



Nueces County Appraisal District  
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*Ramiro "Ronnie" Canales*  
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**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**NUECES COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors held a Regular Meeting at 9:00 am on **Wednesday January 11, 2023**

**INVOCATION**

The invocation was led by Irene Lugo.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Jerry Garcia.

**ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**DIRECTORS:**

Jerry Garcia, Chairman	<u>Present</u>
Luis Elizondo, Vice Chairman	<u>Present</u>
Leo Gonzalez, Secretary	<u>Present</u>
Deven Bhakta	<u>Present</u>
Armando Chapa	<u>Present</u>
Caitlin Chupe	<u>Present</u>
Gabriele Hilpold	<u>Present</u>
Butch Pool	<u>Absent</u>
Kevin Kieschnick, Ex Officio	<u>Absent</u>

**NON-DIRECTORS:**

Ramiro Canales, Chief Appraiser	<u>Present</u>
Don Causey, Asst. Chief Appraiser	<u>Present</u>
Melissa Vela, Attorney	<u>Present</u>
Teri Noack, TLO	<u>Present</u>
	<u>                    </u>

**CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nueces County Appraisal District was duly called to order at 9:00 am, with a quorum was present, with notice properly posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code 551 and that any conflict-of-interest affidavits have been placed on file as required by law.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**EXECUTION OF STATEMENT OF ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Melissa Vela, Attorney instructed the Board of Directors to read and sign the Execution of Statement of election.

**SWEARING IN OF ALL BOARD MEMBERS**

Judge Vargas administered the Oath of office to the board of directors present.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Garcia opened the floor to nominate officers for the Board of Directors.

Mr. Chapa motioned to appoint Mr. Garcia as Chair and Ms. Hilpold seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bhakta motioned to appoint Mr. Luis Elizondo as Vice Chair and Ms. Hilpold seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hilpold motioned to appoint Mr. Leo Gonzalez as Secretary and Mr. Elizondo seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION, CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the December 12, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of the December 2022 Disbursements
- C. Section 25.25 (b) Correction of Appraisal Roll Notice

Mr. Elizondo motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented and Mr. Chapa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO REDESIGNATE BUDGETED POSITIONS**

Elias Sissamis, Director of Administration, stated that since the District's General Counsel retired, all legal matters are transitioned to the District's in-house attorney. The staff attorney evaluated the workload and deemed that another attorney is advisable lawsuits are increasing and there are other areas that need attention. Therefore, the Chief Appraiser is requesting that the Board authorize that the budget for two new appraiser positions be redesignated for a single staff



attorney. Details of how it would be funded are provided in the Board packet. Mr. Elizondo motioned to approve the request and Mr. Bkakta second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION RELATED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVAL OF CHIEF APPRAISER APPOINTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Causey, Assistant Chief Appraiser, requested that the Board of Directors approve the appointment of Agricultural Advisory Board Members as listed in the Board packet. Mr. Elizondo motioned to approve and Ms. Chupe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE § 551.071 CODE § 551.074**

*Board of Directors went into executive session at 9:18 am.*

*Board of Directors returned to open session at 10:35 am.*

**DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION RELATIVE TO ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Hilpold motioned to authorize staff to research a partial contingency contract arrangement with the Brena Law Firm and to present details at the next Board meeting and Ms. Chupe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**TAXPAYER LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT**

TLO Noack reported that she is still searching for auxiliary applicants, which would then complete the Appraisal Review Board targeted membership. The ARB will hold their orientation on January 26 to get sworn in and review procedures, policies, and related documents.

**CHIEF APPRAISER'S REPORT**

Mr. Canales stated that we have two bids for the plumbing project and two new clerks will be replacing the ones that will be retiring.

**SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

In response to a request made earlier in the meeting by Ms. Hilpold, Mr. Canales committed to send Legislative update reports he receives to Board members as he gets them.



**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 am

SIGNED:

  
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Leo Gonzalez, Secretary

