THE STATE OF TEXAS \* COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF KENEDY \* OF KENEDY COUNTY, TEXAS

On the 3rd day of May, 2024, at 9:30 o'clock a.m., a special meeting of the Commissioners Court of Kenedy County, Texas, was held in the Kenedy County Central Appraisal District Office.

**Commissioner present:**

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

Joe Recio, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

Sarita Armstrong-Hixon, Commissioner, Precinct No. 3, by phone

Jose Salazar, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

**Also present:**

Leo Villarreal, Administrative Assistant

Grace Salinas, Administrative Secretary

Irma Longoria, County Tax Assessor/Collector

Allison Strauss, County Attorney

Stephanie Garza, Elections Administrator

Maria Lerma, County Clerk Deputy

Jose E. Mendietta, Fire Chief

JP Jana Norrell

Tom Denney, Chief Appraiser

Seferino Gutierrez, Maintenance Supervisor

Manuel Garcia

Ryan J. Cobb, Game Warden

Jason Duke, Game Warden

**Absent**:

Israel Vela, Jr., Commissioner, Precinct No. 2

JP Jerry Miller

JP Patricia Fain

JP Cecilia Schulz

Cynthia Salinas, County Treasurer

Sheriff Ramon Salinas

Veronica Vela, County & District Clerk

1. **Discuss & Act on the Annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic to be Held on May 5th, 2024 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Ed Lopez Building.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to approve holding the annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic on May 5, 2024 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Ed Lopez Building.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Jose Salazar seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic be held on May 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ed Lopez Building.

1. **Discuss & Act on Terminating Daniel Almeida’s Services and Hiring Dave Furzer as the New Water & Sewer Operator for Kenedy County.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to consider terminating Daniel Almeida’s sewer and water services regarding the Sarita Water and Sewer Operator and to hire Dave Furzer, who had accepted the position as the new Water & Sewer Operator for Kenedy County.

Judge Burns informed the Commissioners Court that some of the reasons for terminating Daniel Almeida were performance and the TCEQ violation notice the County had received. Judge Burns further stated he had notified Daniel Almeida of the termination and that Daniel Almeida had accepted the termination.

Judge Burns informed the Commissioners Court that Mr. Furzer’s initial contract would be for one year and that the fee would be $2,000 a month; that testing costs would be directly paid to the laboratory by the County.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Jose Salazar seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Daniel Almeida’s services as the Sarita Water & Sewer Operator for Kenedy County be terminated and that David Furzer be hired as the Sarita Water & Sewer Operator for Kenedy County and paid $2,000 per month and that Kenedy County pay the fees directly to the laboratory.

1. **Discuss & Act on Developing a Hurricane Preparedness Plan.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to develop a Hurricane Preparedness Plan. The Commissioners Court proceeded to provide information that needed to be considered for the preparation of a Hurricane Preparedness Plan.

Persons in charge prior to, during and after the hurricane would be:

Judge Charles E. Burns, E-mail: [cburns@co.kenedy.tx.us](mailto:cburns@co.kenedy.tx.us), phone number 361-227-0554

Commissioner Joe Recio, E-mail: [joedeniserecio@yahoo.com](mailto:joedeniserecio@yahoo.com); phone number 361-459-9479

Seferino Gutierrez, E-mail: [sgutierrez@co.kenedy.tx.us](mailto:sgutierrez@co.kenedy.tx.us), phone 361-

Sheriff Ramon Salinas, E-mail: [rsalinas@co.kenedy.tx.us](mailto:rsalinas@co.kenedy.tx.us), phone 361-675-0340

Fire Chief Jose E. Mendietta, E-mail: [kenedyesd1@gmail.com](mailto:kenedyesd1@gmail.com); phone 361-522-6975

Proposed Kenedy County Hurricane Plan:

Evacuation: An evacuation will be ordered by Judge Burns, but it is not enforceable. Elderly residents may not have transportation or a place to go and will stay at the shelter. Further, the highways may be closed to prevent traffic accidents.

Shelter Time 7-10 days: The shelter will have to be prepared and staffed for a period of seven to ten days.

Hurricane Shelter: The hurricane shelter is ready for use.

1. Climate control and showers will be constructed as a separate unit;
2. The County will contact other county/city shelters if additional space is needed.
3. The Red Cross will supply the cots for the Hurricane Shelter.
4. Electrical stations in front of the Courthouse have been provided with electrical hookups for mobile homes use.
5. The Red Cross will deliver the cots or Kenedy County will pick up the cots.
6. Cots: The number of cots and supplies will be 100 cots, if needed.
7. School Kitchen*:* The Sarita Elementary School will provide the kitchen facilities, stove, etc. to prepare meals. School or county personnel will be assigned to kitchen duties.
8. School Generator: Kenedy County has provided a generator to the school for kitchen services in the event the electric power is terminated by the hurricane.
9. Ice: The Fire Chief and Sheriff will supply ice for the residents at the shelter.
10. First Aid Kits: The Kenedy County EMS will supply medical assistance and the first aid kits.
11. Fuel: As of June 1, 2024, all generator tanks will be full of diesel or propane. The County will have additional fuel on hand. The Courthouse generator will run for 50 hours and the school generator will run for 100 hours.
12. Animals/Pets: Pets are not allowed in the Hurricane Shelter. The County will work on shelters for animals and inform the residents if any animal shelters are available at the County’s Ag Barn.
13. Notice of Emergency Items: Kenedy County residents, including Sarita Townsite residents, will be provided a notice in English and Spanish of the list of emergency items, medical needs and medicines each resident is to have record of and in their possession while at the Hurricane Shelter. The plastic bag with the medical information should be at the shelter with the resident’s consent.
14. Ice: Ice will be available for medical needs, cold drinks and perishables that the residents may bring to the shelter.
15. Water: The County has water storage bins that hold 200 gallons of water.

Prior to the Hurricane:

1. The County will start preparing for the hurricane when the hurricane forms in the Caribbean and intensifies prior to the hurricane landing.
2. Encourage evacuation
3. Residents are to be ready to go to the shelter with the emergency and medical items, etc.
4. The school bus may be used to bring Sarita residents to the shelter
5. The County will rent two pumps to clear the hurricane water. The pumps will be ordered when the hurricane forms in the Caribbean
6. The County will have the ditches and highway cleaned and flowing
7. The siren will be sounded more frequently to announce the hurricane emergency

During the hurricane, residents must be in the shelter with their medicines, first aid kits, water, snacks, ADA equipment, etc.

After the hurricane:

1. The County is responsible for the cleanup after the hurricane and has the equipment to clean up the Sarita Townsite
2. NEC crews will help clean up
3. The State will provide clean up funds
4. Halo Flight will set up training for “Stop the Bleed”
5. Clear safe houses and unsafe houses will be designated by color paint
6. Boats may be brought in, if needed

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Jose Salazar seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Kenedy County Hurricane Preparedness Plan be prepared with the above items discussed and presented.

**4.** **Discuss and Act on Payment of the Bills.**

Judge Charles E. Burns informed the Commissioners Court of the need to pay the bills presented.

Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Jose Salazar seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the bills be paid as presented.

**5.** **Adjournment.**

There being no further business at this time to come before the Commissioners Court, Commissioner Joe Recio moved and Commissioner Jose Salazar seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Kenedy County Commissioners Court be adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

/s/ Charles E. Burns

Charles E. Burns, County Judge

ATTESTED BY:

/s/ Veronica Vela

Veronica Vela, Clerk of Commissioners Court