

members present were Michael Bohensky, Lanette Fletcher, Gina McCutchen, and Jerita Taylor. Business Office Manager Fran Sonnenberg was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by President Bedford.

A quorum was established. The board reviewed the quote received for the general liability policy. Jerita Taylor moved that Option 1 with the higher limits be approved. Gina McCutchen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Gina McCutchen moved that the meeting adjourn. Michael Bohensky seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

**Notes from...**



**Labor Day 2021: Drive Sober. No Regrets.**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is partnering with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) through the statewide *Drive Sober. No Regrets.* impaired driving campaign. AgriLife Extension and TxDOT remind drivers when celebrating the Labor Day holiday to always plan for a sober ride home *before* they start drinking. Even one life lost is too many.

Remember: A designated driver is not someone who is the "least drunk," but should be a sober driver who has not consumed any amount of alcohol. Everyone celebrating Labor Day this year is responsible for making it one without regrets. Plan for a sober ride home by a friend or family member, rideshare service, or mass transit. Drivers under the influence of alcohol could face up to \$17,000 in fines and fees, jail time, and could lose their license.

In 2020, Texas had 958 people killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes where a driver was under the influence of alcohol. This is why AgriLife Extension is working to remind drivers that drunk driving is not only illegal, but also a matter of life and death.

"Labor Day should be a time for friends and family to come together to enjoy the last days of summer," said Milissa Wright, Health Agent for Coke, Concho, Menard and Sterling Counties. "We need commitment from our community members that they'll keep the streets free of drunk drivers so that everyone can have a safe holiday. This is a campaign to get the message out that drunk driving is illegal, and it takes lives. Help us put an end to this senseless behavior."

AgriLife Extension's *Watch UR BAC* program recommends these safe alternatives to drinking and driving:

- '22 Remember: It is never OK to drink and drive. Even after only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation - or use a ride sharing service to get home safely.
- '22 Report suspected impaired drivers by calling 911.
- '22 If a driver appears drunk, contact law enforcement

immediately.

- '22 Have a friend who is about to drink and drive? Take their keys away and make

arrangements to get them home safely.

For more information, contact: Jeffrey Pearce, Texas

A&M AgriLife Extension Jeffrey.Pearce@ag.tamu.edu. Service, *Watch UR BAC* Website: https:// program, by phone: www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/ 979.321.5333; or email: drunk-driving.

## NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.301163 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.301163 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.290582 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.301163 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2021 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT from the same properties in both the 2020 tax year and the 2021 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not proposing to increase property taxes for the 2021 year.

**A PUBLIC MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021, AT 5 PM at BRONTE HEALTH AND REHAB CENTER, 900 S. STATE STREET, BRONTE, TEXAS.**

The proposed tax rate is also not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT at their offices or by attending the public meeting mentioned above.

**YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:**

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

**FOR the proposal:** Lanette Fletcher, Gina McCutchen, Jerita Taylor, Michael Bohensky, Everett Bedford

**AGAINST the proposal:**

**ABSENT:**

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homesteaded by EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT this year.

Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	2020	2021	Change
	\$0.350057	\$0.301163	decrease of 0.048894
Average homestead taxable value	\$70,490	\$73,585	increase of \$3,115
Tax on average homestead	\$2,467.55	\$2,216.11	decrease of \$251.44
Total tax levy on all properties	\$544,876	\$553,024	increase of \$8148

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for EAST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT at (325) 453-2614 or [COKECOTAX@YAHOO.COM](mailto:COKECOTAX@YAHOO.COM).