

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

**Board Room
Third Floor, Administration Building
Blinn College, 802 Green Street
Brenham, Texas**

Special Meeting, Tuesday, September 11, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees convened at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room with the following members present: Mr. Douglas R. Borchardt, President, presiding; Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura, Vice President; Mr. David Sommer, Secretary; Dr. Henry J. Boehm, Jr.; Mr. Norwood Lange; Mrs. Carolyn D. Miller, CPA and Mr. Leon B. Toubin.

Board members not present: None

Members of the College staff in attendance were: Dr. Harold Nolte, District President; Ms. Sylvia McMullen, Interim President, Brazos County Campuses; Ms. Kelli Shomaker, Senior Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services/CFO; Dr. John Beaver, Interim Vice President Academic Affairs/CAO; Dr. Cynthia Griffith, Vice President Allied Health Sciences; Ms. Cathy Boeker, Associate Vice President, Institutional Advancement/Governmental Affairs; Mr. Mark Bernier; Mr. Richard Bray; Mr. Gus Mutscher; Ms. Susan Myers; Mr. Richard O'Malley; Mr. Joe Al Picone; Ms. Rebecca Ruffino; Mr. Ross Schroeder and Mr. Jeff Tilley.

Also registered as in attendance were: Mr. Tee Dipple; Mr. Pat Elliott; Rev. Michael Haywood; Mr. James Lehmann; Mr. John Muegge and Ms. Barbara Ross, property owners.

ITEM 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Borchardt. The pledge was led by Mr. Sommer and the prayer was given by Mr. Sommer.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A TAX RATE THAT EXCEEDS THE EFFECTIVE RATE

Ms. Shomaker reviewed the proposal to adopt a tax rate that exceeds the effective rate. She gave an overview of eligible expenditures and the history of the tax rate of Blinn College.

ITEM 4. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL IN THE PRECEDING TAX YEAR BY 7.72 PERCENT

Mr. Borchardt read the procedural information regarding public comment.

Mr. Borchardt called upon Mr. Pat Elliott, property owner, who expressed concern over multiple property tax increases by multiple local taxing entities. He feels the tax structure is unfair. Mr. Elliott threatened to go to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and tell them that Blinn is Violating Education Code 130.0032. He also encouraged the Board members to vote no on the tax increase.

Rev. Michael Haywood spoke positively about Blinn College. He said that he has witnessed positive spiritual change in the students at Blinn College and encouraged the Board and administration to continue the good work.

Ms. Barbara Ross expressed concern that Washington County tax payers are supporting the education of students on the Bryan Campus. She feels that a tax increase is not necessary at this time and she opposes the rate.

Mr. James Lehmann reviewed the history of when Blinn College expanded outside of Washington County. He asked if the administration could prove that property taxes stay in Washington County.

Mr. Tee Dippel spoke about the positive impact that Blinn College has on the local community. He spoke in support of the proposed tax increase and applauded the sound fiscal practices of the college.

Mr. John Muegge complimented the college on conservative and sound financial management. He encouraged the Board not to back down from the much needed tax rate increase. He recommended that Blinn College educate the public on the value of out-of-district students. Mr. Mugee encouraged the Board to continue to increase the tax rate.

ITEM 5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR VOTE TO ADOPT PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2013 THAT WOULD INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL IN THE PRECEDING TAX YEAR BY 7.72 PERCENT

Mr. Borchardt announced that the vote on the proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 7.72% will be take place on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room on the 3rd Floor of the Administration Building.

ITEM 6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MARMON MOK TO PROVIDE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF A RECREATION AND STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS

Mr. Borchardt called upon Mr. Toubin from the Property Committee. Mr. Toubin asked Mr. Richard O'Malley, Executive Director, Facilities, Planning and Construction, to review the process of evaluating architectural design firms. Marmon Mok, based in San Antonio, was the firm recommended by the committee based on their experience and previous projects. Mr. Toubin complimented all three firms that were interviewed. He reviewed the specifications discussed in the interviews and anticipated uses for the building.

On a motion by Mr. Toubin, seconded by Mr. Kenjura, the Board voted to authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services contract with Mormon Mok for the design of the Kruse Center, as presented by the administration.

ITEM 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH O'MALLEY ENGINEERS, L.L.P., TO PROVIDE CIVIL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF A RECREATION AND STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER ON THE BRENHAM CAMPUS

Mr. O'Malley reviewed a recommendation to employ O'Malley Engineers, L.L.P. to provide civil engineering design services for the design of a recreation and student activity center on the Brenham Campus. This will make it easier to develop the remainder of the 15-acre site for future use. Mr. Toubin expressed concern about why it is necessary to hire the engineering firm to develop the remainder of the site at this time. He is not opposed to hiring the engineer, he is just curious as to the timing.

On a motion by Dr. Boehm, seconded by Mrs. Miller, the Board voted to authorize the administration to negotiate a professional services contract with O'Malley Engineers for the civil engineering design of the Kruse Center, as presented by the administration.

Mr. Toubin abstained from voting on this item.

ITEM 8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REVISE BOARD POLICY *CF (LOCAL): PURCHASING AND ACQUISITION*

Ms. Kelli Shomaker reviewed previous recommendation on this policy from the August 20, 2013, Board meeting, which was tabled. The Board Budget Committee met and is recommending the increase in unbudgeted purchases from \$20,000 to \$35,000. Mrs. Miller reviewed the budget committee's work and recommendation.

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, seconded by Mr. Lange, the Board voted to revise Board Policy *CF (LOCAL); Purchasing and Acquisition*, to increase unbudgeted purchases from \$20,000 to \$35,000, as presented by the administration.

ITEM 9: RECESS FOR CLOSED SESSION (AS AUTHORIZED BY *GOV'T. CODE, SEC. 551-101*).

There was no closed session held.

CLOSED SESSION:

- (A) Personnel Matters (*Gov't. Code*, Sec. 551.074)
 - i. Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of Public Employees or Officers
- (B) Real Property (*Gov't. Code*, Sec. 551.072)
 - i. Discussion of possible purchase, exchange or lease of real property in Brenham, Bryan, Schulenburg and Sealy

ITEM 10. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

None.


ACTION ITEMS:

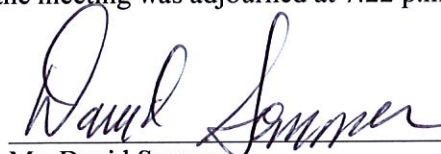
ITEM 11. ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

- (A) Review and Action on Faculty and Professional Staff Contracts
- (B) Review and Action to purchase, exchange or lease real property in Brenham, Bryan, Schulenburg and Sealy

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Sommer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.


 Mr. Douglas R. Borchardt
 President


 Mr. David Sommer
 Secretary