

LISD officials report about budget, enrollment

Sheriff's deputy resigns

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would have been raised as they had not gone up in a few years.

"We projected pretty conservatively on future years going out as far as the rise in property values," Jones said. "This time, [property values] came in quite a bit higher than what any of us anticipated."

The LISD spent \$336,000 less in plant maintenance than was budgeted for 2016-2017, and that line item marked one of the biggest changes in the 2017-2018 budget. Because plant maintenance expenses ended the year at \$4.49 million instead of the \$4.83 million budgeted, trustees cut the 2017-2018 fiscal year's plant maintenance to

approximately \$4.46 million. Plant maintenance represents about 15 percent of the budget for the new year. Instruction expenses are the district's top expenditure, accounting for 50 percent of the 2017-2018 budget at \$15.16 million – an increase from last year's \$14.92 million. The third-highest expenditure in the

proposed budget is student transportation, accounting for \$2.2 million – up approximately \$135,000 from last year's actual amount. Transportation remains about 7 percent of the district's annual budget. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, no major facilities acquisition or construction costs are budgeted, whereas last year's expense

was \$313,825, or 1 percent of the total budget. Nearly every other expenditure is in line with what was spent the previous year. In other matters, Superintendent Dr. Chane Rascoe reported attendance was still climbing after the first week of school, bringing enrollment to 3,336 students.

incident. Jones had worked with the sheriff's department since Oct. 20, 2015. Prior to that, he worked for the Lampasas Police Department from Jan. 3, 2012 to Oct. 20, 2015, Chief of Police Sammy Bailey said.

Commissioners Court proposes tax increase

BY DAVID LOWE
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lampasas County Commissioners Court voted unanimously Monday to set the 2017-2018 proposed tax rate at 69.769 cents per \$100 property valuation.

The rate is 2.88 cents higher per \$100 valuation than the current levy. The change results from an increase in the interest and sinking tax rate, also called the debt service rate, to fund construction of a new law enforcement center that will include a jail and sheriff's office facility. The I&S rate is rising 3.88 cents per \$100, but the maintenance and operations tax rate is set to decrease one cent per \$100 in the upcoming fiscal year.

Public hearings about the proposed tax rate will be Thursday at 6 p.m. and Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. Both hearings will be in the county annex conference room at 409 S. Pecan St.

In other business, the court voted unanimously to:

- approve the purchase of an excavator through a five-year, \$150,000 capital lease. County Auditor Chris Munn said with interest included, the payment will be about

\$32,000 per year.

- pay Hilbig Services Inc. an additional \$5,070 for insulation work in the county courthouse.

In July, the court voted to pay the San Antonio-area company \$36,000 to reinsulate the chill water lines in the courthouse to stop condensation problems and leaks. County Judge Wayne Boultinghouse said the additional \$5,070 is because Hilbig found the plenum air-flow boxes on all four sides of the district courtroom were completely uninsulated.

- make no changes to sheriff's and constable's fees in 2018.

- approve the deletion of sprinkler heads in the inmate holding and housing areas of the new jail to be built off Barnes Street. Sheriff Jess Ramos said he received a letter that confirms the state jail commission has approved the request not to have sprinkler heads in inmate areas.

On another matter, the Commissioners Court discussed but took no action on former Precinct 3 Commissioner Lowell Ivey's request to lower the speed limit on County Road 2636. Ivey, who owns property along the approximately 0.3-mile

dead-end road north of Lometa, requested a speed limit of 20 mph. The current limit is 45 mph, but Ivey said he has safety concerns on the road.

To set a speed limit lower than 30 mph, the county will need a traffic survey and engineering survey, Precinct 3 Commissioner Lewis Bridges said.

The court plans to wait until additional research can be done.

Also at Monday's meeting, District 54 State Rep. Scott Cosper asked for Boultinghouse to file a friend-of-the-court briefing if necessary to advocate for Lampasas County's interests in relation to redistricting.

A three-judge panel in San Antonio ruled last week that nine Texas House districts, including District 54, were drawn with "intentional discrimination" against minority voters. As a result, the panel called for newly configured district boundaries.

Cosper, a Republican from Killen, said Lampasas County has significant influence in District 54, and he said he does not want a new plan put in place that would put the county in a district in which it would have little clout.

During the public comment portion of Monday's meeting, Lampasas attorney Richard Hammett asked the Commissioners Court to approve a court coordinator position that 27th District Court Judge John Gauntt has requested be funded in the upcoming fiscal year.

Hammett said he knows the expense is an issue, but he said with the increased caseload the district court is handling, it would be a good time to create a court coordinator position.

Hammett said he believes a coordinator would help the court system run better "and over the long haul will probably aid the county in collections and things like that that are related to the various cases that are presented in the district court."

He also suggested informal mediation if there are disagreements between the Commissioners Court and the district judge about court coordinator compensation.

The Commissioners Court typically holds two meetings per month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Sept. 11 at 9 a.m. in the first-floor courtroom in the county courthouse.



CHERI JAWWIENECKE | DISPATCH RECORD

Enjoying watermelon social

Harper Evans, left, and Morgan Myers sample the produce at a watermelon social held during a football scrimmage last Friday in Lometa. The Hornets kick off their varsity regular season today at 7:30 p.m. when they host Mullin.

County Treasurer

Republican Candidate
Sharon Watson
Paid for by Sharon Watson.

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Primary Election: March 6, 2018

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Meal provides respite for Harvey evacuees

FROM PAGE A4

enjoyed the scenery in Lampasas and has felt very welcomed in his first visit to the city.

He said the post-hurricane images he has seen from Aransas Pass show extensive destruction -- with businesses damaged, boats sunk in the harbor, fences torn down and vehicle parts strewn all over the place.

"It's going to take years to recover, if ever," he said.

Katy resident Rhonda Wilson also stopped at First Presbyterian for a meal with her husband, Jimmie, who has been working in San Saba for a few months. Mrs. Wilson left last Thursday from Katy, where she lives on the first floor of

an apartment complex.

Mrs. Wilson said the Inn at Lampasas, where she and her husband have been staying, had many hurricane evacuees from Victoria and Rockport -- near where Hurricane Harvey made landfall.

She said hotel staff encouraged her and her husband to partake of the free spaghetti meal, which she said they appreciated very much.

"It's very welcoming," Mrs. Wilson said.

An extended family that left Brazoria County to avoid flooding also said they appreciate Lampasas' generosity.

"Stuff like this helps us tremendously -- really it does," Nancy Gibson said as

she and her husband ate at First Presbyterian with two of their daughters and several of their grandchildren.

As Harvey approached, the Gibsons and their daughters' families left their homes early last Thursday morning to head for Lampasas County, where they have many relatives.

The coastal residents have been staying at Best Western Plus, which they said has helped hurricane evacuees with free children's snacks, a taco dinner on Tuesday and information about financial assistance for lodging through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"They are being fantastic," the Gibsons' daughter Amy Baird said.

CORRECTION

A Kempner City Council story in the Aug. 25 edition contained incorrect information about Kempner's proposed budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The reference to hours for police officers should have stated that as of Oct. 1, 2017,

the two part-time officers will become full-time officers.

Also, Kempner is seeking to add a reserve officer -- an unpaid position.

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NOTICE OF 2017 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR LAMPASAS COUNTY

A tax rate of \$0.697690 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption by the governing body of Lampasas County. This rate exceeds the lower of the effective or rollback tax rate, and state law requires that two public hearings be held by the governing body before adopting the proposed tax rate.

The governing body of Lampasas County proposes to use revenue attributable to the tax rate increase for the purpose of funding for Lampasas County.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.697690 per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE	\$0.668890 per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$0.620536 per \$100
ROLLBACK TAX RATE	\$0.740490 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Lampasas County from the same properties in both the 2016 tax year and the 2017 tax year.

The rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate that Lampasas County may adopt before voters are entitled to petition for an election to limit the rate that may be approved to the rollback rate.

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

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

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

Melissa Gonzales
Chief Appraiser
109 East Fifth Street Lampasas TX 76550
512-556-8058
lampasascad.org

You are urged to attend and express your views at the following public hearings on the proposed tax rate:

First Hearing: September 7, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Lampasas County Conference Room, 409 South Pecan, 1st Floor, Lampasas TX.

Second Hearing: September 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Lampasas County Conference Room, 409 South Pecan, 1st Floor, Lampasas TX.

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