

**MINUTES of the Special Board Meeting**  
of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of VICTORIA COLLEGE  
**August 12, 2024**

V. Bland Proctor, <i>Chair</i>	Luis A. Guerra, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	John Zacek, <i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Daniel Cano	Catherine McHaney	Dr. Josie Rivera	Ron Walker
√	√	√	√	√	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

**Also in attendance:** VC Staff: Dr. Jennifer Kent, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Keith Blundell, Terri Kurtz, Dr. Marisa Pierce, Matt Wiley, Amy Mundy, Darin Kazmir, Matt Wiley, Cindy Buchholz and NewsCenter 25 Reporter.

The Victoria College Board of Trustees met for a special board meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 4:00 PM in Corporate Training Room 101 in the Academic Building of Victoria College located at 2200 E. Red River, Victoria, TX. Mr. Bland Proctor, Chair, presided over the meeting.

**A. Call to Order:**

**1. Quorum Call:**

Mr. Bland Proctor called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and announced that a quorum of board members was present.

**2. Certification of the Posting of the Notice of the Agenda**

Dr. Jennifer Kent certified that the agenda had been properly posted per Texas statute also in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 and 551.127 of the Texas Government Code.

**B. Citizen Communication:**

**1. At this time, the public is invited to address the Board of Trustees.**

No members of the public spoke to the Board

**2. Public Hearing on the Victoria College 2024 Tax Rate.**

Mr. Bland Proctor, Board Chair, called the public hearing open at 4:02PM. He asked if there was anyone in the gallery that wished to address the board on this matter. No one stepped forward. Mr. Bland Proctor closed the public hearing at 4:03PM

**C. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**1. CONSIDER Proposed 2024-25 Operating Budget**

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He shared with the board that the attached is the proposed budget summary that was presented and discussed in the Board Workshop on August 5th. The total budget increased \$147,000 or 0.41%. State Appropriations increased \$292,000. There were changes to the required tuition and fee rates, which was approved in March. As a result, there is a decrease in tuition and fee revenues of \$159,000. In this budget the pay scale includes a step increase of 1.5% with a 2% cost of living increase. After netting added employees, retirements and terminations, the cost of salaries increased \$657,000. The Board is recommending the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.1709/\$100 which would be a \$0.0013 decrease in the tax rate (0.75%). The college's 1999 revenue bonds of \$6 million matured in August 2019. The college will continue to fund the annual payment of \$442,000 into the project fund until the time comes to re-issue the revenue bonds for a future project. The college will continue to fund the required debt service

for the new \$10,000,000 tax obligation bond. There was an increase in property tax revenues of \$558,000. The cost of health insurance decreased \$14,000. Fiscal impact: \$36,058,288. Mr. Luis Guerra moved to accept the budget as presented, he stated that he moved to accept the proposed 2024-25 Operating Budget as presented. He shared that this budget would raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$667,848 which is a 4.33 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$164,423. Mrs. Catherine McHaney seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **2. CONSIDER Proposed College Tax Rate for 2024**

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He reminded the board that in July, they approved Ashley Hernandez to calculate the no-new-revenue rate (NNR) and voter-approval rate (VAR) for the college. The appraisals were completed by the VCAD and Ms. Hernandez has performed those calculations.

The taxable values increased by 4.51%. New improvements are exempted from the NNR calculation and were at \$96,210,132. The NNR assessment of \$0.1648 per \$100 valuation would generate \$541,626 less than what has been budgeted. The proposed rate of \$0.1709 per \$100 valuation would generate \$7,336 more than the proposed budget. The voter-approval rate of \$0.1769 per \$100 valuation would generate \$547,298 more than the proposed budget.

The proposed rate of \$0.1709 per \$100 valuation is a 0.75% decrease from the prior year. The Debt Service rate includes the second payment on the new \$10 million tax bond issue and the college applied \$200,000 from its reserves to reduce the amount required for the new bond payment. During the bond presentations the goal was to keep the Debt Service rate below \$0.0341 per \$100 valuation for the first three years. The new Debt Service rate would decrease to \$0.0285 per \$100 valuation, which is a below the goal of \$.0341 per \$100 valuation. Instead of staying flat or slightly increasing, the new Debt Service rate decreased by 3.63%.

He reminded that board that they voted to propose a tax rate of \$0.1709 at their meeting on August 05, 2024. Since this rate is higher than the NNR and less than the VAR, the Board is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed tax rate which was held at the very beginning of this meeting. The Board can now adopt the tax rate. Mr. John Zacek stated that he would like to recommend approval for the proposed tax rate of \$0.1709 cents per \$100 valuation. He shared that this tax rate would raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. Mr. Luis Guerra seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by all board members present raising their right hand and saying "aye".

## **3. CONSIDER Purchase of Commercial Property, General Liability and Automobile Insurance**

Mr. Keith Blundell presented. He shared with the board that the current insurance policy, with the initial term of one year plus two additional one-year policy extensions, will expire on August 31, 2024. The rising cost of insurance may be stabilizing so this will be a single year bid only. The insurance will be bid out again in the Summer of 2025 with the hope of seeing some decrease in costs.

He is recommending the award to Property Casualty Alliance of Texas, Acrisure Texas Risk Advisors & Insurance Services, LLC in partnership with Carlisle Insurance, Agent. **Fiscal Impact:** \$1,114,826.00

Mrs. Catherine McHaney moved to accept the purchase as presented. Dr. Daniel Cano seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Executive Session is called under authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act, and in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, to discuss personnel matters; to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee


At this time, Mr. Bland Proctor called the board meeting into closed executive session at 417PM. Dr. Jennifer Kent was in attendance. The board came out of closed executive session at 450PM.

5. **CONSIDER Nomination for Appointment to Victoria College Board of Trustee,  
District 1 Position**

Mrs. Catherine McHaney recommended Dr. Estella De Los Santos for appointment to the Board of Trustee, District 1 Position. Dr. Daniel Cano seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Estella De Los Santos will be invited to the next regular board meeting scheduled for September 16, 2024 to take her oath.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.

  
Bland Proctor, Chair

  
John Zacek, Secretary