

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
201 W AVE E
ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present:

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Esther Howard	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Mike "Coach" Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Berta Rios-Martinez	County Clerk

Commissioner Ortega, Pct. 3 was absent.

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**1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation and Pledge was led by Judge Cano.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

Minutes for August 26, 2020 were reviewed. Commissioner Colando moved to approve minutes for August 26, 2020. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Minutes for September 9, 2020 were reviewed. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve minutes for September 9, 2020. Commissioner Howard 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

Sherrri McGinnis, public citizen, expressed concerns with no updated Treasurer report, audit reports, Commissioner Court minutes, and the Brewster County website is hard to navigate to these reports. Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, announced her retirement at the end of the year. Betty Alex, citizen from Terlingua, commented via email she had difficulty finding voting information on Brewster County's website.

4. Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) by Brewster County Judge, Eleazar R. Cano & Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano updated the Court that no local physicians have taken the volunteer position of County Health Authority. Dr. Rachel Sonne, Regional Medical Director from El Paso, is available to give statistics, but not every week. Stephanie Elmore presented an updated COVID-19 report on Brewster County stats.

5. Brewster County Judge, Eleazar R. Cano

A. General Reporting including:

Governor Abbott's Executive Order No. GA-32 relating to the continued response to the COVID-19 disaster as Texas reopens.

No action.

B. Discussion and appropriate action for work of County Judge's Office to go Forward

No action.

6. Update and Review Jury Trial Addendum to the COVID-19 Pandemic Operating Plan for the Judiciary of Brewster County from District Judge Roy Ferguson / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Howard moved to accept the Jury Trial Addendum to the COVID-19 Pandemic Operating Plan. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Judge Cano presented 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.

10. Election

A. Proposed Election Judges & Alternates / Discussion and appropriate action

Mary Bell Lockhart, Brewster County Democratic Party Chair, presented an updated list of Proposed Election Judges & Alternates. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Proposed Election Judges & Alternates of 2020-2021. Commissioner Howard seconded motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. 2021 Brewster County Resolution Relative to Acceptance and Expenditure of the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) Grant / Discussion and appropriate action

Item has been tabled until next court date.

Court recessed at 11:26 am

Court reconvened at 11:44 pm

11. Recognitions & Announcements

A. Proclamation recognizing October 2020 as National Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Brewster County / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the proclamation recognizing October 2020 as National Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Brewster County. Commissioner Howard seconded motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Proclamation recognizing October as Home Care and Hospice Month / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the proclamation recognizing November 2020 as Home Care and Hospice Month. Commissioner Howard seconded motion; motion passed unanimously.

C. Update on Courthouse Security

Update presented under Community Facilities Report.

12. Information Technology Update by Aaron Rodriguez, Velocerus Technology Solutions

A. Email Services

B. State of Network

C. Review of Video Process of Livestreaming of Commissioners Court Meetings

D. Review and Approve remedies for items A, B & C / Discussion and appropriate action

Item presented by Aaron Rodriguez has been tabled to later meeting to prioritize and itemize each proposal separately.

13. 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. FY 2021 Indigent Defense Grant Program Resolution / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Howard moved to adopt the FY 2021 Indigent Defense Grant Program Resolution. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

D. 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.

14. Agreement for Services / Approve agreements with Big Bend Chamber of Commerce and Marathon Chamber of Commerce for Tourism Promotion Services / Discussion and appropriate action

Item has been tabled until later meeting.

15. Declare items as Salvage & Surplus Property in accordance with Section 263.152 of the Texas Local Government Code by competitive bid or auction / Discussion and appropriate action

Item has been tabled until later meeting.

16. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills with no walk-ins. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the general bills 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, on Financial Reports presented an amendment for Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Howard 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.

17. Officials' Monthly Reports

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, presented Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Pallanez motion to approve Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Howard seconded motion; motion passed unanimously.

18. Update / Retainer Agreement with Law Firm Big Bend Law, Rod Ponton, Attorney At Law in re Cause No. CVB20433; Marcia Ann Sykes and the Estate of Marcia Ann Sykes and all Unknown Heirs, Devisees, and Assigns of Marcia Ann Sykes; Phillip Joseph Smith; Dymphna Lorraine DeLaRosa / Discussion and appropriate action

Rod Ponton, Attorney At Law, presented update on Cause No. CVB20433.

19. FY 2021 Brewster County Commissioners Court Meetings Schedule / Consider changing conflicting dates with Holiday schedule November 11th & 25th and December 23rd to November 4th, 18th & December 30th / Discussion and appropriate action

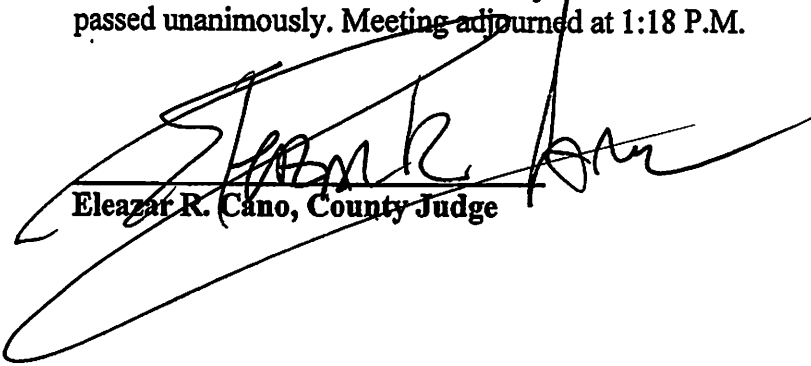
Commissioner Colando moved to approve changes on conflicting dates with Holiday schedule November 11th & 25th to November 4th & 18th and December 23rd to December 28th as needed. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

20. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on October 28, 2020, at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano announced next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on October 28, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

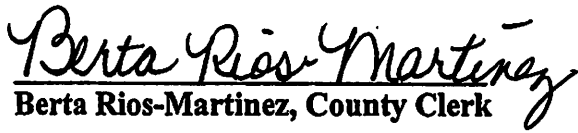
21. Adjourn

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adjourn. Commissioner Howard seconded motion; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:18 P.M.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk