

August 19, 2015

Dear Titus County Tax Payer,

Be forewarned, your property taxes are going up for 2016 by each taxing entity in Titus County.

Beginning in 2011 Luminant property values began declining. The County collected tax receipts of \$9,650,462.27 for 2010, \$10,342,253.03 for 2011, \$9,742,745.31 for 2012, \$9,408,608.41 for 2013 and have collected \$9,263,018.60 so far for 2014. It is approximately the same amount of money each year because the Property Tax Rate has been increased by your Commissioners to cover the loss of revenue from Luminant. The County Commissioners will tell you that they have reduced the budget! The facts are, spending by the County has not changed, but the County Commissioners have raised your property tax rate by 20% to retain the same amount of tax receipts.

Commissioners Court discusses increasing taxes, but there's NO discussion of cutting spending.

I recommended some potential expense cuts that were ignored by Commissioners Court:

- 1) Eliminate a few jobs that will have little impact on County functioning:
 1. Election Administrator
 2. Full-time DPS clerk
 3. Business Manager
 4. County Investigator
 5. County Veterans Services Administrator
- 2) Remove auto-allowances of elected officials and replace with actual usage reimbursement. This will save approximately \$75,000/year!

Because Titus County has a loss of Tax Receipts, Commissioners Court has the responsibility to reduce spending. Commissioners Court has never done this since the decline in Luminant Revenue. They merely keep raising your tax rate to retain the same amount of revenue. I do not believe it is fair that Taxpayers be the only ones to bear the burden.

Precinct 2:	Mike Fields	903-563-9292
Precinct 3:	Phillip Hinton	903-563-9153
Precinct 4:	Jimmy Parker	903-573-6202
County Judge:	Brian Lee	903-466-6656

Call your Commissioners with your suggestions, ideas, and complaints.

Al Riddle, Titus County Commissioner, Precinct 1