**BREWSTER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS COURT**

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**JIM WESTERMANN SARA COLANDO** Commissioner, Pct.1Commissioner, Pct. 2

**RUBEN ORTEGA MO MORROW**

Commissioner, Pct. 3Commissioner, Pct.4

**GREG P. HENINGTON**

Brewster County Judge

**Regular Commissioners Meeting:** November 28, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.

**Brewster County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom**

**201 W. Ave. E Alpine, Texas 79830**

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order - Judge Greg P. Henington**

Judge Heningtion called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.; the following Elected Officials were present:

Greg Henington County Judge

Jim Westermann Commissioner Pct. 1

Sara Allen Colando Commissioner Pct. 2

Ruben Ortega Commissioner Pct. 3

William “Mo” Morrow Commissioner Pct. 4

Sarah Vasquez County Clerk

Julie Morton County Treasurer

**2. Invocation**

Invocation by Judge Henington.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were led by Judge Henington.

**4. Review, discuss and take necessary action to approve previous meeting minutes**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve November 14, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**5. Public Comment Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Members of the public are also welcome to participate in public comment by calling 432-244-6663**

None.

**6. Recognition & Announcements**

Sheriff Dodson introduced the new bomb dog, Dori, with Deputy Holguin who received three weeks of handler training.

**7. Update on new Brewster County Website / Commissioner S. Colando / Discussion only**

Commissioner Colando presented an update and stated that the website migration should be ready to review in about two weeks.

**8. County Judge Report – for informational purposes only / no action required**

Judge Henington presented an update.

**9. Review, discuss and take possible action on Brewster County Project List**

No changes.

**10. Review, discuss and take possible action to distribute Local Assistance for Tribal and County Fund to the Terlingua Common School District and San Vicente School District in the amount of $65,000 and $130,000 respectively. This is for the first of 2 tranches of funding based on receipt of LATCF funds**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the proposed distribution as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**11. Approve the payment of invoice in the amount of $49,999 for the purchase of a travel trailer to be used as a mobile library for South Brewster County. This item is on the approved project list.**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the invoice as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**13. Review, discuss and take possible action to hire contract accounting personnel to assist the County in bringing all records and audits current to the present fiscal year.**

Judge Henington presented hourly rates for an El Paso accounting firm, compared to hourly rates for Patty Roach and Malynda Richardson working together, as another approach to work on catching up the 2020, 2021, and 2022 external audits. Judge Henington will present a monthly update on progress, with a deadline of December 31, 2024 to get caught up. Commissioner Ortega moved to contract with Patty Roach and Malynda Richardson to work on catching up the external audits. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**12. Approve the payment of the Hoffpauir Retail Purchase Agreement in the amount of $43,201.75 for the purchase of a 2023 Chevrolet crews cab pick-up for use in facilities management. This truck will replace an existing truck in the facilities fleet.**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the amount of $43,201.75 with an additional $2,210 for running boards and a deer guard. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0

**14. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding the extension of occupancy by Far West Texas Public Defender's office to February 15, 2023 without penalty**

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the extension as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**15. Road & Bridge Department**

**A. Superintendent's Report**

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

**B. Review, discuss and take appropriate action for general work / permits / contract of Road & Bridge Department**

None.

**16. Emergency Management Department**

**A. General Report – Emergency Management Coordinator**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented an update on the Emergency

Management Department.

**17. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates**

Treasurer Morton stated she will present the October monthly report on December 12, and the November monthly report on December 26.

**B. Discussion, review, and appropriate action related to financial administration and policies**

None.

**18. Brewster County Auditor**

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

**1. Budget Amendments**

**2. Line-Item Adjustments**

Paty Saenz, Assistant Auditor, presented the general bills already paid. Commissioner Ortega

moved to approve bills as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion

passed 5-0.

Assistant Auditor Saenz presented the general bills and a walk-in to be paid. Commissioner Ortega moved to

approve bills as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Assistant Auditor Saenz presented line item transfers. Commissioner Morrow moved to approve

the line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion

passed 5-0.

**B. Financial Reports / Updates**

None.

**C. Discussion, review, and appropriate action related to financial administration and policies**

None.

**19. Report from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Luke Hendryx/ Discussion only**

Luke Hendryx, Extension Agent, presented the general report.

**20. Brewster County Tourism**

**A. Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:**

**General update, travel shows, marketing, finances, visitation status, project reports and issues**

Robert Alvarez, Executive Director, presented an update on Brewster County Tourism.

**B. Review, discuss and take possible action to approve $4,476.00 for TourTexas.com advertising.**

Judge Henington moved to approve the contract with TourTexas.com as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**21. Officials' Monthly Reports**

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

**22. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on December 12, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on December 12, 2023, at

9:30 AM.

**23. Adjourn**

Commissioner Morrow moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

**If necessary, following any closed or executive meeting the Commissioners Court will convene in open session to take any final action, decision, or vote on any matter deliberated in closed meeting which has properly been noticed in compliance with Chapter 551 Government Code of Texas.**

**If, during the course of the meeting covered by the notice, the Commissioners Court needs to meet in executive session, then such closed or executive meeting or session, pursuant to Chapter 551, Government Code of Texas, will be held by the Commissioners Court on the date, hour, and place given in the notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this notice as the Court may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session convening and concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Chapter 551 of said Government Code.**

 **ATTEST:**

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**Greg P. Henington Sarah Vasquez**

**Brewster County Judge Brewster County Clerk**