

**Tarrant Appraisal District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2024**

This meeting was conducted "in person" and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act as written in statute and was broadcast live on Facebook. A quorum of the members of the Board attended in person at TAD offices.

These minutes are a summary of the only subjects the board addressed and the actions it took. For details, see the Agenda & Video posted on TAD's website at this URL: <https://www.tad.org/board-of-directors> and Video Recording posted at: <https://www.facebook.com/TarrantAD>

Members Present:

Ms. Wendy Burgess, Tax Assessor Collector
Mr. Rich DeOtte
Mr. Alan Blaylock
Mr. Gary Losada
Ms. Gloria Peña
Mr. Vince Puente

Also Participating:

Mr. William Durham, Interim Chief Appraiser
Mr. Brad Patrick Director of Administration
Mr. Matthew Tepper, TAD Attorney

Rich DeOtte called the meeting to order at 8:01am and verified a quorum was present. The notice was posted timely. After pledges and the Invocation, the Board took up the following agenda items:

5. Recognize Visitors; Hear Public Comments

Seven members of the public spoke.

6. Action Items

a. Consent Agenda Items:

- (1) Action regarding approval of Board of Directors meeting minutes - December 14, 2023; & December 21, 2023**
- (2) Action regarding consent to Agricultural Advisory Board member appointment**
- (3) Approval of purchase of online ESRI hosted service on an annual basis**

Mr. Puente removed Items 6a(1) and 6a(3) and Mr. Blaylock removed Item 6a(2) from the consent agenda.

6a(1) Action regarding approval of Board of Directors meeting minutes - December 14, 2023; & December 21, 2023

Mr. Puente moved to table Item 6a(1) and Ms. Burgess seconded. The motion passed 2-0, 3 abstentions- Mr. Blaylock, Mr. Losada, and Ms. Pena.

6a(2) Action regarding consent to Agricultural Advisory Board member appointment

Mr. Blaylock moved to table Item 6a(2) and Ms. Pena seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

6a(3) Approval of purchase of online ESRI hosted service on an annual basis

Mr. Losada moved to approve the staff recommendation to negotiate with New Edge for online hosting services for a cost not to exceed \$30,500 and Ms. Pena seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. Deliberate and act on authorization for Chief Appraiser to negotiate a proposed contract for GIS consultant

Mr. Blaylock moved to table this item and Mr. DeOtte seconded. The vote passed 4-1 with Mr. Puente voting against the motion.

c. Deliberate and act on authorization for Chief Appraiser to engage a 6-month contract with a recruitment firm for IS staffing, for two temporary to permanent positions each with annual salaries of \$115,000.

Mr. Puente moved to pass the staff recommendation as amended and Mr. Losada seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. DeOtte moved Item 6(h) in front of Item 6(d).

h. Deliberate and act on the election of a chair and secretary of the TAD Board of Directors

Mr. DeOtte moved to nominate Mr. Puente as the Chair of the Board and Mr. Losada as the secretary. Mr. Losada declined the nomination. Mr. Puente nominated Mr. Blaylock and he also declined the nomination. Mr. Puente nominated Ms. Pena and she accepted the nomination. The motion to nominate Vince Puente for Chair passed 4-0 with Mr. Losada abstaining. The motion to nominate Gloria Pena as Secretary passed 4-0 with Mr. Losada abstaining.

d. Deliberate and act on authorization for Chief Appraiser to negotiate a proposed contract with DocuSign for an electronic signature solution not to exceed \$155,000/year.

A representative from DocuSign presented slides regarding the proposed contract. Mr. Losada moved; Mr. Blaylock seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

e. Deliberate and act on action to officially call for special election of three at-large Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Director members on May 4, 2024

Mr. Blaylock moved to approve the notice as presented and Ms. Pena seconded the motion. It passed unanimously, 5-0.

f. Deliberate and act on possible revisions to TAD Board of Director's Policy Manual

Mr. Puente moved to table this item and Ms. Pena seconded. The motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Losada voting against.

g. Review, deliberate and action on all contracts, billing agreements, verbal or written in excess of \$50,000

Mr. Puente moved to table this item until the next meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Blaylock and this was passed unanimously, 5-0.

8. Recess to executive/closed session pursuant to the following part(s) of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Ch. 551, for the following purposes:

At 10:08am, the Board recessed into Executive Session as provided in Item 8 of the Agenda.

Section 551.076 - Deliberation regarding security devices, security software or security audits.

Section 551.071 - Deliberation on a matter in which the Board of Directors seeks the advice of its attorney about contemplated litigation or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Open Meetings Act, related to

- a. statements made by Tarrant Appraisal District's former director of Information Services regarding the Tarrant Appraisal District's information systems;
- b. definition of and application of walking quorum laws;
- c. election of Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors by the taxing entities for the 2024 term;
- d. contract with newly hired Chief Appraiser Joe Don Bobbitt.

At 12:51pm, the Board returned to Open Session as provided in Item 9 of the Agenda.

7. Information Items

- a. **Report by Taxpayer Liaison Officer**
- b. **Report by Chief Appraiser**
 - **Reintroduce Joe Don Bobbitt**
 - **Recognition of TAD BOD Members**
- c. **Legislative Update from TAD Board Attorney**

A motion was made to table Item 7c by Mr. Puente and seconded by Ms. Pena. The motion was passed unanimously, 5-0.

9. Return to Open Session

- a. statements made by Tarrant Appraisal District's former director of Information Services regarding the Tarrant Appraisal District's information systems;

No action was taken.

- b. definition of and application of walking quorum laws;

No action was taken.

- c. election of Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors by the taxing entities for the 2024 term;

No action was taken. Matthew Tepper explained that a quorum was currently 4/6 members. The walking quorum portion of the Open Meetings Act is violated when at least 2-3 members with individual knowledge of the series of conversations discusses board business outside of an open meeting.

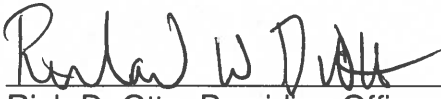
Mr. Puente moved to pass a resolution from the board of directors regarding casting votes in the appointment process. Mr. DeOtte seconded. This resolution passed 4-0, with Mr. Blaylock no longer present at the meeting.

- d. contract with newly hired Chief Appraiser Joe Don Bobbitt.

No action taken.

8. Propose future agenda items; Set Next Meeting Date; Adjourn

No future agenda items were proposed. The next meeting date is expected to be February 9th, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 1:27pm.



Rich DeOtte, Presiding Officer