**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**TUESDAY JULY 12, 2022, AT 9:36 A.M.**

**BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM**

**201 W AVE E**

**ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.; the following Elected Officials were present:

Eleazar R. Cano County Judge

Jim Westermann Commissioner Pct. 1

Sara Allen Colando Commissioner Pct. 2

Ruben Ortega Commissioner Pct. 3

Mike “Coach” Pallanez Commissioner Pct. 4

Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk, was absent for continuing education.

**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, Texas (County's Facebook page). Members of the public are also encouraged to participate in public comment by calling telephone number 432-538-2028. This temporary suspension will leave important Open Meetings Act (Section 551.043, Texas Government Code) protections in place.**

**AGENDA**

**1. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation and Pledge were led by Judge Cano. Commissioner Westermann led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

**2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval**

Commissioner Colando moved to approve the minutes for June 14, 2022, and June 28, 2022. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**3. Public Comment - Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Court is limited in its ability to respond to comments.**

No comments.

**4. Recognitions & Announcements**

Commissioner Ortega announced that Marathon VFD has taken possession of a fire truck donated to them by the Big Bend National Park.

Judge Cano announced a meet and greet at the North Brewster County Emergency Response Center on August 12, 2022, for the community to connect with the new faces such as Sul Ross State University’s new president, Alpine City Manager, Mayor of Alpine, Alpine ISD Superintendent, and the Marathon Superintendent/Principal.

Commissioner Pallanez announced the Alpine Public Library will host the “See More Stars'' event for all ages on August 12, 2022, at 5 PM to view and discuss the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope.

**5. Emergency Management Department**

**A. 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. Current Covid19 statistics: 279 probable active cases, and 31 local fatalities since the

onset of the pandemic. The State of Texas Operation Center lowered response from level 2 (escalated response) to level 3 (increased readiness). The Burn Ban is still in effect. Please contact Ms. Elmore before burning. KBDI level will be posted on the county’s Facebook page.

**6. Alpine Volunteer Fire Department**

**A. Report from Andrew Pierce, Fire Chief: General department updates/ Discussion only**

Andrew Pierce, Alpine Volunteer Fire Chief, and Captain Julie Worden reported.

**7. 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 for boring or trenching for utilities across County Roads**

Commissioner Ortega presented a report on behalf of Superintendent Frenchie Causey.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work of Road & Bridge Department & Community Facilities to go forward**

**8. Community Facilities Report**

**A. General Report**

Judge Cano read the Community Facilities Report on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

**9. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates, discussion, review, and appropriate action concerning the following:**

**Combined Statement of Revenues & Expenses Payroll Reports**

**Check Register Receipt File Listings**

**Personnel/Overtime Reports Cash Reports**

**Other Financial Report as Requested by Commissioners Grants Reports**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the financial report from May 2022 to present date. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the financial report as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0

**B. Approve amending resolution for participation in TexSTAR Short Term Asset Reserve Fund / Discussion and appropriate action**

Treasurer Morton stated no money in the account, but requested approval for amending resolution to TexSTAR fund to allow herself and Patty Roach, County Auditor, access to the account. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve amending resolution to TexSTAR fund. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**C. Approve amending resolution for participation in Local Government Investment Cooperation (LOGIC) / Discussion and appropriate action**

Treasurer Morton requested approval on amending LOGIC Participation. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve amending LOGIC Participation. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion, motion passed 5-0

**D. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) budget of $1,787,575.00 to assist in funding the Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Project ($750,000.00), Broadband Expansion Project ($105,800.00) and North Brewster County Emergency Response Center Construction Project ($306,094.00) / Discussion and appropriate action**

Treasurer Morton presented the American Rescue Plan Act budget to assist funding for the Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Project, Broadband Expansion Project, and the North Brewster County Emergency Response Center Construction Project and requested approval to commence the bid process. Commissioner Colando moved to allocate the following amounts from the ARPA grant monies, as per the recommendation of the ARPA Committee: $100,000.00 to assist the Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Project, $105,800.00 to the Broadband Expansion Project, and $306,094.00 to the North Brewster County Emergency Response Center construction project. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**E. Other general administrative and procedural matters related to Treasurer's Office/ Discussion and appropriate action for work of Treasurer's Office to go forward**

**10. Brewster County Auditor**

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

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the

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

**B. Financial Reports / Updates, discussion, review, and appropriate action concerning the following:**

**Budget Amendments Line Item Transfers**

**Other Financial Reports as Requested by Commissioners**

Auditor Roach presented a Budget Amendment for PILT funds. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Budget Amendment as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

**C. Other general administrative and procedural matters related to Auditor's Office/ Discussion and appropriate action for work of Auditor's Office to go forward**

**11. Brewster County Tourism**

**A. Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director: General update, travel shows, marketing, finances, visitation status, project Reports, personnel issues, (vacancies, new hires, and performance)**

Commissioner Ortega moved to table item #11 until Robert Alvarez returns. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Discussion and appropriate action for general work, contracts, and agreements for Brewster County Tourism to go forward**

**12. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agent Report presentation from Luke Hendryx Discussion only**

Judge Cano read the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Report on behalf of Luke Hendryx. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent’s Report. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed5-0

Court recessed at 11:40 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:51 a.m.

**13. FY 23 Budget Workshop / Discussion concerning 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**

**B. Presentations by Elected Officials and Department Heads concerning expenditures within their department for the FY 23 Budget / Discussion only**

Ryan Skelton, Chief Deputy, presented the FY 23 Budget for the Brewster County Sheriff’s Department on behalf of Sheriff Ronny Dodson.

**A. Review FY 23 Budget and Tax Rate Planning Calendar / Discussion and appropriate action**

Auditor Roach and Treasurer Morton stated the county is on track with the FY 23 Budget and Tax Rate Planning Calendar.

**14. Officials' Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Ortega read the Officials’ Monthly Reports and moved to approve as read. Commissioner Colando

seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**15. Schedule next Commissioners Court Meeting on July 26, 2022, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Cano announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on July 26, 2022, at 9:30 A.M.

**16. Adjourn**

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

adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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**Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk**