**BREWSTER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS COURT**

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**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:** February 27, 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 Henington called the meeting to order at 9:31 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

Julie Morton County Treasurer

Deputy Clerk, Katrina Muñoz sat in for Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk

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**

No minutes to be approved.

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**

No public comment

1. **Recognition & Announcements**

Commissioner Ortega announced the success of Marathon Fish Fry which raised approximately $26,000. Commissioner Ortega recognized the neighboring Sheriffs and Deputies for their donations to the Marathon Fish Fry. Judge Henington announced an upcoming meeting with the City of Alpine at the City building on March 5th 2024. Judge Henington recognized Kerri Blackman and John Davis for their hard work and years of service to the community of Alpine, including with Art Walk and other festivals.

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

Commissioner Colando gave an update and requested new headshots from all elected officials.

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

Judge Henington announced no new business.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action on Brewster County Project List:**

Commissioner Ortega mentioned the need for county help for improvements to the Marathon Community Center, which would add to a later agenda. Commissioner Westermann gave an update on the shade cover for the Fire Station. Judge Henington presented several updates for ongoing projects.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action regarding the final close out of ARPA funding for Brewster County**

A representative from Grantworks reported; a finalized Local Financial Policy & Procedure is needed for the reallocation of funds. Judge Henington moved to approve the final close out of ARPA. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action regarding ratification and renewal of lease agreement for Mt. Ord Communication Site**

Judge Henington reported; after the 2021 renewal of the lease agreement for use of the Mt. Ord Communication Site, two payments were missed. Payments for February 2022 and February 2023 of $2500.00 will need to be funded from the 2023 budget. Judge Henington proposed to pay the entire year lease at once to alleviate any further missed payments. Commissioner Ortega moved to pay according to funds available. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0.

1. **Reports:**
   1. **Annual report to Commissioner’s Court by Terlingua Fire & EMS; no action required.**

Chief Susan Martin presented the Terlingua Fire & EMS report with recognition to the 1st Annual Fire Academy where local Firefighters earned Level 1 & 2 Certifications.

* 1. **Officials’ Monthly Financial Reports; action required**

Judge Henington read the Official's Monthly Report. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve Officials’ Monthly Report as read. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0

* 1. **Audit Task Force General Report** 
     1. **Review, discuss and take possible action on any matters related to Audit**

Patty Roach, Certified Public Accountant, presented the Audit Task Force Report.

1. **Review, discuss and take possible action regarding renewal of waste disposal contract for the Post Park in Marathon with Republic Services.**

Judge Henington presented a new monthly rate of $990 per month as opposed to $1200.00 per month previously. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve a new rate of $990 per month for waste disposal with Republic Services. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0

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**

None.

1. **Emergency Management Department**
2. **General Report – Emergency Management Coordinator**

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

1. **Review, discuss and take appropriate action on Brewster County Burn Ban**

Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented a Burn Ban to remain in effect for 45 days. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Burn Ban as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0

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

Treasurer Morton presented the January Monthly Report. Judge Henington moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0.

1. **Discussion, review, and appropriate action related to financial administration and policies**
2. **Review, discuss and accept donation from CASI- Chili Appreciation Society International, Inc. in the amount of $4,000.00**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve a $4,000.00 donation from CASI- Chili Appreciation Society International, Inc. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0

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

Paty Saenz, Assistant Auditor, presented the general bills that have been paid and need to be paid. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the bills as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane. Commissioner Westermann abstained from Branding West.

1. **Financial Reports / Updates**

None.

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

None.

1. **Brewster County Tourism**
2. **Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:**

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

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

Robert Alvarez, Executive Director, absent- no report

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.**

Judge Henington called an Executive Session:

Adjourn regular Commissioner Court Meeting at 10:34 AM.

Reconvened 11:10 AM.

Judge Henington moved to reassign Stephanie Elmore, Emergency Management Coordinator, into the Brewster County Sheriff’s Department using Lonestar Grant. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 4-0

1. **Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on March 12, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on March 12, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

1. **Adjourn**

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

4-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 A.M.

**ATTEST:**

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**Greg P. Henington Sarah Vasquez**

**Brewster County Judge Brewster County Clerk**