**BREWSTER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS COURT**

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

**RUBEN ORTEGA MO MORROW**

Commissioner, Pct. 3Commissioner, Pct.4

**GREG P. HENINGTON**

County Judge

**Regular Commissioners Meeting:** December 12, 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 9:30 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

1. **Invocation**

Invocation by Judge Henington.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

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

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve November 28, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Colando seconded

the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **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.

1. **Recognition & Announcements**

None.

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

No update.

1. **County Judge Report – for informational purposes only**

Judge Henington presented an update and announced on the 22nd of January will be the start date to clear out boxes and store files properly with the approved company for two weeks.

 **10. Update on Far West Texas Public Defender’s scheduled office move. Information only**

James McDermott, Chief Public Defender of the Far West Texas Regional Public Defender Office, gave an update on the office’s activities and planned move on January 8th to 206 West Avenue E.

1. **Brewster County Project List:**
2. **Review, discuss and take possible action to increase the budget for the construction of a vehicle/trailer shade structure at the Alpine Emergency Services building from $30,000 to $41,000.**

Commissioner Westerman announced the amendment to pay for the permit that was not originally budgeted. Commissioner Morrow moved to approve the increase from $30,000 to $41,000. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **~~Update on Far West Texas Public Defender’s scheduled office move. Information only~~**
2. **Review, discuss and take possible action to approve updated Brewster County flood plain maps**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported that the maps are not ready for review yet.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to approve Child Care Investments Partnership Donation Agreement. This agreement is related to the Commissioner Court’s project approval for the establishment of a childcare facility operated by the Alpine Independent School District.**

Judge Henington presented the Child Care Investments Partnership Donation agreement. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Child Care Investments Partnership Donation Agreement as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to amend the 2024 Brewster County Budget to create a line item funded by County reserves in the amount of $50,000 to be called Audit Task Force. Such line items to be placed in the non-departmental section of the budget.**

Commissioner Ortega moved to amend the 2024 Brewster County Budget to create a line item named Audit Task Force. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to appoint County Judge as co-investment officer for Brewster County**

Judge Henington requested the Commissioners Court appoint him as co-investment officer for Brewster County, alongside Treasurer Julie Morton. Commissioner Ortega moved to appoint the County Judge as co-investment officer with the stipulation to make sure it will be covered by the Judge’s original bond. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Brewster County Clerk’s Office**
2. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action regarding the Property Alert Contract by GovOS.**

Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk, and Clint Faulknor, GovOS representative, presented the Property Alert Contract. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Property Alert Contract as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action regarding the 2024 Fee Schedule.**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the 2024 Fee Schedule as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Election**
2. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action on Joint Resolution and Statistical Information for Joint Primary**

Lora Nussbaum, Elections Administrator, and Mary Bell Lockhart, Brewster County Democratic Party Chair, presented the Joint Resolution and Statistical Information for Joint Primary. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Road & Bridge Department**
2. **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Frenchie Causey presented the Road and Bridge Department report.

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

None.

1. **Emergency Management Department**
2. **General Report – Emergency Management Coordinator**

EMC Elmore presented an update on the Emergency Management Department.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action on Brewster County Burn Ban**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the renewal for 45 days of the Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action on December Fireworks Order**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Order Prohibiting Certain Fireworks. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Treasurer’s Office**
2. **Financial Reports / Updates**

Treasurer Morton is absent and there are no reports.

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

None**.**

1. **Brewster County Auditor**
2. **General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action regarding to**
3. **Budget Amendments**
4. **Line-Item Adjustments**

Paty Saenz, Assistant Auditor, presented the general bills already paid and the general bills to be paid. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve all bills as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane. Commissioner Westermann abstained from Branding West.

Assistant Auditor Saenz presented budget amendments. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve

the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion

passed 5-0.

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

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

passed 5-0.

1. **Financial Reports / Updates**

None.

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

None.

1. **Brewster County Tourism**
2. **Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:**

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

No report.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to approve $12,000 contract for sponsorship, commercials and booth for The Ticket Sports Radio July 4, 2024, event.**

Judge Henington presented the Ticket Sports Radio contract for July 4, 2024. Commissioner Morrow moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on December 26, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on December 26, 2023, at

9:30 AM.

1. **Closed meeting of Commissioners Court, if necessary**

**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.**

**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.**

1. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 A.M.

 **ATTEST:**

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**Greg P. Henington Sarah Vasquez**

**Brewster County Judge Brewster County Clerk**