

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 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 9:44 am, the following Elected Officials were present:

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Jim Westermann	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct.2
Sarah Vasquez	County Clerk

Ruben Ortega, Commissioner Pct. 3, and Mike “Coach” Pallanez, Commissioner Pct. 4 were 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 [www.brewstercountytexas.com](http://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 Westermann moved to approve February 10, 2021, minutes. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

Judge Cano requested a revision on the Minutes from February 24<sup>th</sup> to reflect that Renee Wylie, Chief Deputy, attended in place of Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk. Commissioner Westermann moved to approve February 24, 2021, minutes with corrections requested by Judge Cano. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**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 comment.

**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). Stephanie Elmore and Judge Cano spoke with Dr. Rachel Sonne, Regional Medical Director; Linda Molinar, CEO of Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS); and Rick Flores, CEO of Big Bend Regional Medical Center (BBRMC). They estimated possibly 3000 vaccines have been distributed. Big Bend Regional Medical Center will be making appointments for citizens 16 years and older for the Pfizer Vaccine. Please make appointments with 837-0206 or 837-0254.

## **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. Recognitions & Announcements**

Judge Cano announced the courthouse building is asking for citizens to continue the mask and temperature procedure in the common area. Individual offices will have their own jurisdiction.

Commissioner Colando recognized Francisco Castillo and Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for offering to help cover costs of Brewster County Cleanup Day. She also thanked Greg and Valynda Henington, owners of Far Flung Outdoor Center, for donating coffee during the Vaccine Clinic of March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Terlingua; Tonia MacComb, owner of Shot Time, for her help with technology problems; and Terlingua Fire & EMS for standing by in case someone had an allergic reaction to the vaccine.

## **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.

**9. Community Facilities Report**

**A. General Report**

Judge Cano presented the Community Facilities Report on behalf of Johnny Valencia. Commissioner Colando suggested creating a virtual tour to be posted online to see the historical courthouse.

**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  
Check Register  
Personnel/Overtime Reports  
Other Financial Report as Requested  
by Commissioners**

**Payroll Reports  
Receipt File Listing  
Cash Reports  
Grant Reports**

Commissioner Colando moved to table Agenda Item 10 until the next regular Commissioners Court meeting. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**B. Other general administrative & procedural matters related to Treasurer's Office / Discussion and appropriate action for work of Treasurer's Office to go forward**

**11. Brewster County Auditor**

**A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented General Bills. Commissioner Colando moved to approved bills as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

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

**Budget Amendments Other Financial  
Reports as Requested by Commissioners**

**Line Item Transfers**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented one line-item transfer and two budget amendments. Commissioner Westermann moved to approve the line-item transfer as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the certification of available funds and, due to unforeseen circumstances, hereby declare and approve an emergency expenditure for costs associated with firefighting and fire protection services provided by the City of Alpine as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the certification of available funds and increase the LEOSE fund budget as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**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**

**12. Officials' Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Westermann read the Officials' Monthly Report. Judge Cano moved to approve Officials' Monthly Report as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**13. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service / Recommendation from Rebel Royall,  
District Extension Administrator, District 6, to accept Luke Hendryx as the new Texas  
A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent, AgriLife and Natural Resources**

**A. 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 11:01 AM.

**Reconvene in Open Session**

Reconvened Open Session at 11:15 AM

**B. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session**

Commissioner Westermann moved to accept the recommendation as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**14. Brewster County Tourism Council / Appointment of Board Members**

**A. 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 11:18 AM.

**Reconvene in Open Session**

Reconvened Open Session at 12:35 PM

**B. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session**

Judge Cano moved to approve nominees as presented by the Tourism Council. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**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**

Judge Cano spoke with Rod Ponton via phone before Commissioners Court. Mr. Ponton stated no change in the status of Cause No. CVB20433.

**16. State-Mandated Cybersecurity Course for 2021 / Approve enrolling County Employees to the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) free course / Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Colando moved to approve enrolling the county employees to the Texas Association of Counties free course. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**17. Velocerus Technology Solutions**

**A. Discuss & consider Microsoft 365 Government Community Cloud Licensing, including email, office, cloud storage, and other services through LIFTOFF Company for all Brewster County Offices / Discussion and appropriate action**

Aaron Rodriguez, Velocerus Technology Solutions, presented an update Microsoft 365 Government Community Cloud Licensing. Commissioner Colando moved to table Agenda Item 17A. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**B. Approve Direct Service Agreement between Velocerus Technology Solutions and Brewster County / Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Direct Service Agreement as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**18. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on March 24, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on March 24, 2021, at 9:30 AM. Judge Cano announced a Special Commissioners Court Meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 in Alpine. Judge Cano also announced a Special Commissioners Court Meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 9:30 AM in Terlingua, Texas.

**19. Adjourn**

Commissioner Colando moved to adjourn. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed by vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:

Sarah Vasquez  
Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk