



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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The Woodlands Township holds Board meeting, adopts budget, sets tax rate

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (August 26, 2013) – The Woodlands Township Board of Directors held its regularly scheduled Board meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at The Woodlands Township Town Hall, 2801 Technology Forest Blvd, at 9 a.m., and one of the key decisions was dropping the tax rate less than 30 cents per \$100 of taxable property value.

After two months of a rigorous Budget process that included several public meetings, hearings and a Town Hall Meeting, The Woodlands Township Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt the 2014 budget and set the tax rate at 29.40 cents per \$100 of taxable property value, which is 2.33 cents less than the current tax rate of 31.73 cents.

The Board adopted and set by Order The Woodlands Township 2013 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.2703 on each \$100 of taxable property value within the Township for maintenance and operations, and adopted and set by Order The Woodlands Township 2013 ad valorem tax rate of \$0.0237 on each \$100 of taxable property value within the Township for debt service. These numbers equal the total rate of 29.40.

Assistant General Manager of Finance and Administration Monique Sharp presented an overview of the budget and explained how the rate has consistently decreased since the Township began collecting taxes, and how differently the Township is able to operate due to the excellent economic conditions in The Woodlands. The Township is less dependent on property taxes than most communities and benefits greatly from sales and hotel taxes, she said. To view an overview of the budget, as well as the complete budget, please visit the Budget section of the Township Web site.

“I want to thank my fellow Directors and professional staff for their hard work and commitment in approving another exemplary budget that not only includes enhanced services to the residents but pays off \$14.3 million in bond indebtedness resulting in interest savings of \$5.6 million and lowering our property tax for the fourth consecutive year,” said Bruce Tough, Chairman of the Board. “The Woodlands is the best planned and maintained community in the country. The Woodlands Township is committed to its residents and businesses in creating a community that enhances quality of life while increasing overall value.”

During the meeting, the Board also approved **consent agenda** items, which included:

- Accepted a Debt Service Excess Tax Collections Report for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, as certified by the Montgomery County Tax Assessor and Collector;
- Accepted a 2013-2014 Anticipated Debt Service Collection Rate report as certified by the Montgomery County Tax Assessor and Collector;
- Adopted a resolution incorporating revisions to election policies in connection with contracting with Harris County for joint election services;



- Approved a drainage easement at Alden Bridge Park with Woodlands Oaks Church of Christ;
- Awarded a bid for uniform services;
- Approved a Venue Sponsorship Agreement with YMCA for the Dragon Boat Race Team Challenge;
- Approved providing notice of publication of proposed policy statement to meet the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 transit related requirements;
- Approved providing notice of publication for proposed policy statement to meet the US Department of Transportation 49 CFR Part 26 DBE requirements;
- Approved staffing changes included in the 2014 Budget for the Finance and Information Technology departments effective September 1, 2013;
- Appointed a Township representative to serve on the South Montgomery County Mobility Plan steering committee;

The Board considered and acted on the following **regular agenda** items:

- Awarded a bid for an electronic messaging trailer;
- Convened and conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed 2014 Consolidated Budget and proposed 2013 ad valorem tax rate for The Woodlands Township;
- Adopted The Woodlands Township 2014 Consolidated Budget;
- Adopted Resolution No. 014-13 Establishing Guidelines for Operating, Capital Replacement and Economic Development Reserves in conjunction with the 2014 budget;
- Received an update from Houston-Galveston Area Council regarding The Woodlands Township Transit Plan study and South Montgomery County Mobility Plan study;
- Approved providing concurrence with The Brazos Transit District regarding a change to contract bus providers for the park and ride facilities located in The Woodlands Township;
- Approved a letter of support for The Brazos Transit District to consider a fare increase for park and ride operations;
- Received a briefing regarding a September hearing by the Conroe/The Woodlands UZA to consider a demand-response proposal;
- Renewed the Park and Pathway Maintenance Service Agreement;



- Received an update from the Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee. There was no report.

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors also honored heroic and outstanding efforts of its lifeguards at the meeting. During the lifeguard recognition, Chairman Bruce Tough recognized several of the Township's award-winning lifeguards as well as the team that performed a recent save at Sawmill Pool that included Luke Falcon, Austin Emery, Jade Brown, Sarah Cruthirds and Connor Gallagher.

"We are so very proud of you and thank you so much," Chairman Tough said as he addressed the group.

A number of Woodlands Township lifeguards recently attended three competitions, bringing home a variety of top place finishes. At the North Texas Guard Games, a regional competition designed to challenge area lifeguards in the skills they need every day, a Township team finished in first place out of 30 competing teams. The competition included spinal victim rescue, passive victim rescue, CPR and first aid. The first place team consisted of Cody Due, Zack Makiewicz, Caroline Pierce and Paige Oliver.

The winning continued as Township teams took first and third place at the Texas Superguard Competition. The first place team consisted of Ana Forero, Cole Pilgrim, Kelsey Hull and Cody Due. The third place team consisted of Andrew Novak, Elyssa Johnson, Cody Gambino and Amanda Van Cleve. In addition, Cranebrook Lifeguard Chris Carr placed first overall for male competitors.

And finally, at the Texas Guard Shootout, Township teams finished in first and third place out of 12 teams competing. The first place team consisted of Jason Duance, Jackson Greenwade, Emilie Lostraco and Catherine Laughlin. The third place team consisted of Dustin Bassett, Kurt Doerries, Mary Margavio and Taylor Moss. Photos of the Township Board with some of the lifeguards follow.

The following items will be considered at next week's meeting:

- Receive, consider and act upon an update regarding traffic impacts to The Woodlands Township as a result of the San Jacinto River Authority construction plans for the Groundwater Reduction Plan;
- Receive, consider and act upon Request for Proposals to license the Township's Race events: Muddy Trails, Triathlon, and 10 for Texas;
- Receive, consider and act upon review of design and cost for renovation of Fire Station #2.

Please check the Board Meeting Information page (<http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/index.aspx?NID=585>) for links to agendas, minutes, public meeting documents, videos and reports.

For the latest news and information on The Woodlands Township government, please call 281-210-3800 or visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

PHOTOS FOLLOW:



PHOTO 1: The Board of Directors recognized Woodlands Township Lifeguards, Luke Falcon, center, Jade Brown, left, and Sarah Cruthirds, right, for their recent success in saving the life of a young swimmer at Sawmill pool. Township Board members, left to right, are Peggy Hausman, Ed Robb, Mike Bass, Gordy Bunch, Bruce Tough and Jeff Long.



PHOTO 2: The Board of Directors recognized The Woodlands Township Lifeguards for their achievement at local and state lifeguard competitions. Pictured, left to right, kneeling, are Chris Carr, Kurt Doerries, Jason Duance; standing, left to right, are Cody Gambino, Paige Oliver and Caroline Pierce. Board



members, left to right, are Ed Robb, Peggy Hausman, Mike Bass, Gordy Bunch, Bruce Tough and Jeff Long.

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PHOTO 3: Miss Texas Junior Miss Jody McDowell helped lead the pledge of allegiance at the August 22, 2013, Board of Directors meeting. She is pictured here, center, with The Woodlands Township Board of Directors, left to right, Gordy Bunch, Ed Robb, Peggy Hausman, Bruce Tough, Jeff Long and Mike Bass.

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