**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.**

**BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM**

**201 W AVE E**

**ALPINE, TEXAS**

**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

**2. Invocation**

Invocation by Judge Henington.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval**

Commissioner Morrow moved to approve the August 1, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**5. Public Comment - Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Members of the public are also encouraged to participate in public comment by calling 432-244-6663. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Court may be limited in its ability to respond to comments.**

None.

**6. Recognition & Announcements**

Commissioner Ortega announced the Festival 1888 in Marathon was well attended.

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

No update.

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

No update.

**10. Review, discuss and take appropriate action to re-plat Lots 10 and 11, Block 3, Sunny Glen Estates**

Carol Morrow, realtor with Forever West Texas, presented the replat of Lots 10 and 11 in Block 3 of Sunny Glen Estates. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the replat as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Morrow abstained.

**11. Review, discuss and take possible action to re-plat 6.78 acres out of Section 102 Mesquite Tranquility Subdivision**

Carol Morrow presented the replat of Section 102 in Mesquite Tranquility Subdivision. Applicant was notified to get the groundwater permit from the Groundwater District.

**13. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action for Rio Grande Council of Governments and Brewster County Interlocal Agreement, Public Safety Answering Point Service**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the interlocal agreement as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**14. Sheriff's Office**

**A. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to approve The Yarborough Foundation Grant Agreement**

Judge Henington presented the Yarborough Foundation Grant Agreement for the purchase of tires for the Sheriff’s Office. Commissioner Morrow moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Approve interlocal agreement with Alpine ISD for school resource officers for FY 24**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the interlocal agreement as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**C. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Brewster County and Pecos County related to the housing and care of inmates**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the interlocal agreement as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**D. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Brewster County and Ector County related to the housing and care of inmates**

Judge Henington moved to approve the interlocal agreement as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**15. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to approve Election Judge / Alternate Judge list for the term of September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024**

Monica McBride, Republican Party Chair, presented the Election Judges and Alternate Judges list. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the Election Judges / Alternate Judges list for the term of September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**16. 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.

**17. Emergency Management Department**

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

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

**18. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates**

No reports.

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

None.

**C. Official Monthly Reports**

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

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

Judge Henington updated the Court that the 2020 Audit is done and will be presented at the next regular meeting.

**19. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to Rescind Brewster County COVID Policy**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the existing COVID Policy. Treasurer Morton requested the court rescind the policy. Commissioner Morrow moved to rescind the Brewster County COVID-19 Emergency Paid Leave policy. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**20. Brewster County Auditor**

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

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. Commissioner Morrow recused himself from the earnest money payment.

**2. Line-Item Adjustments**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the line item adjustments as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**1. Budget Amendments**

None.

**B. Financial Reports/ Updates**

None.

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

**21. 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. The next Brewster County Tourism Board meeting will be held on September 18th at the Red Pattillo Community Center in Study Butte.

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

None.

**9. FY 2024 Budget Workshop 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. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action to Review FY 2024 Presentation on Proposed Budget**

Judge Henington announced there will be a Special Meeting on Friday, August 11, 2023, to vote and publish the Elected Officials salaries. Commissioner Ortega moved to continue forward with the proposed budget. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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**B. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action on Budget Presentations from Department Heads, Contracting Agencies and Governmental Agencies**

Sylvia Vega, Tax Assessor-Collector, announced the estimated No New Revenue Rate of 0.349360 which would create an estimated $4,705,046 in revenue. Last year’s adopted tax rate was 0.395545. The Tax Assessor-Collector announced she is anticipating changes to the homestead exemption laws. She has calculated the Maintenance & Operation (M&O) rate of 0.32923 and Interest & Sinking (I&S) rate of 0.020126. These estimates are subject to change because many property appraisals are still under protest. Protest hearings will not be completed until September 8, 2023.

**12. To consider, discuss, and take any necessary action for FY 2023 / 2024 Interlocal Agreement, Far West Texas Regional Public Defenders Office between Culberson County and Brewster County**

James McDermott presented the FY 2023 / 2024 Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the interlocal agreement as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**Closed Session**

No Closed Session needed.

**22. To consider and discuss County real estate issues / transactions pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 551.072, Texas Government Code**

**Reconvene in Open Session**

**A. Consider, discuss, and take any necessary action resulting from Executive Session as may be needed, on matters discussed in closed session; including, but not limited to, possible authorization of suit to clear title**

Skipped.

**23. Schedule next Commissioners Court Meeting on August 22, 2023, at 9:30 A.M**

Judge Henington announced a Special Commissioners Court Meeting on August 11, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be on August 22, 2023, at 9:30 AM.

**24. Adjourn**

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

adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

**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**