

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 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 9:37 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 Pallanez moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2021. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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 comments.

4. 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 & Updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano gave an update on Coronavirus, COVID-19, on behalf of Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, due to training. COVID-19 local stats read as of the morning of August 11, 2021: 14 active cases, 17 fatalities, and 2 hospitalizations. Judge Cano will be reactivating the COVID Committee. Possible meetings will be on Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Commissioners Courtroom.

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

No action.

5. Elections Administrator / Approval of Election Judges and Alternates for the term September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022/ Discussion and appropriate action

Monica McBride, Republican Chair, and Mary Bell Lockhart, Democratic Chair, presented the Election Judges and Alternate Judges for the Term September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the list as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

6. I-Docket/ Contracting with I-Docket to provide services for County Attorney's Office and County Clerk's Office / Discussion and appropriate action

Steve Houston, County Attorney, Celia Rodriguez, Administrator Assistant Tech in the County Attorney's Office, and Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk presented the needs for a new case management software. Sergio , iDocket Sales Representative, presented the integration and contract proposal for the County Attorney's Office and County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Ortega moved to table for further information and other software bids. Commissioner Westermann moved to second the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Court recessed at 11:03 AM.

Court reconvened at 11:15 AM.

7. Recognitions & Announcements

Commissioner Pallanez recognized Robert Alvarez, Executive Director of the Brewster County Tourism, for a successful Viva Big Bend.

8. Far West Texas Regional Public Defender's Office / 2021/2022 Interlocal Agreement between Culberson County and Brewster County / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano presented the 2021/2022 Interlocal Agreement Far West Texas Regional Public Defender's Office. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

9. 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 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.

10. 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.

11. 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 Listings

Cash Reports

Grants Reports

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, will present reports with the Budget Workshop.

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

12. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Paty Saenz, Assistant Auditor, presented for Patty Roach, County Auditor, the general bills and walk-ins. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the August 11, 2021, general bills. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the July 29, 2021, advance general bill. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the presented general bill. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

Budget Amendments

Line Item Transfers

Other Financial Reports as Requested by Commissioners

Ms. Saenz presented the budget amendments. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the budget amendments 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

No action.

13. Officials' Monthly Reports

Commissioner Westermann read the Officials' Monthly Report. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

14. Brewster County Tourism

A. Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:

General update, travel shows, marketing, finances, visitation status, project reports; personnel issues, vacancies, new hires and performance)

Robert Alvarez, Executive Director of the Brewster County Tourism, presented an update for the Brewster County Tourism.

B. Presentation of the 2022 Budget / Discussion and appropriate action

Mr. Alvarez presented the 2022 Budget for Brewster County Tourism.

C. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Brewster County Tourism to go forward

No action.

16. Update / Retainer Agreement with Law Firm Big Bend Law, Rod Ponton, Attorney at Law, in re Cause No. CV02299; Elizabeth Emery Fulcher Hill and Janie Marie Fulcher, Plaintiffs, v Unknown Executor or Administrator of the Estate of Bernardo Borrego, Deceased, Unknown Heirs of Bernardo Borrego, Deceased, Any and All Known or Unknown Owners or Claimants of an Interest, Right, or Title In: Section 303, Block G-4, G.C. & S.F. Ry. Co. Survey (640 acres) in Brewster County Texas, and Brewster County, Texas, Defendants/ Discussion and appropriate action

Rod Ponton, Attorney at Law, presented an update on Cause No. CV02299; Elizabeth Emery Fulcher Hill and Janie Marie Fulcher, Plaintiffs, v Unknown Executor or Administrator of the Estate of Bernardo Borrego, Deceased, Unknown Heirs of Bernardo Borrego, Deceased, Any and All Known or Unknown Owners or Claimants of an Interest, Right, or Title In: Section 303, Block G-4, G.C. & S.F. Ry. Co. Survey (640 acres) in Brewster County Texas, and Brewster County, Texas, Defendants. Mr. Ponton stated this is not a county case. District Court is where this needs to be filed for property title.

15. Update / Retainer Agreement with Law Firm Big Bend Law, Rod Ponton, Attorney 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 At Law, presented an update on the 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.

18. Brewster County Historical Commission / Board Appointments for reinstatement and new to the Board through December, 2022/ Discussion and appropriate action

Raymond Skiles, Marker Chair of Brewster County Historical Commission, presented the Board Appointments for reinstatement and new to the Board through December, 2022.

A. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 8 551.074, Government Code, VTCA, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, compensation, or dismissal of a public officer or employee

Executive Session commenced at 12:49 PM.

Reconvene in Open Session

Reconvened in Open Session at 12:55 PM.

B. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session

Commissioner Ortega moved to appoint Raymond Skiles as the Brewster County Historical Commission Chair. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

17. Brewster County Emergency Services District #1 / Board of Directors Appointments / Discussion and appropriate action

A. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 8 551.074, Government Code, VTCA, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, compensation, or dismissal of a public officer or employee

Executive Session commenced at 12:58 PM

Reconvene in Open Session

Open Session reconvened at 1:05 PM.

B. Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session

Commissioner Ortega moved to reappoint the recommended Brewster County Emergency Services District #1 Board of Directors as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

19. Brewster County Central Appraisal District / Presentation of 2021 Certified Values / Discussion and appropriate action

Aaron Garza, Appraiser, on behalf of Denise Flores, Chief Appraisal, presented the 2021 Certified Values. Commissioner Ortega moved to accept the Brewster County Central Appraisal District presentation of 2021 Certified Values. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

20. Brewster County Tax Assessor Collector

A. Presentation of 2021 Certified Tax Roll / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the 2021 Certified Tax Roll. Commissioner Westermann moved to second the motion; motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Colando abstained because she didn't have the paperwork which was presented to the rest of the court.

B. Present and discuss tax rate calculations for 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the tax rate calculations for 2021. Judge Cano seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Colando abstained because she didn't have the paperwork which was presented to the rest of the court.

21. Texas Agrilife and Natural Resources Extension Agent Luke Hendryx / Request to approve application and resolution for FY 2022 County Feral Hog Abatement Grant/ Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the application and resolution for FY2022 County Feral Hog Abatement Grant. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Court recessed at 1:30 PM.

Court reconvened at 2:05 PM.

22. FY 2022 Budget Workshop / Discussion concerning all aspects of County revenues/expenditures and upcoming financial needs for all county departments and other entities funded by the County / Scheduling issues related to adoption of Budget and setting Tax Rate

A. Review of Preliminary Budget Revenues and Expenditures / Discussion only

Patty Roach, County Auditor, and Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Brewster County Tax Projections. Ms. Roach addressed the Voter Approval Rate typo should be 0.421531.

B. Review of Proposed Elected Salaries / Discussion and appropriate action

Ms. Morton presented the Proposed Elected Salaries. Judge Cano moved to approve the Proposed Elected Salaries as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

C. Discussion with action to propose FY 2021 Tax Rate / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve with the correction of the Voter-Approval Rate typo should be 0.421531 for the FY 2021 Tax Rate. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

D. Approve Budget and Tax Rate Hearing Dates (September 1, 2021) / Discussion and appropriate action

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Budget and Tax Rate Hearing Dates, September 1, 2021. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Ortega moved to rescind the vote for the date of September 1, 2021. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

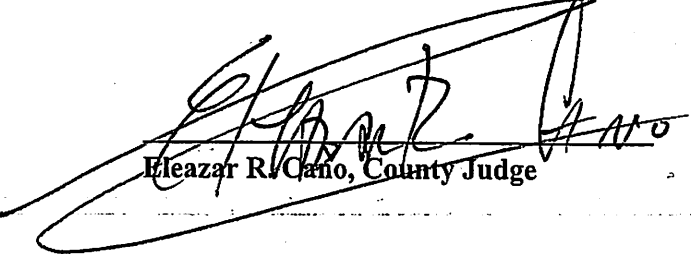
Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Budget and Tax Rate Hearing Dates, August 30, 2021. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

23. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on August 25, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on August 25, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

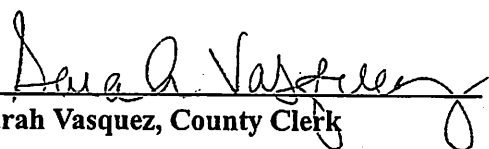
24. Adjourn

Commissioner Westermann moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:13 pm.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk