

**HAMILTON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 15, 2020
County Annex Meeting Room**

The Hamilton County Board of Directors met on January 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM. T. P. Medlock, Chairman, called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present. Other members present included Keith Gatewood, James McInnis, Jeff Serratt and Judge Mark Tynes.

Officers for 2020-2021 were elected by action of the Board. T.P. Medlock remains as chairman, Keith Gatewood was elected as vice-chair, and Jeff Serratt was elected as secretary to the Board.

Mr. Medlock then offered the opportunity for members of the public to speak. No one was present that wished to speak.

Minutes of the November 27, 2019, meeting were approved with a motion for approval offered by Judge Tynes, seconded by Mr. McInnis, and passed without dissent.

Bids for the depository of the monies held by the District were opened and discussed. After looking at the bids from each bank, Mr. Petree recommended that Extraco Banks be given the contract. They offered free services and 500 basis points above the nearest competitor. Mr. McInnis move approval of Extraco, Mr. Serratt seconded and the motion passed with abstention by Chairman Medlock.

The Board discussed persons who might have an interest in serving as an ARB member for 2020-2021. After discussion, the Board named Dan Thatcher and Jerry McAdams as ARB members subject to their acceptance of the appointment. Mr. Petree is to talk to them, explain the responsibilities, and get an answer of acceptance or rejection.

Everett, chairman of the 2019 ARB brought forth a report and recommendations to the Board of Director. He commended the staff and Western employees for their work and added that he felt there were some things that could be improved. He suggested a large monitor that would display information that was being considered by the ARB, an alternate ARB member, news releases or a letter to taxpayers explaining the reason for the reappraisal, and doors be added to the meeting room the ARB uses.

The Board then considered an attorney to represent the ARB. Mr. Roy Armstrong represents many ARBs in Texas and proposed a retainer of \$500 annually. He is well respected in the tax community with over 30 years of experience. After considerable discussion as to whether or not any local attorney would be interested, the Board concluded that local attorneys would probably not be interested because it would keep them from representing local taxpayers. Also, the representation would be for only one year and Mr. Petree assured the Board that if anyone expressed an interest, he would encourage them to make a proposal to the Board for 2021. Mr. Serratt moved approval of the contract, Judge Tynes seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

Mr. Petree asked that item 10 be postponed until budget hearing time. He then offered the chief appraiser report. The surplus for the 2019 year is expected to be approximately \$19,000. A listing of all December checks was made available for the Board to peruse. He then offered the collection report showing that 42.74% of the current taxes have been collected and the delinquent roll continues to decline. He also told the Board that the property value study results will be released February 1 and will determine whether Hico ISD values were accepted by the state. The appraisal process by Western began this week with two appraisers working. He informed the Board about the details of the refund to Mr. Watson, John's paternity leave, and the plans for the audit to begin in February.

The motion to adjourn was moved by Judge Tynes, seconded by Mr. Gatewood, and passed without dissent. The adjournment occurred at 11:36 AM.

Board Chairman, TP Medlock