

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present: Commissioner Pallanez was absent.

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Betse Esparza	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Julie Morton	County Treasurer
Berta Rios-Martinez	County Clerk

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge were led by Judge Cano.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

Commissioner Colando moved to approve Minutes for June 10, 2020 with corrections. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

Brewster County residents Daryl Eby and Robert Krull submitted comments via email in support of a county mask ordinance. Judge Cano said he is taking precautionary measures to get back to business as best as we can.

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

Dr. Etko Escovar, County Health Authority, gave an update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). She said we are over 50 cases at this point. She said they administered approximately 1,700 tests throughout the tri- county. Judge Cano gave a brief update on the Coronavirus situation. He said they are trying to be very mindful of the public and business owners but everyone just needs to take precautions as an individual. Commissioner Colando and Commissioner Esparza both had a couple of questions for Dr. Etko Escovar about COVID-19. Commissioner Ortega voiced his concern that enforcing masks should not be their responsibility. He feels that is up to the business owners on enforcing it. Commissioner Esparza is in favor of individuals wearing masks, but would rather not create an ordinance.

4. Texas Association of Counties / TAC HEBP Health Plan Renewal Plan Year 2021 / Discussion and appropriate action

Mindy Seahorn, with Texas Association of Counties, gave a brief discussion on TAC HEBP Health Plan Renewal Plan Year 2021. She said there is a 1% decrease in rates and benefits will remain the same. The insurance renewal deadline is June 30, 2020. Commissioner Ortega moved to accept the plan with the updated premiums. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Mindy Seahorn said TAC is also offering a voluntary dental and vision benefit. She said she compared quotes with Met Life and there is some give and take with TAC. She recommends the county stays with Met Life Insurance.

6. Recognitions & Announcements

Judge Cano announced he will be going to New Braunfels on July 8th, 9th and 10th for the Unified Scoring Meeting. There will also be some COVID-19 testing on June 29, 2020 at the South Brewster County Emergency Response Center in Terlingua and July 6, 2020 in Marathon at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at both locations.

7. 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.

8. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Judge Cano gave a brief report on the Community Facilities on behalf of Johnny Valencia. He said early voting will begin Monday, June 29, 2020.

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 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.

10. Officials' Monthly Reports

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, presented and read the Officials' Monthly Reports into record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as read. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

11. Approve Grant Application and Resolution for the FY20 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF) Grant for 2020-2021 / Discussion and appropriate action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, requested permission to apply for grant funds through the Criminal Justice Division from the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant for 2020-2021. This grant will cover for sanitation devices, cleaning devices and expenses on sanitizing the offices during the COVID-19. It is a reimbursement grant for the county. She is asking for \$174,303.90 grant total. Commissioner Ortega moved to grant application and resolution for the FY20 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant as stated by Treasurer Morton. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

12. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve general bills as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. 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	

Auditor Roach presented two line item transfers. She said from the governmental entities department she needs to transfer \$1,928.00 from Juries account into the Appraisal District Contribution to cover the remaining payment to the Appraisal District. She also said she needs to transfer \$250.00 from the Juries account to the MHMR line item and that will cover their payment for the remainder of the year. Commissioner Ortega voiced his concern on why the line item transfers are being done when it should have been budgeted. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the line item transfers. 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.

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 testings. She thanked the EMS crew for helping out at the three testing sites they had in Alpine. She said there will be some COVID-19 testing done on June 29th, 2020 in Terlingua from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on July 6th at Marathon from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ms. Elmore also mentioned

she ordered some face masks for the courthouse and will be in next week.

B. Recommendation to Restrict Certain Fireworks Sales, prohibiting certain aerial fireworks in unincorporated areas of Brewster County under drought conditions / Discussion and appropriate action

No action.

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

No action.

14. Approve Brewster County Grant Policies and Procedures / Discussion and appropriate Action

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, discussed the Brewster County Grant Policies and Procedures. She requested approval for Brewster County Grant Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Brewster County Grant Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

15. Approve 2020-2021 Interlocal Agreement for the School Resources Officers for Alpine ISD / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Cano recommended to table item # 15. Commissioner Colando moved to table item #15. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Court recessed at 11:50 a.m.

Court reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

16. 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 Elected Officials Salaries & Newspaper Ad for 2020-2021 / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, reviewed the Elected Officials Salaries and Newspaper Ad for 2020-2021. She said there will be no increase for anyone. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Elected Officials Salaries & Newspaper Ad for 2020-2021. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Review of Preliminary Budget & Review Projections / Discussion only

Judge Cano reviewed the Preliminary Budget and Review Projections. Commissioner Ortega requested to add \$200 to the janitorial services to include the Community

Center in Marathon. He feels it is a lot of work and would like an increase for the employee. Judge Cano said he will present everyone's budget at the next meeting for every department.

C. Review of Employee Salaries / Discussion only

Commissioner Ortega said once we receive the hard copies of the employees salaries and have an open discussion to see where the county is at, then we can get the Elected Officials to voice their concern.

17. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on July 8, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano said the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be July 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. He said the meeting will be held remotely via Zoom.

18. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk