

Private property organizations look for eminent domain reform

The Lone Star State is rapidly expanding, sometimes using eminent domain to do so, leaving landowners looking for fair offers.

“Eminent domain cases may not pertain to you right now, but it could be your house, land or private property affected in the future,” said John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president.

It’s an issue the Texas State Senate Affairs Committee studied during the legislative interim. The charge focused on gathering and reviewing data “on the compensation provided to private property owners for property purchased or taken by entities with eminent domain authority. Examine the variance, if any, between the offers and the fair market values of properties taken through eminent domain. Make recommendations to ensure property owners are fairly compensated.”

Texas Farm Bureau and other private property rights organizations are gathering that information and working toward eminent domain reform in next year’s session.

John Ross Copeland noted the groups have compiled a survey to collect information on eminent domain takings.

“It’s a short survey that addresses the issue of fair compensation,” John Ross said. “We’d like landowners in Coke County and the surrounding area to share their stories regarding eminent domain. We can use that information to build a case for reform.”

The survey can be found at <http://bit.ly/EminentDomainSurvey>.

“Fair compensation is needed and should be the only option,” John Ross said. “Eminent domain reform is needed to ensure fair compensation, prevent lowball offers and limit expensive litigation.”

Robert Lee ISD Board meets in regular session

The Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees met in regular session Monday, July 18, 2016, at 12 noon at the school in Robert Lee. The meeting was called to order by President Washam.

Members present included Jeffie Roberts, Wes Washam, Beverly Sinclair, George Grim, Tom Sawyer and Irma Torres. Erin Oleksiuk was absent.

The Invocation and pledge were led by Beverly Sinclair.

George Grim made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2016, meeting. It was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All voted for.

Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the financial reports given by Robin Allen and to approve the bills. It was seconded by Beverly Sinclair. All voted for.

David O’Dell gave the high school report and Supt. Hood gave the elementary principals report.

Supt. Hood recommended approving the T-TESS Calendar

for 2016-2017 as presented. Tom Sawyer made the motion to approve the calendar, seconded by George Grim. All voted for.

Tom Sawyer made the motion to name Supt. Hood and David O’Dell District Appraisers for 2016-2017. The motion was seconded by Irma Torres. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended approving the RLISD Responsible Use Policy. Beverly Sinclair made the motion to approve the Policy as presented, seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended signing the MOU and Articulation Agreement with the University of Texas of the Permian Basin for dual credit. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve the agreement as presented, seconded by George Grim. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended accepting the bid of \$1,500 for purchase of Lot 15, Block 5, Edith Estates Addition, Coke County, Texas. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by George Grim. All voted for.

Budget Workshop for 2016-2017 budget was held.

Supt. Hood recommended a proposed tax rate for 2016-2017 of \$1.04 for M&O and .42 for I&S for a total proposed tax rate of \$1.46. Tom Sawyer made the motion to approve the proposed tax rate, seconded by Irma Torres. All voted for.

Supt. Hood presented the 2016-2017 ESC Contracts for approval. Beverly Sinclair made



Bronte Yard Winner! Marlene Vaughn was presented with the first quarterly “Yard of the Season” award. This award is sponsored by the Restoring Bronte Foundation, Crazy T Greenhouse, and Bronte Hardware Store. Shown with Mrs. Vaughn (center) are representatives of Bronte Hardware Store and Crazy T Greenhouse. The second quarterly award will be chosen on Tuesday, August 16, so get your yards ready!

a motion to approve the contracts as presented, seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All voted for.

Supt. Hood recommended signing the agreement Equalizing Wealth for the 2016-2017 school year based on Chapter 41 of Texas Education Code to purchase attendance credits. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Tom Sawyer. All voted for.

Supt. Hood gave his report on

summer maintenance update, special called meeting in August to set tax rate and adopt budget, elementary numbers, audit and myCollege Options report.

Supt. Hood read a resignation letter from Travis Dawson.

Supt. Hood recommended

hiring Monique Bilyeu and offering her a 10 month Probationary Contract. Irma Torres made the motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by George Grim. All voted for.

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You are Invited!

Town Hall

featuring representatives from

Doc’s Pharmacy

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

7 pm

Robert Lee School Cafetorium

Meet & Greet

Question & Answer Time

Refreshments & Door Prizes

For more information, contact


Debbie Childers (432) 528-8782.

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