**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022 AT 9:30 A.M.**

**BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM**

**201 W AVE E**

**ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:33 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

Ms. Katrina Munoz, Assistant Clerk, was present on behalf of 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, 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 Ortega moved to approve the minutes from January 18, 2022. Commissioner Pallanez 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.**

None.

**4. Recognitions & Announcements**

1. **Build Back Better Workshop - The West Texas Aerospace and Defense Manufacturing Coalition, technical assistance grant**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, announced a Rio Grande Council of Governments grant in conjunction with University of Texas at El Paso’s aerospace program, which is proposing to create a new testing facility in Alpine.

Judge Cano recognized Judy Stokes, Alpine City Council member, and Commissioner Westermann for volunteering as City-County liaisons.

Commissioner Ortega announced that a graveside funeral service for Patsy Cavness, aged 91 of Marathon, will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 1:00 PM at the Marathon Cemetery.

**10. Elections**

**A. Notice of General Primary Election for Democratic and Republican Parties / Discussion and appropriate action**

Lora Nussbaum, Elections Administrator, presented the Notice of General Primary Election for Democratic and Republican parties. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Notice as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Approval of Election Judges and Alternates for FY 2022 / Discussion and appropriate action -**

Ms. Nussbaum presented the list of Election Judges and Alternates for FY2022. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the list as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**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, 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, reported current Covid19 statistics: 7 local hospitalizations, 25 fatalities, and 241 probable cases. The Texas Department of State Health Services is no longer reporting confirmed active cases.

EMC Elmore requested a 45 day Burn Ban. Commissioner Ortega moved to adopt the burn ban order as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. EMS Task Force Update**

Judge Cano announced that he attended the Big Bend Regional Hospital District meeting on Friday the 21st of January. Mr. Greg Henington, BBRHD Treasurer and TFEMS Chief, presented an update on the EMS Task Force activities. Mr. JD Newsom, Executive Director for BBRHD, was also present to answer questions. The next meeting of the EMS Task Force will be held today, at 3:00 p.m. in the North Brewster County Emergency Response Center.

**6. Road & Bridge Department**

**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**

Frenchie Causey, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported.

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

**7. Community Facilities Report**

**A. General Report**

Judge Cano gave a report on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

**8. 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 Grants Reports**

**by Commissioners**

Treasurer Morton presented financial reports. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Treasurer’s reports as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Other general administrative & procedural matters related to Treasurer's Office / Discussion and appropriate action for work of Treasurer's Office to go forward- update on pending and upcoming audits.**

Treasurer Morton announced that she is still waiting on external auditors to complete the FY2019 audit. She also announced that information about the refresher on Covid Sick Leave Policy will go out to elected officials and department heads via her assistant’s email address, due to continuing problems she is experiencing with her own official email account.

**9. Brewster County Auditor**

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

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

**Budget Amendments**

**Line Item Transfers**

**Other Financial Reports as Requested by Commissioners**

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented General Bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the General Bills as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Auditor Roach presented a Budget Amendment. Commissioner Ortega moved that the Brewster County Commissioners Court confirm the County Auditor's certification of available funds and increase the General Fund budget in accordance with the attached budget amendment form. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

None.

**11. Officials' Monthly Reports**

Commissioner Ortega read the Officials’ Monthly Reports and moved to approve the reports as read. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**12. Scheduled Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on February 8, 2022 at 9:30 A.M**

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court meeting on February 8, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

**13. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

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**Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk**