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Scurry County Appraisal District



New Technology for District

The Board of Directors of the Appraisal District has approved the purchase of software to capture information and photos of homes and businesses using iPads. This will make the collection of data much more efficient and reduce the need for additional staff. Instead of using separate cameras and paper, all updates will be done on the iPad and uploaded directly to the computer system in Snyder.

Training on the new devices will begin this August.

Lower Oil Prices=Lower Values

The value of producing wells is developed by estimating the economically recoverable reserves, multiplying the reserves by a price dictated by legislation, and then discounting future income based on the value of time and money. As prices of oil and gas rise, the values of leases rise exponentially. The same happens when the prices decline. This year, the price of oil is forced down by the legislative formula 20% below last year's number. That reduces the price for calculation from $65.47 last year to $53.26 this year.

Scurry County production is older production with relatively high expenses to produce which further impacts the values. The company who does our values, Capitol Appraisal Group out of Austin, expects the total value of oil and gas to decline as much as 60%. County wide, this is a reduction of $775 million. For the county, that would mean an increase of the tax rate by 25% to raise the same taxes billed in 2025. More accurate estimates will be available by April and final certification will be completed in July.

Personal Property Gets New Exemption

Business Personal Property accounts are being impacted in 2026 by new legislation and the constitutional amendment that allows a $125,000 exemption on a business personal property account. 556 of the 682 (L1 Commercial) BPP accounts in Scurry CAD will be totally exempted amounting to a loss of value of $12,847,581. The remaining 126 accounts will receive the exemption amount reducing the taxable value by an additional $15,750,000. The total loss of L1 accounts is anticipated to be $28,597,581.

Category L2 properties are Business Personal Property industrial accounts. There are 625 of those accounts of which 399 are below $125,000 resulting in a loss of value of $11,069,389. The remaining 226 accounts will have the exemption applied reducing taxable value another $28,250,000. The total loss to this exemption is anticipated to be approximately $39,319,389.

The total loss of value to this new exemption is expected to be $68,000,000

Scurry CAD Continues Search for New Chief Appraiser

The Board of Directors of the Scurry County Appraisal District are still searching for the right fit to take the helm at the appraisal district.

Richard Petree, former chief in Taylor County, has been the interim chief for several months and will continue until a replacement is found.

"It is hard to find qualified persons for this job. It is a difficult job that not only requires a license, but many different talents. Dealing with taxpayers, tax units, and the State Comptroller are all challenging aspects of the job," said Petree. "We hope to get a satisfactory candidate by fall when the new appraisal cycle begins."

Dalinda Long Elevated to Deputy Chief Appraiser of Administration

Dalinda Long, long-time employee of the appraisal district has been promoted to Deputy Chief Appraiser by Interim Richard Petree. Mr. Petree is normally in the office only one or two days weekly, and Mrs. Long manages the office in his absence.

"Dalinda has many excellent ideas for improving the operations of the office and ensuring that we provide the best customer service to our constituents," said Petree.

She obtained her Batchelor's degree from Lubbock Christian University in Organizational Management in 2001 from Lubbock Christian University, with years of workplace experience in human resources, business management, accounting and banking. Early college years were spent studying pre-pharmacy. Additionally, she was employed as Adjunct Faculty for 6 years at WTC teaching computer classes on-campus and the affiliated Windham School District in surrounding prison units.

She considers her faith and family as her most treasured assets. She gives credit to her father and mother, Gary and Kathryn Roberts, and brother Dr. Stockton Roberts for the drive to never stop learning and growing. Blessed with a loving husband, Blaine, two thriving children and their families, Shannon & Chad Brown and Bryce & Kristen Roberts, she considers her life full, especially with her amazing grandchildren, Maeci, Aedyn, Madi and Tye added to her life.

2024 Audit Finalized

The financial audit was completed and presented to the Board of Directors in their December meeting. The audit was described as a "clean audit" by the auditor, Roberts & McGee of Abilene.

The fund balance of income over expenses for the year was $79,250. The Board voted to retain the surplus for the ongoing litigation.

Housing Values Likely to Increase

Sales data for single family homes is indicating that the appraisal district will need to increase those values slightly. The State Comptroller will be doing a Property Value Study on schools in Scurry County on the 2026 values so it is important to be sure the values are within the required levels of appraisal.

State law mandates that overall ratios be at 95% of market value for schools to receive full funding. That means that the state will look at recent sales and see if the composite ratio is 95% or more. Internal studies indicate that the district is currently at 89%.

The district will continue to monitor data through March before making final decisions of value changes. Homeowners are protected from increases of greater than 10% and over-65 and disabled persons have their taxes frozen so that the value change doesn't impact them.

Notices will be mailed to property owners about April 15. Owners who feel that the proposed value exceeds what their property would sell for may file a protest.