**Regular Commissioners Meeting: September 12, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.**

**Brewster County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom 201 W. Ave. E Alpine, Texas 79830**

**AMENDED AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order – Judge Greg P. Henington**

Judge Heningtion 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

**2. Invocation**

Invocation by Judge Henington.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4. Review, discuss and take necessary action to approve minutes**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the August 8, August 11, August 22, and August 29, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**5. 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.

**6. Recognition & Announcements**

Commissioner Ortega announced a Cook Off will take place Friday (8/15/2023) and Saturday (8/16/2023) starting at 5 PM at the Post Park. Proceeds are to benefit the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department. Dance on Saturday night.

Commissioner Westermann announced his attendance at the 9/11 memorial at the Border Patrol Facility. Next year will be the 25th anniversary and wishes the court to publicize the memorial more. Commissioner Colando announced the Terlingua School memorial celebration served breakfast to first responders in remembrance.

Judge Henington announced an idea he heard from his neighbor for the public to become familiar with the Elected Officials office with a “State of the County” talk.

**7. Review, discuss and take necessary action to return Scott Road as a private, non-County Road.**

Judge Henington requested to table the agenda item due to lack of information presented. Commissioner Colando moved to table. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**8. Review, discuss and take necessary action regarding the setting and approval of Brewster County Commissioners Court for Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024)**

Judge Henington presented a proposed calendar of Regular Meetings of Commissioners Court for FY24. Judge Henington moved to schedule the regular meetings for the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m.. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**A. Marathon Dates**

Commissioner Ortega proposed to

**B. South County Dates**

Commissioner Ortega proposed to call meetings when needed in Terlingua.

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

Commissioner Colando gave an update on the website and the first draft mockup will be available in a couple of weeks.

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

Judge Henington gave an update.

**11. Review, discuss and take possible action to add a $1.50 per vehicle registered fee to be used for school crossing and/or child safety programs.**

Judge Henington presented an increase of $1.50 per vehicle registration for the use of school crossing and/or child safety. Unfortunately, the deadline was September 1st and has passed. Commissioner Morrow moved to table until next year. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**12. Review, discuss and take appropriate action to adopt the 2024 Sheriff and Constable Fees.**

Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk, presented the Sheriff fee increases for case proceedings. Judge Henington moved to adopt the 2024 Sheriff and Constable Fees as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**13. Review, discuss and take possible action to approve SAVNS grant for 2024 in the amount of $3,106.95**

Treasurer Julie Morton presented the State Automated Victim Notification System (SAVNS) grant application. Judge Henington moved to approve the SAVNS grant application as presented and the authorization to sign the agreement. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**14. ARPA Funding**

**B. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding alternative methods available for ARPA accounting**

Judge Henington presented the allocation of remaining ARPA funds to Payroll & Benefits. Commissioner Westermann moved to approve the intent to allocate remaining ARPA funds to payroll and benefits. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**A. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding ARPA project list**

Judge Henington presented the ARPA project list. Commissioner Ortega proposed to allocate $50,000 for the next two years for Brewster County Cleanup Days (Dump Days) for the public. Judge Henington moved to approve the ARPA project list with the addition to the list of $50,000 for County Cleanup Days. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**15. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding accounting procedures related to possible budget changes in future periods**

Judge Henington and Auditor Roach presented the current accounting procedures for budget amendments as compared to creating a contingency fund in the budget. Commissioner Morrow moved to not change the budget amendment procedure. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**16. Contracts**

**A. Review, discuss and take possible action on the renewal of individual contracts as outlined in item 15. Further approval for the County Judge to review, approve and sign contracts.**

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the contracts listed with the budgeted amounts reflected in the FY24 budget, with the exception of the Big Bend Library contract. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Review, discuss and take possible action to renew Tax Collection Agreements for FY 2024. Further approval for the County Judge to review, approve and sign contracts.**

Judge Henington presented the renewal of tax collection agreements for FY24. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the agreements as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**17. Discuss, review, and take appropriate action to accept a donation from Big Bend Telephone (BBT) of two, 5,000-gallon propane tank**

Judge Henington presented the donation of two 5000-gallon propane tanks from Big Bend Telephone Company. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the donation as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**18. Brewster County Tourism**

**A. Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:**

**General update, travel shows, marketing, finances, visitation status, project reports and issues**

No report.

**19. Road & Bridge Department**

**A. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Frenchie Causey gave the Road and Bridge Department report.

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

None.

**20. Emergency Management Department**

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

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

Management Department.

**21. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates**

No reports.

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

None.

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

None.

**22. Brewster County Auditor**

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

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.

**1. Budget Amendments**

None.

**2. Line- Item Adjustments**

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**

None.

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

None.

**23. 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.

**24. Schedule Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on September 26, 2023, at 9:30A.M.**

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on September 26, 2023, at 9:30 AM.

**25. Adjourn**

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

5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 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**