

**BREWSTER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

JIM WESTERMANN
Commissioner, Pct. 1



SARA COLANDO
Commissioner, Pct. 2

RUBEN ORTEGA
Commissioner, Pct. 3

MO MORROW
Commissioner, Pct. 4

GREG P. HENINGTON
County Judge

Regular Commissioners Meeting: August 13, 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 9:32 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

2. Invocation

Invocation by Judge Henington.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

A. Commissioners Court Meeting of July 23, 2024

B. Special Commissioners Court Meeting of July 30, 2024

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the July 23, 2024, and July 30, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; 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

None.

7. County Judge Report - for informational purposes only

No update.

8. Brewster County Project List**A. Project List as of 8/13/24**

No changes.

9. Review, discuss and take possible action to approve an Order of Election - November General Election for County Officers

Mary Bell Lockhart, Democratic Party Chair, and Monica McBride, Republican Party Chair, presented an Order of Election for the November General election for County Officers.

A. Order of Election

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the Order of Election. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

10. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding Election and Alternate Judges for the term of September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025

Democratic Chair Lockhart and Republican Chair McBride presented the Election and Alternate Judges for the term of September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

A. Election Judges and Alternate Judges

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

11. Review, discuss and take possible action to name replacements for county board positions on the Alpine Emergency Services Board

Aaron Rodriguez, President of Alpine Emergency Services Board, presented two open positions on the AESB: a three-year position to replace Stephanie Elmore, and a one-year position to replace Paul Loeffner. Karla Spencer was interviewed and expressed interest in Stephanie's position. Judge Henington moved to appoint Karla Spencer to Stephanie Elmore's three-year term. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

12. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding the replacement of Brewster County's current accounting system

Judge Henington announced the financial departments would be looking into upgrading their software. NetData is the current software and may be upgraded to Acuvision. Judge Henington stated this would be put on the September agenda for a final vote.

13. Review, discuss and take possible action on the following items related to the solicitation of a new outside auditor for Brewster County

Judge Henington presented the GRP difficulties and pushback with completing the FY21 audit. GRP will not continue with the FY22 audit until February 2025. This will disrupt the timeline of completion.

A. Approval to issue a request for qualifications and proposals to provide outside audit services

Commissioner Morrow moved to issue a request for bids and proposals for outside audit services. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

B. Approval to grant an exemption (LGC 262.024(a)(4)) for the purchase of a professional service - outside auditor services

Commissioner Morrow moved to grant an exemption from the competitive bidding process for the professional service of outside auditor services. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

14. Road & Bridge Department

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Johnny Salcido presented the Road and Bridge Department report. Superintendent Salcido asked the Commissioners to take a message and he will call the citizens as he can.

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

Commissioner Ortega presented a trenching permit application for Joshua Flack to trench across Fulcher Rd. Commissioner Colando moved to approve the permit application as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

15. Emergency Management Department

A. General Report - Emergency Management Coordinator

James Etchinson, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented a general report and a grant application for Warning System Refurbishment.

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve the grant application as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion 5-0.

B. Review, discuss and take possible action to lift burn ban in Brewster County

EMC Etchinson presented a five-day burn ban lift from August 27th to September 1st. Commissioner Morrow moved to approve lifting the burn ban as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

16. Treasurer's Office

A. Financial Reports / Updates

No reports.

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

None.

17. Brewster County Auditor

A. General Bills / Discussion and appropriate action regarding to

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

2. Line-Item Adjustments

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

1. Budget Amendments

Assistant Auditor Saenz presented the budget amendments. Judge Henington moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; the motion passed 5-0.

B. Financial Reports / Updates

None.

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

None.

18. Brewster County Tourism**A. Report from Robert Alvarez, Executive Director:****General update, travel shows, marketing, finances, visitation status, project reports and issues**

Robert Alvarez, Executive Director, presented a general report for Brewster County Tourism.

B. Review, discuss and take possible action on Texas Department of Agriculture sponsorship agreement for 2024 Texas State Fair

Mr. Alvarez presented the 2024 Texas State Fair agreement. Judge Henington moved to approve the agreement as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

24. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding the FY 2025 Proposed Budget

Judge Henington presented the FY25 proposed budget updated proposals. Judge Henington moved to approve all changes as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

19. Review, discuss and take possible action on the presentation of the 2024 Certified Tax Roll and Tax Rate Calculations

Sylvia Vega, Tax Assessor/Collector, presented the 2024 Certified Tax Roll and Tax Rate Calculations. County Judge Henington moved to approve as presented. Commissioner Pct. 3 Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

20. Review, discuss and take possible action to approve and publish Elected Officials Proposed Salary for FY 25

Judge Henington presented the Elected Officials' Proposed Salary for FY25.

21. Review, discuss and take possible action on the proposed tax year 2024 Tax Rate

Judge Henington presented the proposed tax year 2024 Tax Rate of 0.349422.

22. Review, discuss and take possible action to schedule a public hearing date on FY 2025 Budget (LGC 111.007 (b))

Judge Henington proposed holding a public hearing on August 27, 2024, at 9:30 am. Judge Henington moved to schedule the FY25 Budget Hearing as presented. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

23. Review, discuss and take possible action to schedule a Public Hearing Date on tax year 2024 Tax Rate (Tax Code 26.05 (d))

Judge Henington proposed holding a public hearing on August 27, 2024, at 9:30 am. Judge Henington moved to schedule the FY25 Tax Rate Hearing as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

Judge Henington moved to amend the previous approved motion to include the proposed FY25 Tax Rate as the Voter Approval Rate of 0.349422. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

25. 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 for a Closed Meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Court recessed at 11:09 AM

Court reconvened at 11:22 AM

Judge Henington moved to approve taking action as discussed in closed session for the County Comptroller's position. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.


26. Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on August 27, 2024 at 9:30 AM and any Special Commissioners Court Meeting for months of August - November, 2024.

Judge Henington announced the next Commissioners Court Meeting on August 27, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

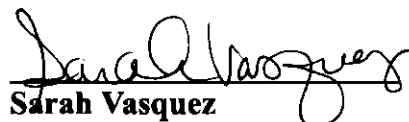
27. Adjourn

Commissioner Ortega moved to Adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.

ATTEST:



Greg P. Henington
Brewster County Judge



Sarah Vasquez
Brewster County Clerk

