. 4
TREASURER
J.P. PRECINCT 1
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Judge Killingsworth led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

The minutes from the Feb. 10, 2014, and Feb. 25, 2014, meetings were presented for approval.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve the Feb. 10 minutes, with a correction to item 7c. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve the Feb. 25 minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Pallanez, and passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Treasurer Shackelford said the general bills total \$92,771.04. She said a lease to buy for a belly dump trailer is coming up soon. There are some issues with names and billing with the credit card accounts, which will be addressed at a later date.

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

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

Treasurer Shackelford presented the reports to Commissioners Court.

We are still waiting on about \$108,000 in reimbursements from several grants.

*Specified Activity Report
Cash Flow Predictions
Budget Analysis Usage Report
Receipt File Listings
Cash Report
Grant Reports*

*Payroll Reports
Check Register
Transfers
Personnel/Overtime Reports
Other Financial Reports as
Requested by Commissioners*

C. Other general administrative & procedural 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

5. 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 she will be attending a First Responders Preparedness Planning Group meeting in El Paso Thursday.

She said the 911 system failed again Thursday afternoon, but was repaired quickly. Funding has been secured to build a new system to add redundancy, but Mrs. Esparza does not know yet when that will be.

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

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 he's had several employees sick or dealing with family deaths, so he has been working with a skeleton crew quite a bit lately. They are still hauling road base materials to Hovey. Several dump trucks have broken down, and the crew is working on them.

Mr. Causey addressed the belly dump trailer mentioned during the Treasurer's item. He is able to lease for an extended period of time, and if they decide to buy it, it will cost \$29,500.

B. Terlingua CSD Track Construction Cooperative Project

1. Update

Engineer Travis Roberts said he expects the school board to approve seeking bids for the top coat soon. Mr. Causey said he's scheduled a load of base material to be delivered so that it's there when they're ready to start.

2. Discussion and appropriate action to conclude project

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

7. 83RD District Attorney's Office/Sheriff's Office

A. Request for Supplemental Funding for extraordinary expenses for the Sheriff's Office, or District Attorney's Office for special investigations / Discussion and appropriate action

D.A. Rod Ponton said his budget is funded by contributions from the four counties in his District. He said he has an upcoming case that may require extraordinary expenses, and he has a \$6,000 bill outstanding for some specialized testing. Both cases are going to trail this summer.

Judge Killingsworth said she was under the impression that those expenses were related to an upcoming murder trial, which is atypical. She said the budget should include expenses related to regular cases.

She said the County doesn't have a sizeable budget, and noted that Pecos County is the D.A.'s fiscal agent. She said periodic drug testing is going to occur, and doesn't seem atypical.

Mr. Ponton said the particular drug known as "spice" costs more to test and has to be sent to a specialized lab.

Judge Killingsworth noted that Mr. Ponton develops his own budget. She would not consider the testing an atypical charge.

Commissioner Pallanez said

Commissioner Pallanez made a motion to approve a \$6,000 expenditure for testing for the D.A.'s office. The motion died for a lack of second.

B. Recognize donation of seized cactus

Mr. Ponton said the Sheriff's Office had investigated a case of stolen cactus from some Brewster County ranch land. The land owners have said they would not mind if the cactuses, which were found, were donated for use by Brewster County.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the donation, which was seconded by Commissioner Pallanez, which passed unanimously.

8. Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts / Request of funds under Section 74.602 of the Texas Property Code / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Killingsworth said Brewster County must submit a request by March 31 to see if there are any capital credits available.

Commissioner Williams said the funds can only be spent under Section 381.004, and asked if what the code states.

Judge Killingsworth said they will look into it.

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

9. Appoint a Board Member of Brewster County Emergency Services District #1

Commissioner Williams made a motion to appoint Karen Pinkston, which was seconded by Commissioner Stone, and passed unanimously.

Judge Killingsworth recognized the service of Alida Lorio, who has resigned.

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

KATHY KILLINGSWORTH, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

BERTA RIOS- MARTINEZ, COUNTY CLERK