

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present:

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Betse Esparza	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Mike "Coach" Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Julie Morton	County Treasurer
Berta Rios-Martinez	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 www.brewstercountytexas.com or the [Brewster County, Texas Facebook page \(www.facebook.com/Brewster-County-Texas-106385246062199\)](https://www.facebook.com/Brewster-County-Texas-106385246062199). 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:

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge were led by Judge Cano.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

No action.

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 public comment.

4. Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) by Dr. Ekta Escovar, County Health Authority / Discussion and appropriate action

Dr. Ekta Escovar, County Health Authority, gave an update on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Judge Cano and commissioners voiced their concerns on the COVID-19 situation. Commissioner Esparza stated we need to demand rapid testing for everyone in the Tri-County area.

5. Recognitions & Announcements

Judge Cano announced the Unified Scoring Committee's in-person meeting in New Braunfels was canceled, and therefore he will be in town for the rest of the week. He also reminded everyone that our county is currently not eligible for these grants, but by this time next year we will be eligible to apply.

6. Road & Bridge Department

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 gave a brief update on the Road & Bridge Department on behalf of Superintendent Causey.

B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Road & Bridge Department to go forward

No action.

7. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Judge Cano gave a brief report on the Community Facilities on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

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

No action.

8. 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 Reports as Requested by Commissioners	Grants Reports

No action.

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.

9. US Department of the Interior / PILT Funds / Matters related to the allocation of County funds for 2020

A. Receipt of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) by County / County Judge and Treasurer

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented a receipt from the 2020 PILT payment from the US Department of the Interior. She said the payment we received was \$1,307,604.00. The originally budgeted amount for FY2020 was \$1,281,071.00. She said that gave Brewster County \$26,533.00 more than what we allocated in the FY2020 budget.

1. Request to allocate 2020 PILT funds for payments to San Vicente I.S.D. (10%) and Terlingua C.S.D. (5%)

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, requested to allocate 2020 PILTS funds for payments to San Vicente I.S.D. (10%) and Terlingua C.S.D. (5%). She said San Vicente will receive 10% of our PILT funds in the amount of \$130,760.04. Terlingua will receive 5% of our PILT funds in the amount of \$65,380.20. She said the allocations and percentages to both schools are based on the amount of land each school district has within the Big Bend National Park boundaries. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Request to allocate 2020 PILT funds for payments to San Vicente I.S.D. (10%) and Terlingua C.S.D. (5%). Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Court recessed at 10:42 a.m.
Court reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

10. Officials' Monthly Reports

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, presented the Officials' Monthly Reports. Judge Cano read the Officials' Monthly Reports for June 2020 into record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as read. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

11. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, read the general bills and walk-ins into record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as read. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane. Commissioner Esparza abstained from Printco.

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

Budget Amendments

Other Financial Reports as Requested by Commissioners

Line Item Transfers

Mrs. Roach presented one budget amendment and two line item transfers. She said the budget amendment is from the PILT funds in the amount \$26,533 more than what was originally budgeted. In addition to amending the budget for the additional revenues, we need to amend the budget for distribution for San Vicente ISD and Terlingua CSD. Mrs. Roach suggests to amend the budget in the amount of \$26,533 in accordance with the attached budget amendment form. Commissioner Ortega moved to amend and adjust as presented. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Roach presented two line item transfers. She requested that the Court transfer \$8,700.00 from INJURIES and INDIGENT BURIALS into AUTOPSIES and DUES, to cover the actual costs incurred. In the Treasurer's department she requested that the Court transfers \$1,746.00 from PROFESSIONAL SERVICES into EQUIPMENT, to purchase computers for the Treasurer's staff. Commissioner Esparza moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando 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. Discussion with action to approve order directing that the voter-approval tax rate may be calculated at 8% in a manner provided for a special taxing unit / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, discussed to approve order directing that the voter-approval tax rate may be calculated at 8% in a manner provided for a special taxing unit. Commissioner Colando moved to approve order directing that the voter-approval tax rate may be calculated 8% in a manner provided for a special taxing unit as presented by County Auditor, Patty Roach. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Esparza opposed.

13. 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 gave an update on the COVID-19 testing. She announced that she has requested from Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) another testing date in Alpine on July 15th. She is also requesting from TDEM testing dates for Marathon and Terlingua. Commissioner Pallanez voiced his concern on the water tanks as well. She said she is still working on the water tanks.

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

No action.

14. Update & Review on COVID-19 Pandemic Operating Plan for the Judiciary from District Judge Roy Ferguson / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano gave an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic Operating Plan for the Judiciary from District Judge Roy Ferguson. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the COVID-19 Pandemic Operating Plan for the Judiciary as outlined and drafted by Judge Roy Ferguson. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Court recessed at 11:36 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:48 a.m.

15. 2021 Budget Workshop (3rd 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 Expenditures / Discussion only

Judge Cano discussed the Preliminary Budget Expenditures. He said there is one adjustment for the incoming constable. Treasurer Morton said she budgeted insurance for the new constable. Judge Cano said once the revenue projections start coming in, any adjustments that have to be made will be taken into consideration at that time. He said if the County is short on revenue, then we will have to figure out where we have to start cutting some of the budgeted expenses. Judge Cano said there are two ways of generating more revenue: by raising the tax rate or workforce reduction.

B. Review of Employee Salaries / Discussion only

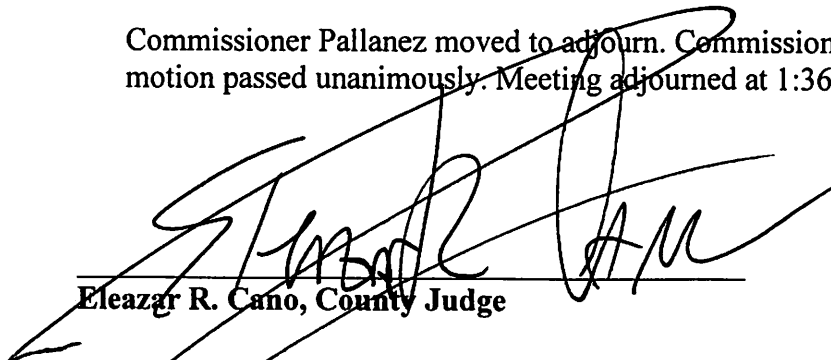
Judge Cano and commissioners reviewed the Employee Salaries. He said there are no changes in the employee salaries.

16. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on July 22, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano said the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be July 22, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

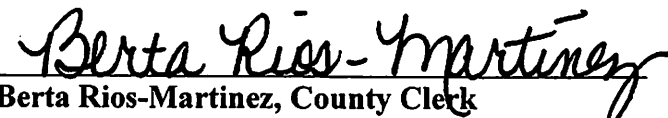
17. Adjourn

Commissioner Pallanez moved to adjourn. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk