

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.  
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM  
201 W AVE E  
ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:32 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](http://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 November 23, 2021. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the minutes from November 30, 2021. Commissioner Colando 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**

**C. Recognition of retirement of District Clerk Jo Ann Salgado for her 38 years of service to Brewster County, and observance and recording in the Minutes of the Court the "Order Appointing District Clerk of Brewster County" entered by District Judge Roy Ferguson, appointing Sara Martinez to serve as District Clerk, Brewster County, effective on December 31, 2021.**

District Judge Roy B. Ferguson recognized the retirement of Jo Ann Salgado after 38 years of service to Brewster County. Judge Ferguson named Sarah Fellows Martinez as the newly appointed District Clerk. Judge Cano read and signed the Resolution. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the resolution as read. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Judge Cano read the order from District Judge Ferguson for the appointment of Sarah Fellows Martinez.

**A. Recognize and Honor the passing of EMS Director and Fire Chief Michael Lane Scudder for his 47 years of service to Brewster County (1974-2021)**

Judge Cano recognized EMS Director & Fire Chief Michael Lane Scudder for 47 years of service. Coach Pallanez recognized the Scudder family and staff of the EMS & Fire Department. Judge Cano read a letter from his office to the office of Governor Greg Abbot, requesting to lower flags to half-staff in honor of Chief Scudder. Judge Cano also read the governor's reply, authorizing the lowering of flags in recognition of Chief Scudder's service.

**B. Recognize the Brewster County Maintenance Crew for their great work in decorating our Brewster County Courthouse for Christmas**

Judge Cano recognized the Brewster County Maintenance Crew and Road & Bridge for decorating our Brewster County Courthouse.

**D. Recognize and congratulate Susan Bentley for her 17 years of service to Brewster County, Susan Bentley retired effective on December 8, 2021**

Judge Cano recognized Susan Bentley for 17 years of service.

**5. Action to approve Order Establishing Election Precinct Boundaries for Brewster Count / Discussion and appropriate action.**

Lora Nussbaum, Election Administrator, presented the order establishing election precinct boundaries. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the map as presented. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Judge Cano read the order into the record.

**6. Elections**

**A. Request to approve Joint Primary Resolution for 2022 Joint Primary Elections / Discussion and appropriate action**

Lora Nussbaum, Election Administrator, read the Joint Primary Resolution for 2022 Joint Primary Elections. Judge Cano read the Order. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the order as read. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Request to approve 2022 Joint Primary Election Service Contract between Brewster County Democratic Party, Republic Party and County Elections Office / Discussion and appropriate action.**

Ms. Nussbaum presented the contract. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the contract. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**C. Precinct 8 Polling Location change from the Alpine Neighborhood Center to Food Pantry of Alpine Inc., 933 East Gallego Avenue, Alpine / Discussion and appropriate action**

Mrs. Nussbaum presented the change for Precinct 8 Polling location. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the change in polling location. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**7. 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 Grants & Updates on Coronavirus (COVID-19) / Discussion and appropriate action**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, reported an update on Coronavirus, COVID-19. Local statistics up to date as of December 14, 2021: 2 active cases, 2 hospitalizations, and 23 fatalities.

**B. Request to renew the county wide burn ban / Discussion and appropriate action**

EMC Elmore presented a county-wide burn ban order. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the order. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**C. Recommendation to Restrict Certain Fireworks Sales, prohibiting certain aerial fireworks in unincorporated areas of Brewster County under drought conditions / Discussion and appropriate action**

EMC Elmore presented the order to restrict certain firework sales. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the order as read. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**D. Discussion and appropriate action for work of Emergency Management Department to go forward**

Judge Cano announced that Greg Hennington, Terlingua Fire & EMS, will assume leadership with Jessica Scudder of West Texas Ambulance Service. Judge Cano also recognized EMC Elmore's upcoming graduation ceremony.

**8. 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**

Superintendent Causey presented the Road & Bridge Department's general report.

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

**9. Community Facilities Report**

**A. General Report**

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

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

**10. Request to abandon county roads (easements) that remain undeveloped for the following tracts of land:**

**PID #21894 – 5.58 acres in the Allen, BLK 14 PID #21884 - 0.91 acres in the Allen, BLK 7, LOT 1-12  
PID # 21893 -7.18 acres in the Allen, BLK PT-OF LT 12, 0.96 acres and 0.97 acres and all of BLK: 13  
PID #21885 -0.91 acres in Allen, BLK 8, LOT 1-12 PID #21886 -0.91 acres in the Allen, BLK 9, LOT 1-12**

Chad Laxson, American Electric Power, presented the formal request to abandon county roads to facilitate the purchase between AEP and George Wight, Mining Hard Rock, Inc.. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the abandonment of county roads. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**11. Treasurer's Office**

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

<b>Combined Statement of Revenues &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>Payroll Reports</b>
<b>Check Register</b>	<b>Receipt File Listings</b>
<b>Personnel/Overtime Reports</b>	<b>Cash Reports</b>
<b>Other Financial Report as Requested by Commissioners</b>	<b>Grants Reports</b>

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented financial reports.

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

Treasurer Morton alerted the court that a clerk in the office of Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, had been incorrectly salaried according to the approved salary scale. Treasurer Morton requested that the error be corrected as soon as possible. Judge Cano asked for this to be put on the next agenda.

**12. Approve Contract with GrantWorks, Inc. for the American Rescue Plan Act Administration Services / Discussion and appropriate action**

Lily Alonzo, GrantWorks, Inc., presented the contract for the American Rescue Plan Act Administration Services. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the agreement with GrantWorks, Inc. Commissioner Pallaez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**13. Discussion and appropriate action to ratify Texas A&M AgriLife research contract**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve ratification with Judge Cano as a co-signer with Robert Alvarez, Executive Director for Brewster County Tourism. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**14. 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 Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane. Commissioner Westermann abstained from A Sign of Recognition.

**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 Line Item Transfers. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve line item transfers as presented. Commissioner Pallanez 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**

**15. Officials' Monthly Reports**

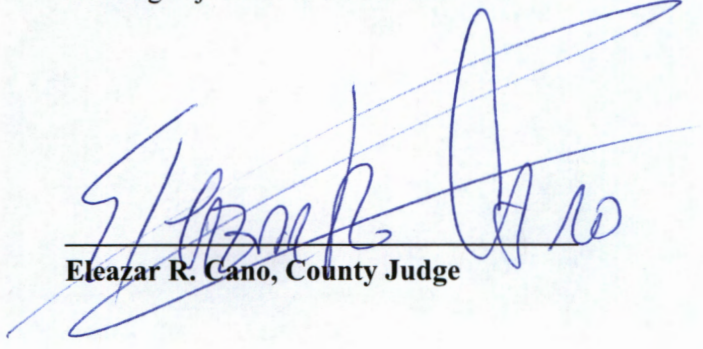
Commissioner Westermann read the Officials' Monthly Report. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the reports as read. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**16. Scheduled Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on December 28, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Cano announced the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on December 28, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

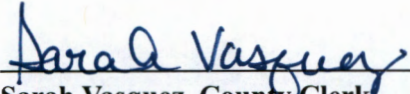
**17. Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:



Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk