**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 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 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

**Members of the public who are not able to participate in person, are encouraged to watch the meetings live online, at** [**www.brewstercountytx.com**](http://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 Pastor Ray Bullock**

Invocation by Pastor Ray Bullock.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge led by Judge Henington.

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

No minutes.

**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.**

Joselyn Fenstermacher, President of the Big Bend Citizens Alliance, commented in support of a contract with Brewster County for the county budget of ARPA funds to build a public library in South Brewster County.

**17. Brewster County Elected Official requesting permission to help Terlingua CSD with Clean-up on burnt building**

Reagan Reed, Superintendent of Terlingua CSD, expressed his appreciation for the support of Commissioner Ortega, Commissioner Colando, and Emergency Management Coordinator Stephanie Elmore.

Commissioner Ortega and Superintendent Reed presented a request for the County to assist Terlingua CSD with cleanup and preparation for a new building. Superintendent Reed stated the District’s insurance will cover the landfill tipping fees and the County’s fuel costs to transport waste to the landfill. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve granting permission for Brewster County Road & Bridge Department to assist TCSD with cleanup of the burned building and preparing a pad for a new building. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**14. Review, discuss and take possible action related to courthouse security, maintenance and oversight rules**

Sheriff Ronny Dodson presented the courthouse security risk of the upstairs courtroom. Judge Henington called recess to the court for Commissioners to go view the upstairs courtroom layout.

Court recessed at 9:45 am

Court reconvened at 10:00 am

Judge Henington presented a maintenance and oversight management chart for all County facilities. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the chart as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Judge Henington proposed to gather a set of plans and costs and table this agenda item. Commissioner Ortega moved to give Judge Henington the power to draw up plans and narrow it down to a few options. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**5. Recognition & Announcements—**

Commissioner Ortega recognized the passing of Shonda Magness, of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

Commissioner Colando recognized the Terlingua CSD “Purobots” Robotics Team for placing 28th in Regionals at Lubbock HS, and for earning the Judge’s Award for their perseverance and resilience after the robotics and band building was destroyed in a fire.

**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 Westermann read the Officials Monthly Report.

**7. Emergency Management Department**

1. **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.

**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.

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

**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, presented a general report.

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

**10. Treasurer’s Office**

1. **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, presented the Financial Reports on the General Fund, Road & Bridge, Interest & Sinking Fund, and Hotel/Motel Fund. Judge Henington requested adding the Jail revenue and expense report for the next Commissioners Court meeting. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Treasurer’s monthly report. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

Judge Henington presented an update on the 2020 County Audit.

**11. Brewster County Auditor**

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

**Budget Amendments                        Line-Item Adjustments**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented a Line Item Transfer. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the line item transfer as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Auditor Roach presented the General Bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the bills as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

**12. Elections**

1. **Approve Elections Services Agreement between Alpine ISD and Brewster County Elections Administrator / Discussion and appropriate action**

Lora Nussbaum, Elections Administrator, presented the Election Services Agreement. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Elections Services Agreement between Alpine ISD and Brewster County Election Administrator. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review and Consider Increase of Voting Equipment Rental Costs / Discussion and appropriate action**

EA Nussbaum presented an increase of voting equipment for rental costs. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the rates of 10% of per election per machine, effective January 2024. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 4-1 with Judge Henington opposed.

**13. Review and Discuss Brewster County Pauper Policy and Procedures / Discussion and appropriate action**

Judge Henington presented the Brewster County Pauper Policy and Procedures. Commissioner Ortega moved to table Agenda Item. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**15. Review Generator Estimate for Marathon Volunteer Fire Department / Discussion and appropriate action**

EMC Elmore presented three bids to install a backup generator at the Marathon VFD. The bidders were 7M Fabrication, Ivey’s Electric, and CycleTek LLC. Commissioner Ortega moved to accept the bid from CycleTek LLC. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**16. Declare salvage items:**

**Road & Bridge:**

**1975 Bulldozer**

**1992 Kodiak Dump Truck**

**1976 Ingram Pneumatic Roller**

**1996 Kodiak Dump Truck**

**1992 John Deere Tractor**

**2008 Kodiak Dump Truck**

**County Clerk’s Office: Office Materials**

**Discussion and appropriate action**

Commissioner Ortega moved to declare the listed items as salvage. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

Judge Henington presented a letter of recommendation from the ESD #1 Board of Directors in support of appointing Joshua Villalpando to their board, to take the place of Don McDowell. Commissioner Ortega moved to appoint Joshua Villalpando to the ESD Board of Directors. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**19. Schedule next Commissioners Court Meeting on March 14, 2023 at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on March 14, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.

**20. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

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**Gregory Henington, County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk**