

PUBLIC NOTICE

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BREWSTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.
BREWSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
ALPINE, TEXAS**

Judge Cano called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., the following Elected Officials were present: Commissioner Ortega was absent.

Eleazar R. Cano	County Judge
Betse Esparza	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Mike "Coach" Pallanez	Commissioner Pct. 4
Julie Morton	County Treasurer
Berta Rios-Martinez	County Clerk

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge were led by Judge Cano.

2. Minutes / additions / corrections / approval

Commissioner Esparza moved to approve the Minutes for March 11th, 19th, 20th, and 23rd 2020. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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 public comment.

4. Recognitions & Announcements

Commissioner Pallanez thanked the Road & Bridge Department for the work they did at Double Diamond.

12. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 / Approval of Contract with NetProtec LLC ("Video Magistrate") for their system which provides for magistration of accused by video with a stored record of the magistration and the documents / Discussion and appropriate action

Judge Bob Steele, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, requested approval of Contract with NetProtec LLC for their system which provides for magistration of accused by video with a stored record of the magistration and the documents. He said it is a two-way video communication system between where he is located and the jail. Judge Steele said this program allows magistration of the video and he does not have to go personally to the jail. He said the cost

for JP 1 is \$150 per month which is \$1,800 per year and for each additional Justice of the Peace will be \$62.50 per month and \$750 per year. The total for JP1 is \$1,970 per year and for two Justice of the Peace it is \$2,890.

Judge Steele said they have a fund through the county called Justice Court Technology Fund. He said this fund is only used for computer technology which comes from court costs.

Commissioner Esparza moved to amend the budget for \$2,890. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Esparza moved to approve the contract with NetProtec for Precinct 1 and Precinct 3. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) by Dr. Etko Escovar, County Health Authority / Discussion and appropriate action

Dr. Etko Escovar, County Health Authority, gave an update via telephone on the COVID-19. She said El Paso is the biggest hotspot in our region for COVID-19. Dr. Escovar said Texas has gone up more than doubled.

11. Emergency Management Department

A. General Report including:

Recent emergency responses; emergency planning updates; 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 / Discussion and appropriate action

Stephanie Elmore recommended to extend the burn ban for Brewster County.

Commissioner Pallanez moved to extend the burn ban for 45 days. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Elmore gave a brief update on the Road & Bridge Department. She also said they are having a free COVID-19 testing on Saturday in Alpine at North Brewster County Emergency Response Center which is 102 S. 2nd St. and in Terlingua on Sunday at South Brewster County Emergency Response Center which is 23250 FM 170. In order to get tested you must call to make an appointment 48 hours prior to testing.

Court recessed at 11:15 a.m.

Court reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

13. Brewster County Attorney / Discuss and consider paying Marisol Skelton during her internship in the County Attorney's Office from the pre-trial diversion fund / Discussion and appropriate action

Steve Houston, County Attorney, gave a brief report on Marisol Skelton's intership.

Marisol Skelton said she is attending school at Vermont Law School but is on an internship and is currently with the District Attorney's Office. She said her last day of the internship is Friday, April 24, 2020. Mrs. Skelton said with the pandemic that is going on they gave her a special part-time internship from September 21, 2020 through November 30, 2020 in the County Attorney's Office. It is 11 weeks at 340 hours of internship that she has to complete in the County Attorney's Office. After she completes the hours she will graduate in December. Steve Houston suggested for the court to approve on paying her \$15.00 an hour from the pre-trial diversion fund.

Commissioner Esparza moved to pay the money throughout her internship at \$15.00 an hour for 340 hours and no overtime. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

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

Judge Cano gave an update on the Road & Bridge Department on behalf of Superintendent Causey. He also said Superintendent Causey hired a part-time worker.

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

No action.

7. Community Facilities Report

A. General Report

Judge Cano gave a brief report on the community facilities on behalf of Johnny Valencia.

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

No action.

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 Reports as Requested by Commissioners	Grants Reports

Treasurer Morton presented the January monthly report. Commissioner Esparza moved to approve Treasurer Morton monthly report. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

B. Discuss and consider Essential Government Office Functions and Administrative Leave Policy / Discussion and appropriate action

No action.

C. 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 said we are a little behind on the audit due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but she is working hard trying to get them everything they need this week. She said the audit should be done by June.

9. Officials' Monthly Reports

Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk, presented the Officials' Monthly Reports. Commissioner Esparza read the Officials' Monthly Reports into record. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve as read. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

10. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action

Patty Roach, County Auditor, presented the general bills. Commissioner Esparza moved to approve general bills and walk-in as presented. Commissioner Colando Colando seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Esparza abstained from Printco.

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

**Budget Amendments
Other Financial Reports as Requested
by Commissioners**

Line Item Transfers

Auditor Roach presented a line item transfer from Tourism Council. She said the transfer is \$9,342.45 from Advertising Content Development and placing that in Advertising Relative Content which covers the anticipated expenses. Commissioner Pallanez moved to approve the line item transfer from Advertising Content Development to Advertising Relative Content in the amount of \$9,342.45. Commissioner Esparza seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

**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**

No action.

14. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on April 22, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

Judge Cano said the next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting will be May 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Judge Cano corrected the date to May 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

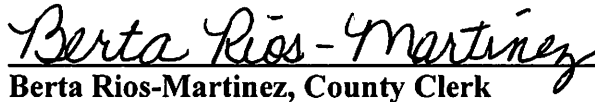
15. Adjourn

Commissioner Esparza moved to adjourn. Commissioner Pallanez seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.



Eleazar R. Cano, County Judge

ATTEST:


Berta Rios-Martinez, County Clerk