**BREWSTER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS COURT**



**JIM WESTERMANN SARA COLANDO** Commissioner, Pct.1Commissioner, Pct. 2

**RUBEN ORTEGA MO MORROW**

Commissioner, Pct. 3Commissioner, Pct.4

**GREG P. HENINGTON**

County Judge

**Regular Commissioners Meeting:** January 9, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.

**Brewster County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom**

**201 W. Ave. E Alpine, Texas 79830**

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order – Judge Greg P. Henington**

Judge Heningtion called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.; the following Elected Officials were present:

Greg Henington County Judge

Jim Westermann Commissioner Pct. 1

Sara Allen Colando Commissioner Pct. 2

Ruben Ortega Commissioner Pct. 3

William “Mo” Morrow Commissioner Pct. 4

Sarah Vasquez County Clerk

Julie Morton County Treasurer

1. **Invocation**

Invocation by Judge Henington.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were led by Judge Henington.

1. **Review, discuss and take necessary action to approve previous meeting minutes**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve December 12, 2023, and December 28, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Public Comment—Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Members of the public are also welcome to participate in public comment by calling 432-244-6663**

Jackson Wilbourn, Trails End Logistics truck driver, commented his support for a loop road around Alpine to be made for truck drivers.

1. **Recognition & Announcements**

Commissioner Ortega suggested that the County send a card to Paty Saenz on the passing of her mother and to Val Beard on the passing of her father, Jack Beard.

Commissioner Colando announced the 33rd Annual New Years’ Black-Eyed Peas Cookoff raised almost $4000 for charity.

1. **Update on new Brewster County Website / Commissioner S. Colando / Discussion only**

Commissioner Colando gave an update and stated that the migration is not yet complete. Commissioner Colando will include Judge Henington with further communication with EZTask to monitor the situation.

1. **County Judge Report – for informational purposes only**

Judge Henington announced CivicPlus, agenda software for Commissioners Court, will go live in April. Judge also announced the South County office is still waiting on the state computer to be brought in for the Tax Assessor.

1. **Brewster County Project List:**
2. **Review, discuss and take possible action to approve $13,594.32 for the installation of keypad security entry system at the South Brewster County Emergency Services Building**

Judge Henington presented the need to install keypad security at the South Brewster County Emergency Response Center. Judge Henington moved to approve $13,594.32 for the keypad security. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to approve a $5,000 contract to Lexipol for the purposes of writing grants related to Emergency Services in Brewster County**

Judge Henington presented a contract with Lexipol to get grants for the county facilities. This funding will come out of the line item formally known as ARPA funding. Judge Henington moved to approve a $5000 contract to hire Lexipol to secure grants. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to appoint the following individuals for a two-year term to the Brewster County Groundwater District:**
2. **Joan Johnson**
3. **Tom Mangrem**
4. **Kevin Urbanczyk**
5. **Ambrosio Valles**

Joan Johnson, Brewster County Groundwater District board member, presented reappointment of BCGWD board members for a two-year term. All candidates are willing to stay. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Other members on the board are Rush Warren, Tim Leary, Tom Ingram, and Colton Foster. Brewster County Groundwater District will have a presentation in February.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action regarding roof repair on courthouse in the amount of $6,786.35. Amount proposed to be paid for with moneys from Historical Fund.**

Judge Henington presented an estimate of $6,786.35 to repair the roof damage on the historic courthouse. Judge Henington moved to approve the $6,786.35 from the Historical Fund. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to increase the courthouse grounds project from $15,000 to $30,000. Amount proposed to be paid for with moneys from Historical Fund.**

Judge Henington presented a request for an increase in funding from $15,000 to $30,000 for the courthouse grounds beautification project. Judge Henington moved to approve the increase as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action to establish the position of Controller for Brewster County.**

Judge Henington presented a proposal to create a new position of County Controller, which would serve most of the same functions as a County Auditor without requiring the oversight of the District Judge. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve creating the new position, subject to the District Judge providing a letter stating that he will eliminate the position of County Auditor which is currently appointed by his office. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action to revise and update the Brewster County Commissioners Court schedule for 2024 as follows:**
2. **Add regular meeting dates for August and September 2024 for budgeting purposes**

Judge Henington suggested that the Commissioners Court amend the current schedule of regular meetings to include every Tuesday in the months of August and September for budget season. No action.

1. **Establish meeting dates for Marathon and Terlingua**

Judge Henington opened the floor to take suggestions for possible meeting dates. After discussion Judge Henington announced that he will come back with two dates in Marathon and two dates in Terlingua.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action regarding the Property Alert Contract by GovOS.**

Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk, presented the Property Alert Contract with revised price rates. Commissioner Morrow moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Elections**
2. **Review, discuss and take possible action related to the substitution of names for election judges / officials in the 2024 elections.**

Lori Nussbaum, Elections Administrator, presented her proposed changes to the elections judges list. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the list as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Road & Bridge Department**
2. **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Frenchie Causey presented the Road and Bridge Department report.

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action for general work / permits / contract of Road & Bridge Department**
2. **Emergency Management Department**
3. **General Report – Emergency Management Coordinator**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented an update on the Emergency Management Department.

1. **Treasurer’s Office**
2. **Financial Reports / Updates**

Treasurer Morton presented October Financial Report for the end of FY23. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Discussion, review, and appropriate action related to financial administration and policies**

Treasurer Morton announced a full time open position will be available. Jaclyn Nunly will stay part time to continue grant work. A budget amendment will be brought into the next court to move the Auditor part time position to Treasurer part time.

1. **Brewster County Auditor**
2. **General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action regarding to**
3. **Budget Amendments**
4. **Line-Item Adjustments**

Treasurer Morton presented the general bills that have been paid and need to be paid. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane.

1. **Financial Reports / Updates**
2. **Discussion, review, and appropriate action related to financial administration and policies**
3. **Brewster County Tourism**
4. **Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:**

**General update, travel shows, marketing, finances, visitation status, project reports and issues**

Robert Alvarez, Executive Director of Brewster County Tourism, presented the general report. The next Brewster County Tourism meeting will be in Terlingua at the Far Flung Outdoor Center on January 18, 2024, at 1:30 pm. Mr. Alvarez also announced that there will be a Human Trafficking Awareness training available free of charge. This training is required by Texas law for any hotel or lodging company that offers ten or more rooms for rent.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to approve $37,838 in funding for the Texas Country Reporter/ Texas Monthly sponsorship.**

Mr. Alvarez presented the Texas Country Reporter/Texas Monthly sponsorship agreement. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve funding for the Texas Country Reporter / Texas Monthly sponsorship. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action to approve contract with Goodworks Public Relations in the amount of $3,000 per month to provide social media and newsletters for Brewster County Tourism.**

Mr. Alvarez presented the contract with Goodworks Public Relations for social media management services. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the contract with Goodworks Public Relations as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

1. **Closed meeting of Commissioners Court, if necessary**

**If, during the course of the meeting covered by the notice, the Commissioners Court needs to meet in executive session, then such closed or executive meeting or session, pursuant to Chapter 551, Government Code of Texas, will be held by the Commissioners Court on the date, hour, and place given in the notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this notice as the Court may conveniently meet in such closed or executive meeting or session convening and concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Chapter 551 of said Government Code.**

**If necessary, following any closed or executive meeting the Commissioners Court will convene in open session to take any final action, decision, or vote on any matter deliberated in closed meeting which has properly been noticed in compliance with Chapter 551 Government Code of Texas.**

None.

1. **Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on January 23, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on January 23, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

1. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed

5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 A.M.

 **ATTEST:**

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**Greg P. Henington Sarah Vasquez**

**Brewster County Judge Brewster County Clerk**