**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:** August 22, 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 9:32 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

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 the July 25, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Morrow 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. **See below**
2. **Review, discuss and take necessary action regarding the setting and approval of paid County Holidays for Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024)**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the County Holidays for FY24. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

Commissioner Colando presented an update.

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

Judge Henington presented an update.

1. **Review, discuss and take necessary action regarding the extension of ESD member terms from August 31, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Members affected are Carlos Mendoza, Jeanette Hall and Sharon Clark.**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the ESD member terms from August 31, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Declare Salvage items and approval to put on Rene Bates Auctioneers’ Website:**
2. **Alpine Volunteer Fire Department**
3. **Justice of the Peace 1**

Commissioner Morrow moved to approve items as declared salvage. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action on contract to purchase equipment for Brewster County Sheriff’s Office**
2. **Body Camera equipment**
3. **Taser equipment**

Sheriff Dodson presented the purchase equipment for Brewster County Sheriff’s Office. Lonestar Grant will be used to purchase body camera equipment. Commissioner Ortega moved to pull the first payment from the impound budget for Taser equipment and authorize Judge Henington to sign the Taser contract as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action to approve the Genesis eBonds Licensing and Service Provider Agreement**

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Genesis eBonds Agreement and authorize Judge Henington to sign the agreement. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Discuss, review, and take appropriate action to approve the new Operation Lonestar Grant Resolution**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Operation Lonestar Grant Resolution. Judge Henington read the Resolution into the record. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as read. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Elections Department**
2. **Approve Order of Special Election for the November 7, 2023 Constitutional Amendment Election / Discussion and appropriate action**

Lora Nussbaum, Election Administrator, presented the Order of Special Election. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the order as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Approve Notice of Consolidated Precincts for the November 7, 2023 Constitutional Amendment Election / Discussion and appropriate**

EA Nussbaum presented the Notice of Consolidated Precincts. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the notice as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

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

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

Superintendent Causey presented a permit application from Big Bend Telephone for a trench across Terlingua Ranch Rd that is estimated at 1250 feet long and a depth of 36 inches. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

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

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

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Burn Ban order as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take necessary action regarding the approval of a mass gathering permit for the November 2023 Chili Appreciation Society International Cook-off**

Judge Henington tabled Agenda Item #18C until a public hearing can be held in Terlingua.

1. **Review, discuss and take necessary action to approve funding for EMT Training for County EMC**

Judge Henington presented the online EMT Training for County EMC to be paid with the Water Tank funding. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the training and Line Item transfer as presented Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Line- Item transfer of $2,000.00 from Water Tanks to Training**

Approved in Agenda Item #18D.

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

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the FY23 Monthly Report for July 2023. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the report as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Discussion, review, and appropriate action related to financial reports, administration and policies**
2. **County Audit update / Discussion only**

See Agenda Item 7.

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

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the General Bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane.

Auditor Roach presented Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Morrow moved to approve the line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Ortega was out of the room for the vote.

1. **Financial Reports / Updates**

None.

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

None.

1. **Official Monthly Reports**

Judge Henington read the Officials Monthly Reports. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the report as read. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Brewster County Tourism**
2. **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 update on Brewster County Tourism.

1. **Discussion, review and take possible action for Brewster County Tourism go forward**

Mr. Alvarez presented The Retail Coach contract for future reports on cell phone analysis.

1. **Discussion and possible action on establishing a registration fee for Short Term Rentals in Brewster County (outside of the City limits of Alpine)**

Judge Henington discussed the possibility of requiring registration for short term rentals.

1. **Discussion and possible action on requiring annual or one time registration for Short Term Rentals in Brewster County (outside of the City limits of Alpine)**
2. **Discussion and possible action on choosing a company to receive online Hotel Occupancy Tax payments**

Treasurer Morton informed the court she is waiting on more information for this item.

Court Recessed at 10:47 AM

Court Reconvened at 11:21 AM

**7. Review, discuss, and take necessary action to the 2020 outside audit. Presentation by Gibson, Ruddock, Patterson, LLC (GRP)**

Vanessa Alarcon, GRP representative, presented the 2020 outside audit. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the 2020 audit as presented and findings. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Schedule Special Commissioners Court Meeting on August 29, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Henington announced the Special Commissioners Court Meeting on August 29, 2023, at 9:30 AM for Budget and Tax Rate.

1. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.

**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.**

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**Greg P. Henington**

**Brewster County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sarah Vasquez,**

**Brewster County Clerk**