

News Release  
Richard Petree, Interim Chief Appraiser  
Bee County Appraisal District

The Bee County Appraisal District and Beeville Independent School District recently received disturbing news from the Property Value Study completed by the State Comptroller. The Beeville ISD area of the report indicated that commercial and utility properties were considerably undervalued and that the overall values of the appraisal district did not comply with state standards. State law requires that appraised values of properties be within 5% of sales prices.

The school district is appealing the results of the study, but if the attorneys hired are not successful, over \$700,000 in state funds will be lost in the 22-23 school year. Even if the attorneys are successful, the cost of their service is substantial. The Board Members of the school questioned Petree about who is going to pay for those services. Petree told them that typically the schools pay, but board members were not happy with having to pay for a mistake done by the appraisal district. The appraisals are actually done by, through a service contract, Pritchard and Abbott, a statewide appraisal company.

Richard Petree, Interim Chief Appraiser since October, 2021, spoke to the Beeville ISD school board Thursday night to update them on the issues. He said "We are obviously very disappointed about the results of the study and will cooperate fully with the attorneys for the school in the appeal. I have hope that enough changes can be made to get the school back into compliance."

Petree continued, "I will be personally working on the commercial property issues to get those accounts properly assessed for 2022. Additionally, we continue to see upward movement in all types of residential property throughout the state. More and more people are moving to Texas daily, putting pressure on the supply of homes. The low supply of homes and the low interest rates continue to drive up prices, even in the smaller towns of rural Texas."

Taxpayers will be mailed notices of value in May of this year if their value is increased, and they will have the opportunity to visit with an appraiser about their value, and if not able to agree, can move on to the Appraisal Review Board, an independent group of local people who listen to evidence and make a decision on the value.

For additional questions or comment, please contact Richard Petree, 325-829-0614