

Williamson Central Appraisal District

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of December 18, 2018

Charles Chadwell, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Williamson Central Appraisal District Board of Directors to order Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 9:04 a.m. Board members present: Charles Chadwell, Harry Gibbs, Donald Hisle, Rufus Honeycutt, Jon Jewett and Larry Gaddes. Quorum declared.

Pledges of Allegiance

Receipt of Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Town Hall Meeting

Chadwell discussed the purpose of the proposed Town Hall Meeting. He indicated that during the meeting an overview of appraisal district and tax office operations would be presented. There would also be open discussion time for attendees. Chadwell mentioned that he was open to suggestions for formats, etc.

Hisle mentioned the importance of educating the public regarding taxes and how they are distributed. Gaddes expressed his wishes to ask local people to address the public as opposed to a state legislator; he mentioned a former Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Georgetown ISD, Steve West. Lucas Janda, the CFO with Leander ISD, was also mentioned. It was indicated that either of these individuals could speak to how taxes affect the school/cities directly. Lankford informed the Board that he had spoken with Marya Crigler, with the Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD), who had previously conducted one of these meetings. He indicated that TCAD had a person screening questions and focused their meeting on answering any informative-type questions from the public. The Board discussed having a high-quality recording and placing that recording on both the District and the tax office websites, as well as on Facebook. It was indicated that some cities have public access channels as well.

The Board discussed that the audience would most likely consist of residential property owners. Honeycutt mentioned beginning the meeting by explaining the process and where it begins; the entities each creating a budget. The budget is the key to the tax rate. He thought information should be included regarding where a citizen could get involved. A general overview was mentioned which would include discussion regarding unfunded mandates, funding schools appropriately and the reasons an entity would feel it necessary to change a tax rate.

Jewett expressed his wishes that the Board decide its vision on what the meeting should accomplish. The Board discussed the need for a mission statement for this meeting.

The members discussed a few questions that would be asked during the meeting, including; why are you increasing our taxes? What creates your tax bill?

The following mission statement was discussed: The property tax process and how the public has an impact on their tax bill.

The Board suggested creating a frequently asked questions page to answer the questions that had been discussed during the meeting. The potential location and the proposed timing of the meeting was discussed.

Gaddes made a motion to form a committee to coordinate the Town Hall Meeting. Hisle seconded the motion. Honeycutt offered to work on the committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Chadwell nominated Gibbs to serve as Chairman of the committee; Honeycutt, Gaddes and Lankford will serve on this committee. The committee was asked to make a presentation at each Board Meeting.

Consideration of Specific Personnel Matters

Executive Session began at 10:01 a.m. and ended at 10:19 a.m.

Gibbs left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Consideration and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session

Consideration of Specific Personnel Matters

No action was taken.

Chief Appraiser's Report

2019 TAAD Conference Attendance

Lankford invited all members to the TAAD Conference which will be held in Austin in February.

Hisle, Honeycutt and Jewett indicated they would attend. Chadwell mentioned he would like to attend on Tuesday only and Gaddes thought he might attend.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully,


Charles Chadwell, Chairman


Donald L. Hisle, Secretary