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COVER LETTER WTAW ENTRY FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORT CATEGORY "BLINN LAND PURCHASE"

This investigation began after watching the April 2021 Blinn College board of trustees meeting presentation of their district wide master plan. Presentation materials included the construction of a new administration and student services building where a church was located.

Attached is a screenshot of what I found on the website of Rivergate Church. I discovered the church and the college began exchanging offers and counteroffers in August 2020, a contract was signed in October 2020 that began a Blinn feasibility study, and in December 2020 the church announced a closing date was being set with Blinn for the college to acquire the property.

Attached are screenshots from the Brazos Central Appraisal District that shows Blinn College's acquisition of the Rivergate Church property.

Attached are minutes of Blinn College board of trustees meetings from May 2020 through March 2021 (there was no meeting in July 2020 and March 2021 was the most recent at the time I did the search). There is no reference to this property transaction.

April 30, 2021, I e-mailed the Blinn chancellor and marketing/communications director containing the screenshots from the Brazos Central Appraisal District. In this e-mail I requested who authorized the purchase. If this was a trustees decision, I requested the date and the vote and if the vote was not unanimous I requested who voted yes and who voted no. I also requested the purchase price and the funding source.

After receiving no response from the Blinn chancellor and marketing/communications director, I submitted an open records request.

Attached is my open records request and Blinn College's reply. The reply stated board policy gave the chancellor the authority to make the land purchase without going to the board.

That was followed by the first story in this entry. The WTAW website story associated with the first story is at <https://wtaw.com/?p=146148>

Three weeks later, the Blinn board of trustees approved the land purchase. I produced stories and a longer feature with audio from that trustees meeting. The feature is the second part of this entry and is also part of the WTAW website story at <https://wtaw.com/?p=146631>. Also attached are the minutes from the May 2021 Blinn trustees meeting.