

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.  
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM  
ALPINE, TEXAS**

**Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present:**

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

**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](http://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 July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Pallanez 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). Commissioner Ortega said the Far West Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association canceled their conference at Terlingua in September due to not having an infrastructure big enough for social distancing. Judge Cano said the two chili cook-offs in Terlingua are canceled due to the limit of people attending and social distancing.

## **5. Recognitions & Announcements**

Judge Cano announced the passing of Judge Kerith Sproul-Hurley from Jeff Davis County. He asked to keep her family and friends in your prayers. He also sent the Court's condolences to the families of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department employees who died over the weekend when their helicopter crashed in Black Gap WMA.

## **6. Brewster County Tourism Council**

### **A. Report from the Brewster County Tourism Council's Executive Director**

Robert Alvarez, Executive Director of Brewster County Tourism Council, gave a report on the Brewster County Tourism Council.

### **B. Presentation of the 2021 Budget / Discussion and appropriate action**

Robert Alvarez, presented the 2021 Brewster County Tourism Council Budget.

Court recessed at 11:20 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:31 a.m.

## **7. 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 Road**

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.

## **8. Community Facilities Report**

### **A. General Report**

Judge Cano gave a report on the Community Facilities on behalf of Johnny Valencia. Judge Steele reported that his secretary, Lauren Villanueva, will be working in the office full-time starting Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. He said she has been working from home and would work two hours a day in the office due to the Coronavirus.

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

No action.

## **9. Joe Dominguez, Deputy for the Brewster County Sheriff's Office and Courthouse Security Office / Update on Courthouse Security**

Erica Chavez, administrative assistant to the County Judge, gave an update on the Courthouse Security on behalf of Joe Dominguez, Deputy for the Brewster County Sheriff's Office and Courthouse Security Office.

## **10. Treasurer's Office**

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

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

No action.

### **B. Discuss and consider using FY19 Surplus Distribution from Texas Association of Counties Health and Employee Benefits Pool to fund the employee-retiree wellness center / Discussion and appropriate action**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, considered using FY19 Surplus Distribution from Texas Association of Counties Health and Employee Benefits Pool to fund the employee-retiree wellness center in the amount of \$39,873.06. Commissioner Ortega moved to table agenda item from the FY19 Surplus Distribution from TAC. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

### **C. 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.

**11. Officials' Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Ortega read the Officials' Monthly Reports into record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Officials' Monthly Reports as read. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**12. Brewster County Clerk / TAC RMP Claim # PO20208332-1 / Discussion on Claim against Brewster County**

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, presented a TAC RMP Claim # PO20208332-1 against Brewster County in the amount of \$8,573.06.

**13. Brewster County Auditor**

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

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the bills as presented as well as 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**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented 2 budget amendments and some line item transfers. The first budget amendment is regarding USDA Rural Housing Service grant on behalf of the Marathon Public Library in the amount of \$23,700 and the other budget amendment is from Statewide Automated Victim Notification Service (SAVNS) grant in the amount of \$4,552.12. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented some line item transfers. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Pallanez 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.

**14. 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**

Judge Cano gave a brief update on the Emergency Management Department on behalf of Stephanie Elmore. Commissioner Ortega requested to have COVID testings in Marathon and Terlingua.

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

No action.

**15. Texas Communities Group, LLC / Discuss and consider bid for purchase of properties held in trust by Alpine ISD and Big Bend Regional Hospital District / Discussion and appropriate action**

<b>Parcel # 10802 - \$2,000.00</b>	<b>Parcel # 17115 - \$2,500.00</b>
<b>Parcel # 10803 - \$4,055.00</b>	<b>Parcel # 24261 - \$2,611.00</b>
<b>Parcel # 12163 - \$20,501.00</b>	<b>Parcel # 22627 - \$12,081.00</b>
<b>Parcel # 12845 - \$3,000.00</b>	
<b>Parcel # 33714 - \$700.00</b>	
<b>Parcel # 10685 - \$5,501.00</b>	
<b>Parcel # 30123 - \$6,000.00</b>	

Commissioner Ortega read the bids for purchase of properties held in trust by Alpine ISD and Big Bend Regional Hospital District. He read the parcel numbers and the amount into record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as read. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**16. Terlingua Common School District / Board Appointments / Discussion and appropriate action**

**A. Executive Session Pursuant to Section § 551.074, Government Code, VTCA, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, compensation, or dismissal of a public officer or employee**

Court recessed into Executive Session at 12:51 p.m.  
 Court reconvened in Open Session at 12:59 p.m.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session**

Judge Cano said they discussed the appointment of a board member for Terlingua Common School District as recommended by Superintendent Reed and other board members. Commissioner Colando moved to appoint Margarita Garcia as recommended by Superintendent Reed to fill the position vacated by Noemi Aviles on the Board of Trustees for Terlingua Common School District. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**17. Elections / Proposed Election Judges & Alternates / Discussion and appropriate Action**

Mary Bell Lockhart, Brewster County Democratic Party Chair, presented the recommended judges and the alternate judges for the upcoming term in September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**18. Holiday Schedule for 2020 – 2021 (Fiscal Year – October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) / Discussion and appropriate action to adopt Holiday Schedule**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the holiday schedule for 2020- 2021 as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**19. 2020 Certified Tax Roll and Tax Rate Collections**

**A. Presentation and discussion of revised 2020 Certified Tax Roll and Tax Rate Calculations / Discussion and appropriate action**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the revised 2020 Certified Tax Roll and Tax Rate Calculations.

**B. Propose 2020 Tax Rate hearing date (September 9, 2020) / Discussion and Action**

Commissioner Esparza moved to approve the 2020 Tax Rate hearing date for September 9, 2020. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**20. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting, August 26, 2020, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Cano said the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be August 26, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

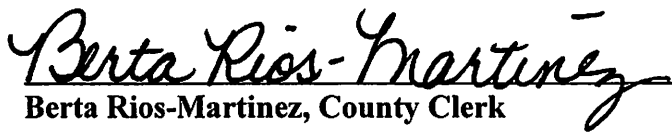
**21. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk