

**Tarrant Appraisal District
Board of Directors Called Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2023**

This meeting was conducted "in person" and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act as written in statute and was broadcast live on Facebook. A quorum of the members of the Board attended in person at TAD offices.

These minutes are a summary of the only subjects the board addressed and the actions it took. For details, see the Agenda & Video posted on TAD's website at this URL: <https://www.tad.org/board-of-directors> and Video Recording posted at: <https://www.facebook.com/TarrantAD>

Members Present:

Ms. Wendy Burgess, Tax Assessor Collector
Mr. Rich DeOtte, Secretary
Mr. Jungus Jordan
Mr. J.R. Martinez
Mr. Tony Pompa, Chairman
Mr. Vince Puente

Also Participating:

Mr. Matthew Tepper, TAD Attorney

Chair Pompa called the meeting to order at 9:04am and verified a quorum was present. The notice was posted timely. After pledges and the Invocation, the Board took up the following agenda items:

5. Recognize Visitors; Hear Public Comments

Seven members of the public spoke.

6. Recess into executive session pursuant to the following part(s) of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code Ch. 551, for the following purposes:

At 9:29am, the Board recessed into Executive Session as provided in Item 6 of the Agenda.

Section 551.074 – Deliberation on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee related to the appointment of an interim chief appraiser.

Section 551.074 – Deliberation on the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee related to the search for a permanent chief appraiser.

Section 551.071 – Deliberation on a matter in which the Board of Directors seeks the advice of its attorney about contemplated litigation in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Open Meetings Act, related to statements made by Tarrant Appraisal District's former director of Information Services regarding the Tarrant Appraisal District's information systems.

At 12:03pm, the Board returned to Open Session as provided in Item 7 of the Agenda.

7. Return to Open Session

- a. The appointment of an interim chief appraiser;
Mr. DeOtte moved to appoint William Durham as the interim chief appraiser with salary the same as the previous chief appraiser but all other benefits Mr. Durham holds remain the same. Mr. Martinez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. The search for a permanent chief appraiser and;
Mr. DeOtte moved to appoint the law firm of Matthew Tepper, MVBA, to help the board find appraisal executive recruiting firms to review for contracting services at a proposed called meeting October 2nd or October 12th. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Statements made by Tarrant Appraisal District's former director of information services regarding Tarrant Appraisal District's information systems.
Mr. DeOtte moved to authorize Matthew Tepper's legal firm, MVBA, to bring a report from a DIR approved IT forensics firm showing whether there was a breach and a possible scope of work for a possible full-fledged audit of the information systems. Mr. Martinez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Action Item

- a. In light of the circumstances that have occurred since our last meeting to have a discussion of a Vote of Confidence, or similar vote, of the immediate past Chief Appraiser, Jeff Law.
Mr. Puente moved for a vote of no confidence in Jeff Law and Mr. DeOtte seconded. Mr. Jordan made a substitute motion to accept and acknowledge the resignation of Jeff Law, former Chief Appraiser of the Tarrant Appraisal District (TAD), as this is essential to begin to restore the public trust and confidence in the TAD organization and the fulfillment of it's mission. Mr. Martinez seconded. This motion passed unanimously. The initial motion of no confidence in former Chief Appraiser Jeff Law was again offered by Mr. Puente and seconded by Mr. DeOtte. Mr. DeOtte and Mr. Puente voted for the motion while Mr. Jordan, Mr. Pompa, and Mr. Martinez abstained. The motion passed 2-0.
- b. Discussion and possible action on the protocol to be followed when the Board of Directors needs to communicate with the public and/or the media outside of an Open Meeting.
The Board determined that the status quo of the Chair speaking to media, and through the communications consultant, on behalf of the board was sufficient and in the event that the Chair was unavailable, the Chair delegates that authority to the Secretary. Therefore, no action was taken regarding this item.

9. Propose future agenda items; Set Next Meeting Date; Adjourn

The only proposed future item was under 7(b) for the proposed called October 2nd meeting at 9:30am. The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 pm.



Tony Pompa, Chairman