

MINUTES

GALVESTON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors October 13th, 2021

The regular meeting of the Galveston Central Appraisal District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 at 9850 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Suite A, Texas City, Texas.

Members present: Donald Gartman
Bruce Clawson
Thomas Farmer
Chad Tressler
Scott Brast

Members Absent: Cheryl Johnson; Ex Officio Member

Others present: Chief Appraiser Tommy Watson, Deputy Chief Appraiser Krystal McKinney, Director of Finance & Administration Bertha Curry, Executive Assistant Lauren Frame, Staff Attorney Nick Perez, Communications Staff Nick Perras, Taxpayer Liaison Officer Norman Franzke and Appraisal Review Board Acting Chairman Walter Syers

1. OPEN SESSION

With a quorum present, Chairman, Donald Gartman called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. He stated that the meeting had been duly called and the public meeting notice was properly posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code; Chapter 551. He asked the attendees to join in the Pledge to the Flag of the United States, followed by the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

2. Welcome Guests and Comments from the Public.

There were no comments at this time.

3. Review and Consider Approval of the Minutes from the September 8th, 2021 regular meeting.

The Chairman stated that Mrs. Johnson mentioned that it is not necessary to list word for word what was said and if the board agrees with that, we will just ask that you summarize the minutes. Ms. Frame stated the minutes were summarized.

Mr. Clawson **MOVED** to accept and approve the minutes as is. Mr. Tressler **SECONDED** the motion. The Motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

4. Review and Consider Approval of the Financial Report for the period ending September 30th, 2021.

There were no questions or comments at this time.

Mr. Brast **MOVED** to accept and approve the financial report for the period ending September 30th, 2021. Mr. Tressler **SECONDED** the motion. The Motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

5. Review and Consider Report of the Appraisal Review Board for the month of September 2021.

Mr. Walter Syers introduced himself and stated he is the Acting Chairman of the ARB as Leroy is still in the hospital. The ARB met during the month of September 2021 and approved a supplemental roll. The review committee met and denied 1 postponement request and heard a total of 538 formal protests.

6. Review and Consider Report of the Taxpayer Liaison Officer for the month of September 2021.

Mr. Norman Franzke stated he received 10 emails, 1 written letter, 1 ARB application, 1 phone call and 1 text that were included in his report. Mr. Tressler asked if Mr. Franzke has had any more correspondence from Mr.

Nuzum and Mr. Franzke stated he has not received anything but he believes Mr. Watson has received another request from him.

7. Review and Consider the Staff Attorney Pending Litigation Report for the month of September 2021.

Mr. Perez stated 240-250 cases have been filed, we are cranking out settlement discussions as much as possible. We have disposed 10 cases that were filed in 2021 so far and have a quite a few more that will be closing soon. Mr. Perez introduced Ms. Deja Harrell as his new paralegal and that she will be helping with the litigation as well as arbitrations. Chairman Gartman stated he would like to encourage Mr. Perez and Ms. Harrell again to settle these suits as quick as we can, he then stated that he doesn't think we need to include the settled suits in the litigation report going forward. The other thing is Mrs. Johnson brought up that we received a couple cases that were finalized by the Judge and by the time we got those it was 3-4 months after it was settled and it turns out that the County had to pay a late payment of \$7,785.05 and I think that is unfair for the County or us have to pay that and we need to send a demand letter to that law firm to pay that money. When we turn over a lawsuit to a firm it is their job to dissolve that case and hand it back to us for payment in a timely manner.

8. Review and Consider the Appraisal Staff Report for the month of September 2021.

Mrs. McKinney stated we have 3 more ARB days until the 2021 protest season is over. As of the date of the report we had 4,518 protests left to be worked, a total of 41,300 protests were heard informally and agreed upon, 56,952 have been worked and closed, we still had about a 72.5% success rate at informal hearings. The Appraisal staff are out in the field this week while the ARB is out and will return to the field starting next Thursday to begin picking up permits and new construction and will be out there until March 2022.

9. Review and Consider the Social Media Presentation and Report by the Communications Staff for the month of September 2021.

Mr. Perras stated he went to U.H and with relevance to this, his degree is in integrative communications so he put these skills to use where he saw an opportunity to have more of a presence in the community. As far as social media activity, we just launched the Facebook page and our first post was just introducing the new GCAD and the second post was a survey gathering general information and feedback. We would like to look into doing a mock ARB hearing as well as get out some information on the ARB applications and other outreach ideas. We have a radio interview tomorrow with KHAA that will also be livestreamed on Facebook. As far as the logo goes, I worked with a graphic designer to come up with a design to embody the County, we came up with the causeway as the central theme, the 7 rays represent the 7 big cities in the County and then on the causeway there are 45 posts to symbolize I45 which is what connects everyone in Galveston County. These little things will help differentiate between us and the County as well as other entities and help identify that we are not a part of the County and sort of draw a distinction between the two offices. A few goals we have are to generate content as well as be successful in getting information out to our property owners that will address any of their concerns. The service we are using is called Hootsuite and it allows us to monitor the social media as well as post and schedule everything a head of time, meaning I can plan out a years' worth of Holidays and such and we do not need a separate staff member to put those things together. We established a media policy with this new media plan that basically states that GCAD speaks for GCAD; not employees of GCAD or anyone else.

10. Chief Appraisers Report.

Mr. Watson stated he will be adding an item to the agenda next month but wanted to let the board know ahead of time, we have had some issues this year with getting enough ARB panel members to show up. I do not want to go back to 4 panels but I do want to do is go to 18 members, with 9 being fulltime and 9 alternate. We will only be paying 9 members at a time so that will not affect the budget other than the amount for the classes. Mr. Watson stated this is Board Election year and we have received 8 nominees so far, those nominations are Scott Brast, Bruce Clawson, Matt Doyle, Tom Farmer, Don Gartman, John Harris, Cheryl Johnson and Chad Tressler. The deadline to submit the nominations is Friday, October 15, 2021. Once we get the nominations in, we will be mailing out the ballots by October 30th and then the entities will have until December 15, 2021 to turn in their

ballots and resolutions for us to gather the votes summary. The Chairman stated Mrs. Johnson asked him to bring up the idea of having a meeting quarterly or at least twice a year between Mr. Watson and the Tax Assessor Collectors. Mr. Watson stated we did have one meeting but we haven't had another one so we need to get back on that and get them to come in every so often.

11. Comments from the Board of Directors.

Mr. Farmer stated he is glad to have Deja around as the new paralegal. There were no further comments.

12. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence at this time.

13. Set Date of Next Regular Meeting.

Wednesday: November 10th, 2021 at 4:00PM.

16. Adjournment

The regular business meeting of the Galveston Central Appraisal District Board of Directors was adjourned Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Clawson
Secretary

Approved:



Donald Gartman
Chairman