**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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 9:34 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

**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 table the February 8th, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion, motion approved 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.**

Della “DJ” Hensley, Marathon Animal Shelter, commented that the shelter is in need of funding for insurance.

Robert Legan, Marathon resident, commented his support of new development in Marathon.

Robert Smith, Marathon resident, commented his opposition to a new private road being paved in Marathon.

**4. Recognitions & Announcements- Early Voting Date/Times**

**A. All precincts may vote at the Val Clark Beard Complex as follows: February 22 & 23 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, February 24 & 25 8:00 am to 6:00 pm**

Judge Cano announced early voting.

Commissioner Ortega announced the Marathon fish fry event raised approximately $23 thousand in gross profit.

**B. Remote Early Voting as follows: Precinct 3 may vote at the Marathon Community Center February 22 & 23 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Precincts 5, 6 & 7 may vote at the Red Pattillo Community Center, February 22 & 23 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Judge Cano announced remote early voting in Marathon and Terlingua locations.

Commissioner Ortega announced a successful Fish Fry in Marathon, which raised approximately $23 thousand in gross profit. Justin Trevino was recognized for his full day of work.

Commissioner Pallanez announced the session on Saturday for the training.

Judge Cano announced a new assistant was hired in his office and will start March 7.

**11. Elections**

**A. Approval of amended Election Judges list for January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 / Discussion and appropriate action**

Mary Bell Lockhart, Democratic Chair, and Monica McBride, Republican Chair, presented the amended Election Judges list. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the amended list. 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: 264 probable cases and 26 fatalities. No updates on local hospitalizations from Big Bend Regional Medical Center. The Texas Department of State Health Services is no longer reporting confirmed active cases.

EMC Elmore presented a general update on the FEMA winter recovery grant application.

**B. EMS Task Force Update**

EMC Elmore presented an update from the EMS Task Force. All options under consideration will be presented at a Special Meeting of the COmmissioners Court on Friday, March 4, 2022.

**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**

Superintendent Frenchie Causey presented the Road & Bridge Department’s general report. Commissioner Colando mentioned Lois Lane has road damage due to high speed and if possible to put a speed limit sign.

**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 presented the Community Facilities 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 by Commissioners Grants Reports**

No reports.

**B. Sign and approve Grant Resolution/ Operation Lone Star, State Homeland Security Program, & Local Border Security Program**

Jaclyn Nunley, Deputy Treasurer, presented the Grant Resolutions for Operation Lone Star, State Homeland Security Program, and Local Border Security Program.

Commissioner Westermann moved to approve the Resolution for the FY2022 Operation: Lone Star Grant as read. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Westermann moved to approve the Resolution for the FY2023 State Homeland Security Program Grant as read. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Resolution for the FY2023 Local Border Security Program Grant as read. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

**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 the general bills. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the general bills as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane.

**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.**

Auditor Roach presented a Budget Amendment to allow the Brewster County Historical Commission to donate $2,500 to the Brewster County History Fair. Commissioner Ortega moved that the Brewster County Commissioners Court confirm the County Auditor's certification of available funds and increase the Historical Commission expenditure budget in accordance with the attached budget amendment form. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**10. 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)**

Judge Cano read the Brewster County Tourism report on behalf of Robert Alvarez, Executive Director, who was out of town.

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

Judge Cano presented advertising contracts with RoadRUNNER Motorcycle Touring & Travel; and SignAd Outdoor. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve both contracts as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**12. Velocerus / IT Department**

**A. General report from Aaron Rodriguez**

Aaron Rodriguez, Velocerus Technology Solutions, presented a general report. Mr. Rodriguez introduced a new employee, Jason Sanchez, who will also be helping the county.

**13. Officials' Monthly Reports**

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

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

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court meeting on March 8, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. and a Special Meeting on March 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m..

**15. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

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**Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge**

**ATTEST:**

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**Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk**