**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:** August 27, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.

**Brewster County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom**

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

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order**

Judge Henington called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.; the following Elected Officials were present:

Commissioner Pct. 1 - Jim Westermann

Commissioner Pct. 2 - Sara Colando

Commissioner Pct. 3 - Ruben Ortega

Commissioner Pct. 4 - Mo Morrow

County Judge - Greg Henington

County Treasurer - Julie Morton

County Clerk - Sarah Vasquez

1. **Invocation**

Invocation by Judge Henington.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**To Discuss and Take Action as Appropriate**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025 BREWSTER COUNTY BUDGET**

1. **Review of FY 2025 Proposed Budget**

Judge Henington opened the public hearing at 9:32AM and presented the proposed FY2025 Brewster County Budget.

1. **Public Comment regarding FY2025 Proposed Budget**

Judge Henington opened the floor for questions or comments from the public. No comments or questions.

1. **Discussion among Members of Commissioners court and Public**

Judge Henington opened the floor for discussion among members of the Commissioners Court and the public.

1. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn the public hearing on the proposed 2025 Brewster County Budget. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING TAX YEAR 2024 TAX RATE AND RELATED MATTERS**

1. **Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Tax Year 2024 Tax Rate**

**Maintenance & Operation 0.33192**

**Interest & Sinking 0.017502**

**Total Rate Proposed 0.349422**

Judge Henington called to order the public hearing regarding Tax Year 2024 tax rate related matters.

**A Public Comment regarding 2024 Tax Rate**

Judge Henington opened the floor for questions or comments by the public. No comments or questions.

**B. Discussion among Members of Commissioners Court and Public**

Judge Henington opened the floor for discussion among members of the Commissioners Court and the public.

1. **Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn the public hearing regarding Tax Year 2024 Tax Rate and Related Matters. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0.

**REGULAR COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING AGENDA**

1. **Matters concerning adoption of FY 2025 Budget**

**A. Discussion and Adoption or other appropriate action concerning FY 2025 Budget, including, Elected Officials, employee salaries, expenses and other allowances.**

Judge Henington presented the FY24 Budget, including Elected County Officials, Precinct Officers, employee salaries, expenses and other allowances. Judge Henington moved to adopt the FY 2025 Budget as presented along with the Elected County Officials raises. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; Judge Henington called a roll-call vote.

Commissioner Westermann - Aye

Commissioner Colando - Aye

Commissioner Ortega - Aye

Commissioner Morrow - Aye

Judge Henington - Aye; the motion passed 5-0.

**B. Discussion and action to ratify increase in property tax revenue**

Judge Henington moved to ratify the increase in property tax revenue of $401,810 that reflected in the adopted budget. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; Judge Henington called a roll-call vote.

Commissioner Westermann - Aye

Commissioner Colando - Aye

Commissioner Ortega - Aye

Commissioner Morrow - Aye

Judge Henington - Aye; the motion passed 5-0.

1. **Matters concerning adoption of Tax Year 2024 Tax Rate**
2. **Discussion and appreciate action to set the Tax Year 2024 Maintenance and Operation tax rate**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adopt the Tax Year 2024 tax rate for Maintenance and Operation at 0.33192. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; Judge Henington called a roll-call vote.

Commissioner Westermann - Aye

Commissioner Colando - Aye

Commissioner Ortega - Aye

Commissioner Morrow - Aye

Judge Henington - Aye; the motion passed 5-0.

1. **Discussion and appropriate action to set the Tax Year 2024 Interest and Sinking tax rate**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adopt the Tax Year 2024 tax rate for Interest and Sinking at 0.017502. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; Judge Henington called a roll-call vote.

Commissioner Westermann - Aye

Commissioner Colando - Aye

Commissioner Ortega - Aye

Commissioner Morrow - Aye

Judge Henington - Aye; the motion passed 5-0.

1. **Adopt Tax Rate Order**

Judge Henington moved to adopt the Tax Year 2024 tax rate at 0.349422 which is an effect of a 4.67% decrease from last year’s tax rate. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; Judge Henington called a roll-call vote.

Commissioner Westermann - Aye

Commissioner Colando - Aye

Commissioner Ortega - Aye

Commissioner Morrow - Aye

Judge Henington - Aye; the motion passed 5-0.

Judge Henington read the Tax Rate Order to the Court and public. Commissioner Ortega moved to adopt the Tax Rate Order. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; Judge Henington called a roll-call vote.

Commissioner Westermann - Aye

Commissioner Colando - Aye

Commissioner Ortega - Aye

Commissioner Morrow - Aye

Judge Henington - Aye; the motion passed 5-0.

**3. Discussion and appropriate action to set alternate hearing and/or adoption dates if necessary**

None.

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

1. **Commissioners Court Meeting of August 13, 2024**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0.

**5. 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**

None.

**6. Recognition & Announcements**

Commissioner Colando announced that school is back in session.

Commissioner Westermann announced the Lions Club Gun Show will be held this weekend.

**7. County Judge Report - for informal purposes only**

No report.

**8. Brewster County Project List - review, discuss and approve any updates**

Judge Heington presented an updated report on all completed and ongoing projects.

**9. Review, discuss and take possible action to appoint a new member to the Alpine Emergency Services board - County Position**

Judge Henington tabled the agenda item.

**10. Review, discuss, and take appropriate action on the Proposed Holiday Calendar for FY 2024-2025**

Judge Henington presented the proposed Brewster County Holiday Calendar for FY25. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the proposed holiday schedule. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**11. Luke Hendryx AgriLife and Natural Resource Extension Agent - Quarterly Report**

Luke Hendryx, AgriLife Extension, presented the quarterly report.

**12. Review, discuss, and take possible action to engage a new outside auditing firm for the fiscal year 2022**

1. **Singleton, Clark and Company, PC Certified Public Accountants**

Judge Henington tabled the agenda item until the September meeting.

**13. Review, discuss, and take possible action regarding the current Brewster County travel policy**

1. **Brewster County Travel Policy and Procedures**

Judge Henington moved to approve the updated Travel Policy and Procedures. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**14. Kayse Muratori, 9-1-1 GIS Coordinator:**

1. **Review, discuss, and take appropriate action to add a roadway to the 9-1-1 MSAG Database:**

* **“BUTCHERKNIFE ROAD” located in the East Rim Ranch and beginning off State Highway 118**
* **Legal easement is established, and the roadway is approximately 3.5 miles in length**

Kayse Muratori, 911 GIS Coordinator, presented the private roadway “BUTCHERKNIFE ROAD” to be added to the 911 database. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0.

1. **Remove the section of “OLD CARTWRIGHT RANCH ROAD” that is impassable and has no regular maintenance. This is also a private road, not belonging to the Terlingua Ranch Platted roadway system.**

**Section to be removed:**

* **From LONG: -103.509632, LAT: 29.359707**
* **To LONG: -103.503412, LAT: 29.358794**

Ms. Muratori presented the private roadway section to be removed from the 911 database. Commissioner Colando moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0.

1. **Add new roadway to the 9-1-1 MSAG Database:**

* **“AOUDAD ROAD” located off State Highway 118**
* **Legal easement is established, and the roadway is approximately 1.1 miles in length**

Ms. Muratori presented the private roadway “AOUDAD ROAD” to be added to the 911 database. Commissioner Colando moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0.

1. **Add new roadway to the 9-1-1 MSAG Database:**
   * + **“KANGAROO ROAD” located off “AOUDAD ROAD” (see previous item)**
     + **Legal easement is established, and the roadway is approximately 0.4 miles in length**

Ms. Muratori presented the private roadway “KANGAROO MOUSE ROAD” to be added to the 911 database. Commissioner Colando moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0.

1. **Program Updates/Discussion only**

Mrs. Muratori presented a general update.

**15. Road & Bridge Department**

1. **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Johnny Salcido presented the Road and Bridge Department report.

1. **Review, discuss, and take appropriate action for general work/ permits/ contract of Road & Bridge Department**

None.

**16. Emergency Management Department**

1. **General Report - Emergency Management Coordinator**

James Etchison, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented a general update for the Emergency Management Department.

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

EMC Etchison presented a 45 day Burn Ban Order, beginning on September 1, 2024. Commissioner Ortega moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**17. Treasurer’s Office**

1. **Financial Reports / Updates**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for July 2024. 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**

None.

**18. Brewster County Assistant Auditor**

1. **General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action regarding to**

Paty Saenz, Assistant Auditor, presented the general bills and walk-ins. Commissioner Colando moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ortega abstained from Pinnacle Propane.

1. **Budget Amendments**

None.

1. **Line-Item Adjustments**

Ms. Saenz presented line item transfers. Commissioner Colando moved to approve line-item transfers as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**B. Financial Reports / Updates**

None.

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

**19. Brewster County Tourism**

1. **Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:**

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

No report. Judge Henington announced Brewster County Tourism will be placed on the agenda once a month in future meetings.

**20. 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.

**21. Scheduled next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on September 10, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.**

Judge Henington asked Council Member Stephens to find out how the City of Alpine disposes of electronic gadgets due to no sellers at the auction.

Judge Henington reminded Elected Officials to get their headshot taken by September 13, 2024.

Judge Henington announced the next regular commissioners Court meeting on September 10, 2024, at 9:30 am.

**22. Adjourn**

Commissioner Colando moved to adjourn. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:41AM.

**ATTEST:**

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**Greg P. Henington Sarah Vasquez**

**Brewster County Judge Brewster County Clerk**