

Rollback election results made official

By Ron Maloney | Posted: Saturday, May 20, 2006 1:00 am

The result of Comal County's rollback election became official Friday morning.

Commissioners canvassed the vote, reading it into the minutes of a special meeting called to validate the election conducted this past Saturday.

The outcome was little changed from Saturday's count in which Comal County avoided a rollback of the 12.5 percent tax increase it enacted this past September.

Originally, the result was 3,034 in favor of rolling back the tax rate to 3,257 against it, a margin of 223 votes.

Elections Coordinator Linnell Hinojosa said the "against" side — those who voted with the county — lost two of those votes when a pair of overseas military personnel sent mail-in ballots voting in favor of the rollback, resulting in a margin of 3,257 against the rollback to 3,036 in favor, a margin of 221.

Hinojosa said the election would cost about \$30,000 when all is said and done. "We're still adding it all up," she said.

County Judge Danny Scheel read the results, while Precinct 3 Commissioner Greg Parker moved that they be approved, seconded by Precinct 4 Commissioner Jan Kennady. It was accepted unanimously by the commissioners present. Precinct 1 Commissioner Jack Dawson was attending another meeting.

Scheel said he was grateful to the voters and to the elected officials and county residents who, mobilized by Kennady into a political action committee called "Save Our Services," turned back the rollback effort mounted this past October by Canyon Lake businessman Douglas Kirk.

"I think it's phenomenal that the people came out and took an interest in their county," Scheel said. "And regardless of how they voted, I appreciate the people's participation and hopefully we'll never have to go through this again."

In moving for acceptance of the election outcome, Parker said he was disappointed that the county would have to spend \$30,000 it hadn't budgeted for what he believed was a personal fight disguised as a tax revolt.

"I'm happy with the outcome and am looking forward to the future and to getting back to the business of this county," Parker said.

The county enters its budget process for next year in June as elected officials and department heads prepare their proposed budgets for 2007. Commissioners will adopt next year's budget and tax rate in late August or early September.

Kennady said the dates and times of this summer's budget hearings would be posted in advance in newspapers and on the county's Web site and would be broadcast as well on local radio stations.

“We urge everyone to refer to that schedule and attend as many meetings as you can,” Kennady said. “If you can’t attend and have questions, please come in and let us know. We’d be happy to answer.”