

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present:

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Betse Esparza	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Mike "Coach" Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Julie Morton	County Treasurer
Berta Rios-Martinez	County Clerk

In accordance with section 418.016 of the Texas Government Code, Governor Abbott has suspended various provisions that require government officials and members of the public to be physically present at a specified meeting location. As a result, all or some government officials may participate via Zoom.

Additionally, members of the public are encouraged to watch the meetings live online, at the www.brewstercountytexas.com or [Brewster County, Texas \(County's facebook page\)](#). Members of the public are also encouraged to participate in public comment by calling telephone number 432-538-2028. This temporary suspension will leave important Open Meetings Act (Section 551.043, Texas Government Code) protections in place:

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge were led by Judge Cano.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Minutes for June 24, 2020. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Minutes for July 8, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

3. 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.

4. Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) by Dr. Ekta Escovar, County Health Authority / Discussion and appropriate action

Dr. Ekta Escovar, County Health Authority, gave an update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). She said we have 172 cases, 9 active cases and 2 deaths in Brewster County. Dr. Escovar said the cases have increased significantly in the state of Texas.

5. Recognitions & Announcements

No action.

13. Sheriff's Office / 2021 Sheriffs' & Constables' Fees / Discussion and appropriate action

Sheriff Dodson discussed the 2021 Sheriffs' & Constables' Fees. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the 2021 Sheriffs' & Constables' Fees as presented by Sheriff Dodson. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

6. Road & Bridge Department

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

Superintendent Causey gave an update on the Road & Bridge Department.

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

No action.

7. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Judge Cano gave a brief report 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.

8. Treasurer's Office

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

Combined Statement of Revenues & Expenses	Payroll Reports
Check Register	Receipt File Listings
Personnel/Overtime Reports	Cash Reports
Other Financial Reports as Requested by Commissioners	Grants Reports

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Financial Monthly Reports for May 2020. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Financial Monthly Reports for May 2020. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Morton also presented the Quarterly Investment Reports for March and June 2020. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report for quarters 2 & 3. 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

No action.

9. Officials' Monthly Reports

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, presented and read the Officials' Monthly Reports into record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as read. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

10. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented and read the General Bills and walk-ins. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve general bills as read including walk-ins. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

**Budget Amendments
Other Financial Reports as Requested
by Commissioners**

Line Item Transfers

Auditor Roach presented some line item transfers. She said in Road & Bridge Department she is transferring money from Fuel & Oil to Repairs & Maintenance to cover the costs for the remainder of the fiscal year. In Government Entities she is transferring \$50.00 into Pecos County/83rd DA Contribution to cover the final FY20 payment. She said the budget was a little short in that account. In Non-Departmental account she is transferring funds from Indigent Defense into Liability Insurance/Auto/ Prop/ Gen. to cover the deductible for a claim. In the Awarded account she is transferring funds from Vehicles to Equipment to cover computer purchase. In the County Judge account she is transferring funds from Travel into Office Supplies to cover supply expenses for the remainder of the year. In the County Attorney account she said she is transferring funds from several accounts to other several accounts. She said she had some things in the wrong classification. In his regular budget she is transferring from Travel & Capital Equipment into Software Fees. In the PTD budget she is moving funds out of Travel & Capital Equipment into Software Fees. Commissioner Esparza moved to approve the line item transfers as presented by Auditor Roach. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

C. Other general administrative and procedural matters related to Auditor's Office / Discussion and appropriate action for work of Auditor's Office 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. She said she is planning another testing in Alpine soon. Ms. Elmore mentioned she had a line items transfer for a water tank for Double Diamond.

She also requested to renew the burn ban for Brewster County. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the order prohibiting outdoor burning. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

No action.

12. Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Imposition of Optional Fees (Calendar Year 2021) / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano discussed the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Imposition of Optional Fees for Calendar Year 2021. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Imposition of Optional Fees for Calendar year 2021. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Court recessed at 11:31 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:48 a.m.

14. Brewster County Road & Bridge Workshop / Discussion and appropriate action

Superintendent Causey and the court discussed the Brewster County Road & Bridge Workshop.

15. 2021 Budget Workshop (4th 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 Cano and commissioners discussed all aspects of County revenues/ expenditures and upcoming financial needs for all county departments and other entities funded by the County and scheduling issues related to adoption of Budget and setting Tax Rate for the 2021 Budget Workshop. Auditor Roach and Treasurer Morton also discussed the 2021 Budget Workshop.

16. Schedule next Special Commissioners Court Meeting on July 29, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano said the next Special Commissioners Court Meeting will be July 29, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

17. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk