

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
ALPINE, TEXAS**

Commissioner Ortega called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present: Judge Cano was absent.

Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Mike "Coach" Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Julie Morton	County Treasurer
Betty Jo Rooney	County Tax Assessor/Collector
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.brewstercountytx.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:

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2021
BREWSTER COUNTY BUDGET**

1. Review of 2021 Proposed Budget

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Brewster County FY 21 Proposed Budget summary.

2. Public Comment regarding 2021 Proposed Budget

No public comment regarding 2021 Proposed Budget.

3. Discussion among members of Commissioners Court and Public

No action.

4. Adjourn

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adjourn the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2021 Brewster County Budget. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge were led by Commissioner Ortega.

2. Accept resignation of Brewster County Commissioner, Pct. 1 Betse Esparza

Commissioner Pallanez moved to accept the resignation of Brewster County Commissioner, Pct. 1 Betse Esparza. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

3. Matters concerning adoption of 2021 Budget / 2020 Tax Rate

A. Adoption, Amendment or other appropriate action concerning 2021 Budget including, elected county, precinct officers and expenses and other allowances / Discussion and appropriate action (Adopt budget or hold 2nd budget hearing)

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adopt the budget with changes to taking out the CASI revenue and expenditures and approve with corrections on pages 26, 28 and 22 that Treasurer Morton presented. The motion failed for lack of a second. Commissioner Colando moved to have a second hearing on September 9, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Presentation of 2020 Tax Rate Calculation

Betty Jo Rooney, County Tax Assessor/Collector, presented the 2020 Tax Rate. She said the No-New-Revenue Rate replaces what last year was called the Effective Rate, and the Voter-Approval Rate replaces what used to be called the Rollback Rate. Based on the certified values from the County Appraisal District, the No-New-Revenue rate has been calculated at 0.389601% per \$100 of value. This will generate a total levy of \$3,632,580. Within that rate is included the Maintenance & Operation rate of 0.359482% per \$100, and the Interest & Sinking (debt service) rate of 0.030119% per \$100. The M&O rate will generate \$3,351,754 for the County's day-to-day operations. The I&S rate will generate \$280,826 to service the County's debt. The 2020 Tax Rate proposed by the County Tax Assessor/Collector is the No-New-Revenue Rate of 0.389601%

C. Discussion with action to vote on proposed 2020 Tax Rate

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adopt the Proposed 2020 Tax Rate at 0.389601% per \$100 of value. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion.

Commissioner for Precinct 1 was absent (vacant).

Commissioner Sara Allen Colando for Precinct 2 voted Aye.

Commissioner Ruben Ortega for Precinct 3 voted Aye.

Commissioner Mike "Coach" Pallanez for Precinct 4 voted Aye.

Judge Eleazar Cano was absent.

D. Propose date to adopt 2020 Tax Rate (September 9, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.) /

Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega announced the proposed date to adopt the 2020 Tax Rate on September 9, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Pallanez moved to adopt the 2020 Tax Rate on September 9, 2020. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

4. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Minutes for August 12, 2020. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

5. 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.

6. Brewster County Sheriff's Office / Review and approve FASPSYCH, LLC PLACEMENT AGREEMENT to be in compliance with the Sandra Bland Act / Discussion and appropriate action

Ryan Skelton, Chief Deputy, reviewed and requested approval of Faspsych, LLC Placement Agreement to be in compliance with the Sandra Bland Act. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Faspsych, LLC Placement Agreement in order for Brewster County Sheriff's Office to be in compliance. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

7. 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).

8. Presentation by Bob Krumenaker, NPS Superintendent, Big Bend National Park & Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River regarding the proposed land acquisition and park boundary adjustment project south of Terlingua / Discussion and appropriate action

Bob Krumenaker, NPS Superintendent, gave a presentation regarding the proposed land acquisition and park boundary adjustment project south of Terlingua.

9. Recognitions & Announcements**A. Announce Berta Rios-Martinez as County Clerk of the Year for the State of Texas by County & District Clerks Association**

Commissioner Ortega announced Berta Rios-Martinez as County Clerk of the Year for the State of Texas by County & District Clerks Association. Commissioner Colando and Pallanez also congratulated Berta Rios-Martinez for County Clerk of the Year.

B. Recognize & Congratulate Esther U. Alvarado for 23 ½ Years of Service in the Brewster County Clerk's Office, Esther will retire on August 31, 2020

Commissioner Ortega recognized and congratulated Esther U. Alvarado for 23 ½ years of service in the Brewster County Clerk's Office. He said she will retire on August 31, 2020. Commissioner Colando and Pallanez also congratulated her for her

hard work in 23 ½ years of service.

16. 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, personal 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 there will some COVID testing on Thursday, August 27th and Friday August 28th by the National Guard. Commissioner Ortega requested to have some testing done at Terlingua and Marathon.

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

No action.

10. 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. He requested approval on the boring permit by Big Bend Telephone Company on the county roads Roadrunner, Fulcher and Joe Moss. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the boring permit from Big Bend Telephone Company and county road to be crossed as Roadrunner, Fulcher and Joe Moss. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

No action.

11. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Commissioner Ortega gave a 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.

Court recessed at 10:57 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:06 a.m.

12. 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 Reports as Requested
by Commissioners**

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

No action.

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.

13. County Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program / Approve County Infrastructure Fund Grant Agreement with TxDOT / Discussion and appropriate Action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, requested approval for the County Infrastructure Fund Grant Agreement with TxDOT. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Transportation Infrastructure Fund Grant Program with TxDOT. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

14. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills and walk-ins. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the general bills and walk-ins as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ortega abstained from ARP.

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 a budget amendment. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Budget Amendment as presented. Commissioner Colando Seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Roach presented some line item transfers. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Line Item Transfers as presented. Commissioner Colando 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

15. Officials' Monthly Reports

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk presented the Official Monthly Reports to the Court. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Official Monthly Reports as read. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

17. PermiaCare for Mental Health Services Provider Agreement to Mental Health Deputy Services

A. Review of Proposed Contract

B. Discussion and appropriate action regarding contract

After a brief discussion on PermiaCare for Mental Health Services Provider agreement, Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

18. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting, September 9, 2020, at 9:30 A.M.

Commissioner Ortega announced the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be held September 9th, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

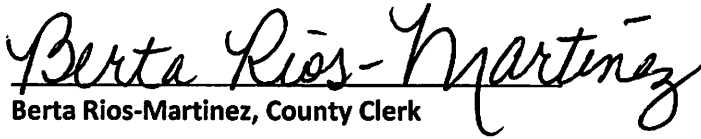
19. Adjourn

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.



Eleazar Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk