

The Commissioners had an emergency meeting on May 19, 2014, while I was on vacation, to ask for additional funds to spend on the annex construction. On my behalf Nigel Christopher asked the Court to suspend the remodel of the annex until the effect of the Luminant bankruptcy filing could be evaluated. Carl Johnson, County Auditor, replied to Nigel's request by stating that the County had lost \$450,000 in tax revenue from Luminant and the Commissioners had handled the loss by being conservative. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** The Commissioners have increased the tax rate by 22.47% in the past 3 years for more tax dollars to cover the loss.

Luminant Valuations	County Tax Rate	Percent Increase	Amount of all taxes Collected
2010 910,661,500	34830	2.74	9,815,170
2011 800,000,000	38720	11.16	10,709,024
2012 580,000,000	39990	3.28	9,879,826
2013 459,982,000	41520	3.82	9,558,799*

* year not completed. There will be more taxes collected.

Next Monday and Tuesday, July 21st & 22nd, the Commissioner's Court will be having meetings to discuss the 2015 Budget. These meetings are scheduled for 8:30 AM when most taxpayers are working. Last year at the Budget Meetings, the Courtroom was filled with County employees to protect their much above average benefits and wages. Some County offices were closed so the employees could attend while on the clock and being paid by the taxpayers.

The Commissioners will not have these meetings in the evening when the taxpayers could attend these budget meetings. The current Commissioners Court has no history of ever cutting spending.


Al Riddle

Commissioner, Precinct 1
Titus County, Texas