

*Hockley County Appraisal District*

*Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting Held on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

The Hockley County Appraisal District Board of Directors met in regular session at 12:00 in the afternoon on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Appraisal District Board Room located at 1103 Houston Street in Levelland, Tx.

Present were Board Members Larry Carter, DeEtte Edens, Buddy Moore, Matthew Buxkemper, and Ty Gregory, along with staff members Kimberly Rico, Ryan Noland, Roxann Gonzales, Paula Espinoza and Lorie Marquez, Chief Appraiser. Also Present were Teresa Montemayor and Becky McCutchen with Levelland ISD as well as Auditor John M. Merriss from Doshier, Pickens and Frances LLC.

Determination of quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Larry Carter.  
Ty Gregory gave the invocation and the Board and those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Matthew Buxkemper and seconded by Buddy Moore to accept the minutes from April 11, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by DeEtte Edens and seconded by Ty Gregory to approve the financial reports for April 2023 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

John Merriss presented the 2022 Financial Audit report to the Board members. John explained all financial and TCDRS retirement reports and also explained the calculation of entity refunds. John explained that there was a new process implemented for a promise that appraisal district will still be present in 12 months, and it was obliged. Motion made by Ty Gregory and seconded by Buddy Moore to approve the 2022 Audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Lorie presented Preliminary Values. She explained that the deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup> to have Preliminary Values out to all entities. Frenship ISD increased 262% and it's related to Tiger Farms II. There were 650 lots that came in and facilitated the increase. Lorie anticipates some of the properties that haven't sold, will protest value, leading to a slight decrease. Minerals are up, Lorie anticipates a slight increase. Debbie questioned Homestead Cap and if it's reflected in totals. Lorie explained how the Homestead Cap works and answered pertaining questions. Lorie goes on to say there is also talk of a new homestead percentage or number that is not included on these values. No action needed.

The next action item on the agenda was to Review the 2024 Proposed Budget. Lorie presented the spreadsheet and explained affected line items. Group health insurance 6% increase was added for an anticipated increase, but we don't have solid numbers yet. These should be in at the end of the week. The next line-item increase for review is Mineral Appraisal Services through Pritchard and Abbot. P&A has requested an increase of \$7000 per year for the next 3 years and they have requested a 3-year contract. Lorie explained that 55% of our county is mineral and it goes off of parcel count. The board requested HCAD go out for bids on Mineral Appraisal Services due to P&A's suggested increase. Capital and TY Picket are the other firms available to request a bid from. Lorie and the Board discussed these other options. Lorie explained how data processing went up 3%. Utilities all projected a 14-15% increase. Postage had a 4.5 increase on first class. Payroll Expense (QB) went up a little as well. Budget up 18k without any salary increases. TML Risk (property insurance) HCAD is anticipating an increase due to Roof claim in 2022. We will consider this to be a budget workshop and the proposed Budget will take place on June 6<sup>th</sup>, since we are still getting numbers.

Lorie went over office operations. Houses net from a 3 to 13 percent increase. Mobile homes got an increase due to a new schedule and market conditions. These will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. We are anticipating an increase in protests. Deadline May 26<sup>th</sup>, single member panels held on June 21<sup>st</sup> and full member panel held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lorie mentions our Ag numbers are down. We've lost a year so we went down - #1 Irrigated Crop Land decreased from 390 to 380, and # 1 Dry Crop Land decreased from 170 to 160 per acre. Notices went out April 26<sup>th</sup> and the last day to receive a protest in our office is May 26<sup>th</sup>. We offered online appeals for 785 properties and we have received 1 protest so far. Lorie explains how she will have to hire a temp to help out in the front on the day of protest hearings, due to being short staffed. Procedures have changed and Property owners will check in and then wait in their vehicle. Most of the ARB have completed their training, deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Larry received all of the Chief Appraiser Evaluation forms and mentioned to Lorie that they were all favorable, and that she may review them. Lorie will put these into the safe deposit box. Next meeting is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.

Motion made by Larry Carter and seconded by DeEtte Edens to adjourn at 1:22 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

DATE: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_