**BREWSTER COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS COURT**



**JIM WESTERMANN SARA COLANDO**

**Commissioner, Pct.1 Commissioner, Pct. 2**

**RUBEN ORTEGA MO MORROW**

**Commissioner, Pct. 3 Commissioner, Pct.4**

**GREG P. HENINGTON**

**County Judge**

**Regular Commissioners Meeting: April 23, 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 9:34 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

Julie Morton County Treasurer

Katrina Munoz, Deputy Clerk, was present on behalf of Sarah Vasquez, County Clerk.

**2. Invocation**

Invocation by Commissioner Morrow.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4. Review, discuss and take action to approve Commissioners Court Meeting minutes from :**

1. **April 9, 2024**

Commissioner Ortega moved to approve April 9, 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**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, announced New York Life Insurance will be present April 29th – May 3rd in the Val Beard Conference Room.

Commissioner Morrow announced that there will likely be another public meeting in about 9 months with regard to the railroad overpass in Alpine.

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

Judge Henington reported that the Spirits of the West Festival had a good turnout and the organizers will be having a meeting to see what can be improved and what went well.

**8. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding Project List**

Judge Henington announced the Kubota side-by-side purchase will be taken off the list, stating it is no longer needed. He also reported most projects are being funded and moving along.

Commissioner Colando announced a meeting on Thursday 4/25/24 to outfit the bookmobile trailer with custom bookshelves.

Commissioner Westerman reported the Fire Station carport is almost complete, and County Jail trustees will paint the structure.

Commissioner Ortega reported the Marathon meeting center should be completed today 4/23/24. He also asked about the shades for Marathon and Terlingua and Judge Henington said he needed to be added to lists.

**9. Review, discuss and take possible action to update the Resolution of Intent to establish a Brewster County PACE Program**

Judge Henington announced the Holland Hotel is seeking PACE funding for the completion of the hotel renovations. Judge Henington moved to change the date of the PACE Program Public Hearing to May 14th, 2024 at 9:30 AM. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**10. Justice of the Peace 1- Judge Scott Wassermann**

**A. Review, discuss and take possible action to consolidate two- part-time positions into one full-time position at the Justice of the Peace 1 Office**

Scott Wassermann, Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, presented and requested that both the pretrial assistant position and the part time clerk’s position in his office be removed and replaced with another full time clerk position. Commissioner Westermann moved to approve the consolidation of the two part time positions to one full time position based on the eligibility of funds. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**11 . Road & Bridge Department**

**A. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Frenchie Causey presented the Road and Bridge Department report.

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

None

**12. Emergency Management Department**

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

Judge Henington introduced James Etchison as the new Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Etchison gave a brief rundown on his qualifications. Mr. Etchison's email address is <emc@co.brewster.tx.us>.

**13. Treasurer's Office**

**A. Financial Reports / Updates**

Julie Morton, County Treasurer, presented the March monthly report. Judge Henington moved to approve the Treasurer's Monthly report as presented. Commissioner Morrow seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

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

None.

**14. Brewster County Auditor**

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

**1. Budget Amendments**

**2. Line-Item Adjustments**

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

**B. Financial Reports / Updates**

None.

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

None.

**15. 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, was absent.

**B. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding $5,995 contract to Media World USA for tourism promotional video**

**C. Review, discuss and take possible action regarding $20,000 contract with Texas Department of Agriculture for sponsorship in the GoTexan Pavilion at the 2024 Texas State Fair**

Judge Henington presented the two contracts for consideration on behalf of Brewster County Tourism. Commissioner Orrega moved to approve both the $5,995 contract with Media World USA and the $20,000 Contract with Texas Department of Agriculture as presented. Commissioner Westermann seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**16. Property Tax Workshop- Report and Discussion only; No action required**

Daniel A. Albidrez, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, presented an overview on how delinquent tax collections are started and processed. Sylvia Vega, County Tax Assessor, was present to answer any questions at the local level.

**17. Review, discuss and take possible action to enter into a contract for services related to the financial operation of the county**

None

**18. Closed meeting, 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.**

Regular meeting recessed at 11:10 AM. with a 5 minute recess before the closed session.

Regular meeting reconvened at 11:26 AM.

Judge Henington moved to approve creating a contract position up to $70,000 to assist with County finances. There was a move to amend the main motion to also include allowing Judge Henington to make final decisions on who is hired. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0.

**19 . Schedule next Regular Commissioners Court Meeting on May 13, 2024, at 9:30 AM.**

Skipped.

**20.Adjourn**

Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

**ATTEST:**

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**Greg P. Henington Sarah Vasquez**

**Brewster County Judge Brewster County Clerk**