**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.**

**BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM**

**201 W AVE E**

**ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Heningtion called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 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 - Father Michael Wallens**

Invocation by Father Michael Wallens

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

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

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the June 30, 2023, and June 27, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**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.**

None.

**14. Road & Bridge Department**

**A. Superintendent's Report**

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

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work / permits / contracts of Road & Bridge Department**

None.

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

Commissioner Colando presented an update on the county website and the creation of the domain.

**7. County Judge Report - for informational purposes only / no action required**

Judge Henington presented a general report update on the Courthouse ongoing projects.

**8. Declare salvage items:**

**A. Sheriff's Office**

**B. Road & Bridge Department**

Judge Henington presented a summary of items to declare salvage from the Sheriff’s Office and Road & Bridge Department. Commissioner Morrow moved to declare the listed items as salvage. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**9. Review, Discuss, and take possible action on ARPA funds**

**A. Presentation by the Sunshine House**

Kerie Van Zeyst, Executive Director, Father Michael Wallens, and Lady “Chachi” Hawkins presented the community importance of the Sunshine House and need for funds. Judge Henington presented Ms. Hawkins with a plaque for her dedication to the Sunshine House.

**B. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding mold assessment basement in County Clerk's office**

Judge Henington presented the mold assessment from 2017. Judge Henington asked for an updated assessment, to be paid out of ARPA funds. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve bringing in a company to assess the basement. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**10. Review, discuss and take appropriate action to consider JP1 Scott Wassermann's Contract for Training and Consulting services**

Judge Wassermann presented the contract with Itzel Equihua for training and consulting services. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**11. Review, discuss and take possible action to allocate $4,000 from Alpine Volunteer Fire Department (010-411-247) to Alpine Emergency Services Board DBA Alpine Volunteer Fire Department.**

Judge Henington presented the $4,000 allocated to the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department. Judge Henington moved to allocate $4000.00 from Alpine Volunteer Fire Department to Alpine Emergency Services Board. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**12. Review, discuss and take possible action to allocate $15,000 from the Historical Fund for the purpose of a courthouse grounds master plan to include a survey and the services of an arborist for limb removal and general tree maintenance.**

Judge Henington requested $15,000 from the Historical Preservation fund to allocate to remodeling courthouse lawn and trees. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**13. PermiaCare**

**A. Review, discuss and take possible action to approve contract renewal for Mental Health Services/ Mental Health Deputy Services FY 23-24**

Judge Henington presented the PermiaCare contract renewal with the Sheriff’s Department to offer mental health services as required by law. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**15. Emergency Management Department**

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

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

Management Department.

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

EMC Elmore presented the Burn Ban Order. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**16. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates**

No reports.

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

**C. Official Monthly Reports**

**D. County Audit update/ Discussion only**

Judge Henington presented the latest update on the 2020 audit.

**17. Brewster County Auditor**

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

**1. Budget Amendments**

**2. Line-Item Adjustments**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the General Bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to

approve the general bills as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane and travel reimbursements.

Auditor Roach presented Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Financial Reports/ Updates**

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

**18. 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 the Brewster County Tourism general report.

**B. Discussion, review and take possible action for general work/ Contracts for Brewster County Tourism go forward**

Mr. Alvarez presented the Midland County Fair ‘23 Contract. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Alvarez presented the Texas Department of Agriculture GO TEXAN Pavilion - State Fair of Texas Contract. Judge Henington moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**19. FY 2024 Budget Workshop / Discussion considering 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. Discuss, review, and take appropriate action to designate an officer / employee to calculate and certify tax rates. (Tax Code 26.04 c)**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented Sylvia Vega as a designated officer to calculate and certify tax rates. Commissioner Ortega moved to appoint Sylvia Vega as the designated officer. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Discuss, review, and take appropriate action to Review FY 2024 Budget and Tax Rate Planning Calendar**

Treasurer Morton presented the outline of the timeline to follow by statute.

**C. Discuss, review, and take appropriate action on Budget Presentations from Department Heads, Contracting Agencies and Governmental Agencies**

Judge Henington presented a summary on each requested budget.

**5. Recognition & Announcements**

Judge Henginton recognized Lady “Chachi” Hawkins during Item #9A. Judge also announced the National Historical ladies placed 6th in the competition and the Scouts did amazing work. Judge requested all commissioners consider a citizen to recognize at every meeting.

Commissioner Morrow announced that the easement previously approved by the County was now moot, due to zoning disapproval.

**20. Schedule next Commissioners Court Meeting on July 25, 2023, at 9:30 A.M**

**21. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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**Greg P. Henington, County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk**