



## Minutes from April 21, 2016

The El Paso Central Appraisal District Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 5:02 p.m., in the Conference Room of the El Paso Central Appraisal District (EPCAD), 5801 Trowbridge Drive, El Paso, Texas, with the following quorum of five members:

There was a quorum, with five members present.

1. Jerry Romero
2. Laure Searls
3. Ana Duenez
4. Joyce Wilson
5. Al Velarde
  
6. Vincent Perez (joined the meeting at 5:11 p.m.)

Mr. Joe Longoria of Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, PLLC was in attendance for the entire meeting. Ms. Carmen Hegeman of Dunbar, Armendariz, Hegeman & Holguin, PLLC., EPCAD legal counsel, was in attendance for the entire meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM I – PUBLIC COMMENT**

This is a regular agenda item required by Section 6.04(d), Texas Property Tax Code.

*In order to comply, while ensuring the efficiency of the "Public Comment" regular agenda item, the EPCAD Board of Directors will limit said public comment to five (5) minutes per item, unless the majority of a quorum of the Board votes to allow more time for a given item. Public comment requires no action from the Board.*

Chairman Romero stated that multiple individuals were listed to make presentations and public comment; including individuals listed to make comments on Agenda Item 3 and Agenda Item 4.

Chief Appraiser Dinah Kilgore informed the Board that on April 29<sup>th</sup>, EPCAD employee Becky Reyes would retire after 33 years of service to the District and the Board of Directors. Ms. Reyes was congratulated by all in attendance.

Mr. David Stone, Assistant Chief Appraiser, commented to the Board that Ms. Kilgore was to be recognized for 10 years of service since returning to the District. Mr. Stone emphasized the positive impact her leadership has had on the District. Ms. Kilgore has encouraged staff to work

in innovative ways on various fronts, with specific attention to excel in customer service. Ms. Kilgore was congratulated by all in attendance.

Public comment was given by Mr. Richard Cumming. Mr. Cumming addressed the Board on behalf of multiple property tax agents. Mr. Cumming requested to have an item placed on the agenda regarding the posting of video recordings of selected ARB hearings to the publicly viewed YouTube site.

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL & SIGNING OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2016 MEETING**

Ms. Searls made a motion to approve the March 17, 2016 Minutes as presented; Mr. Perez seconded; the vote was called; and the motion was approved.

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM 3 – DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING DELINQUENT PAYMENT BY EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (EPISD)**

Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 6.06 (k) states: “For good cause shown, the Board of Directors may waive penalty and interest on a delinquent payment under subsection (e)”. (See attached.)

Mr. Walt Byers, El Paso Independent School District Treasury Manager, provided Board members with documents to support his address to the Board. Mr. Byers explained the circumstances surrounding the clerical error that resulted in a delinquent payment to the District. He furthered that EPISD financial staff have implemented procedures to prevent a payment from being issued late in the future.

Ms. Wilson inquired about the penalty percentage charged. Ms. Kilgore stated that the percentage is based on the Property Tax Code – 1% for the penalty and 1% for the interest.

Mr. Velarde stated that he would abstain from voting on this item for obvious reasons.

Mr. Romero inquired if the penalty had been paid. Ms. Kilgore responded that it had not been paid because it was due by May 5<sup>th</sup> and also to wait on the Board’s decision.

Ms. Wilson inquired if a penalty had been paid in the past by other entities. Ms. Kilgore named some of the entities whom had paid penalties since 2013: Lower Valley Water District, the Village of Vinton, Tornillo Independent School District; Paseo Del Este #2, Paseo Del Este #10; Montecillo Municipal Management District, Ysleta Independent School District, and Canutillo Independent School District.

Ms. Wilson inquired if any of the listed entities had requested a waiver of the penalty. Ms. Kilgore responded that they had not. Ms. Wilson added that if there was no precedence where the waiver had been denied; she had no objection to allowing the waiver.

Ms. Searls stated that historically other entities have paid and met with their obligation.