

President's Report

August 2017

Legislation

The special session is in its last days. We are hopeful that if the property tax legislation does move forward an exception for small taxing entities that is currently in various bills will find its way to the final bill. Various versions exempt taxing entities below 10, 20, and 25 million in tax levy. Another bill will exempt all community colleges. Otherwise, it has been relatively quiet on the legislative side.

Other

It has been a busy month for staff. As you can see from the meeting agenda, we have several items for the board to consider. The roofing bid is through a state approved contractor but the amount exceeds \$50,000, it is for the Wagner building (computer center). The Hondo Lease is a renewal of our existing lease with City of Hondo no changes from previous lease.

TASB reviewed our policies and suggested we modify DEC (Local) to protect us from subjectively approving extensions in vacation leave. We request the board approve our request to automatically grant extension of 40 hours of unused vacation into the next fiscal year. The extension must be used before November 30th.

We also have three bids for the board to consider Depository Contract, Liability Insurance, and Security Firm Contract. Administration will review and make recommendations for the board to consider.

We are requesting the board adopt tuition and fees rates/policies for workforce training courses. We are not necessarily changing rates but formally adopting the rates we have been using. In particular, we need a formal mechanism to recoup cost through lab fee, sur charge on expensive workforce training courses.

Update on taxes:

We have included in your packet a detailed description of tax valuations. In short we saw increases in Uvalde and Real Counties; however, the decrease in Zavala County is greater and driving our district valuations down. Our effective tax rate is calculated at \$0.1652 per \$100 valuation, this is the rate that will generate the same amount of tax levy as last year.

We request the Board consider adopting the effective tax rate. Since we are not requesting a rate above the effective tax rate, we will not have to schedule any public hearings.

Interviews are still being conducted for the Business, Industrial, and Technology Division Chair – we will have a recommendation for the Board at the meeting.