

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
201 WAVE E
ALPINE, TEXAS**

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

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Esther Howard	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Mike "Coach" Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Berta Rios-Martinez	County Clerk
Julie Morton	County Treasurer
Betty Jo Rooney	County Tax Assessor/Collector

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:

AGENDA

To Discuss and Take Action as Appropriate

**2nd PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2021
BREWSTER COUNTY BUDGET**

1. Review of FY 2021 Proposed Budget

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Brewster County FY 2021 Proposed Budget summary.

2. Public Comment regarding FY 2021 Proposed Budget

No public comment regarding 2021 Proposed Budget.

3. Discussion among members of Commissioners Court and Public

No action.

4. Adjourn

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

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge was led by Judge Cano.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

No minutes were presented.

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 comments

4. Brewster County Clerk / Discuss and Consider increasing new Deputy Clerk II from Classification Grade B2/Step 7 to B2/Step 12 / Discussion and appropriate action:

Commissioner Ortega made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Pallanez. Motion carried unanimously

5. Matters concerning adoption of FY 2021 Budget / 2020 Tax Rate

A. Discussion and Adoption regarding Amendment or other appropriate action concerning FY 2021 Budget including, elected county, precinct officers, employee salaries, expenses and other allowances

Commissioner Ortega motioned to adopted FY 2021, seconded by commissioner Colando . Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Esther Howard for Precinct 1 voted Aye.

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 R. Cano voted Aye.

B. Discussion and action to ratify increase in property tax revenue

. Patty Roach, County Auditor, Explained that the Commissioners Court is required to ratify any increase in property tax revenue. Commissioner Colando moved to ratify the increase in tax revenue of \$20,233.00 that is reflected in the budget; Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion and Action to Adopt the Proposed 2020 Tax Rate as set out below:

Maintenance & Operation	.359482
Interest & Sinking	.030119
Total Rate Proposed	.389601

Commissioner Pallanez questioned why the Total Rate Proposed for 2020 was higher than in 2019. Betty Jo Rooney, Tax Assessor/Collector, stated that the difference is caused by a decrease in taxable values. Commissioner Colando moved to adopt the Maintenance & Operation tax rate as presented, and Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Ortega moved to adopt the Interest & Sinking tax rate as presented, and Commissioner Colando seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Ortega moved to adopt the Total Property Tax Rate as presented, and Commissioner Colando seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. 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).

7. Recognitions & Announcements

Judge Cano announced the new Commissioner for Precinct 1, Esther Howard. And congratulations to Berta Rios-Martinez who was awarded County Clerk of the Year for State of Texas.

8. Elections Administrator**A. Approve temporary polling location for the November General Election for Precinct 8, from Alpine Neighborhood Center (607 W. Gallego, Alpine, Tx. 79830) to SRSU Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library-Conference Room (400 N Harrison St., Alpine, Texas 79830) / Discussion and appropriate action**

Lora Nussbuan, Elections Administrator, requested approval to change the Precinct 8 pollin place from the Alpine Neighborhood Center at 607 W. Gallego to the conference room at Sul Ross State University's Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, which is located at 400 N. Harrison St. There is more room for social distancing and this will only be temporary due to Covid.

Commissioner Howard moved to approve temporary polling location for the November General Election for Precinct 8, from Alpine Neighborhood Center (607 W. Gallego, Alpine, Tx. 79830) to SRSU Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library-Conference Room (400 N Harrison St., Alpine, Texas 79830). Commissioner Colando seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Pallanez opposed and Commissioner Ortega absent.

B. Approve Notice of General Election / Discussion and appropriate actionLocation of voting sites:

Pct. 1 at Brewster County offices (Old Food Bank bldg.)

Pct. 2 at Judge Val Clark Beard office complex

Pct. 3 at Community Center in Marathon

Pct. 4 at Alpine Civic Center

Pct. 5 at Panther Junction Visitor Center in Big Bend National Park

Pct. 6 & 7 at JW "Red" Pattillo Community Center in Study Butte
Pct. 8 at Sul Ross State University Library

Early voting at Judge Val Clark Beard office complex from October 13-30.

October 13-16 at 8 am to 5 pm
October 19-22 at 8 am to 5 pm
October 23rd at 7 am to 7 pm
October 26-29 at 8 am to 5 pm
October 30th at 7 am to 7 am

Mail-in ballots must be received or post marked by November 3rd.

Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve Notice of General Election / Discussion. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Ortega absent.

C. Approval of Contract and Fee Schedule for Marathon Independent School District / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the contract and fee schedule for Marathon Independent School District. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Ortega absent.

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

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.

Court recessed at 11:25 a.m.
Court reconvened at 11:38 a.m.
Item 14 after Item 9

10. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Judge Cano 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

Commissioner Ortega would like to move forward in the process to auction the cold storage system, which the county received as part of the Old Food Bank property donation.

11. 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 Report as Requested by Commissioners	Grants Reports

No action.

B. Consider deferment of employee 6.2% FICA tax during September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and repayment January 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, Treasurer, presented President's Trump deferment of employee FICA. Deferment must be paid back and employees will have a double tax withholding during the repayment period. Commissioner Howard moved to defer FICA tax withholdings from September 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Judge Cano seconded motion; motion failed with the Court voting unanimously against.

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.

12. Approve FY 2021 Brewster County VINE/SAVNS Service Agreement / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve FY 2021 Brewster County VINE/SAVNS Service Agreement. Commissioner Pallanez seconded motion; motion approved unanimously.

13. FY 2021 Regional Solid Waste Management Allocation / Approval of application and resolution / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the application and resolution of FY 2021 Regional Solid Waste Management Allocation. Commissioner Pallanez seconded motion; motion approved unanimously.

14. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

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

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

Budget Amendments

Line Item Transfers

**Other Financial Reports as Requested
by Commissioners**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented multiple line item transfers. Building and Facilities would like to move money from Study Butte utilities to Marathon utilities. Tax office would like to move money from computer hardware maintenance into office supply to cover office supply costs. Non-departmental needs to move money into autopsies to cover recent bill submitted. For the TDEM CRF grant, she would like to move money from cleaning supplies into equipment to cover the purchase of a temperature screening camera. 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.

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 Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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, personnel issues related to emergency response,

**matters related to pending & future Homeland Security & FEMA Grants /
Discussion and appropriate action**

Stephanie Elmore, EMC, presented General Reports.

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

No action.

**17. FY 2021 Brewster County Commissioners Court Meeting Schedule from
October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action to set
schedule for FY 2021 Fiscal Year**

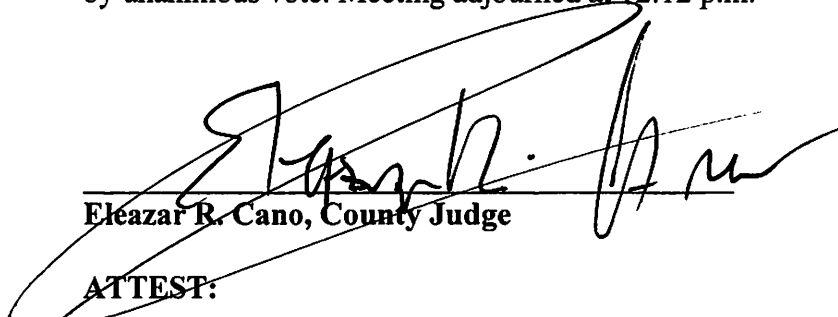
Commissioner Ortega moved to approve FY 2021 Brewster County Commissioners Court Meeting Schedule from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. Commissioner Pallanez seconded motion; motion passed unanimously.

18. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on September 23, 2020

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be held September 23, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk