

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021 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
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Mike “Coach” Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Sarah Vasquez	County Clerk

Commissioner Westermann, Pct. 1, was absent due to attending the Seminar for Newly Elected County Judges and Commissioners in Austin, Texas.

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 \(County Facebook page\)](#). 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 December 16, 2020 and January 4, 2021 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

No comments.

7. Recognitions & Announcements / Recognize Big Bend Livestock Show Association, 4-H, F.F.A., & Texas Agri-Life Extension Services for show held on January 7th -9th, 2021

Commissioner Ortega recognized Tom Leary’s passing. He served the county as a Service Officer for 41 years. Becky McCutchen, Alpine ISD Superintendent and President of Big Bend Livestock Show Association, recognized the success of the show and sale held on January 7-9, 2021. The show consists of the tri-county region, Presidio County, Jeff Davis County, and Brewster County.

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) and the new RV. Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS) has established a hot line to join a wait-list for the Moderna vaccine at 432-837-4843.

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

No action.

6. Sheriff’s Office / Report by Sheriff on 2020 Racial Profiling Report

Sheriff Ronny Dodson presented the annual racial profiling report by demographic for 2020. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the 2020 Racial Profiling Report. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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 reported an update for the Road and Bridge Department.

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

Commissioner Ortega presented an update on the Solid Waste Grant for \$7,000.00 from Rio Grande Council of Governments.

9. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Judge Cano presented the Community Facilities Report on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Community Facilities to go forward

No action.

10. 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 November 2020. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Financial Reports presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. 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, reported the Family's First Medical Care Act expired on December 31, 2020. Treasurer Morton asked the court to determine if the court would like to extend the County's Coronavirus-related leave policy established by the Act. Treasurer Morton is currently working on W-2s.

11. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Paty Saenz, Auditor Assistant, presented on behalf of Patty Roach, County Auditor, the general bills and 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	

Paty Saenz, Auditor Assistant, presented on behalf of Patty Roach, County Auditor, a line item transfer. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the line item transfer 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

Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk, presented the Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Court recessed at 11:14 am.
Court reconvened at 11:25 am.

14. Financial Advisor for Jail Project / Presentation by Vince Vialle with Specialized Public Finance, Inc. / Discuss options and steps involved for planning a potential county law enforcement center

No presentation.

15. Community Facilities Pre-application

A. Presentation by John Perkins, Area Director, on the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loan Process / Discussion only

John Perkins, Area Director, presented the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Loan Process.

B. Discuss and take action on submission of pre-application for USDA Rural

Development Community Facilities Loan Program for a Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Dodson explained the jail equipment and procedure of holding and transferring inmates.

16. Salary Grievance Committee / Select 2021 Citizen members of Committee / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Colando randomly selected two citizens from Brewster County to serve on the 2021 Salary Grievance Committee. Alex Ross Fleming of Alpine, Tx, and Jennifer Rozene of Alpine, Tx, will be contacted for acceptance on the 2021 Salary Grievance Committee.

13. 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, Attorney, 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; Phillip Joseph Smith; Dymphna Lorraine DeLaRosa.

17. Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District

A. Presentation by Summer Webb, General Manager / Update / Discussion and appropriate action

Summer Webb, General Manager of the Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District, presented update on the District's activities.

B. Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District/ Appointment of Board Members

1. Executive Session Pursuant to Section § 551.074, Government Code, VTCA, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, compensation, or dismissal of a public officer or employee

Executive Session at 12:31 pm

Reconvene in Open Session

Reconvened at 12:37 pm

2. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session

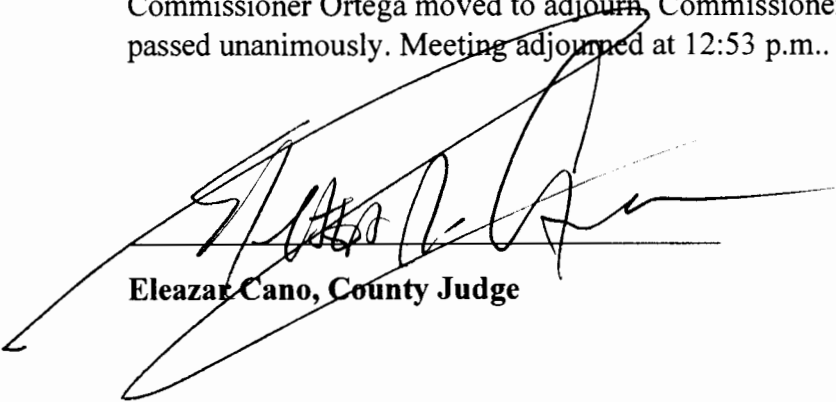
Commissioner Ortega moved to reappoint Joan Johnson and Ambrosio Valles to the Board of Directors for the Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

18. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on January 27, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioner Court Meeting on January 27, 2021 at 9:30 am.

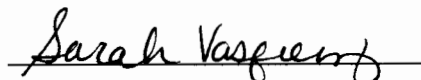
19. Adjourn

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:



Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk