

LAMAR COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020
4:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Christian at 4:00 p.m. and a quorum was declared. In addition to Chairman Christian those present were David Dunmon, Keith Mitchell and Lyle Edwards. Board member Kelly Jeffery was absent. Appraisal staff present were Chief Appraiser Jerry Patton, Director of Collections Pat Loven and Director of Appraisal Leah Robertson.

There were no public comments.

The swearing-in of Board members and the election of officers;
Chairman nomination was Terry Christian by David Dunmon and Second by Keith Mitchell. All in favor.

Secretary nomination was Kelly Jeffrey by David Dunmon and Second by Keith Mitchell. All in favor.

The minutes from the November 25, 2019 meeting were approved. A motion by Keith Mitchell to accept the minutes as read and David Dunmon seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Lamar County Appraisal District financial report was given by Chief Appraiser Jerry Patton. He told the Board that the budget has been expended, by approximately 38% which is 5% over the normal expenditures for this time of the year, due to the up-front payment to Pictometry and the additional office changes required for the added appraisal positions, but he expected that this would level out over the coming months. Mr. Patton also noted that we will need to start seeking bids for the repair of the roof due to a leak that has returned to the men's restroom.

A motion was made by Keith Mitchell and it was seconded by Lyle Edwards. All in favor.

The Lamar County Appraisal District appraisal report was given by Leah Robertson, Director of Appraisal. She told the Board the department continues to make strides in the reappraisal process. The three appraisers in training are progressing in their training. Of the three, only one is still in team training, and the other two are on their own in the field and return in the afternoon to ask any questions that arise. The expectation is to finish in time for a mailing of appraisal notices in early May and she is confident they will reach that goal. As to the core training required of the appraisers, they have all successfully completed two of the required courses. She said she has once again resumed the search for the final appraisal position, by running an ad in the newspaper, in order to retain additional resumes.

She said the process of retaining the tablets for field work continues to progress. Stephanie Lee is obtaining quotes for the Windows Surface Pro and the iPad to see which is the most cost effective. A motion was made by Keith Mitchell and seconded by Lyle Edwards. All in favor.

The Lamar County Appraisal District collection report was given by Director of Collections, Pat Loven. She reported that average percentage of collections for the same months and all entities was 37.05%, with the highest being City of Reno at 66.03% and the lowest being Chisum ISD at 9.01%. She reported that the current total Collections are 21,119,682.63 compared to last years total of 20,460,685.98.

A motion was made by Keith Mitchell and seconded by Lyle Edwards. All in favor.

The Chief Appraiser report was given by Jerry Patton. He informed the Board that the mediation between the Lamar County Appraisal District and Daisy Dairy did not go well. The judge presiding over the mediation asked the attorneys to come to an agreement, since no action could be agreed upon, during this mediation. This case is still pending.

The court case of Paris Regional Medical Center versus Lamar County Appraisal District is set to go to court on February 6, 2020 in Dallas, Tx. It is to be attended by Jerry Patton, Cathy Jackson from Capital Appraisal Group and Jim Evans, the appraisal district attorney. Jerry Patton will keep the Board advised of the status of this lawsuit.

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The Holt versus Lamar County Appraisal District suit is still being discussed between each opposing side's attorneys and will be further reported on as the case progresses.

In the case of Turner Industries versus Lamar County Appraisal District, an arbitrator has been selected by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The arbitrator is from the Houston area and the logistics of the meeting are to be relayed to Jerry Patton in the coming weeks.

As a reminder, Jerry Patton told the Board that he would be presenting the proposed budget to them at the February meeting, in order to keep within the timeline defined by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. A motion was made by David Dunmon and seconded by Keith Mitchell. All in favor.

A closed session was not required by the Board or the Chief Appraiser.

A motion to adjourn was made by Keith Mitchell and seconded by David Dunmon. All in favor.


Chairman


Secretary