**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.**

**BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM**

**201 W AVE E**

**ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Henington called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.; the following Elected Officials were present:

Greg Henington County Judge

Jim Westermann Commissioner Pct. 1

Ruben Ortega Commissioner Pct. 3

Sarah Vasquez County Clerk

Sara Allen Colando, Commissioner Pct. 2, and William “Mo” Morrow, Commissioner Pct. 4 were absent.

**Members of the public who are not able to participate in person, are encouraged to watch the meetings live online, at www.brewstercountytx.com or Brewster County's Facebook page. Members of the public are also encouraged to participate in public comment by calling 432-244-6663.**

**AGENDA**

**1. Invocation by Reverend Boutwell**

Invocation led by Reverend Boutwell.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge led by Judge Henington.

**3. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the minutes for January 24, 2023. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**4. Public Comment - Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Court may be limited in its ability to respond to comments.**

No comments.

**5. Recognition & Announcements -**

**Brewster County Day February 11, 2023**

Judge Henington announced February 11, 2023, as Brewster County Day.

Commissioner Ortega recognized the great turnout for the annual fish fry held in Marathon.

**6. General report - for informational purposes only; no action required**

**- Community Facilities Report**

Judge Henington read the Community Facilities Report on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

**- Official Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Ortega read the Official Monthly Report and moved to approve as read. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion. Judge Henington declined to call a vote because it is an information only agenda item.

**7. 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, prohibiting fireworks, emergency management issues related to public and private insurance coverage, personnel issues related to emergency response; matters related to pending & future Homeland Security, FEMA Grant & updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) / Discussion and appropriate action**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented the General Report for the Emergency

Management Department. EMC Elmore presented the Ban of Certain Fireworks Order. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Fireworks Order as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**8. 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/contracts for boring or trenching for utilities across County Roads**

Superintendent Frenchie Causey presented the Road and Bridge Department general report.

**B. Application for Utility Crossing County Roads/ Boring or Trenching Permit Contract Agreement/ Discussion and appropriate action.**

Superintendent Causey presented the Boring/Trenching Permit application from Big Bend Telephone. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the permit as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**C. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Road & Bridge Department & Community Facilities permits/ contracts to go forward**

Superintendent Causey presented the need to ratify the motion from January 24, 2023, for the Boring/Trenching Permit application from Big Bend Telephone Company. Commissioner Ortega moved to ratify the original motion to approve the permit as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**22. Consider regular maintenance for Brewster County generator(s) / Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Ortega announced a County Employee has volunteered to get training on the maintenance of generators. He will have to take prerequisites to attend the training.

**9. 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, was absent due to personal matters. Judge Henington and Commissioner Westermann attended the Brewster County Tourism Council meeting on February 7, 2023.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work/ Contracts for Brewster County Tourism go forward**

**10. State-Mandated Cybersecurity Course for 2023-2024 /Approve enrolling County Employees to the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for free course / Discussion and Appropriate action**

Security Courthouse Deputy Miller presented the State-Mandated Cybersecurity Course for 2023-2024. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve enrolling County Employees as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**11. Brewster County Sheriff's Office**

**A. Annual Racial Profiling Report / Traffic stop statistics /Discussion and appropriate action**

Chief Deputy Ryan Skelton presented the Annual Racial Profiling Report. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**12. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates, discussion, review, and appropriate action concerning the following regular general report/ Other general administrative and procedural matters related to Treasurer's Office/ Discussion and appropriate action for work of Treasurer's Office to go forward**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, was absent. No reports.

**B. 2020 County Audit update/ Discussion only**

Judge Henington presented an update on the 2020 audit. Judge stated the audit is almost done and should be wrapped up next week and presentable to the court in late spring.

**13. Brewster County Auditor**

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

**Budget Amendments Line-Item adjustments**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented Budget Amendments. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills as presented and abstained from Pinnacle Propane. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion and abstained from Branding West. Motion passed 3-0.

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**B. Financial Reports / Updates, discussion, review and appropriate action concerning the following: Other Financial Reports as Requested by Commissioner's**

**14. Accept donation made in Memory of Jackie Wakeland to the Brewster County Historical Commission in the total amount of $100.00/ Discussion and appropriate action**

Judge Henington presented a donation from Jackie Wakeland to the Brewster County Historical Commission in memory of Bessie Locker in the amount of $100.00. Commissioner Ortega moved to accept the $100 donation from Jackie Wakeland in memory of Bessie Locker. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**15. Salary Grievance Committee / Select 2022-2023 Citizen Members / Discussion and appropriate action**

Judge Henington picked two new names for letters to be sent to make the Salary Grievance Committee of 2022–2023: Georgia Savory and Sherry Holt.

**16. Declare items as Salvage & Surplus Property in accordance with Section 263.152 of the Texas Local Government Code by competitive bid or auction**

Judge Henington presented the declaration of items as salvage & surplus property. This item will be on the agendas for future meetings as more items are identified as salvage.

**17. Approve to transfer one filing cabinet from Judges office to Marathon Fire Department**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve transferring a filing cabinet from the County Judge’s Office to the Marathon Fire Department. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**18. Consider Rene Bates Auctioneers, Inc. to conduct Online Auctions for Brewster County, Texas on as needed basis / Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**19. 2023 Interlocal Agreement with Pecos County 83rd District Attorney Budget / Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**20. To discuss 83rd District Attorney Pending Lawsuit / Discussion and appropriate action**

Judge Heningtion informed the Court of the 83rd District Attorney’s Pending Lawsuit due to the lack of bonding. Judge Henington strongly suggested the County stay out of the situation. Pecos County will no longer provide funds regarding this matter as well as per the insurance company, until other Counties contribute as well.

**21. J.W Red Pattillo Community Center**

**A. Kayse Muratori 911 GIS Coordinator to correct current address 53604 State Highway 118 Terlingua, TX 79852/ Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the change of address to reflect the actual location. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**23. Review, discuss and take appropriate action regarding the Interlocal agreement between Brewster County, The City of Alpine and The Alpine Volunteer Fire Department**

Judge Henington presented to the court the necessity to negotiate the Interlocal agreement and bring back a contract worth signing before the Commissioners. Megan Atrium, City Manager, spoke on behalf of the city’s contributions to The Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.

**24. Approve FY 2023 Contracts for Service with Brewster County Emergency Services District #1 / Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0.

**25. Brewster County Emergency Services District #1 / Board of Directors Appointments/ Discussion and appropriate action**

**- Executive Session Pursuant to Section 8 551.074, Government Code, VTCA, to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, compensation, or dismissal of a public officer or employee**

**-Reconvene in Open Session**

**- Discussion and appropriate action resulting from Executive Session**

Commissioner Ortega moved to table agenda item 25 to the next Commissioners Court due to incomplete information.

**26. Schedule next Commissioners Court Meeting on February 28, 2023 at 9:30 am.**

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on February 28, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.

**27. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion

passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

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**Gregory Henington, County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk**