



Minutes from June 29, 2016

The El Paso Central Appraisal District Board of Directors held a meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 5:06 p.m., in the Conference Room of the El Paso Central Appraisal District (EPCAD), 5801 Trowbridge Drive, El Paso, Texas 79925. There was a quorum, with five (5) members present.

1. Jerry Romero
2. Gary Gandara
3. Trent Hatch
4. Laure Searls
5. Joyce Wilson
6. Vincent Perez joined the meeting at 5:08 p.m.
7. Al Velarde joined the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Mr. Joe Longoria of Purdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, EPCAD legal counsel, was in attendance for the entire meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – 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 six individuals had signed-in to make public comment. Public comment was made by the following: Mr. Rick Cumming, Ms. Yvonne Collins, Mr. Jesus Salinas, Mr. George Sanchez, Mr. Julian Gonzalez Herrell, and Mr. Jeff Siegel.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL & SIGNING OF MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2016 MEETING

Mr. Gandara made a motion to approve the May 19, 2016 Minutes as presented; Ms. Searls seconded; the vote was called; and the motion was approved.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM 3 – DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CANCELLATION OF THE JULY, 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Ms. Kilgore informed the Board that due to the appeals season and the mandated July 25th certification date, EPCAD staff requests that the Board of Directors cancel the July meeting. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, August 18, 2016.

Ms. Wilson inquired if procedures were in place to call a meeting if urgent business was to arise. Ms. Kilgore stated that yes Board procedures directed the Chief Appraiser to notify the Board Chair in order for the Chair to call a meeting.

Ms. Wilson made the motion to cancel the July, 2016 regular Board of Directors' meeting; Mr. Hatch seconded; the vote was called and the motion was approved.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION FOR APPROVAL TO PUBLISH AN RFP TO OBTAIN HOMESTEAD VERIFICATION ANALYSIS

The District performs rudimentary examination of homestead accounts, such as: processing deeds, checking for duplicate names, reviewing obituaries, and field-checking properties. Alternatively, third party companies offer access to multiple databases that are not accessible to the District to determine "identities" of the exemption recipients; this makes it more efficient to find owners who may be deceased or have multiple exempted properties (including outside the country).

Because of the large impact of homestead exemptions on the tax roll, the removal of even a small percentage of erroneous exemptions would generate additional revenue and exceed the initial cost estimate for this service. The District requests permission to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a homestead verification service.

Ms. Kilgore informed the Board that as the Board would not meet in July, EPCAD staff was requesting permission to issue the RFP in the latter part of July. She furthered that there are funds for a Homestead Verification Analysis service in the upcoming budget year which begins October 1. Three companies have been fielded and the costs range from \$180,000.00 to one million dollars. Issuing an RFP will allow the details to be reviewed side-by-side.

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Homestead Verification service; Mr. Gandara seconded; the vote was called; and the motion was approved.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM 5 – DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE LEASE OF DELL STORAGE SC4040 ARRAY

Ms. Kilgore stated that the Chief Appraiser is allowed to sign-off on items up to \$25,000 only; therefore, as this item is at a greater cost, has been brought before the Board.

Mr. David Stone, EPCAD Assistant Chief Appraiser, informed the Board that the Array would replace the existing HP SAN storage which is demonstrating issues with data corruption. The drives on that were purchased at different times and are between three and five years old.