

Coryell residents outraged about appraisal increases

By Jacqueline Brown
Killeen Daily Herald

GATESVILLE - The board of directors for the Coryell County Appraisal District didn't have to go outside Thursday to feel the heat.

The group spent the first hour of its regular meeting addressing concerns from residents whose property values have increased significantly over the past two years.

"We're not looking to sell, we're looking to live," said Carol Mathews, who lives north of Copperas Cove.

Mathews said she paid \$8,000 for four lots in 2004 and the same properties were appraised at more than \$12,000 each this year.

Gatesville resident Dick Butler said he thinks the appraisal district has a problem with its methodology.

"I would expect some problems considering the complexity of the appraisal process," Butler said, but with the magnitude of complaints, he thinks there has been some mistake.

Board Chairman Annabelle Smith said the appraisal increases are necessary to bring the county in line with state standards.

Smith said the district operated under one chief appraiser for 22 years. During that time, the appraised values were consistently lower than market values.

When Chief Appraiser Jerry Hogg came on board, the appraisal district was under the threat of being taken over by the state comptroller's office.

"We were fortunate to get somebody of Jerry's experience and background," Smith said in an interview before the meeting. "He hit the ground running, and he's been working himself to death for one solid year to bring our property values in line."

Nonetheless, some Coryell County residents are saying they'll do whatever it takes to have the 2006 appraisal increases repealed.

About 500 residents met at McKamie Stadium in Gatesville last week to discuss property taxes, and the group is planning to meet again if changes aren't made.

Contact Jacqueline Brown at jacqueb@kdhnews.com

http://us.f815.mail.yahoo.com/ym/ShowLetter?box=Inbox&MsgId=7920_99319485_8950... 6/16/2006

Coryell residents outraged about appraisal increases

By Jacqueline Brown
Killeen Daily Herald

GATESVILLE - The board of directors for the Coryell County Appraisal District didn't have to go outside Thursday to feel the heat.

The group spent the first hour of its regular meeting addressing concerns from residents whose property values have increased significantly over the past two years.

"We're not looking to sell, we're looking to live," said Carol Mathews, who lives north of Copperas Cove.

Mathews said she paid \$8,000 for four lots in 2004 and the same properties were appraised at more than \$12,000 each this year.

Gatesville resident Dick Butler said he thinks the appraisal district has a problem with its methodology.

"I would expect some problems considering the complexity of the appraisal process," Butler said, but with the magnitude of complaints, he thinks there has been some mistake.

Board Chairman Annabelle Smith said the appraisal increases are necessary to bring the county in line with state standards.

Smith said the district operated under one chief appraiser for 22 years. During that time, the appraised values were consistently lower than market values.

When Chief Appraiser Jerry Hogg came on board, the appraisal district was under the threat of being taken over by the state comptroller's office.

"We were fortunate to get somebody of Jerry's experience and background," Smith said in an interview before the meeting. "He hit the ground running, and he's been working himself to death for one solid year to bring our property values in line."

Nonetheless, some Coryell County residents are saying they'll do whatever it takes to have the 2006 appraisal increases repealed.

About 500 residents met at McKamie Stadium in Gatesville last week to discuss property taxes, and the group is planning to meet again if changes aren't made.

Contact Jacqueline Brown at jacqueb@kdhnews.com

http://us.f815.mail.yahoo.com/ym/ShowLetter?box=Inbox&MsgId=7920_99319485_8950... 6/16/2006