

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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 9:34 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

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 were led by Judge Cano.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

Commissioner Colando moved to approve November 4, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve November 17, 2020 minutes. 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

Sherri McGinnis requested an update on the Fiscal Year 2019 audit and Treasurer's Reports, which are not yet available on the Brewster County website. Sylvia Vega, Tax Assessor/Collector-elect, requested a reimbursement for her travel expenses.

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

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported an update on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Next testing date is set for November 22, 2020 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Brewster County Emergency Response Center. Testing date for Marathon will be posted on the Brewster County website and Facebook page.

5. 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, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented Burn Ban order. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Burn Ban order. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

No action.

6. Recognition & Announcements

None.

7. 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 reported 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 reported 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.

9. 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

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Monthly Report for September 2020. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Financial Reports presented. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Metlife / Approve renewal rates effective December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action

Mindy Seahorn, Texas Association of Counties Health & Employee Benefits Pool, presented updated renewal rates for dental and vision insurance. Metlife is offering a no-change rate renewal effective December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Metlife renewal contract effective December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021. 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.

10. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills and no walk ins. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane.

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 two Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Ortega 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

Patty Roach, County Auditor, requested a special meeting for approval to pay bills because the next regular meeting would leave a very long interval. Judge Cano scheduled a Special Meeting for December 2, 2020 at 9:30 to present bills.

11. Officials' Monthly Reports

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

12. Update / Retainer Agreement with Law Firm Big Bend Law, Rod Ponton, Attorneys 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

No report presented.

13. Commissioner, Pct. 3 / Closure of Alley on Block H in Burnham Addition in Marathon, Texas / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega presented closure of Alley on Block H in Burnham Addition in Marathon, Texas. Commissioner Ortega moved to close the alley on Block H in Burnham Addition in Marathon, Texas. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Court recessed at 11:30 am.

Court reconvened at 11:49 am

14. County Clerk's Office / Personnel Issues / Matters related to pending vacancy on County Clerk's Office; conducting interviews of any candidates for County Clerk's position and considering appointments of County Clerk to fill the unexpired term

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

Court entered executive session at 11:51 am

Reconvene in Open Session

Court reconvened in Open Session at 1:51 pm. Commissioner Ortega left the meeting during executive session.

B. Discussion an appropriate action resulting form Executive Session, including appointment of County Clerk to fill the unexpired term

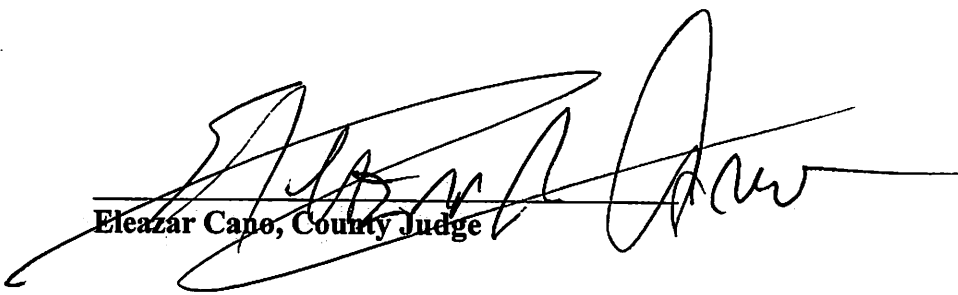
Commissioner Colando moved to appoint Sarah Vasquez as Brewster County Clerk to fill the unexpired term of Berta Rios-Martinez. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Ortega absent.

15. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on December 16, 2020, at 9:30 A.M.

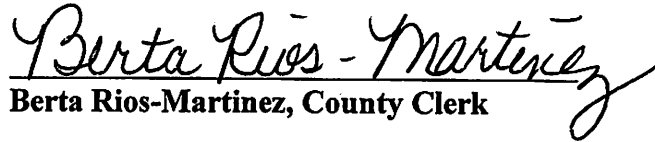
Judge Cano announced a Special Commissioners Court Meeting on December 2, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. The next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be held December 16, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

16. Adjourn

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adjourn. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Ortega absent. Meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.


Eleazar Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:


Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk