

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 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 9:41 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](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

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. 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**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management, reported an update on Coronavirus, COVID-19. Local statistics up to date as of the preceding evening of August 24, 2021: 25 active cases, 18 fatalities, and 3 hospitalizations. EMC Elmore then presented a general report. Judge Cano asked on behalf of the public when it will be possible to lift the burn ban. Judge Cano directed that the Burn Plan form be added to the County website. EMC Elmore recommended the public call Brewster County Sheriff's Office dispatch if they need to contact her about a prescribed burn during the burn ban. Also, members of the public can reach out to a Commissioner for further assistance.

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

No action.

## **5. Recognitions & Announcements**

Commissioner Ortega announced that he had attended the Rio Grande Council of Governments' Solid Waste meeting in El Paso. He further announced that the grant funds available for solid waste programs will decrease next year, but he plans to request the same amount for Brewster County as he has in the past.

## **6. Elections Administrator**

**A. Approve Order of Special Election for November 2, 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action**

Lora Nussbaum, Elections Administrator, presented the Order of Special Election for November 2, 2021. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Order of Special Election. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Approve Notice of Special Election for November 2, 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action**

Ms. Nussbaum presented the Notice of Special Election for November 2, 2021. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Notice of Special Election. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**C. Approve Brewster County Elections Central Counting Plan / Discussion and appropriate action**

Ms. Nussbaum presented the Brewster County Elections Central Counting Plan. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Brewster County Elections Central Counting Plan. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**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

Commissioner Ortega presented the Road and Bridge Department report on behalf of Superintendent Causey.

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

Payroll Reports  
Receipt File Listings  
Cash Reports  
Grants Reports

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**

**10. Brewster County Auditor**

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

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills and no walk-ins. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the August 25, 2021, general bills. Commissioner Westermann 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**

Mrs. Roach presented Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Westermann 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**

None.

**11. Officials' Monthly Reports**

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

**12. 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)**

Judge Cano read the Brewster County Tourism report on behalf of Robert Alvarez, Executive Director.

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

No action.

**13. 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**

Judge Cano reported on behalf of Mr. Rod Ponton that no movement has happened with this case.

**14. 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**

Judge Cano reported on behalf of Mr. Rod Ponton that no movement has happened with this case.

**15. Scheduled Special Commissioners Court Meeting on August 30, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Cano announced the Special Commissioners Court Meeting on August 30, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

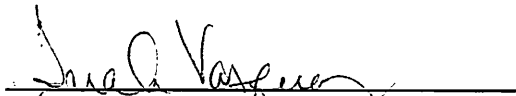
**16. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk