

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 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 9:33 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present:

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Jim Westermann	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Mike "Coach" Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Sarah Vasquez	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 January 13, 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

Bourbon Taylor, representative of the Republican Club, questioned Item 14 due to issues with the verbiage of the policy. Monica McBride, private citizen, stated an opposition to Item 14 and

for the item to be tabled for clarification. Patricia Ljungdahl questioned the cancellation of the prayer group. She also asked for item 14 to be written clearly. Forest Stumberg commented via Facebook stating, "A violation of the Constitution and the First Amendment". Beverly Mead via Pallanez asked for clarification for Item 14. Dorothy Berry also asked for clarification for Item 14. Kim Keith via phone called Judge Cano over Item 14 being too vague. Janet Moeller via phone call to Judge Cano in reference to Item 14 being too vague and threatens the citizens free speech. Rene Boutwell via email to Commissioner Westermann for the protection of free speech.

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, presented an update on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Next testing site will be conducted at Fire Station on February 2 and 3, 2021, from 9 am to 4 pm.

Public concerns were presented by Judge Cano to make testing sites available in Marathon or Terlingua. Mrs. Elmore explained the county has no control of location or dates. The state picks the company and the company testing, DOCS Health Testing, picks the locations and dates. Sul Ross cases are counted where the students have their residence named.

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. Request to renew Burn Ban / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to renew the Burn Ban for 45 days. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

No action.

6. Recognitions & Announcements

Commissioner Ortega recognized and announced that the County Jail had passed its recent inspection by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Commissioner Ortega recognized Jose, Johnny, and Merced for keeping the jail to quality standards.

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 for the Road and 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 presented the Community Facilities Report on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

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

9. Treasurer's Office

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

**Combined Statement of Revenues & Expenses
Check Register
Personnel/Overtime Reports
Other Financial Report as Requested**

**Payroll Reports
Receipt File Listings
Cash Reports
Grants Reports**

by Commissioners

No reports.

B. 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

Paty Saenz, Assistant Auditor, presented on behalf of Patty Roach, County Auditor, the general bills and no walk ins. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills as presented. Commissioner Pallanez 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
Other Financial Reports as Requested
by Commissioners**

Line Item Transfers

Paty Saenz, Assistant Auditor, presented on behalf of Patty Roach, County Auditor, multiple line item transfers. 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.

12. Officials' Monthly Reports

Commissioner Ortega read the Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Court recessed at 10:57 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:12 a.m.

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

Vince Viaille, Managing Director of Specialized Public Finance, Inc., presented an overview of the financing process and refunding opportunity.

11. NET Data

A. Approve NET Data Contract / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the NET Data Contract. Commissioner Ortega moved to renew the NET Data Contract. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Approve Inter-Local Agreement regarding NET Data backup servers / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the Inter-Local Agreement regarding NET Data backup servers. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Inter-Local Agreement. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

14. Review & approve Brewster County outside grounds policy / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano presented the Policies and Procedures on Brewster County Courthouse Grounds. Commissioner Ortega moved to table Item 14. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

15. Brewster County Tourism Council / 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 12:38 PM

Reconvene in Open Session

Reconvened in Open Session at 1:02 PM

2. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session

Commissioner Ortega moved for no action. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

16. Terlingua Fire & EMS / 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 1:03 PM

Reconvene in Open Session

Reconvened in Open Session at 1:07 PM

2. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session

Commissioner Ortega moved to reappoint Jim Hines and Valynda Henington to the Board of Directors for Terlingua Fire and EMS. Commissioner Pallaez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Ortega left the meeting at 1:08 PM.

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

Commissioner Pallanez randomly selected one citizen from Brewster County to serve on the 2021 Salary Grievance Committee. Kathy Renfro Pothier of Terlingua, Tx, will be contacted for acceptance on the 2021 Salary Grievance Committee.

18. Brewster County Sheriff's Office / Approve Application & Resolution for FY2022 Local Border Security Program / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano presented the Resolution for FY 2022 Local Border Security Program. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the application and resolution for FY 2022 Local Border Security Program. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0.

19. 83rd District Attorney / Approve Application & Resolution for FY 2022 Grant Number 3503704 Criminal Justice Division Program for the Crime Victims Coordinator / Discussion and appropriate action

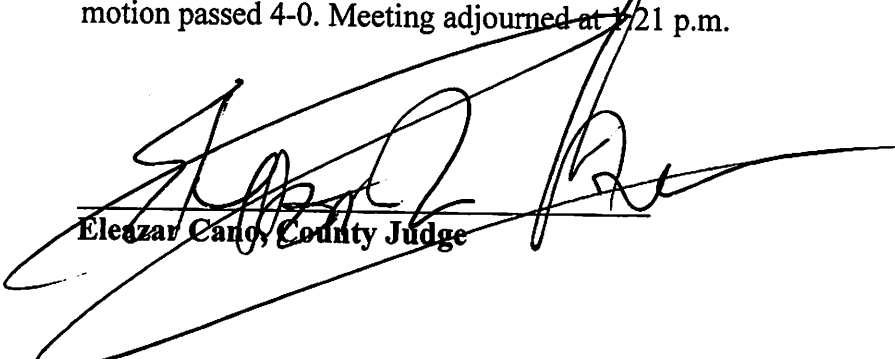
Jerry Phillips, 83rd District Attorney, on behalf of Ori T. White, presented the Criminal Justice Division Program for the Crime Victims Coordinator. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the application and resolution for FY 2022 Grant Number 3503704 Criminal Justice Division Program for the Crime Victims Coordinator. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0.

20. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on February 10, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioner Court Meeting on February 10, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

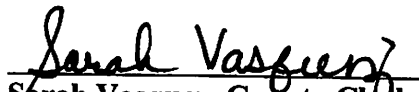
21. Adjourn

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adjourn. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Eleazar Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk