

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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 9:36 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 Ortega moved to approve November 18, 2020 and December 2, 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

Peggy O'Brien, Rio Grande Council of Governments, introduced herself as the Local Governments Coordinator for CARES Act. Vicki Friddell, a resident of Sunny Glen, expressed concern that Wagon Road is still unpaved.

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).

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 General Reports.

B. Recommendation to Restrict Certain Fireworks Sales, prohibiting certain aerial fireworks in unincorporated areas of Brewster County under drought conditions / Discussion and appropriate action

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, recommended the Court adopt an order prohibiting certain fireworks in unincorporated areas of Brewster County. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Order Prohibiting Certain Fireworks in Unincorporated Areas of Brewster County as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

No action.

13. Brewster County Sheriff's Office / Discuss and approve Interlocal Cooperation Lease Agreement between Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) for Brewster County to house equipment on the top of Elephant Mountain within an already established structure / Discussion and appropriate action

Ryan Skelton, Sheriff Deputy, presented an Interlocal Cooperation Lease Agreement between Texas Parks & Wildlife and Brewster County. The agreement would allow Brewster County to house emergency response radio equipment on the top of Elephant Mountain within an already established structure. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Lease Agreement as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

15. 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

Rod Ponton presented an update on Cause No. CVB20433; Marcia Ann Sykes and the Estate of Marcia Ann Sykes and all Unknown Heirs, Devisees, and Assigns of Marcia Ann Sykes; Philip Joseph Smith; Dymphna Lorraine DeLaRosa.

6. Recognition & Announcements

A. Recognize & Congratulate Berta Rios-Martinez for her 31 years of service to Brewster County, Berta will retire on December 31, 2020

Commissioner Pallanez presented the Resolution in Honor of Berta Rios-Martinez, recognizing her 31 years of service to Brewster County. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Resolution in Honor of Berta Rios-Martinez as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Recognize & Congratulate Betty Jo Rooney for her 40 years of service to Brewster County, Betty Jo will retire on December 31, 2020

Commissioner Ortega presented the Resolution in Honor of Betty Jo Rooney, recognizing her 40 years of service to Brewster County. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Resolution in Honor of Betty Jo Rooney as presented. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

C. Recognize & Congratulate Henry Ogletree for his 20 years of service to Brewster County, Henry will retire on December 31, 2020

Commissioner Colando presented the Resolution in Honor of Henry Ogletree, recognizing his 20 years of service to Brewster County. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Resolution in Honor of Henry Ogletree as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

E. Recognize & Congratulate Diane Conners for her 24 years of service in the Brewster County Clerk's Office, Diane will retire on December 31, 2020

Judge Cano recognized Diane Conners for her 24 years of service.

F. Recognize & Congratulate Lauren Satterwhite for her 8 years of service in the Brewster County Sheriff's Office, Lauren will retire on December 31, 2020

Judge Cano recognized Lauren Satterwhite for her 8 years of service.

G. Recognize & Congratulate Ross Burling for his 19 years of service in the Brewster County Sheriff's Office, Ross retired on March 18, 2020

Judge Cano recognized Ross Burling for his 19 years of service.

H. A Big Thank You to the Brewster County Building Facilities Crew, Brewster County Road & Bridge Crew & Brewster County Maintenance Crew for their outstanding job on decorating inside & outside our Brewster County Courthouse

Judge Cano recognized Brewster County Building Facilities Crew, Brewster County Road & Bridge, and Brewster County Maintenance Crew.

I. Announce the new name of County Facility (Old Food Bank Building) located on 2209 W. Hwy. 90

Commissioner Howard presented the new name of the County Facility located on 2209 W. Hwy. 90 as the Brewster County Sunny Glen Cooperative Building. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the name "Brewster County Sunny Glen Cooperative Building" for the facility located at 2209 W. Hwy. 90 in Alpine. Commission Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

D. Recognize & Thank Esther Z. Howard for dedicated service as Commissioner, Pct. 1. Commissioner Howard will be stepping down as Commissioner December 31, 2020

Judge Cano recognized and thanked Esther Z. Howard for dedicated service as Commissioner Pct. 1.

Recess at 11:00 AM

Reconvened at 11:12 AM

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

Commissioner Ortega presented a report on behalf of Superintendent Causey for 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

No reports.

B. Texas County & District Retirement System (TCDS) / Approve Plan Assessment for Plan Year 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Plan Assessment for Plan Year 2021 from Texas County & District Retirements System (TCDS). Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Plan Assessment for Plan Year 2021 as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

C. Authorization to remove Berta Rios-Martinez and Betty Jo Rooney as Signature on County Bank Accounts / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, recommended the removal of Berta Rios-Martinez and Betty Jo Rooney as signatories on County Bank Accounts. Commissioner Ortega moved to remove Berta Rios-Martinez and Betty Jo Rooney as signatories on County Bank Accounts. 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

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented an update on the external audit report for Fiscal Year 2019, stating that the external auditors plan to present their report to the Commissioners Court by the middle of February.

10. Approve issuance of check prior to receipt of 25 pack 12 Cherokee Wolfpack Travel Trailer for Emergency Management Department / Discussion and appropriate action

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Joe Dominguez, Sheriff's Deputy, presented an update on the Cherokee Wolf Pack Travel Trailer, model 25PACK12 for COVID-19 testing and response. Judge Cano explained that he would be driving to the dealership over the weekend, and assured the Court and the public that he would not deliver the check to the dealership until he was able to take possession of the specified equipment on behalf of Brewster County. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the issuance of check prior to receipt of 25PACK12 Cherokee Wolf Pack Travel Trailer. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

11. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills, with one walk in. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills as presented including walk ins. 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 a budget amendment and multiple line item transfers. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve 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.

12. 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.

14. Brewster county Justice of the Peace

A. Presentation by Judge Steele on LGS Solutions Software / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Steele presented an addendum to the contract with LGS Solutions Software. Commissioner Ortega moved to approved the Addendum as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Discuss and approve new fees increase for South Plains Forensic Pathology

Judge Steele, Justice of Peace Precinct 1, presented the new fee schedule for South Plains Forensic Pathology. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the new fee schedule for South Plains Forensic Pathology as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

16. Update on IT Services for Brewster County Courthouse by Aaron Rodriguez / Discussion and appropriate action

Aaron Rodriguez, Velocerus Technology Services, presented update on IT Services for Brewster County Courthouse. Commissioner Colando will be the point of contact with Aaron for questions. Commissioner Pallanez moved to table item until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

17. Schedule a Special Commissioners Court Meeting on January 4, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. Administer Oath of Office to re-elected and newly elected Brewster County Officials

Judge Cano announced a Special Commissioners Court Meeting on January 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

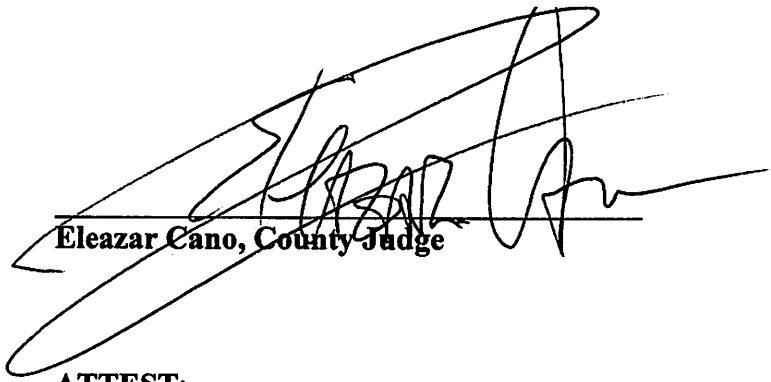
18. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on January 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be held January 13, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

19. Merry Christmas!!

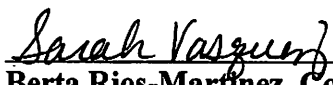
20. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.



Eleazar Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:

 BY DEPUTY

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk