

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019, 9:00 A.M.  
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM  
ALPINE, TEXAS**

**Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present: Commissioner Colando was running late and arrived at 9:10 a.m.**

**Eleazar R. Cano  
Betse Esparza  
Sara Allen Colando  
Ruben Ortega  
Mike "Coach" Pallanez  
Julie Morton  
Betty Jo Rooney  
Berta Rios-Martinez**

**County Judge  
Commissioner Pct. 1  
Commissioner Pct. 2  
Commissioner Pct. 3  
Commissioner Pct. 4  
County Treasurer  
County Tax Assessor/Collector  
County Clerk**

**1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation and Pledge were led by Judge Cano.

**2. 2020 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**

**A. Tax Assessor Collector**

**1. Calculation of effective and rollback tax rates / Discussion and appropriate Action**

Betty Jo Rooney, County Tax Assessor/Collector presented the calculation of the Effective and Rollback Tax Rates for 2019. The Effective Tax Rate is 0.388597. The total Effective Rate generates \$3,612,347.00 in revenue for the county. She said it is broken into two different rates which is Maintenance & Operations at 0.358883 and will generate \$3,336,130.00. The second rate is our Interest & Sinking which is a debt rate. It is 0.029714 and will generate \$276,217.00 to cover our total debt that we will owe and pay out this year for the county. She said that is based on the total value of \$929,586,792.00.

Betty Jo Rooney, County Tax Assessor/Collector said the total rate proposed is 0.388597. The Rollback Tax Rate is 0.423814. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Effective Tax Rate and Rollback Tax Rate as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**2. Discuss tax rate and vote on proposed tax rate / Discussion and appropriate action**

The Court discussed the tax rate and vote on proposed tax rate.

**B. Approve newspaper ads for Public Hearing on Proposed 2020 Budget, 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing Regarding Tax Rate & 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing Regarding the Tax Rate / Discussion and appropriate action**

Judge Cano announced that the newspaper ads will be pushished on Thursday. He said The 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing will be on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing will be on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the ads for the Public Hearings on the Proposed 2020 Budget. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**3. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Minutes for July 10, 2019 with corrections as noted. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Esparza moved to approve Minutes for July 16, 2019 as corrected for the precincts. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Minutes for July 24, 2019 with changes noted. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**4. Public Comment – Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Court is limited in its ability to respond to comments**

No public comment.

**5. Recognitions & Announcements**

Commissioner Colando announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Terlingua Pride Parade will be September 14, 2019 at Terlingua.

**6. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates, discussion, review and appropriate action concerning the following:**

**Combined Statement of Revenues & Expenses  
Check Register  
Personnel/Overtime Reports  
Other Financial Report as Requested  
by Commissioners**

**Payroll Reports  
Receipt File Listings  
Cash Reports  
Grants Reports**

Treasurer Morton presented the payroll report and will present the financial reports at

the next meeting. She mentioned the county jail overtime has been higher than usual. Treasurer Morton said the jail accrued \$1,459.88 in overtime due to sending many of the employees for mental health training as required by TCOLE. She also mentioned COG received a grant to pay for the mental health training. Commissioner Esparza moved to approve payroll as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

Treasurer Morton said she will have an agenda item for RCI on August 21, 2019 for Commissioners Court. She wants to get an approval by the court and the cost will be around \$38,000. Treasurer Morton said she will do some research on where she can get the funds.

**7. Brewster County Auditor**

**A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action**

Paty Saenz presented the general bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills as presented including the walk-ins. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane.

**B. Other general administrative and procedural matters related to Auditor's Office / Discussion and appropriate action for work of Auditor's Office to go forward**

Treva Watson, County Auditor, said she sent out a trial balance and said we are on the right track.

**8. Officials' Monthly Reports**

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, presented the Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Colando read the Officials' Monthly Reports into record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as read. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Judge Cano asked Steve Houston, County Attorney, what kind of money goes into the Trust Fund for his office.

**9. 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**

Road & Bridge Superintendent Causey gave an update on all the work they have done on different facilities.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Road & Bridge Department & Community Facilities to go forward**

No action.

**10. Community Facilities Report**

**A. General Report**

Judge Cano gave an update on the Community Facilities on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Community Facilities to go Forward**

No action.

**11. 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; burn bans, emergency management issues related to public and private insurance coverage, personnel issues related to emergency response, matters related to pending & future Homeland Security & FEMA Grants / Discussion and appropriate action**

Stephanie Elmore gave an update on the Emergency Management Department. Commissioner Ortega moved to reinstate the burn ban in the eastern and southern parts of Brewster County. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for work of Emergency Management Department to go forward**

No action.

**12. Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases / 2020 Interlocal Agreement between Lubbock County & Brewster County / Discussion and appropriate action concerning renewing agreement**

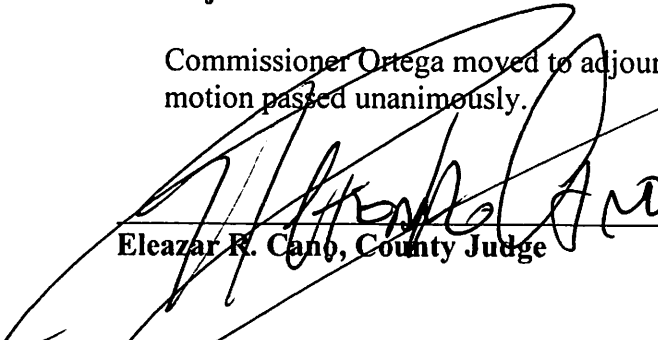
Judge Cano and the commissioners discussed the 2020 Interlocal Agreement between Lubbock County & Brewster County. Commissioner Esparza moved to approve the 2020 Interlocal Agreement between Lubbock County & Brewster County for Regional Public Defender. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**13. Schedule next Commissioners Court Special Meeting on August 16, 2019 (Public Hearing on 2020 Budget)**

Judge Cano announced the next Commissioners Court Special Meeting on August 16, 2019 and a Regular Commissioners Court Meeting.

**14. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk