Hearing Procedures for Ochiltree County Appraisal District Appraisal Review Board

I. The Appraisal Review Board

Protests will be heard by the ARB. Members of the ARB are not employees or officers of any political subdivision served by the Ochiltree Appraisal District nor are they employees or officers of the appraisal district.

Officers of the OCAD Appraisal Review Board consist of Chairperson and Secretary. Officers are elected as soon as possible after new board members are appointed each year by the local administrative district judge.

The chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the board and perform such other responsibilities as Texas Property Tax Code provides. The Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the keeping of minutes for all board meetings, for overseeing the keeping of all records of the board, and for determining that all notices by the board are sent. The Secretary may delegate any of the above responsibilities to members of the appraisal staff provided by the Chief Appraiser for that purpose. The Secretary shall preside at meetings when the Chairperson is absent and will also perform such other responsibilities as the Texas Property Tax Code provides.

II. ARB Membership [Based on Tax Code Section 5.103(b)(16), (15), and (12)]

Administration of ARB Appointments: ARB members are not provided any statutory role in the process for the administration of applications or requests for appointment for membership on the ARB. If an ARB member is contacted by an individual regarding requesting an appointment to the ARB, the member shall direct the individual to the person designated to receive applications or requests for appointment for the ARB, which in OCAD would be the chairperson of the Board of Directors.

<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>: Each ARB member is responsible for ensuring that he or she does not have any conflict of interest that results in ineligibility to serve on the ARB or restricts or prohibits the ARB member's participation in ARB activities, such as participation in the determination of a taxpayer protest. An ARB member must promptly report any conflict of interest to the ARB chair in addition to any other individual or entity as may be provided by law. The chair shall ensure prompt notification of reported conflicts of interest to the appropriate individuals.

If an ARB member discovers before or during a protest hearing that a conflict of interest exists, the member may not participate in a protest hearing. If the conflict exists due to the provisions of the Local Government Code Chapter 171, an affidavit must be filed with the secretary of the ARB. The affidavit must be filed as soon as the conflict is identified, even if it requires a delay in the conduct of the hearing. If the conflict arises from Tax Code Section 41.69, no affidavit must be filed; however, the ARB member must recuse himself or herself immediately from the hearing and report the conflict to the chair or secretary of the ARB.

ARB members must remember that while Local Government Code Chapter 171 addresses matters of "substantial interest," Tax Code Section 41.69 applies to any protest in which an ARB member is interested (i.e. there is no requirement under Tax Code Section 41.69 that the interest be substantial). Therefore, while a conflict of interest under Local Government Code Chapter 171 may not prohibit an ARB member from participation in a protest, Tax Code Section 41.69 may still prohibit participation. If an ARB member has a question as to whether or not he or she has a conflict of interest that might prohibit his or her involvement, the member shall immediately contact the ARB chair to address the matter. Section 41.69 also prohibits a member from participating in a hearing if it involves certain relatives of the member.

In the recusal process, the ARB member not only may not vote on the matter that is the subject of the protest, but also may not hear or deliberate on the protest.

Ex Parte and Other Prohibited Communications [Based on Tax Code Section 41.66(g)]: ARB members shall not engage in prohibited ex parte or other communications. If an ARB member is approached by one or more individuals that appear to be engaging or attempting to engage in a prohibited communication, the ARB member shall immediately remove himself or herself from the conversation.

III. ARB Duties [Based on Tax Code Section 5.103(b) (1), (5), and (6)]

<u>Statutory Duties of an ARB:</u> Each ARB member is responsible for ensuring that he or she understands the statutory duties of the ARB and shall comply with all statutory requirements in performing statutory duties as a member of the ARB.

Notices Required under the Property Tax Code: Each ARB member is responsible for obtaining and maintaining familiarity with notices required under the Property Tax Code. If an ARB member has reason to believe that any notice that is required by law to be provided by the ARB is not being provided or does not meet the requirements of applicable law, the ARB member shall promptly notify the ARB chair. The ARB chair shall investigate each such report and take appropriate action to correct all verified problems.

<u>Determination of Good Cause under Tax Code Section 41.44(b)</u>: "Good cause" for filing late protests is not defined in Tax Code Section 41.44(b). Claims of good cause for late-filed protests should be carefully considered and standards in making determinations of good cause under Tax Code Section 41.44(b) should be uniformly applied. The ARB should give due consideration to good cause claims in such a manner that properly respects the rights of property owners while not undermining or contravening laws related to filing deadlines or the orderly and expeditious fulfillment of ARB duties.

Circumstances that the ARB may recognize as good causes for postponements include the following:

- Being on active military duty;
- Being in the hospital or under doctor's care during the protest hearing period;
- A death in the immediate family;
- Being on judicial or legislative service or in a pending court hearing;
- Failure to receive administrative due process; or

• Other matters of good cause as determined by the ARB.

The ARB must be notified of a request for postponement prior to the scheduled hearing date. The property owner should submit written documentation to verify the request. For good cause hearings, documentation must be received prior to the ARB approval of the appraisal records.

IV. ARB Hearings (Formal Hearings), [Based on Tax Code Section 5.103(b), (4), (7), and (14)]

Scheduling Hearings Generally: The ARB shall schedule a hearing when a timely notice of protest is filed and, in doing so, may be provided with clerical assistance by the appraisal district. A person leasing property who is contractually obligated to reimburse the property owner for taxes imposed on the property is entitled to protest before the ARB the appraised value of the property if the property owner does not file a protest relating to the property. Under Tax Code Section 41.413, the lessee can designate another person to act as an agent with the same authority and limitations as an agent designated under Tax Code Section 1.111. Designated agents have the same authority and are subject to the same limitations as agents designated by property owners.

Scheduling Hearings for Property Owners, Agents and Qualifying Leases; Pursuant to Tax Code Section 41.66(i), the ARB must schedule hearing requests filed by property owners or their designated agents under Tax Code Section 1.111 for a specific time and date. The ARB can schedule more than one protest hearing at the same time and date; however, the property owner or agent can request to postpone a hearing if it is not started by an ARB panel or the full ARB within two hours of the scheduled hearing time. The postponement request must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB must respond in writing or by email to the postponement request not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

Scheduling Hearings for Multiple Accounts: If requested by a property owner or a designated agent, hearings on protests concerning up to 20 designated properties shall be scheduled on the same day by the ARB. The request must meet all requirements of Tax Code Section 41.66(j), including the required statement in boldfaced type: "request for same-day protest hearings." No more than one such request may be filed in the same tax year by a property owner or a designated agent. Also pursuant to Tax Code Section 41.66(j), the ARB may schedule hearings on protests concerning more than 20 properties filed by the same property owner or designated agent and may use different panels to conduct the hearings based on the ARB's customary scheduling. The ARB may follow the practices customarily used in the scheduling of hearings under Section 41.66(j).

ARB Panel Assignments [Tax Code Section 41.66 (k)(k-1) and 41.45(d)(d1)] Pursuant to Tax Code Section 41.66(k) and (k-1), if an ARB sits in panels as authorized by Tax Code Section 41.45(d) and (d-1), it must randomly assign protests. Except for panels established under Tax Code Section 6.425, the ARB, with or without clerical assistance from the appraisal district staff, may consider the property type or the protest grounds in order to assign the protest to a panel with members who have particular expertise. Tax Code Section 41.45(b-4) allows a property owner to request that a single-member panel conduct the protest hearing. The

property owner must submit the request not later than the 10th day before the hearing date in writing on the notice of protest or by a written submission. If the ARB does not accept the recommendations made by the single-panel member, the ARB can determine the protest or refer it for rehearing to a single-member panel composed of someone who did not hear the original protest. Tax Code Section 41.66(k-1) allows a property owner or agent to request a special ARB panel to hear a complex property protest if in a county with a population of one million or more. The owner or agent must consent to a special panel reassignment and may request a postponement if they disagree with the reassignment. Once a protest is scheduled for a specific panel, the ARB cannot reassign it to another panel without the consent of the property owner or a designated agent. If the ARB reassigns a protest to another panel, the owner or designated agent may agree to the reassignment or request a postponement of the hearing. The ARB must postpone the hearing if requested in this situation. Pursuant to Tax Code Section 41.66(k), "[a] change of members of a panel because of a conflict of interest, illness, or inability to continue participating in hearings for the remainder of the day does not constitute reassignment of a protest to another panel."

Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.45(e):

A property owner who is not represented by an agent under Tax Code Section 1.111 is entitled to one postponement of a hearing without showing cause. The property owner must request the postponement before the hearing date in writing, including by facsimile, email, telephone or in person to the ARB, an ARB panel or the ARB chair. If the requested hearing postponement is scheduled to occur before the next regular meeting of the ARB, the chair or the chair's representative may act on the request for postponement without the necessity of action by the full ARB. Unless the postponed hearing date and time are agreed to by the ARB chair or the chair's representative, the property owner and the chief appraiser, the ARB cannot postpone the hearing to a date 5 less than five or more than 30 days after the date scheduled for the hearing when the postponement is sought.

Without limit, the ARB must postpone a hearing if the property owner or the designated agent shows good cause, as defined in Tax Code Section 41.45(e-2). The property owner or designated agent must request the postponement in writing, including by facsimile, email, telephone or in person to the ARB, an ARB panel or the ARB chair. If the postponed hearing is rescheduled to occur before the next regular meeting of the ARB, the chair or the chair's representative can act on the postponement request without the necessity of action by the full ARB. Unless the postponed hearing date and time are agreed to by the ARB chair or the chair's representative, the property owner and the chief appraiser, the ARB cannot postpone the hearing to a date less than five or more than 30 days after the date scheduled for the hearing when the postponement is sought.

Without limit, the ARB must postpone a hearing if the chief appraiser consents to the postponement. The chief appraiser must request the postponement in writing, including by facsimile, email, telephone or in person to the ARB, an ARB panel or the ARB chair. If the postponed hearing is rescheduled to occur before the next regular meeting of the ARB, the chair or the chair's representative can act on the postponement request without the necessity of action by the full ARB. Unless the postponed hearing date and time are agreed to by the ARB chair or the chair's representative, the property owner and the chief appraiser, the ARB cannot postpone a hearing to a date less than five or more than 30 days after the date scheduled for the hearing when the postponement is sought.

The postponement request must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB must respond in writing or by email to the postponement request not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

<u>Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.45(e-1):</u> A property owner or owner's agent who fails to appear at the hearing is entitled to a new hearing if the property owner or owner's agent file, not later than the fourth day after the date the hearing occurred, a written statement with the ARB showing good cause, as defined in Tax Code Section 41.45(e-2), for the failure to appear and requesting a new hearing. The postponement request must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB must respond in writing or by email to the postponement request not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.45(g): The ARB must postpone a hearing to a later date if: (1) the owner of the property or the owner's agent is also scheduled to appear at a hearing on a protest filed with the ARB of another appraisal district; (2) the hearing before the other ARB is scheduled to occur on the same date as the hearing set by this ARB; (3) the notice of hearing delivered to the property owner or the owner's agent by the other ARB bears an earlier postmark than the notice of hearing delivered by this ARB or, if the date of the postmark is identical, the property owner or agent has not requested a postponement of the other hearing; and (4) the property owner or the owner's agent includes with the request for a postponement a copy of the notice of hearing delivered to the property owner or the owner's agent by the other ARB.

<u>Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.66(h):</u> The ARB shall postpone a hearing (one time only) if the property owner requests additional time to prepare for the hearing and establishes that the chief appraiser failed to comply with Tax Code Section 41.461. Only the property owner may request a postponement for this reason. The request for postponement must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB shall respond in writing or by email to the request for postponement not later than the seventh day after the date of receipt of the request.

Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.66(i): Hearings on protests filed by property owners not represented by agents designated under Tax Code Section 1.111 shall be scheduled for a specific time and date. More than one protest may be scheduled for hearings at the same time and date; however, if a hearing for a property owner is not started by an ARB panel or the full ARB within two hours of the scheduled hearing time, the ARB is required to postpone the hearing if a postponement is requested by the property owner. The request for postponement must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB shall respond in writing or by email to the request for postponement not later than the seventh day after the date of receipt of the request.

Postponements Under Tax Code Section 41.66(k)(k-1): Once the ARB schedules a hearing by a specific panel, the ARB cannot reassign it to another panel without the consent of the property owner or designated agent. If the ARB reassigns a protest to another panel, a property owner or designated agent may agree to reassignment or request that a hearing postponement. The ARB must postpone the hearing on that request. A change of panel members because of a conflict of interest, illness or inability to continue participating in hearings for the remainder of the day does not constitute panel reassignment. A property

owner or agent must consent to a special panel ARB hearing reassignment or 7 request a postponement if they disagree with the reassignment. A change of special panel members because of a conflict of interest, illness or inability to continue participating in hearings for the remainder of the day does not constitute a special panel hearing reassignment. The postponement request must contain the mailing address and email address of the person requesting the postponement. The ARB must respond in writing or by email to the postponement request not later than the 7th day after the date of receipt of the request.

V. Format of Hearings

A hearing before the ARB is not as formal as a court of law hearing; however, certain procedures must be followed. The ARB uses Robert's Rules of Order, Uniform Code of Parliamentary Procedures when conducting its hearings. Testimony must be given under oath including testimony given by witnesses. The ARB will adhere to a 20 minute per hearing time limit which may be adjusted at the ARB's discretion.

VI. Conduct of ARB Hearings (Formal Hearings, not informal meetings between property owners and appraisal district staff) [Based on Tax Code Section 5.103(b)(2), (9), and (10)]

<u>Conducting Hearings Open to the Public</u>: The board chairperson or designee will make an introductory statement at beginning of each hearing.

"We are the appraisal review board that will be hearing your protest today. We do not work for the appraisal district. We are appointed to perform an independent review of your protest. You may complete a survey regarding your experience today [provide instructions on how to fill out the survey]. The survey is voluntary. You also have the right to appeal our decision. Appeal information will be provided to you with our determination."

The ARB does not have to read the statement above if the owner or agent has previously appeared before the ARB for that county that same day.

For most protest hearings, the hearing should be conducted in the following order:

- a. Commence the hearing and announce the assigned protest number, property location and owner, and other identifying information.
- b. Announce that, in accordance with Tax Code Section 41.45(h), all written and electronic material that has not been provided must be provided.
- c. State that the ARB members who are considering the protest have not communicated with anyone about the protest and have signed affidavits to that effect.
- d. Welcome the parties and remind them of the content of the hearing procedures, time limits for the hearing, and other relevant matters.

- e. Ask if any testifying witness holds a license or certificate from the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board and if the witness is appearing in that capacity.
- f. Inform witnesses that all testimony must be given under oath and swear-in all witnesses who plan to testify.
- g. Ask the property owner to decide if he/she wishes to present his/her evidence and argument before or after the appraisal district.
- h. If the property owner or agent presents his/her case first, he/she shall present evidence (documents and/or testimony). If witnesses are present, the property owner or agent may examine the witnesses as part of the presentation of evidence. At the end of the presentation, an opinion of value (if applicable) for the property must be stated.
- i. Next, the appraisal district representative may cross-examine the property owner, the agent, or the representative and/or witnesses.
- j. If the property owner or agent presented his/her case first, the appraisal district representative will present evidence (documents and/or testimony) next. If witnesses are present, the appraisal district representative can examine the witnesses as part of the presentation of evidence. At the end of the presentation, the appraisal district representative must state an opinion of the property's value (if applicable)
- k. Then, the property owner or agent may cross-examine the appraisal district representative and/or witnesses.
- I. Members of the ARB shall not be examined or cross-examined by parties.
- m. The party presenting its case first may offer rebuttal evidence (additional evidence to refute evidence presented by the other party).
- n. The other party may then offer rebuttal evidence.
- o. The party presenting its case first shall make its closing argument and state the ARB determination being sought.
- p. The party presenting its case second shall make its closing argument and state the ARB determination being sought.
- q. The ARB or panel chair shall state that the hearing is closed.
- r. The ARB or panel shall deliberate orally. No notes, text messages, or other forms of written communication are permitted.
- s. The ARB or panel chairman must ask for a separate motion for each matter that was the subject of the protest hearing. The motion should include the exact value or issue protested. The ARB must take a vote and a designated appraisal district staff person or ARB member must record it. The parties must make separate motions and the ARB must make separate determinations for each protested issue (i.e., excessive appraisal and unequal appraisal must have separate ARB motions and determinations). Single-member panels must make a recommendation on each motion submitted under protest, however, the ARB will ultimately accept the panel's determination, make its own determination on the protest, or refer the matter for rehearing to a single-member panel composed of

someone who did not hear the original protest. Special panels appointed in certain counties must make a recommendation on each motion submitted under protest, however, the ARB will ultimately accept the panel's determination or refer the matter 9 for rehearing to a another special panel composed of members who did not hear the original protest. If ARB does not have at least three other special panel members available, the ARB may make the determination.

t. Thank the parties for their participation and announce the ARB determination(s) and that an order determining protest will be sent by certified mail or email in counties with populations greater than 120,000 where property owners can submit a written request for email delivery of the notice of determination. Provide the property owner or agent documents indicating that the members of the board hearing the protest signed the required affidavit.

If the ARB members use computer screens during ARB hearings for reviewing evidence and other information, the ARB must make computer screens available to property owners and agents at the hearings to view the same information that is presented to the ARB members by the appraisal district staff. This requirement is met if the property owner or agent can see all information displayed on at least one computer screen in the hearing location (there is no requirement that the ARB provide the property owner or agent with a separate screen).

The Ochiltree County Appraisal Review Board does not use computer and projection systems in the hearing room at this time. If they were used by ARB members during ARB hearings for reviewing evidence and other information, computer screens also will be available to property owners and agents at the hearings to view the same information that is presented to the ARB members by the appraisal district staff. This requirement is met if the property owner or agent can see all information displayed on at least one computer screen in the hearing location (there is no requirement that the property owner or agent be provided a separate screen).

If a chief appraiser uses audiovisual equipment at a protest hearing, the appraisal office must provide equipment of the same general type, kind and character for the use of the property owner or agent during the hearing. Again, at this time this is not done at the Ochiltree County ARB hearings. See section VI, Other issues, for more information regarding audiovisual equipment requirements

The property owner or agent and the appraisal district representative are prohibited from debating each other. All communications must be directed to the ARB members, except for examination or cross-examination during testimony of witnesses or parties testifying at the hearing.

For taxing unit challenges, motions to correct appraisal records, protests regarding exemptions, or other matters that may be the subject of ARB hearings, the ARB should follow the order of conducting hearings above, but may make exceptions for the type of hearing.

Tax Code Section 41.68and Comptroller Rule 9.803 require that the ARB keep records for each ARB proceeding. This includes the ARB retaining evidence offered or submitted by the

parties as required by Tax Code Section 41.45 and Comptroller rules 9.803 and 9.805. The ARB Secretary is responsible for ensuring proper record keeping, maintenance and retention.

Conducting Hearings by Telephone Conference Call: Tax Code Section 41.45(n) Allows a property owner initiating a protest is entitled to offer evidence or argument by affidavit without personally appearing. To appear at a hearing by telephone conference call, a property owner must notify the ARB by written request not later than the 10th day before the date of the hearing. To offer evidence or argument at a hearing conducted by telephone conference call, a property owner must submit a written affidavit of any evidence before the hearing begins. A property owner is responsible for providing access to a hearing conducted by telephone conference call to another person the owner invites to participate in the hearing.

Tax Code Section 41.45(b-2) requires the ARB to provide the telephone number for conducting the teleconference call or the URL address for conducting the videoconference(not offered in Ochiltree county). The ARB must hold the hearing in a location with equipment that allows all ARB members and parties to the protest in attendance to hear and, if applicable, see the property owner's argument.

More detailed procedures concerning the telephone conference call option can be found at www.ochiltreecad.org.

<u>Conducting Hearings Closed to the Public:</u> A joint motion by the chief appraiser and the property owner is required to request that the hearing be closed due to intent to disclose proprietary or confidential information that will assist the ARB in determining the protest.

The ARB or panel chair shall convene the hearing as an open meeting and then announce that the meeting will be closed to the public as permitted by Tax Code Sections 41.66(d) and (d-1). Only the parties to the protest, their witnesses, and the ARB members are permitted to stay in the hearing room. The same order of proceedings as for hearings open to the public should be followed.

The secretary of the ARB is responsible for ensuring that a separate tape recording or written summary of testimony is kept for the closed meeting in accordance with the provisions of Comptroller Rule 9.803 generally. The proprietary or confidential evidence presented at the hearing giving rise to the closed hearing is confidential according to Tax Code Section 22.27 and shall be marked as "confidential" and maintained as confidential in the ARB records for proper handling. At the conclusion of the hearing, the ARB panel shall confirm with the parties that all proprietary and confidential information has been appropriately identified by the ARB. The confidentiality of the information must be maintained by the ARB members and disclosed only as provided by law.

After deliberation, the ARB shall reconvene in an open meeting and vote or take final action on the protest deliberated in the closed meeting. The ARB and parties cannot mention of the proprietary or confidential information during the open meeting.

Right to Examine and Cross-Examine Witnesses or Other Parties: Tax Code Section 41.66(b) states that "each party to a hearing is entitled to offer evidence, examine or cross-examine witnesses or other parties, and present argument on the matters subject to the hearing." The ARB may not prohibit this entitlement in any way; however, it may enforce time limits and dictate the order of ARB hearings for witness examination and cross-examination. To the

extent possible, the parties should be advised in advance of any time limitations the ARB has determined to impose regarding the presentation of evidence.

Party's Right to Appear by an Agent:

A person leasing property who is contractually obligated to reimburse the property owner for taxes imposed on the property is entitled to file a protest if the property owner does not and to designate, under Tax Code Section 41.413, another person to act as his/her agent with the same authority and limitations as an agent designated under Tax Code Section 1.111.

VII. Evidence Consideration [Based on Tax Code Section 5.103(8), (11), and (13)]

A Party's Right to Offer Evidence and Argument: ARB may not prohibit a party's right to offer evidence and argument. However, the ARB may enforce time limits and dictate the order of ARB hearings. To the extent possible, the parties should be advised in advance of any time limitations the ARB has determined to impose regarding the presentation of evidence and argument. The ARB should, schedule permitting, provide as much time as possible to each party to a hearing to fully present evidence and offer argument. The ARB will adhere to a 20 minute per hearing time limit which may be adjusted at the ARB's discretion.

<u>Prohibition of Consideration of Information Not Provided at the ARB Hearing:</u> In a protest hearing and pursuant to Tax Code Section 41.66(e), the ARB will not consider any appraisal district information on a protest that was not presented to the ARB during the protest hearing. In order for any appraisal district record (i.e., appraisal roll history, appraisal cards) to be considered by the ARB, it must be presented as evidence by or on behalf of a party (e.g. chief appraiser, appraisal district representative, property owner, agent, or witness) at the protest hearing.

Exclusion of Evidence Required by Tax Code Section 41.67(d): If it is established during a protest hearing that information was previously requested under Tax Code Section 41.461 by the protesting party and that the information was not made available to the protesting party at least 14 days before the scheduled or postponed hearing, the requested information not made available may not be used as evidence in the hearing. The ARB shall make a determination to exclude evidence under Tax Code Section 41.67(d) only if evidence presented at the hearing establishes that:

- (1) the information sought to be excluded as evidence was not made available at least 14 days before the hearing; and
- (2) the information sought to be excluded as evidence was previously requested by the protesting party.

Tax Code Section 41.67(e) prohibits the chief appraiser from offering evidence at a hearing in support of a modification or denial of an exemption or application unless:

1) the chief appraiser provided the reasoning for the modification or denial to the property owner in writing no later than the 14th day before the hearing date; and 2) evidence establishes that the additional reason was not known by the chief appraiser at the time the chief appraiser delivered the original notice of modification or denial.

VIII. Other Issues [Based on Tax Code Section 5.103(17)]

<u>Compliance with the Law, Integrity, and Impartiality</u>: Members of the ARB shall comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the ARB.

<u>Patience and Courtesy</u>: ARB members must be patient, dignified, and courteous to parties appearing before the ARB.

<u>Bias or Prejudice:</u> Members of the ARB shall perform their ARB duties without bias or prejudice.

<u>Confidential Information:</u> Members of the ARB shall not disclose or use for any purpose unrelated to ARB duties confidential information acquired in the performance of ARB duties.

Required Contents that Vary By ARB: ARB model hearing procedures must comply with Comptroller Rule 9.805 concerning ARB evidence exchange and retention and audiovisual equipment requirements. The rule requires that ARB procedures include specific items that may vary by ARB. The rule address:

- The manner and form, including security requirements, in which a person must provide
 the other party with evidentiary materials the person intends to offer or submit to the
 ARB for consideration at the hearing on a small, portable, electronic device;
- How to retain the evidence as part of the ARB's hearing record; and
- The audiovisual equipment provided by an appraisal district, if any, for use by a property owner or the property owner's agent.

This section of the ARB's hearing procedures must address each item required in the Comptroller Rule 9.805

Approved by

Date: 5-17-

ARB Chairman