

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 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 9:35 am, 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

No minutes.

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.

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

Judge Cano presented an update on Coronavirus (COVID-19). The second dose of vaccines will be on April 1, 2021, in Terlingua and April 2, 2021, in Marathon.

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

Judge Cano presented the Burn Ban Order. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Burn Ban Order. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Judge Cano announced Brewster County Cleanup Day is on April 10, 2021.

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

No action.

6. Recognitions & Announcements

A. Recognize Carlos Espinosa for his dedicated service as Brewster County Road & Bridge Crew Member

Judge Cano announced Carlos Espinosa retirement. Superintendent Causey recognized Mr. Espinosa's qualities.

B. Recognize and thank Dennis Yancy, Brewster County's Veterans Service Officer for his dedicated service to our Veterans and Brewster County

Judge Cano announced Dennis Yancy's resignation.

C. Recognize that the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced that Marathon Public Library is the only institution in Texas selected as a finalist for this award

Commissioner Ortega announced and recognized the Marathon Public Library for being selected as a finalist for the 2021 National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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

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 January Monthly Report. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the monthly report as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

No action.

13. Sheriff's Office / FY2020 Operation Stonegarden / Request to apply and approve Application & Resolution for the FY2020 Operation Stonegarden Grant Number: 3156306 / Discussion and appropriate action

Ryan Skelton, Chief Deputy, presented the request to apply and approve application & resolution for the FY2020 Operation Stonegarden grant. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Application & Resolution as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

10. Brewster County Investment Related

A. Review and approve Brewster County Investment Policy for FY 21 / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Brewster County Investment Policy for FY 21. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Brewster County Investment Policy for FY 21. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

B. Appoint Brewster County Investment Officer(s) for FY 21 / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the appointment of Brewster County Investment Officer for FY 21. Commissioner Ortega moved to appoint the County Treasurer as the Brewster County Investment Officer for FY 21. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

C. Review and approve Brewster County investment strategies for each fund / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Brewster County investment strategies for each fund. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the Brewster County investment strategies as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

D. Review and approve Brewster County Authorized List of Broker/Dealers / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Brewster County Authorized List of Broker / Dealers with Sam Vaughan. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the list as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

E. Approve Quarterly Investment Report for period ending September 30, 2020 /

Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Quarterly Investment Report ending on September 30, 20. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the quarterly investment report ending on September 30, 2020. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

F. Approve Quarterly Investment Report for period ending December 31, 2020 / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Quarterly Investment Report ending on December 31, 2020. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the quarterly investment report ending on December 31, 2020, as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

11. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Paty Saenz, Assistant County Auditor, presented general bills on behalf of Patty Roach, County Auditor. Commissioner Ortega moved to improve the general bills. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. 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, Assistant County Auditor, presented line-item transfers on behalf of Patty Roach, County Auditor. Commissioner Colando moved to approve line-item transfers as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

Judge Cano asked on behalf the public to have an update on the external auditor's report for FY2019.

12. Officials' Monthly Reports

Commissioner Westermann read the Officials' Monthly Report. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the officials' monthly report. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

14. Discuss and consider opposition to S.B. 234/H.B. 749 and its attempt to silence the

combined voices of the county officials and local communities of this state / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the opposition to S.B. 234/H.B. 749. Commissioner Colando moved to oppose the S.B. 234/H.B. 749 and its attempt to silence the combined voices of the county officials and local communities of this state. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

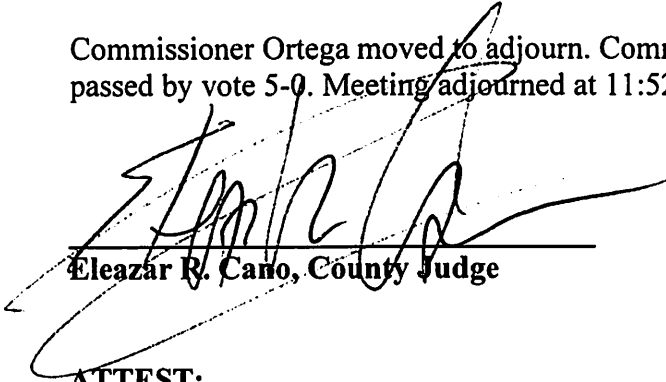
Judge Cano read an email from Rod Ponton's office stating "There is no update at this time."

16. Schedule Special Commissioners Court Meeting on March 31, 2021, at 9:30 A.M. J.W. "Red" Pattillo Center, 53633 State Highway 118, Study Butte, Texas and Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on April 14, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano announced the Special Commissioner Court Meeting on March 31, 2021, at 9:30 A.M. J.W. "Red" Pattillo Center, 53633 State Highway 118, Study Butte, Texas and the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on April 14, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

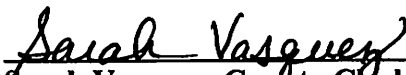
17. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed by vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk