

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2010, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Patrick Shay gave the Invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dean Kicklighter led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Acting Clerk called the roll.

Present: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
 Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District 8
 Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District 7
 Helen L. Stone, District 1
 James J. Holmes, District 2
 Patrick Shay, District 3
 Patrick K. Farrell, District 4
 Harris Odell, Jr., District 5

Also present: R.E. Abolt, County Manager,
 R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
 Barbara B. Wright, Acting Clerk

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we excuse Commissioner Gellatly, who has been in the hospital and is recuperating. We look forward to him joining us at the next meeting. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Graduation Ceremonies for the 2010 Chatham County Youth Commission.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have this morning the graduation ceremony for the 2010 Chatham County Youth Commission and I'll call on Van, if you'll come forth for that. Dr. Thomas can be expressed as President of the school.

Mr. Van Johnson said, or Youth Commissioner University, as they call it. Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, Chairman Liakakis and Gentlemen, this morning is a time of great celebration and reflection in our County as we celebrate the accomplishments of 13 young people, 13 members of our community, who have persevered and who have succeeded through the Chatham County Youth Commission. It is because of the vision of Dr. Priscilla Thomas and your continued support for the Chatham County Youth Commission that we have been able to provide these types of outcomes in our County now for the last 18 years. It is because of Dr. Thomas' vision and your support that we are recognized throughout the country for exciting, engaging, empowering, exposing, and educating our young people. It is because of Dr. Thomas' vision and your support that we have learned that the Miami-Dade County Commission has now adopted the Chatham County Youth Commission as their model for their new Youth Commission, joining Youth Commissioners we have already started in Atlanta; DeKalb County; Riverdale, Georgia; Newnan, Georgia; Prince Georges County, Maryland; Fargo, North Dakota; Gainesville, Florida, with several more to come.

It has been said that it is easier to build strong children than to fix broken lives and, as you make difficult financial decisions in the coming days due to this uncertain economy, I thank you for intentionally paying it forward and investing in these young lives, who will make a difference not only in Savannah and Chatham County, but all over the world, just as 400 of their colleagues have. What a year it's been. From lobbying in the General Assembly for raising the compulsory education age, to honoring the Mighty Eighth Air Force, from telling young people about the dangers of teen dating violence, to promoting youth activity and healthy habits, from hosting a Youth Summit and Youth Town Hall Meeting, to exposing students to the wonderful world of social work, these young people have been busy all year long, compiling hundreds of hours of community service.

I sincerely thank Mr. Abolt and Mr. Kaigler for their support, as well as the many county departments, every single county department, that constantly assisted us throughout the year. I particularly thank the leadership team behind me who unselfishly give of their time and their talents to mentor these young people: Mrs. Debra Allen, Ms. Takiyah Martin, Mrs. Marilyn Rodriguez, and our graduate advisors, Ms. ZaDonna Slay, who is now an Executive Director in her own right; Ms. Taqwan Saleem, who just graduated with her Master's Degree from Georgia Southern; Mr. John Hawkins, and Mr. Pete Nichols, who, as you know, is behind the camera. Let's give them a big round of applause, please. We also thank our public school system and our private schools who also cooperated with us throughout the year without fail. We also have a group of young people with us on this last day of public school who would like to become a part of the Chatham County Youth Commission, so they're here today, kinda checking us out, and I'd like to ask all of our applicants to please stand. Thank you.

And last, but not least, I do want to thank parents and guardians of these young people. I've referred to them sometime as walking transportation systems and ATM cards, because they have certainly stand the test. Certainly, when we put the Youth Commissioners through our program, the parents go through it with them,

and they are here celebrating with us as we celebrate with them. Will all of our parents and guardians and loved ones and family members please stand?

Finally, I have been thinking for weeks of something wise, something meaningful, to say to these young people that would stick with them as they transition from high school into life. What could I say? Well, I found my answer in the most unlikely place, and I would like to share it with you at this time. So I'm asking that Tilly, Meredith, Alexis, Brittany, Shantee', Lester, Takneijah, Desmond, Kenjahte', Cindy, Korbyn, Malikah, and Jazmine, just close your eyes for a moment. Nobody's going to bother you. Are your eyes closed?

"Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places. You're off and away! You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own, and you know where to go, and you are the guy or girl who decides where to go. You'll look up or down streets. Look over them with care. About some, you will say, I don't choose to go there. With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet, you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street. And you may not find any you will want to go down, but, in that case, of course, you'll head straight out of town. It's opener there, and wide open air. Out there, things can happen, and frequently do, to people as brainy and footsy as you. And when things start to happen, don't worry, don't stew. Just go right along. You'll start happening, too.

Oh, the places that you will go. You'll be on your way up. You'll be seeing great sights. You'll join high fliers who will soar to high heights. You won't lag behind because you'll have the speed; you'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead. Wherever you fly, you'll be the best of the best. Wherever you go, you will top all the rest. Except when you don't, because sometimes you won't. I'm sorry to say so, but sadly, it's true, that bang-ups and hang-ups can happen to you. You can get all hung-up in a prickly perch, and your gang will fly on and you'll be left in a lurch. You'll come down from that lurch with an unpleasant bump, and the chances are, then, you'll be in a slump. And when you're in a slump, you're not in for much fun. Un-slumping yourself is not easily done.

You'll come to a place where the streets are not marked. Some windows are lighted, but mostly they're darked. A place you can sprain both your elbow and chin. Do you dare stay out? Do you dare come in? How much can you lose? How much can you win? And if you go in, should you turn left or right? Or right and three-quarters? Or maybe not quite? Or go around the back and sneak in from behind? Simple it's not, I'm afraid you will find, for a mind-maker-upper to make up his mind. You can get so confused that you'll start in to race down long wiggled roads at a break-necking pace and grind on for miles across weirdish wild space, headed, I fear, to a most useless place.

The Waiting Place, for people just waiting. Waiting for a train to go, for a bus to come, or a plane to go, for the mail to come, or the rain to go or the phone to ring or the snow to snow, and waiting around for a yes and no, or waiting, like me, for their hair to grow. Everyone is just waiting. Waiting for a fish to bite or waiting for wind to fly a kite or waiting around for Friday night, or waiting, perhaps, for their Uncle Jake. or a pot to boil or a better break, or a string of pearls or a pair of pants, or a wig with curlers or another chance. Everyone is just waiting.

No. That's not for you. Somehow, you'll escape all that waiting and sitting. You'll find the bright places where the Boom Bands are playing. With banner flipper-flapping, once more you'll ride high, ready for anything under the sky, because you're that kind of guy or girl. Oh, the places you'll go. There's fun to be

done. There are points to be scored. There are games to be won. And the magical things you could do with that ball will make you the winning-est winner of all. Fame. You'll be as famous as famous can be, with the whole wide world watching you win on TV. Except when they don't. Because sometimes they won't. I'm afraid that sometimes you'll play lonely games, too. Games you can't win, 'cause they'll play against you. All alone! Whether you like it or not, alone will be something you will be quite a lot. And when you're alone, there's a very good chance that you'll meet some things that will scare you right out of your pants. There are some down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on.

But you will go on, though the weather be foul. On you will go, though your enemies prow. And on you will go though the Hakken-Kraks howl. Onward up many a frightening creek, though your arms may get sore from your sneakers that may leak. On and on you will hike. And I know you'll hike far and face up to your problems, wherever they are. You'll get mixed up, of course, as you already know. You'll get mixed up with many strange birds as you go. So be sure when you step. Step with great care and great tact and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act. And just never forget to be dexterous and deft. And never mix up your right foot with your left. And you will succeed! Yes, you will succeed (98 and 1/4 percent guaranteed). Kid, you will move mountains! So, be your name Buxbaum, Bixby or Bray, Mordecai, Alvin, Van, Allen O'Shea, you're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!

Congratulations, and we have a copy of this wonderful book for all of you to take to college with you, and we're so, so proud of you. We would now -- Dr. Thomas, Commissioner, Chairman Liakakis, if you would, come down and join us for this great celebration. Mr. Abolt, please come on and join us. And we're going to ask as we call our young people, we are celebrating not only graduates, we're also celebrating the families, so we would love for the parents of our young stars to come down.

Tilly Isaacson is the Chairperson of the Chatham County Youth Commission. She is a three-term Youth Commissioner, she is a Legacy member, as her older sister is here with us today, as well. She graduated -- she's graduating from the Savannah Arts Academy and she will be attending the Culinary Institute of America in New York, so she can come back and help me eat a little healthier. Tilly.

Meredith Stone is a -- will be a graduate of Johnson High School. She is a third-year Youth Commissioner. She will be attending Hampton University. Please stay with your young people, please. We're giving them back to you today.

Alexis Slay is a Legacy member, a third-year Chatham County Youth Commissioner. She will be graduating from Johnson High School and she will be attending North Carolina Central University.

Brittany Bell is a one-term Youth Commissioner, she is a Legacy member. She will be graduating from Jenkins High School and she will be attending Clark Atlanta University.

Shanee' Ferguson is a two-year Youth Commissioner. She will be graduating from Jenkins High School and she will be attending, I think, the best school in the world, Savannah State University. You can get anywhere from Savannah State.

Lester Foster, as they call him, "Lotsa Flotsa Flame," he is a two-term Youth Commissioner, graduating from Groves High School. He will also be attending Savannah State University. I do not know what "Lotsa Flotsa Flame" means.

Taknejah Green is a one-term Youth Commissioner. She graduated from Bible Baptist. She will be attending Georgia Gwinnett College.

Desmond Griffith is a three-term Youth Commissioner who graduated from Bethesda School. He will be attending Valdosta State University. And Desmond just started smiling this year. He started talking last year.

Kenjahte' Harrison is a three-term Youth Commissioner. She's graduating from Johnson High School and she will be attending my other alma mater, Georgia Southern University.

Cindy Lee is a one-term Youth Commissioner. She graduated from Calvary Day School and she will be attending the College of Charleston.

Korbyn Mingle is a three-term Youth Commissioner from Early College and she will be attending Savannah State University. Parents and grandparents.

Malikah Mobley is a one-term Youth Commissioner. She will be graduating from Jenkins High School and she will be attending Albany State University. Now, you can get coverage of this on our Facebook page or our Twitter pages. We are Twittering as we speak, whatever that means.

And last, but not least, Jazmine Paige, who is a two-term Youth Commissioner. She'll be graduating from Windsor Forest High School and she will be attending Gordon College in the Atlanta Metro area.

Ladies, and Gentlemen, let's give a big round of applause to the Class of 2010 of the Chatham County Youth Commissioners. You may be seated.

Commissioner Thomas said, just before the chairlady comes before you, I would like to give thanks to the Chatham County Commissioners for your untiring support through the years. This is a result of the hard work that we have done to help get these young people to this day. And I want you to know that we appreciate everything that you've done. And I would like to give some accolades to the Director, a hard-working person, who has given so much to make these young people successful. Alderman Van Johnson. No one will ever know the amount of time and energy. He has no life. He has no life. Thank you, Alderman Johnson. I'd like to thank Mr. Abolt and Staff and all of the parents, grandparents, the school system. Without each of your help, we could not be successful. And to the parents and grandparents and all of the businesses and all the people who support us, I want you to know that each and every one of these young people here today and those who have come before them, every one of them that has graduated from the Chatham County Youth Commission has gone on to the various colleges and universities, and they have excelled tremendously. We have not had one to fail, and I think that's remarkable. We are excited about that. So in conclusion, I would like to say to the graduates, as you prepare to take another step in your career, we wish for you continued success. The diplomas that you received is a very hard-earned one, and as the future unfolds, may all of your dreams come true. Stay in touch. Stay positive. And stay focused. Thank you, and God bless.

Tilly Isaacson said, good morning, Chairman Liakakis, Commission, and all guests present today. My name is Tilly Isaacson, the 2009-2010 Chatham County Youth Commission Chairperson. I'm a Legacy member, meaning I had a sibling serve on the Youth Commission. I therefore thought I knew what was coming and felt fully prepared to be a part of the well talked of organization. However, what I failed to understand is,

I see CCYC as a family, and a family cannot be explained, but must be experienced. From funerals to birthdays, from tears of joy to sorrow, it has been experienced together as one family. I'd like to say I have contributed to this family, as each member has through the contribution of ourselves, is incomparable to what Youth Commission provides for you. This year alone, we have met Ruby, Big Boy, P.C. McCaylor, Senator Stupek, B.J. ..., and others. To meet these people was very nice, but the experience of Youth Commission exceeds beyond the greetings of celebrities. I joined Youth Commission as a puny tenth-grader. I wasn't sure who I was and what I stood for. Yet, this family has provided me with an identity and self-assurance. The future which stands before me was paved by taking a route through the Chatham County Youth Commission. There are so many we have to thank for providing us with the opportunity of Youth Commission. First off, it is necessary for the acknowledgement of Commissioner Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, for whom -- without we would not be standing here today. Dr. Thomas, you're not only the founder of Chatham County's prime youth organization, but you are also the foundation of who we are and what we stand for. To find dedication such as yours to a generation such as ours is very rare and so special. We have so much respect for you and are honored to be the 18th Youth Commission graduating class under your name. Thank you for all you have done.

On top of working for the County and serving as City Alderman, Mr. Johnson is the Director of Youth Commission. However, the term director is so faint when looking into all you have done for us, Mr. Johnson. You are a father and a friend to us all. You push us to make us stronger and capable individuals, and though we may complain, we are truly grateful for your endless hours of dedication to us. I know that as we move forward, we will be unable to forget your impact on each of us and we'll always remember what you have provided. I know that Mr. Johnson alone could not run this organization and that our advisors, Mrs. Allen, Ms. Martin, and Mrs. Rodriguez, have been a tremendous support, and I am sorry if we have not told you enough how much you mean to us and thank you for your hard work in making Youth Commission run as well as it does. We have three very special advisors who are shaped from their experiences on Youth Commission and wish to provide us with the experience which they had. Ms. Slay and Ms. Saleem, thank you for being here and showing us you care. Youth Commission is a team effort and would not be the same without every one as a Youth Commissioner. A special thank you to an amazing Executive Board that supported me and always kept in mind what was best for each and every Youth Commissioner. Your dedicated contribution has been very meaningful and it has helped to make this year a success. Vice Chairman Schikowski has a true love for this organization and I am fully aware of her ability to bring Youth Commission to a new level in the 2010-2011 term. Thank you and I wish you the best of luck.

As the graduates leave here today, we cannot be sad. A family does not split. We must remember that once a Youth Commissioner, always a Youth Commissioner, that if we choose to take the title of Youth Commissioner with us, that we must uphold by its mission. We have promised to excel to reach our full potential and be strong leaders. Our motto is not something that was just forced upon us, arranged by adults. We chose these words and must make the choice to continue living by them. Looking around, you will see Chatham County Youth Commissioner candidates with us today. This is the future of Youth Commission and a sure sign of bright things ahead for this organization. Chatham County Youth Commission has great things to look forward to and, from this point forward, will only continue to thrive. Thank you all. Dr. Thomas, we would never be able to do without you, and Mr. Lester Foster and Mr. Desmond Griffith will now present you with a gift.

Meredith Stone said, the Beverly M. Whitehead Award is named after Chatham County's first Human Resources Director, who was instrumental in assisting Dr. Thomas and Mr. Abolt to develop the Chatham

County Youth Commission. Mrs. Whitehead left us almost 12 years ago, and this award recognizes individuals and organizations who have made a positive impact on the youth of Chatham County through the Chatham County Youth Commission. This year's recipient has been a partner to the Chatham County Youth Commission for several years, through meetings and community events. This year, we took our partnership to a new level as we engaged Macy's to create a Teen Violence Prevention Program. Called "Love Shouldn't Hurt," Youth Commissioners donned red shirts and gave out stickers and Hershey's Kisses and told our classmates, "Kisses, Not Disses." It gives me great pleasure to present the 2010 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to Cheryl Branch and Safe Shelter.

Cheryl Branch said, oh, my God, thank you so much. And I have something for you. I wasn't expecting this. I just came to give them a Certificate of Appreciation. For over 10 years, Safe Shelter has partnered with the Youth Commission and it's one of the partnerships to me that's one of the most valuable ones, because at Safe Shelter, we see so much. These kids are out there in the community. They've taken the high road. You know, they've decided to do something bigger than themselves. I just write the grants, I give them the money, and they do great things with it, and I'm extraordinarily proud of them and proud of our partnership, and I hope it continues. Thank you very much.

Alexis Slay said, the Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the Year Award is named after a young man who we did not know, but whose impact on this information (sic) is still being felt even years after he left us. This award is presented to the Youth Commissioner who, over the last year, has exemplified the core values of the Chatham County Youth Commission: Respect, Success, Influence, Integrity, and Leadership. I ask Brandon's mother, Mrs. Sadie Brown, to join me for this presentation. And the award is presented --

Mrs. Brown said, the young people here today, the Youth Commissioners here today, may not know Brandon, but you know Brandon. You know Brandon by his peers and his friends. It's been seven years, but he's still here to give you a little enlightenment. I was sitting this morning, getting ready to go to a school and something touched me on the shoulder and said, "Mama, ain't you supposed to be giving my award away today?" So I had to hurry up and get dressed and get here. So just to let you know, that this is dear to my heart, and as I see the young people, I'm going to ask ZaDonna to come up here with us. I'm asking ZaDonna to come up here, Commissioners, because this is the young lady -- turn around here, ZaDonna -- that has been an intricate part of my life because of my son. Her mother baked cakes, she sat on my bed, she still comes around to make sure that I'm all right; so, therefore, I still have Brandon with me every day through his friends. And on that note, I would like to present this to -- this is the first time a young man -- to Mr. Lester Foster.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, congratulations to all the graduates from the County Commission. We're really proud of you and we know that in the future, you are going through the footsteps of many of the graduates that are very successful, not only here in Chatham County, but around the country, and we can see how smart they are. Commissioner Thomas mentioned about them, you know, all going to a higher level schooling, you know, universities, colleges and all, and that's terrific. And that shows, you know, their academic success that they've had. And what we'll do right now, if the Youth Commissioners, if you'd like to leave right now, we're going to proceed on with the business, so at this particular time, we'll hold off until you can be excused, and the parents and relatives and others, who may be excused, also.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. Traffic on Highway 80 to Tybee (Commissioner Farrell).

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Farrell will speak on this item.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I brought this up today is, recently, over the Memorial Day Weekend, once again, we noticed that at certain times of the year everyone decides that it's a great day to go to the beach, and that's a wonderful thing and everybody should have the right and ability to visit our Atlantic Ocean whenever they see fit. However, over the past forty or fifty years, through a confluence of different forces and people and governments and economics, what we have done is, we have effectively taken a hundred foot -- a hundred miles of Georgia coastline and extremely limited the access to folks to access the Atlantic Ocean from the State of Georgia. The coast of Tybee Island is accessible to the public, that anybody in this country who wants to drive out there and park their car and get out and go to the beach. There are a few miles of Atlantic Ocean that can be accessed by the public. The next closest place is seventy miles straight down the coast to Jekyll Island, is the next place that you can publicly access the Georgia coast. So there's an enormous gap of coastline that's not being utilized by most of the public.

Now, if you own your own watercraft or you have access to some sort of watercraft, which a few of us do, then you get to visit all the beautiful coastline of the State of Georgia, which is in pristine shape and has the most outstanding maritime forest that anybody could ever want to see. But all that's off-limits, and probably will be in my lifetime, to vehicular traffic. So we concentrate all our regional visitations to the Atlantic Ocean, to the beach, to Tybee Island. And occasionally, there are -- there are days when everybody -- the weather's just right and everybody's mood is just right and everybody decides to go at the same time. Now, there's no particular plan that says, hey, everybody, let's get up and just overwhelm the public access to Tybee Island. It just kinda happens. We sorta know when it may happen. We've got a few cues from past history of when some of the probable times are that it could be very congested. This past Memorial Day was a good example of one of those days where the weather was nice and people were in a good mood and got a little Spring Fever, ready to get out and get a little sand between their toes and a little salt water up to their knees or what-have-you. Which is all fine and good, and it creates -- but it does create a logistics nightmare for the folks that have to deal with traffic, parking, and other items, which Tybee and their City Council does a great job of handling most of that.

However, the stretch of road that gets to Tybee is basically a causeway that's ten miles long, stretches from Wilmington Island to Tybee Island. There's no alternative. When you get to the Wilmington Island, you do have alternatives on different roads and different ways to fan out to the mainland, but on this ten-stretch -- ten mile stretch of property, there's really -- what you see is what you've got, and when it gets full, it's full. There's nobody that tells you, you can't come down this road or you have to wait your turn. You know, it's a public access. So in conjunction with the traffic problems that happen occasionally, it really becomes exasperated when something additionally goes wrong and there's some sort of an accident or a medical problem, or something like this. And now, you have a real situation on your hands where you're impeding the safety of people's very life and limb at times. So what I'd like to do is ask our MPO Executive Director, Mr. Tom Thompson, to come forward and give us a very brief update on Highway 80, what -- what's been done in the past and what's being done now for any type of road improvements. So, Mr. Thompson, could

you please approach the podium and give us a short update on where we are at the present and that sort of thing?

Mr. Tom Thompson said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. I'll be happy to try to give you an update on that information. For a long time, there has been a study underway for a four-lane out to Tybee on U.S. 80, and that study has had starts and stops and ups and downs. It's been several years since they had a public information meeting out on Tybee Island about the project, and the outcome from that was about a fifty-fifty split of public opinion, of whether to four-lane or not four-lane that project. The project was slowed for a number of -- an amount of time for environmental studies that need to be done, particularly relating to turtle crossings, and my understanding at this point is, the study is basically on hold. The MPO and the Metropolitan Planning Commission has worked with Mayor Buelterman and Diane Schleicher, of Tybee, to talk about what could be done to further improvements in this area, and something that was manageable to do in terms of size and money.

And a while back, we came to the conclusion we should focus on a couple bottlenecks, which are the Bull River -- the narrow Bull River Bridge and the narrow Lazaretto Creek Bridge. And so we undertook to secure funding to initiate a study for how those bridges should be replaced, keeping in mind that the future may involve a four-lane road, and also trying to accomplish other goals which include making connections to existing trails and provide a safe crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians on those bridges. So in the end, you would have a new or -- may not be new, but an expanded two-lane bridge with shoulders and a safe area for bicyclists and pedestrians. And that study, we just signed a notice to proceed on that about a week ago and we're in the early getting ready to go out and meet with Tybee and other folks stage of that project. So I think we've got about a fifteen-month, sixteen-month schedule on that. At the end of that, we can secure design and construction funds as they've available.

There are some things that we're also doing relating to our transit -- our transit master plan. We call it Transit Vision Plan, if you've heard that term. And one of the ideas that we floated around both were future four-laning or, in lieu of a future four-laning, possibly, and in the interim, is to have some sort of express bus service out to Tybee. Tybee's not part of the CAT service area, so we'd have to be handling some kind of contractual relationship, but it seems to me that during the peaking periods, that it makes sense to get some of the people who are just beach-bound and have light carry-on items, to jump on a bus and run out there. The disadvantage of that today would be, they'd be stuck with the same traffic, although, in theory, less traffic, because more people are on the bus. In the future, what I can see being considered is maybe something we call in the industry bus rapid transit, a facility out to Tybee and back, which could be run more frequently and provide a lot of capacity that would bypass congestion to get to and from the island, and also, to provide a commuter service for anybody who lives there and works in town. So I think maybe that wasn't as brief as you wanted, Mr. Farrell, but that pretty much exhausts my knowledge of it.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay, thank you. I just like to know kinda where we are at this point.

Chairman Liakakis said, Tom, not only Chairman of the County Commission, but also Chairman of the C.O.R.E. Committee that's comprised of all seven cities and, of course, the county, is that I have brought it up before about an evacuation route.

Mr. Thompson said, right.

Chairman Liakakis said, and Jason Buelterman, the Mayor, and also others have talked about that, because now that we're getting a high-level bridge over Skidaway Island at Diamond Causeway, because it took a tremendous amount of lobbying to get that accomplished, but we were able to increase the priority of the Tybee Road. As you remember, it was way down low, and it's moved up somewhat. But I think because of the evacuation, in case there was a hurricane or some kind of disaster, that we need to put it in that mode, the same way that we did the Skidaway Island road. The differences, of course, you can use more waterways from Tybee Island, but, still, you're going to have a lot of people on the road, and we need to have the evacuation. And, of course, what happens, too, that when there are emergencies in the medical -- you know, the ambulances that take people from Tybee to come into the hospitals or wherever, then there is a problem, because they're stuck in that traffic jam also. So we've got some survival situations there. So if you can come up with something that we can push this along in a faster mode, that you might be presenting to us at the C.O.R.E., I think would help out.

Mr. Thompson said, well, we can certainly continue to look at that. One thing I forgot to mention about what we call for shorthand, U.S. 80 Bridges Study, is that it also includes a look at where the low spots are, so that in advance of, say, a hurricane coming and the tides rise, that we have identified -- well, we would identify where the first spots that would flood are and see if there's a project that could bridge -- well, not bridge it -- fill in those spots as an interim measure in the two-lane road cheaply and inexpensively, so we get more hours before a storm to evacuate people. Of course, I would need to check with the County Engineer, but I believe they would have -- you know, shut-down inbound to Tybee and let everybody come out on the two lanes that exist in an emergency situation. And those bridges are important to that, because right now -- and this has happened -- if there's an accident or a stalled vehicle, there's no place for them to go when they're crossing those bridges, so to have a wider, you know, 10-foot shoulders or whatever the design in something to have to provide that takes away a potential bottleneck for any evacuation. But going back to your point, we need to work with you and the MPO to determine how to move the overall project, if that's the desire. Recently, I had a conversation with Mayor Buelterman about, you know, really, I think, what would trigger that is if Tybee said, "We need to do something about this," and there was one voice and some consensus on that end, that that would help, I think, give the DOT some comfort that they should go forward with their study, which would be a longer-term effort than the bridges study.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Tom. At this time, I'd like to ask Mayor Jason Buelterman to come forward, and I think he would have a few comments that he would like to share with everyone.

Mayor Jason Buelterman said, thank you. Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, and, Pat, thanks so much for bringing this up. We really appreciate your support. We have been working -- I know I personally have been working on this for four and a half years, long before the CUTS and now the C.O.R.E. Committee talked to me about the safety issues relative to that road. The bottom line, as I understand it, is, we locally -- not just Tybee, but our -- the C.O.R.E. Committee and the County Commission, that we have to decide that this is a priority. I understand that Skidaway Narrows was a priority, and that got done. I understand that the Truman was a priority, and that got done. But this is a project, if you look at all the projects on the books, and Tom and I have met, talked about this recently, there are a number of them on there that, in my opinion, are convenience, are to get people from Point A to Point B a little quicker.

This is public safety, and I think that public safety should trump convenience. We've talked about this a lot at Tybee over the years. There are some people who have been opposed to this project for one reason or another, but over time, a consensus has built, that we have got to do something about this situation. About a year and a half ago, there was a wreck that involved fatalities on the Bull River Bridge. It shut down traffic

on and off the island for about eight hours. What would have happened if somebody had a heart attack? You know? And that a helicopter couldn't have gotten out there? Now, the most recent statistics that we have available from 2008, the helicopter was called twelve times, it only could come four times because of weather, availability, maintenance issues, whatever. So we have an increasingly aging population on Tybee. We have a population that's growing. We have tourism that's growing.

We have folks who are -- more people are coming out from a growing area, which is Savannah, Chatham County, and Effingham and Bryan and elsewhere. And as Pat mentioned, it's the only vehicle-accessible beach for this entire area of Georgia, and it just keeps getting more and more crowded. I was at a hurricane conference a couple years ago, approached a gentleman who is a hurricane expert with NOAA. I said, "I'm the Mayor of Tybee Island," and he stopped me right there, and he said, "Oh, you're the island that has a two-lane causeway that floods at high tide, the part of the coast that is just about as prone to storm surge as New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Mississippi and Alabama." They know about us. And we have got to prioritize it locally, and that's all there is to it.

And again, I understand there were some other projects that needed to go forward. Absolutely understand the two that have been funded recently that I know, Pete, you worked very hard on and you all worked very hard on, but this has got to be done. I want to address one other issue real quick. We would like to see this done in a way that isn't necessarily based on the plans the DOT developed fifteen years ago. Things have changed. You know, we really -- I talk to Jack Kingston a lot. He rides his bike out to Tybee a lot, and he tells me how dangerous it is to do that. We've got to figure out a way to do this in a way that's environmentally sensitive, that's up with the times, that deals with the accessibility for bicyclists and others.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you very much, Jason. I appreciate your perspective on this. At this time, I'd like to recognize my fellow Commissioner, Pat Shay, who has some ideas on some improvements along that corridor. Mr. Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, thank you, Commissioner Farrell. I'm on the C.O.R.E. MPO. I've watched this situation as a County Commissioner since 1992, and I sense your frustration, and the frustrations of people that live on Tybee Island and on the other side of these roads and bridges. And as you well know, I'm not telling you anything, but I want to make sure that other folks understand that, you know, on a state road, they have a strategy that has been used for the last thirty years of how they go get the big dollars from the Federal Government and it flows down through the State and then from there, it may not flow down through to us, and that process takes a long time. I think Director Thompson was just saying, fifteen or sixteen months to complete the study and then the study doesn't guarantee that the revenue is there. I think we need to pursue that as aggressively as we can, because it's going to take tens of millions of dollars in order to really fix the problems that you want fixed, to build these long bridges on Bull River and Lazaretto Creek.

But in the meantime, I think we, as the local body, should also help to do some studies on what the short-term things are that we could do to help manage these situations, and try and see if there aren't suggestions that we could make to our local governments and also to, you know, Georgia DOT about how we could do some things that are not ten million dollar solutions or hundred million dollar solutions. We want to pursue those, as well, but I just have to tell you that my view is, as one member of the C.O.R.E. MPO, that the days of hundreds of millions of dollars flowing through this process may very well be over. It's all funded with highway gasoline tax, excise taxes that are nationwide. As a politician, I don't see a whole lot of courage up there in Washington to go do what it takes to replenish that fund. I think that we can help, and that part of what we need to do is look at the whole range of your issues. When you've having festivals, when you

have the heavy traffic, when your resident population is really high in the summer time, when it's really low in the winter time, fold it in with CEMA, and take a look at all of these things, not just in the context of a four-lane road, which is going to take ten years at the inside. Jason, I know that the Truman Parkway, you know, it's named after Harry Truman, I think, because it was a good idea when he was President, so I think we can do more in trying to look at what we could do with local resources, too. It's not going to be as dramatic, I think, as what you'd like at the end of the day, but I don't think we should just wait for, you know, the Federal Government to rain down money on our -- on our problems here in Chatham County.

Commissioner Farrell said, are there any other Commissioners that would like to make any comments at this time? Well, I'd again like to reiterate that we need to -- it would be nice to talk about this publicly and see what different interest levels there are about making transportation improvements. I understand that the Tybee City Council spoke to this issue yesterday at their meeting, and would you like to share with us a message from the -- from the Council?

Mayor Buelterman said, sure. Yeah, we adopted a resolution in advance of your all's meeting here this morning. Before I read that, real quick, to your point, we -- Russ had some very good ideas that he shared with us about dealing with some of these concerns, and we also met with -- well, Russ' ideas are relative to the -- to the 4th of July, big events, which we're investigating. But we also could certainly use the help of the Metro Police in terms of traffic and dealing with traffic control. On Memorial Day, on Saturday, traffic was backed all the way up to where Uncle Bubba's is.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, most of the traffic problem is under the jurisdiction of the Metro Police Department, because most of the traffic that we're talking about, although the destination is Tybee, the little pinpoint on the coast of Georgia, the closest one being seventy miles away, that's the target, but to get there, you have to go through the unincorporated area of Chatham County, and incorporated areas, for that matter, and it kinda funnels all the way until you get to that Bull River Bridge, and then it becomes a little straw and you've got to move all these folks back and forth on that ten mile stretch. So, you know, we -- we've talked about it as a community and, as you know, it's not really Tybee's problem, although they catch it, because they're the destination. I think it's a community-wide situation, because when we want to go to the beach a few days out of the year, we all pick up from wherever we are, whether we're in Chatham County or Effingham or Bryan or parts beyond, and we get in our vehicles and we all head and funnel into Tybee Island to enjoy a day at the beach. And who doesn't enjoy a day at the beach? I'm sure there's very few that don't occasionally like to go out there, some more than others.

So, you know, I'd like to open up a community-wide discussion on, you know, what improvements can come and how can we safely handle the large crowds of people that come? If it was just -- if this was just Tybee's problem, just the residents' problem, what they've got out there right now would probably work. But they have no choice as to who comes to their island and visits. It is a publicly very -- I mean, there's no part on that beach that I know of that's closed to the public, so, you know, I think we all could be a part of the solution to how to move people safely back and forth, so -- I didn't mean to interrupt you, but go ahead.

Mayor Buelterman said, and I know we're taking up a lot of time, but I did want to add one -- Commissioner Farrell said, sure. Mayor Buelterman said, there's been a lot of discussion about a toll road, and I want to make clear, one of the reasons we have not -- I, at least, have not been supportive of that is because Tybee is known as being accessible. You know, anybody can come out there. You don't have to pay five bucks to pay a toll to come to the beach. We want to keep it open and accessible to everybody. And by putting a toll road up, while people do have to pay to park if they come out there and park in a public spot, that isn't

all that expensive, we would really rather not pursue that option. They did not have to do a toll to Skidaway. Why should we have to do a toll to Tybee? I'll go ahead and read this resolution that we adopted last night. It says:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Tybee wish to express their strong support for funding to help improve the many safety concerns related to Highway 80 from the Bull River to the Lazaretto Creek Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Commission is in a position to influence funding decisions made about local transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the City has made great efforts in recent years to secure funding for replacement of the Bull River and Lazaretto Creek bridges, as well as improvements on the existing causeway; and

WHEREAS, the primary reason justifying funding for these projects is public safety; and

WHEREAS, Highway 80 is Tybee's only access point and is often blocked due to heavy traffic volume, high tides, or vehicular accidents; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important for the purposes of emergency vehicle access and hurricane evacuation that Highway 80 remain open and accessible;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Tybee Island that we urge local, state, and federal officials to prioritize improvements to Highway 80 from the Bull River to the Lazaretto Creek Bridge, and also to support redesigning the existing plans that are on the books for the DOT to widen or raise this roadway and replace those bridges.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Jason, I pretty much go every weekend out to Tybee. Mayor Buelterman said, I know you do. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, and I was thinking just riding through after an accident and everything, and I know the bridge is really narrow, but as a temporary solution until the bridge is widened, I know you'd have to bring traffic down to a crawl to do it, but would it be possible to put a -- I'm looking out to the MPC here -- to put some sort of barrier in that middle lane? Because I know that's where the accidents occurs, when somebody veers over, and I would rather see them run into the, you know, cement wall in the middle of that bridge rather than run right over, you know, and hit head-on with someone. I mean, many here may know -- more of an engineer than I am, but does that make any sense to do that as a temporary fix?

Mayor Buelterman said, that was something that was discussed after that wreck happened last year. But the reality is, like you said, we're not engineers, number one, and, number two, that whole stretch from Bull River to Lazaretto Creek is not in the City of Tybee's jurisdiction. That's county.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I didn't realize that. I was just wanting your opinion on that.

Mayor Buelterman said, I think anything that we could do to make it safer would be great, and that's one thing that we should look at.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, is that something we can ask somebody to look at, to see if that could be a temporary fix that we could actually do?

Commissioner Farrell said, well, I mean, although it's all located in the county, you have to understand that this is a State of Georgia road. Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh, yeah. Commissioner Farrell said, but I certainly think that our -- we could direct Staff to inquire with our DOT engineers to look at the feasibility of doing something to -- you know, in the short term to improve the safety.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, and my suggestion is not to take the responsibility off the State of Georgia, which is actually responsible for improving the road; it's just to do our part and try to help, if possible.

Chairman Liakakis said, and the money that we got actually for the Truman Parkway, we didn't get much stimulus funding, and on the second go-around, hardly any stimulus funding. Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Farrell, we lobbied in Washington with our Congress people and all and others, and did the same thing in Atlanta and all, and it took a tremendous amount of lobbying to get that money. In fact, I became friends with a number of people on the actual Board who make the decision with the Georgia Department of Transportation about projects, my friendship with a number of them, and constantly lobbied with them. And I really appreciate the hard work that Helen and Patrick did, you know, doing the things in Atlanta and, of course, in Washington and all.

But what happened on the Truman Parkway, this was money that came to us from Federal and State fuel taxes. Had nothing to do with the stimulus funding. So we were able to do that. And it was a substantial amount of money. They voted that we could use as much as \$120 million to complete the fifth phase of the Truman Parkway, but once they put it out for bid, it came back, because things had slowed down in the construction area, that a topnotch construction company bid it in for \$67 million. Of course, Russ and I, we talked to them in Atlanta with the hierarchy there about giving us the other \$53 million left for that, and we could do things, help Tybee and other projects that we had in the county, you know, in Chatham County. But we were told by the hierarchy, "Pete, it don't work like that. We're going take that \$53 million" -- as Russ can tell you -- "and distribute that to other parts of the state." And, of course, I sort of knew about that ahead of time, but just was trying to get us that money. But, thank you very much. We'll do what we can. But what I want to do at this point -- any other Commissioners? I'm going to ask Patrick to come forth now, because he wants to make for a resolution.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah. Dr. Thomas, did you want to speak?

Commissioner Thomas said, no.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. What I'd like to ask for Board consideration is that we consider a resolution in support of the Tybee City Council's resolution and that we go --

Commissioner Thomas said, do you put that as a --

Commissioner Farrell said, as a motion, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, all right, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second for the resolution to support the road project. Let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrell that the Chatham County Commission adopt a resolution in support of the resolution of Tybee City Council to urge local, state, and federal officials to prioritize improvements to Highway 80 from the Bull River to the Lazaretto Creek Bridge, and also to support redesigning the existing plans that are on the books for the DOT to widen or raise this roadway and replace those bridges. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and the motion passed unanimously. [Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Jason.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and can we -- on that, can we ask Tom or somebody over there to take a look at the road and see if we could do something temporarily?

Chairman Liakakis said, well, that's what you mentioned a while ago, and he was going to look at something.

Commissioner Farrell said, we could ask our Staff to follow through with that. Russ?

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, I'd direct our focus on Tom and the -- the C.O.R.E. group, yes, sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 10:30 a.m. and convened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority. Following adjournment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the Board reconvened at 11:12 a.m., as the County Commission.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

Unless action is contemplated at today's meeting, staff report and file material has not been duplicated in your agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (*).

- * A. Second Reading:
Adopt an updated Chatham County Revenue Ordinance. **At meeting of May 28, 2010, the ordinance was passed minus Article V, Section 3 (Solid Waste Operations), and minus changes to Article R (Engineering Fees).**

Chairman Liakakis said, everybody was distributed a Staff Report addressing the dry trash topic and a memo explaining the discussion with the homebuilders/developers on land disturbance fees.

Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, you have to take it off the table, please.

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion to take it off the table.

Commissioner Holmes said, so move. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Commissioner Holmes and seconded by Commissioner Farrell to remove from the table the adoption of Article V, Section 3 (Solid Waste Operations), and minus changes to Article R (Engineering Fees) of an updated Chatham County Revenue Ordinance. The motion passed. Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell and Odell, and Chairman Liakakis voted yes. [Commissioners Stone, Kicklighter, and Thomas were not present.]

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County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, we'll start with the additional staff work, the options, and the questions of Commissioner Farrell on point regarding your deliberation on that aspect of the Revenue Ordinance referencing the \$43 for dry trash. In the Staff Report, they alluded to, also, a legal work that, at the time, was still in the process by the County Attorney, which has been completed. So, in effect, you have about 37 pages there of information in this portion of your agenda dealing with the subject of dry trash. With your permission again, I would like to not read the Staff Report, far from it, but carry you through each of the options. And I'd really be relying on Mr. Drewry in the main to go through them, but on your Staff Report, it's Page 2 of the Staff Report, but it's referencing Item Page 3 of 37 pages. The first option is living with the current \$43 per household per year charge. If my memory serves me correctly, this was a question posed by Commissioner Farrell, and we are addressing that as best we can, given our understanding of the current workload and our capacity, which, in effect, would reduce the frequency of pickup from once a month to once every other week, and we're challenged with the same amount of material to pick up, with fewer days to pick it up, which translates into prolonged pickup and more difficulties, but let's deal with that, please, on point. Mr. Drewry. This is Option Number 1, entitled, "Living With The Current \$43 Per Household Fee."

Mr. Drewry said, good morning. Robert Drewry, Director of Public Works & Park Services. To pick up where the County Manager just left off, I've got five options that I want to quickly go through. Option 1 is living with the current \$43 per residential per year. That option alone would be very difficult to operate and very difficult to manage, because you're not doing anything to reduce the volume of trash that will be out there. So my recommendation in that option would be to totally discontinue picking up bulky items so that we have five days a week to pick up yard waste. That option would also require, because it is funding half the program, require some layoffs and idling equipment. That option also does -- another thing is reducing the ability to effectively and efficiently respond to wind storm events. As you know, when a wind storm comes, heavy debris can be thrown down onto the ground. The residents put that up at the curb and require us to come get it. Having half -- essentially half of the staff pick it up, it would be a considerable amount of time to collect that kind of debris.

Commissioner Farrell said, how much staff do you have that picks up dry trash?

Mr. Drewry said, there are thirteen staff members.

Commissioner Farrell said, thirteen? And how many trucks?

Mr. Drewry said, I've got nine trucks.

Commissioner Farrell said, so you'd typically have from one to two people in each truck to pick up?

Mr. Drewry said, the truck is manned by a county employee, who is the operator, and contract laborers. There's two contract laborers per truck.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, how many trucks?

Mr. Drewry said, nine trucks.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay, so how do you -- if you've got nine trucks, then, where -- and you've got nine drivers and you've got four other employees, what do they do?

Mr. Drewry said, they're contract laborers. Two other employees on a truck. Three total on a truck, the driver and two contract laborers.

Commissioner Farrell said, so you've got eighteen contract laborers?

Mr. Drewry said, that's correct. And I run a boom truck, which is the knuckle-boom truck, and I have an operator on that truck and a contract laborer on the ground.

Commissioner Farrell said, so you've got one and one. So that accounts for ten employees. What do the other three employees do?

Mr. Drewry said, I have an admin, supervisor and superintendent.

Commissioner Farrell said, an admin?

Mr. Drewry said, administrative assistant, excuse me.

Commissioner Farrell said, to pick up dry trash?

Mr. Drewry said, no, to manage the calls and the work orders and the workload, among other things.

Commissioner Farrell said, how many administrative assistants do you have on Public Works?

Mr. Drewry said, I've got four Administrative Assistant 1.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay, so you could probably -- I mean, it seems like a lot of administrative assistants to do the same thing over and over again every week. And what was the other two? You said administrative assistant --

Mr. Drewry said, supervisor.

Commissioner Farrell said, supervisor?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, one supervisor?

Mr. Drewry said, one supervisor and one superintendent. Actually, it's an assistant superintendent. I have a superintendent that also part-time works as other functions within Solid Waste --

Commissioner Farrell said, so you've got --

Mr. Drewry said, -- drop-off centers and such of that sort.

Commissioner Farrell said, for nine trucks, you've got an administrative assistant, a supervisor, and a superintendent to help them do what they do over and over?

Mr. Drewry said, their full time job is not managing trucks. Their full time job is managing the Solid Waste Department.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay, that's why I was just trying to get it -- since we're talking about this, you know, this dry trash pickup, I was just trying to figure out -- just seems like we've got a lot of supervision for nine truck drivers.

Mr. Drewry said, if that's all they did, but I've got twenty-three employees in Solid Waste.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay.

Mr. Drewry said, going back to Option 1, and I do want to note one item is, this option does nothing to reduce the volume of yard waste that's going to be out there. Managing this option would be very difficult. Just right off the cuff, I can tell you that, you know, we won't be on designated routes. I'm not sure, based on just strictly mathematics, if we can complete in a two-week period what we're picking up in a week today.

Chairman Liakakis said, what option is that?

Mr. Drewry said, that would be Option 1. Option 2 would be bleeding the Solid Waste Fund reserves --

County Manager Abolt said, let me introduce this, Robert, because this -- this did not come through Robert. It came through Ms. Cramer. We were looking at the audit, the budget, and there was this account that was set up in the early 1990s, and it was driven by a commitment made and authorization, I believe at the State level, to do something in recycling education and doing things to promote volume reduction at that time, in the traditional landfills, and there was \$1 a ton surcharge placed on the dumping and landfills by private companies here in Chatham County, and we've amassed, I think it's \$3.5 million. Ms. Cramer came to me and said, "Make sure that we tell the Board, even though this has never the subject of your discussion, that that money is there." We're not being apologetic for it; it's a reserve. So we did carry it one step further and say, okay, no member of the Board said use this, we're just saying it could be an option. Not recommending this. But the option would be, to use my term, bleeding it, because it does not replenish itself quickly. And not only that, you'll notice in some of our analysis, even though the County Attorney did opine a few days

later it could be done, you have a situation of a very much-needed reserve in the event of any substantial wind damage. In fact, in the historical document from the attorney in past opinions, he reminds me that a few years back when this issue was addressed as to its use, he cautioned then and, coincidentally, Mr. Drewry just came back from a conference with FEMA and CEMA about what it would take in the event that there was some storm event, to match those federal dollars and state dollars. It would require about a 15% match of total cost. It was purely the luck-of-the-draw, but given the past history of storms of great consequence, it's about \$3.5 million. We did not plan it to be that way; that's just the way it fell. But we're very cautious of and make sure we're very much motivated to give you full disclosure. This could be an option if you wish to choose it, but it does bleed our reserve, and we're concerned about that.

Commissioner Farrell said, at what rate does that money replenish itself per year?

Mr. Abolt said, I would defer -- Robert, do you know? Or Ms. Cramer?

Mr. Drewry said, I'd defer that to Ms. Cramer.

Ms. Cramer said, I'm not sure.

Mr. Abolt said, we can find out for you. For the number of years we've had it, \$3.5 million, although it sounds a lot, in one --

Commissioner Farrell said, have we ever spent any money out of that account?

Commissioner Stone said, yeah, that's what I want to know.

Mr. Drewry said, yes, sir. The Eisenhower Recycling Center is one example of money being used from that reserve.

Commissioner Stone said, and how much came out of that?

Mr. Drewry said, I don't know off the top of my head. I'm sorry.

Commissioner Stone said, I mean, because I think that might answer how -- how much we spent, how quickly it accrues.

County Attorney Hart said, you all are talking about the one thing I did not put in my opinion and I offer it as a caveat to what I said is, oddly enough, the Solid Waste Management Act does not define solid waste, okay? So that's why this opinion is somewhat contorted, to get to where you need to get as far as the use of the funds. But one thing is for sure, is, you're picking -- if you're going to take money out of that and use it for this service, you have got to maintain a fund in that so when we bleed it, we can't bleed it dry. And you've got to continue to do what is within your Solid Waste Management Ordinance. In other words, your traditional recycling and all your other things, plus it -- you have to have an educational component, because, in order to use that \$1 fund, we have to have a solid waste educational component, which we do. But we would have to always, I think, go where I think Commissioner Farrell is leading us, to try to figure out how much we need to maintain in the fund and how much does it get replenished, therefore, how much float do we have in the fund.

Commissioner Stone said, well, could there be some type of a -- using that fund to subsidize and then a little more of an additional fee so that we wouldn't deplete it --

County Manager Abolt said, you might remember we were tested in court on that. This was the issue back a few years ago. I think it was Republic that took us to court. At the time, we had pushed the fee, I think, to \$1.50 a ton and then we were challenged, unfortunately successfully, because we, quote/unquote, did not negotiate --

Commissioner Stone said, I mean, with this fee increase.

County Manager Abolt said, oh, you're talking about -- you're talking about -- I'm sorry. You're not talking about the tipping fee; you're talking about the --

Commissioner Stone said, I'm talking about using a portion of these funds, not all of them, in addition to a little bit of a fee increase.

County Manager Abolt said, so you --

Commissioner Stone said, in other words, to soften the blow --

County Manager Abolt said, permit me to understand --

Commissioner Stone said, -- or use this fund that's here.

County Manager Abolt said, then you're saying something less than \$43.

Commissioner Stone said, yes.

County Manager Abolt said, okay, we could cash flow that, if you wish.

Ms. Cramer said, we did cash flow it. On Page 3 of the Staff Report, if you did a \$15 a year increase in the fee, --

Commissioner Stone said, right.

Ms. Cramer said, -- that you could sustain that over a three-year period and it would replenish the funds back. You know, obviously, you don't want to deplete a fund, so you need to have a way to replenish it, so if you do want to look at using these reserves, I think it would be good to maybe adopt a three-year phased in fee approach so we don't have to go through this fee increase every year, and then that methodology would already be in place for you. That's under Option 2, second paragraph, Page 3.

County Manager Abolt said, okay, and then the third option --

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, then the State of Georgia -- that's fine, go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, then the third option would be on Page 4 of the Staff Report and that in effect would stop the service. And as you know, from a business standpoint, given the overall condition of the umbrella SSD budget, that would be my recommendation if your choice is not to adequately fund the dry trash, and we'd just say, you know, we stop it. And there could be layoffs involved of some consequence. They've been enumerated in the Staff Report. And then you would instruct the Tax Commissioner to no longer collect the current \$43 per year. Robert?

Mr. Drewry said, thank you. I'd like to add to that particular option a couple of items that I would caution you against. As you know, there's a lot of debris out there, both yard waste and bulky. You would, by taking this option, ultimately require the residents themselves to either take it to a drop-off center, but in our experience, a lot of it would end up in the woods, it would end up in the canals. You know, who knows what else, where else it would be? And the second option to that -- second caution to that one would also be, coupling with the current hiring freeze imposed on the SSD, my ability to pick up storm debris would be drastically, drastically diminished.

Mr. Abolt said, and I would speak on this, because this is a business decision, I realize, and you might attribute my typifying it as that coldhearted, and it is, I guess, from the standpoint of the budget. But I've lived through those phones, I've lived with Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Farrell when that tornado came through here, took the steeple off the church on Montgomery Crossroads, and we got high praise, because we were able to mobilize very quickly and clean up those neighborhoods. Without this capacity, we can't do it. I'll give you just the realistic thing that will happen, and this is not a threat or not -- other than saying reality has taught us this -- without this capacity, we'll go through, we'll clean streets, and that means the folks, you know, are going to have all this stuff in their yard. They're going to wonder why the County is not picking up the stuff in their yard that they put out there. And then more importantly, that kind of -- that kind of additional, to use the term of the Department of Defense, our surge capacity to respond to this is lost, because in those situations like the tornado, in addition to dealing with what we had to do with dry trash and the boom truck, we had other resources to surge. We wouldn't have the surge anymore.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ, then if we take the second option, the second option, and as the Finance Department has said, charge \$1.25 more a month for three years, and the other portion come out of the Solid Waste funds reserve, --

County Manager Abolt said, if you -- I'm not trying to work a solution for you, but I will respond to you, you asked the question. You could do that. I'm relying on Ms. Cramer. But Ms. Cramer is saying, I believe, and I will have her correct my language if I'm wrong, you would amend the Revenue Ordinance to go from \$43, adding \$15, and you'd commit to each year hence \$15 a year coming off the bleed. And with that understanding, and I realize that I'm only a staff, but I know you don't enjoy having this come back with each budget year, my thoughts would be, if you choose to phase in the balance of the 50%, to do so, but also do so with the understanding that once this is done and you're at 85, it's not coming back to you. In other words, you've approved a fee increase that stays over the next few years and you will not put yourself in a position to have to revisit the dry trash funding three years hence, or whatever the requirement is.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, but, Russ, what I'm saying is, so that people understand it, we want to go with Option Number 2, is that what's being recommended in here, of course, \$15 a year. But we explain to people if this Board so desires, to get it balanced out and to work it with the Waste fund, is that it's only \$1.25 more a month. Is that right?

County Attorney Hart said, no, no, that is not correct, Mr. Chairman. The dollar is a tipping fee and, by state statute, we're stuck with a dollar, okay?

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, okay, on this state --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's \$3.58 more per month per property owner.

County Attorney Hart said, -- so there's not any way to do that, so we've got to stay with the dollar there, but you can adjust the dry trash fee however you choose, you know, raise it, lower it, do something in between, and spread it out through increase as Commissioner Stone is talking about.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen?

Commissioner Stone said, well, the difficult thing for me -- and I've talked to a few of my constituents about this -- first of all, we definitely need the service, and I respect that and understand that, and I think that most of my constituents do, especially in light of a couple of years ago when that tornado did come through a good portion of my district. The real problem is, we've got people that are struggling right now and we're asking them to pay for a service that for years and years and years and years was -- was done for free. And so we're putting another hardship --

Commissioner Farrell said, we pay taxes for that service.

Commissioner Stone said, excuse me?

Commissioner Farrell said, we pay taxes for it.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand, but I'm saying that there was not an additional fee charged for it, so in essence, we're asking them to pay for something that they would have normally gotten as a benefit of their taxes. So this is a hard thing for them -- for many, many people to get their arms around. I have very mixed emotions about it. I think that we pay a lot of taxes in Chatham County, and this is -- this is one of the little services that the Special Service District gets. I mean, we pay our own fire protection, we pay our own water. You know, this is not something that, you know, you want to look somebody straight in the eye and say, now you've got to pay an additional fee. I think that -- I'm going to finish -- I think that to ask residents if they could remove this debris for less than the County is doing it, I don't think that's possible. I think at the end of the day, the service is -- the money, for what you're going to get, is worth it. The problem is, this is -- we're implementing another fee at a very, very difficult time in many, many people's lives and the economy of this country. I think that's the really difficult part, because this is a service that normally we would have expected to receive. And I understand the value of it and I do not want it discontinued. I'm just going to try to find a way to find something in the middle of the road here to keep this service going, but to not put another hardship on the citizens of this county. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for viewers' info at home and why Commissioner Stone and Farrell and myself might seem a little passionate is because basically this topic includes us. This is not Chatham County dry trash pickup. This is unincorporated area Chatham County dry trash pickup in which us three pretty represent unincorporated Chatham County, because they're housed

mainly in our districts. First, I'd like to just clarify and say we don't have five options in front of us. We have three options, with Number 4 and 5 being statements. So you gave us three options with two statements in addition, so there's not five options in front of us. Weekly yard waste on Statement Number 4, not option, states that 330 tons are collected, I guess per year, I guess that is there? Per week, I mean, excuse me. That's 660,000 pounds. I was just kinda curious to what type of work we were getting, so I'll ask this. Do we have five to seven cubic yards as our standard type dump trucks, or do we hold ten to twelve cubic yards?

Mr. Drewry said, our dump trucks or trash compactor trucks?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, whatever. Trash.

Mr. Drewry said, trash compactor trucks? They have bodies in them that can have a volume up to, I think it's like thirteen cubic yards.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so it's basically the large ten-wheel type thing. Based on my research, which I've never drove a dump truck or anything, but I may do it in the future. I do a little bit of everything else, but -- I've found that the twelve cubic yard dry trash type pickups, if it'll hold twelve cubic yards, that equates from what I've found, that one cubic yard of your standard dry trash is 260 pounds. So what that broke down to was 3,120 pounds per load, and when you divide that into the 660,000 pounds, that actually comes up to 211.5 loads carried each week, 42.2 loads per day, or 10,998 loads per year. If you take that and break it down a little bit more, with the \$1,820,000 -- \$1,820,933 and you divide that by the loads of 11,862 loads, we're looking at a cost of \$153.51 per load. Now, just to have a little more fun with numbers here, I just broke it on down, 11,862 loads per year, that equals, with nine trucks, 1,318 trips per -- okay, equals 1,318 trips per year. That's 25.3 trips per week or 5.1 trips per truck per week. This is per truck, with nine trucks. So on your average day, based on this, each truck, each one of the nine trucks, picks up five loads. That's their day's work. Did I lose you, Commissioner Stone? You've got a --

Commissioner Stone said, I'm just trying to --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, all right, just forget everything I said to get to that point. But based on the number breakdown, --

Commissioner Farrell said, do you agree with that, Bob?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- our nine trucks, each one of them every day --

Commissioner Farrell said, five times a day?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, one truck is dumping -- picking up and dumping five loads a day, is what that breaks down to.

Commissioner Farrell said, do you concur with that?

Mr. Drewry said, I'm fully lost in numbers, so I can't --

Commissioner Stone said, I'm lost, too.

Mr. Drewry said, I will tell you, for example, yesterday we picked up the Wilmington Island's route. They worked ten hours and they packed out, I think, at least three times each, for each truck. Packed out means they filled the truck up. So just comparing densities with volumes -- and I'm not sure I can do the math --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, are they back working Wilmington Island today?

Mr. Drewry said, no, sir. They finished the route yesterday.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so see, that average --

Commissioner Farrell said, so you're saying they had a ten hour day and they did three -- three loads.

Mr. Drewry said, yesterday.

Commissioner Farrell said, yesterday.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and they're not working picking up trash today.

Mr. Drewry said, they're picking up bulky items today.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, where at?

Mr. Drewry said, Whit --

Chairman Liakakis said, James and then Russ.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm not finished by far, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, I thought you --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, sir.

Mr. Drewry said, they're probably on, I think -- this is the second Friday? If this is second Friday, they're on The Landings and Skidaway Island area.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, based on the figures and everything that I've come up with, and the knowledge that not all people who are currently paying this \$43 fee actually utilize this service, I've come up with the following options. I believe I have three options here, also, and one of them is one of yours. The first option, or just one of the options, I've not put them in any order, would be no increase to the actual fee right now, but a 45 -- based on the numbers that I have -- a \$45 per use/pickup fee, when a citizen of unincorporated area utilizes the service. That's a low, low cost. We keep all the trucks, keep everything, and that way, all the citizens that's not actually utilizing the service, they're not having to pay everything. It would be a cost addition to that service, so they would phone in, set it up, the pickup, and they would pay \$45. That would cover -- because the numbers crunched up, it's running about 89 a month, where you're asking it to be 85, I believe is the total in here, currently charging 45.

County Manager Abolt said, per year.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah.

County Manager Abolt said, per year.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so that 45 per call-in, considering people would still utilize the service just like they do now, you would have your \$1.8 million. It would offset, because you have the 43 in place and then you do the service fee call-in, you would continue -- if they utilize that service -- to have it, that money.

County Manager Abolt said, I need a quick -- you're talking about \$45 a pickup?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes.

County Manager Abolt said, but we're -- I'm not trying to argue with you -- we're offering the entire service for a year with no per pickup charge for 85.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, sir, but I'm sure you would find that the bulks of the pickups are probably done by a certain group of individuals who utilize this service, dumping things over and over and over, and the great majority of the citizens don't utilize the service.

County Manager Abolt said, here -- I'm not argumentative, I'm trying to work with you on the solution. First of all, we don't have -- I use the term bureaucracy -- we don't have a capacity to bill. I mean, we don't say, you know, we go to Russ Abolt's house in Old Town, and he calls and we picked up -- that would be -- that would be a great expense, because then you'd have the issue, okay, if I call today, I want somebody there Monday, can you get there? No. We're out, you know, on the west side somewhere. So you have that issue. And how do you keep track of it?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we could set zones in the area where times can be picked up. Citizens could call in. They would have to either bring the money in or mail the check in before the pickup took place. It would be like any other --

County Manager Abolt said, well, let's -- I'm trying to work with you -- I want you to look, because I want to make sure you saw, we do have options. We've labeled them options and --

Commissioner Farrell said, that's Option 4.

County Manager Abolt said, -- that's Option 4 we're talking about.

Commissioner Farrell said, it's already in there.

County Manager Abolt said, let me explain. Commissioner, with permission, I think what he's reading into Option 4 --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, is this on the first page of your --

County Manager Abolt said, no, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, it's on Page 5.

Commissioner Farrell said, it's on Page 5.

Commissioner Thomas said, five.

County Manager Abolt said, Commissioner, they're labeled, Commissioner, just like big bold letters, Option 1, 2, and 3.

Chairman Liakakis said, look under 4, under the small letter 4 right there.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I see it.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, let's make the transition to help the discussion. The idea would be, yes, subscription, and then that -- you'd sign up. It would -- again, it'd be difficult, but the concept, the germ of the idea is, we'd have to do an awful lot of working on this, would be -- would be that a person would say, okay, I'm willing to pay so much a year, and then when I need it, I'm going to get it. The difficulty with that is, we don't know how much the fee would be. Mr. Drewry and his staff, you know, say that 25% of the unincorporated don't use it, it might be \$380 a year. That's getting to be a tad spendy, and then you -- the Chairman and I were talking about this, and I realize that we're all sensitive to how we're viewed in the neighborhood, but I could see maybe me signing up for it or a Commissioner signing up for it and there's a big old wind storm and the neighbor down the street wants to know why the County Manager has county crews coming down to pick up his dry trash. Or the other thing that could happen, and I would not say it would, but it could happen, you'd have one neighborhood in the -- neighbor say, I'll sign up for that, and then all of his neighbors dump the stuff on his property, so there's all sorts of --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, this --

County Manager Abolt said, -- potential abuses.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- this Number 4 is not the same.

County Manager Abolt said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so basically you keep the fee in place with the understanding that we've got to maintain the vehicles in case of emergencies, but then you have the fee per use that could be paid and that would actually offset the additional expenses. And in that --

County Manager Abolt said, anything is possible. I'm just very concerned about the bureaucracy, and I'm not demeaning -- I would never -- I don't want my words to demean the quality of our staff, because they're very good. I've watched them work. But I want to make sure we communicate to you clearly what we have out on those trucks now. We have a full time driver and then we surge that by temporary labor. So the individuals -- and I do have -- I will admit to you candidly, I have over six years of experience, when I went through college and graduate school working on the back end of a garbage truck, and that's how I paid my way through college. So I do know that there's a helper and then there's a driver. And the driver usually stays in the cab while the helper does the work. So you'd have -- you'd have to empower those day laborers to say, yes, I'm at 110 Old Town Road and we picked this up. And then that's going to have to get back some way to a billing capacity to send a bill out to me at 110 Old Town Road. So I -- there's a bureaucracy implied there that is a little bit -- I'm leery of.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, why not, then, go -- another option, just totally eliminate the once a year fee and -- I mean, the \$85 once a year fee and just charge per use per house? And break it down.

County Manager Abolt said, could you --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, why not allow them to just call in, period?

County Manager Abolt said, that'd be --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that option's worse than the other, because that eliminates the other --

County Manager Abolt said, yeah, but you can't put a -- we have never had that capacity.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but it's cheaper than the 300 and something -- 380 per year estimated cost of your Option 4.

County Manager Abolt said, my concern is, again, we've never done this before, and having the capacity to respond, so if the person on Wilmington Island says -- it's Friday afternoon, there was a big wind storm last night, I want you to come pick it up, and all our resources are on the west side, and then if we can't get out there, you know, within a day or two, they're going to start calling their Commissioner as to why we didn't, and then we'd have to bill that person. It could be a real mess.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what about a RFP out to private haulers to be the County's contracted person -- I know that's actually in your options. In looking at the -- that is one of yours. Right?

Mr. Drewry said, contracting this out? No, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, somebody just said it or whatever. But we could put an RFP out for a private -- private service to actually be the ones that were phoned and they could go pick up the actual debris and, that way, it would be just simply a, you know, charge per service.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, next is James, then Helen, then Patrick.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want us to just stay in reality. I don't think we're facing it right now. We see, but we're not facing it face on. And the reality of this whole issue came before us last year. It came before us and we didn't vote it in Number 5, because it had 85. And when we didn't vote it in, we asked to cut it to 43, and we compromised then to bring it in at 43. But facing 43, we're right back this year, facing the same issue that came before us last year. So if you face reality, we should have done it last year and we wouldn't have been here now facing the same issue. Now, I know some of us don't want to raise tax, but in reality, the way the world is going, you have to face it. I wasn't put here to make soft decisions. I wasn't put here to make always tough decisions, but I was put here to make decision, what is best for this county. And I make it based on the information that is shared with me, given to me, and when I get it, I do my study on it. I'm not doing it because my citizen don't want me to do it or I want to do it. I'm doing what is best for Chatham County Government. Now, we're talking about spending and bleeding. If you keep spending and you keep bleeding, which one would you rather stop? All of us bleed at some point.

And as soon as you stop bleeding, you want to stop the bleed. But why are you letting this bleed here continuously? And if it's to continue bleeding, you're going bleed out. We know that our balance and everything needs to be in place for our safety. But do we rather bleed green or we rather bleed red? Right now, we're bleeding green, and I want to stop the bleeding of the green, and let's see if we can come up with a reality decision today. And the same option that came to us last year, it would be in our best interest to look at that very hard, and if we should get it in, maybe in the future you could probably come back and decrease it, but right now, it's reality that we're facing.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, --

Commissioner Holmes said, and that's what I would like to look at this Board looking at. Gentlemen, Ladies, we just can't keep playing with this thing and not face the reality and the choices that we have to make. And I -- I ain't never seen us come before with five option on the board like this. And I guess that's the homework of our staff, to bring us back, to give us these options. But in reality, you -- you've got to face increasing something to continue giving your service. If the ditches overrun out there, everybody just pick up the phone and say, "My ditch is overrunning." If the trash is not being picked up, you're going pick up the phone, "Nobody picked up my debris." So pay for what you get. And that's the bottom line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. In all due respect to my fellow Commissioner Holmes, I have the greatest admiration for you, but we're talking about a group of constituents that are not in your district. This really doesn't affect your constituents, this fee increase, and --

Commissioner Holmes said, I keep paying for certain things that I don't receive, either, in my district.

Commissioner Stone said, well, I understand, but I'm just trying to --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's a different project.

Commissioner Stone said, -- to make a point here. This directly affects the people in the unincorporated area, and this is why this is something that is very troublesome to me. As I stated earlier, it is important that this service continues, especially with the bulky items pickup, because if people that own, say, apartment complexes and rental property, when people move out and they dump their contents of their home on the side of the road, if it's not picked up, it does have an impact on overall property values. There's no doubt about it, that this service is not needed. But there are a couple of things I'd like to sorta think about. One is, it was brought to my attention just yesterday by a couple that we've got landscapers in this community that are using Chatham County's tax dollars by putting the contents from their commercial business on the side of the road for Chatham County to come and pick up. That needs to stop. I don't know how much of a burden this has been to you, Mr. Drewry, and I don't -- I don't know of any way for some of your workers to designate what is debris from somebody's commercial site or what is actually their home debris. I would imagine at some point, it could be detected, but that needs to stop. That's really not fair to the citizens.

I'm real hesitant about this fee increase, because once a fee increase is implemented, it's done. I never, in the history of any of my readings about Chatham County, see a fee increase that was implemented, then to be erased. So once we do this, it's done. That \$43 is going to be there forever. The question is, is it going

to be 43 or 86? It's not going away. I agree with Commissioner Farrell in that we do have some opportunities, and I'm going to use the word opportunities sorta loosely, for possibly LOST money in the future or enterprise money that could help with this, so I'm not real anxious to get into this next bump in a fee increase, because I know it will never go away, and I just -- as much as the residents know they need this service, many people are laid off right now. Many people don't have jobs. They've had water increases, fee increases. Another increase. It's just another hardship. And so I would like for us to do everything humanly possible not to implement any type of an increase, but to continue the service, looking down the road at some of these other sources of revenue that rightly belong to Chatham County, the enterprise money and the LOST money. This is monies that our citizens -- these are monies that our citizens should be receiving, and it's wrong that they're not. And, by George, these contractors that are using our Public Works as their disposal for their commercial business, that needs to stop. So I'll leave it there, but those are my concerns, is that once this fee is implemented, it would never be removed, and that is a concern that I have. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick?

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. I've given this a lot of thought, and one thing I want to state is that what we're discussing at this moment is not the problem. This is just a symptom of what I consider the problem. The SSD, financially speaking, is not on sound footing. When the citizens of Chatham County send \$4 million a year in franchise fees to other municipal governments and have no benefit of that money, that's a problem. When the citizens of the unincorporated area, the 80,000 people, do not get a per capita cut in the LOST, the local option sales tax, the -- let me count -- the fifth penny in your sales tax, to the tune of approximately \$11 million a year, which is redistributed to the municipalities within Chatham County, that, Ladies and Gentlemen, is a problem. In October of 2004, the then sitting Commission agreed to a police merger agreement that had enormous increases in the percentage of money that we would start paying for the identical police services, with no means to pay for those increases. Part of the agreement was to renegotiate after four years, and that has not been done in this police agreement to my satisfaction. We've had figures that this same service could be provided for up to \$2 million less by another organization that is highly rated in this community for the police services. I didn't make up that figure. It just happens to be out there. It also happens to be the approximate figure that we're dealing with right here today, which is about \$1.8 million. Just a coincidence.

So, to me, we have multiple layers of complications in this budget, and this is merely a symptom and not the problem. So, as we work on these other three large items to make some better direction for this funding back to the Special Service District budget where it belongs, in my opinion, we have consternations. We have very thoughtful suggestions from our Staff, such as, let's go from a tax-paid-for service to a fee service, but -- which is fine, in and of itself. I don't have a problem with that. However, it doesn't -- it doesn't reflect a balance in a reduction in the millage rate. And the reason it doesn't is because the other parts of the budget are so in balance that we don't feel like that that's the part that can be done. So fees or taxes, you know, is not really a problem, but a fee without a millage decrease, I have a little problem with that, considering the above forementioned items. We've also heard about a rain tax, you know, to help with the drainage. Another symptom of a larger problem. You know, how do we solve the larger problem, and, again, we have that. And, of course, there's always the millage tax increase to solve the big problem. So we have all these different items going on at the same time and here we are discussing the fees for this -- this very valuable service that the citizens, on the most part, appreciate. It keeps our county cleaner. It gives a logical place for people in the unincorporated to get rid of dry trash and bulky items, and it works rather well, in my opinion. So having said all that, you know, I think the best approach -- you know, we came up with another approximately million dollars last year of new-found money by implementing this \$43 per household fee.

That's a million new dollars. I would like to use the option that we continue with that particular fee for this budget year, that we use -- we do two things concurrently. We look at how we can more effectively and efficiently pick up this debris, using different techniques, and, at the same time, pursue these three major items, such as franchise fees, LOST sales tax, and the police merger agreement on the financial side of it, and try to come up with the money to fix the real problem. In the meanwhile, let's use some of the money that's accumulated in the -- let me make sure I --

Chairman Liakakis said, Solid Waste fund.

Commissioner Stone said, Solid Waste.

Commissioner Farrell said, in the Solid Waste fund for this one year as we buy twelve months' worth of time to correct the real hemorrhaging and the real problem and the real train wreck, which is not the rain tax and it's not the dry trash, it's some of these other items where, if we had our fair share, we could probably have a millage decrease and keep all the services up to snuff without a problem. So that's my view on it. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean? Dean and then you, Russ.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all due respect to Commissioner Holmes, who wants me to face reality, here's a little reality. I ran one of the largest cities in the State of Georgia and we had a \$6 million budget. \$1.8 million is being requested to haul dry trash around, roughly one-third of what I ran an entire city for. That's reality, and that's ridiculous. Reality is the Savannah-Chatham County Metropolitan merged police department. The budget went from \$4 million to now a recommended \$14 million within a few short years, all of this time, so to subsidize crime fighting, in everyone's districts other than the three of us, who are asking you here today to not implement a fee that we don't want on our citizens. In order to make a educated decision on another fee being passed on these citizens, I really believe that we need to take a look at the entire SSD budget, which is why it really shocked me to find this discussion taking place before the budget actually took place. If you look at the budget that's been presented to us, and now with the new numbers coming in, the new numbers that the Manager presented to us proposes that we cut \$200,000 from the merged police department budget, use the last 121,000 of our savings to cover the remaining gap. And looking at that, there was actually, I guess, a question on this one thing, Russ. Does it include in that budget -- looking at it, because I see conflicting things, looking through it -- does it include 910,000 in revenues from the currently charged fee for dry trash pickup? Because I see a zero there when I look actually in the budget.

County Manager Abolt said, sir, this is a sequence that will lead you in two weeks to adopt a total budget. The dry trash is a part of the Revenue Ordinance which you're now considering. But the dry trash issue last year was taken away from the Special Service District, so when you talk about the Special Service District, it stands alone.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right.

County Manager Abolt said, so when you talk -- and I appreciate your analytical way of approaching the budget, but let's say hypothetically one were to try to come up with a solution and say, well, let's have some sort of Special Service District participation in dry trash. Every dollar you put into dry trash would

aggravate the imbalance in the SSD. That's why I came upon the fee last year as a recommendation to offload the pressure that was on the Special Service District.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so the current budget has no revenues projected in the – with the numbers we're looking at.

County Manager Abolt said, you haven't -- I've got to get the right terms and the price – you have Solid Waste. In this case, it's Solid Waste that does dry trash. Dry trash needs \$890,000 to keep going at its current level.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so that's what you're assuming in this? Okay. That was my question on that.

County Manager Abolt said, the two are not, in this case, together. We have separated them.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Taking that into consideration, that's -- that's good. I just wanted to -- I didn't want to misstate, like I actually read earlier with the dry trash fees, and I'm sorry. I was looking at the front page when I went through that.

Commissioner Thomas said, huh.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, huh, I apologize. I was wrong on stating that. Option – the latest actually on here does not include predicted revenues that could be lost by appeals, and which would be an additional loss of revenues in the SSD budget of 527,124. It's assuming the, I believe 300 -- it's assuming 300 -- goodness gracious, I'm sorry -- \$366,500 less is what the now recommended budget does, not where the Board of Assessors has warned that we could lose up to 800 and some thousand once the appeals come through. Option 2 actually cuts the spending in SSD, but not quite enough, in my opinion, there. Like I said, it was the 200,000 from the police, 121,000 using up in the reserves. But Option 2 could very well still come up a million and something short. All right, if you take and look on Account Code 5212021 -- that's Page 316 in your budget -- we've budgeted \$474,000 for Indigent Defense. That's something that could actually shift over to M&O, because most actual -- most counties do not have a Special Service District and it would be paid county-wide. If you look at all of that under that line item, basically there are fees and everything, that's \$794,000. Although the Manager -- if you look on Page 320 -- although he suggests cutting 200,000 from the budget, it's still a budget increase of 276,412 over the 09-10 amended budget, so it looks good on paper that he's recommending a cut, but it's actually a \$276,000 increase. Really out of hand. And, yes, we need to --

Commissioner Odell said, what item?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's item on Page 320 in the budget. If you look on Page --

County Manager Abolt said, if I can help you here, Commissioner, you're talking ahead of me. We have not got to the agenda item yet. You're still dealing with your Revenue Ordinance. When we get to Individual Action, then we'll get into what Commissioner Kicklighter has.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, and what I'm -- what I'm saying is, we're being asked to approve a fee looking at a budget deficit type situation without getting to look in-depth into our budget. And to know

whether or not we need to approve a fee, we need to know whether -- how we're going to handle the budget overall, not just taking one fee at a time. We need to look at the overall budget. If you look on Page 321, without money, eight of twelve -- that says, without money, eight of twelve work crews will have sufficient staff. That's an extra 301,000 requested that could go there, that are not being utilized now. On Page 321, automatic vehicle locator system, \$120,000 in the SSD budget is being recommended to automatically locate vehicles. Question: Do the drivers of the vehicles have cell phones? County-owned cell phones?

County Manager Abolt said, I need some help, because we're shifting gears here. We're going to --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I know we're shifting gears, Russ. We're being asked to impose a fee, and I'm showing you what we can cut, where we don't have to increase a fee at all.

Commissioner Farrell said, then, let's just vote on the fee, and then --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but do you know what I'm saying? This is 120,000 of 800,000 more being requested for these citizens to pay, that we can take right out of there.

County Manager Abolt said, again --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, all the way through, and I've got a total of cuts here that I believe could be shifted for \$2,535,000 out of the proposed SSD budget right now, which would more than cover those costs.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ, --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but that's fine. We'll handle it then. You all vote -- I've got a feeling that my Savannah counterparts will vote for our citizens living in the unincorporated areas to pay it, anyway, so let's vote, and then we'll just face the music. That's good. That's the way it goes around here.

County Manager Abolt said, here's my plea, --

Chairman Liakakis said, hey, wait a minute. Hey, Gentlemen.

Commissioner Thomas said, that is not fair.

Chairman Liakakis said, hold it. Patrick. Patrick. Patrick Farrell. I'd like for you to hear what --

Commissioner Farrell said, I'm listening.

Chairman Liakakis said, -- the County Manager is saying.

County Manager Abolt said, I just need to plead for some progression on this. We haven't got to the presentation that Ms. Cramer and I want to make on the status of our M&O and SSD budget, and that's very important. I want to underscore that from the very beginning, we have taken dry trash out of the SSD budget, so we're not talking about the SSD budget. If the motivation would be to somehow go into the SSD budget, which is already a problem, --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that was my first question to you before I started all that, because it was confusing, looking at this, to whether or not you included the current \$900,000 in revenues in your revenues in your budget.

County Manager Abolt said, okay, we will follow whatever direction --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, because one printed article looks as if you do and then when you look in the budget, it looks as if you don't.

County Manager Abolt said, we will follow any direction you wish. We were coming to you in the order of the agenda. And you remember in my budget message, I had a bunch of fees, and the fees, recreation fees, land disturbing activity fees, and all that. That is only a small portion of a big old budget of 300 pages. And when that Revenue Ordinance came forward to you two weeks ago, you said fine in everything except dry trash and land disturbing. And at that time, you said come back, so we're focusing on that. When you turn a few pages, we're going to be talking about the results earlier this week, the digest growth. So my plea for all of you is, deal with revenue. Either move it on later on in your agenda, but from the standpoint of making progress in the meeting, deal with the Revenue Ordinance, and then we'll come in to SSD, because they are, from the standpoint of logic of the decision, they're stand-alone issues. My opinion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, then, I would recommend that we accept the revenue as it is and not try to raise that revenue. I believe that I will be able to produce, along with others, when we deal with the budget in the future, that we have sufficient monies to operate the unincorporated areas of Chatham County without an increase in fees or taxes. That would be my recommendation. No fee increase, leave it as it is.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'd like to make a motion that --

Commissioner Odell said, I think he just made a motion.

Commissioner Stone said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, he made a recco --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll put that in the form of a motion if you -- or, go ahead. Whatever. I don't --

Commissioner Farrell said, I'd like to make a motion that we leave the fee this year the same. To the extent that we cannot come up with savings in the other parts of the budget, which the Commissioner from the 7th District made several recommendations, to the extent that we can't balance the difference in that amount of money, that we, for this fiscal year, we use Solid Waste fund reserves to balance that part of it, in conjunction with what I said earlier, that we also look at making more efficient use of our resources at Public Works to get the job done, and that would be my motion. We can --

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we need a second.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll second that, but I also want to stress the complaint that I've had about, to be a little more diligent about some of these commercial folks using our dry trash pickup.

Commissioner Farrell said, there's a lot of things we can do better.

County Manager Abolt said, I need time to answer. I need time to answer, please. I need clarification, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking for definitive direction, because you're about ready to adopt a budget in two weeks and that budget cannot be out of balance. We remember what your predecessors got in when they adopted a budget that was not balanced.

Commissioner Thomas said, uh-huh.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we will balance it later, when we can talk about the budget.

County Manager Abolt said, but let me -- let me finish, please. I'm concerned that you're on the brink, not of obviously doing something as egregious as the five million, but you're not giving Staff definitive direction. I will try to read into what you said is, number one, you do not want to increase the fee and, to the extent that dollars cannot be found somewhere else, which I cannot find right now, that you're going to draw down this special fund. Now, from a budget standpoint, if that is the decision you make, then please make it unfettered by the other stuff, because, you know, when the auditors get to this, they'll have fun with us, and I will have difficulty -- Mr. Drewry and I -- what we do on the 1st of July. If the choice is not to increase the fee, realizing it's going to cost more than we have in this fund, and you choose to buy some time, if you will, to take it out of this fund, then, fiscally, you can do that, and you do that with the understanding that there's some questions on use of the fee, that there's a problem certainly if we go too deep into it, and we're bleeding the reserve. As long as you understand that, then I have done my job and Mr. Drewry and I can do our job. If this motion passes, we will continue dry trash service. Ms. Cramer, then, will use the fund we've just referenced, to pick up the difference, which, right now is estimated at \$890,000.

But I want to go back. Commissioner Holmes spoke earlier about -- on point on this, about -- I'll use an analogy that is very critical to the message I heard him say. And I use a sports analogy. If you follow professional basketball, you know LaBron James is a free agent. He's very much marketable and every NBA team in existence wants him. So we can sit here today using that analogy. Gee whiz, if we could get LaBron James, or if we could get the State to give us \$4 million in franchise fees, or if we get LOST, you know, we have ourselves something super. The problem is, and what I heard Commissioner Holmes saying, and I'm using the sports analogy, Mr. Drewry and I have to put players on the floor the 1st of July. We have to compete on the 1st of July, and we cannot have a budget that knowingly -- which I know it is not -- but is knowingly adopted with some assumption that we're going to get LaBron James. We need hard business decisions. And that right now is based on the best advice I can give you and Ms. Cramer can give you in all of our five-year forecast. We have a problem in the Special Service District. The first step was to remove this dry trash much-needed service and make it fee-driven. Now the choice before you at this point in your agenda is, how do you want to handle that fee? And we need that direction on the fee, please.

Chairman Liakakis said, you just got it.

Commissioner Farrell said, that's what I --

Chairman Liakakis said, he just got it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman --

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. He's next.

Commissioner Odell said, we can beat this horse to death. We can absolutely attempt to explain, then come back. The end results, it is what it is. This is a 2,000 year old problem, and the reason it's a 2,000 year old problem is that Russ is the Israelite and we're asking him to make bricks without straw. Russ is saying, we don't have the money. What you all are saying -- whatever you're saying. The long and short of it is, we've got a motion. I'd like to continue to listen to this and hear counterpoints and check, but I can't do that. I'm going to call for the question. We can vote it up or vote it down.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right the question has been called for.

County Attorney Hart said, was there a second to your motion?

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, Helen seconded it.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen seconded it. The question has been called for. Let's go on the board. Let's go on the board.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, they can cut, without losing a job, 421,000 on that one page.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what's the -- okay, we're voting whether or not to do it?

Commissioner Thomas said, what are we voting on?

Chairman Liakakis said, we're going on what -- we're voting on Patrick Farrell's motion for -- to keep the fee just like it is and get the money out of the Waste fund --

Commissioner Farrell said, for this year.

Chairman Liakakis said, -- just for this year.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if we need it.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, if we need it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we can produce cuts where we won't need it.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrell to leave the dry trash pick up trash fee at \$43 for this year, and if there no other cuts can be made and if there is a shortfall, to use funds from the Solid Waste fund reserve

to make up the difference for this fiscal year only. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stone. Commissioners Stone, Farrell, and Kicklighter, and Chairman Liakakis voted yes; Commissioners Homes, Shay, and Thomas voted no. [Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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Chairman Liakakis said, and what we're doing right now, we're recessing, because this Board made an agreement here a few months ago that when it gets to 12 Noon that we would recess, and it'll take us about fifteen to twenty minutes and we'll be back in session.

The Commission recessed at 12:15 p.m., and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

County Manager Abolt said, when you reconvene, we still have the second half of that tabled item on Revenue Ordinance, having to do with the land disturbing activity changes.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, you have to reconvene the meeting.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, we're reconvened now.

County Manager Abolt said, okay, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, Gentlemen, the second half of the items on the Revenue Ordinance that were tabled had to do with what we refer to as the Land Disturbing Activity Ordinance. Again, I believe it was Commissioner Farrell who wanted to make sure that we communicated this to the Homebuilders Association. I have Mr. Bungard in the audience. We did give you a Staff Report in your agenda, which essentially says that meeting did take place. They did, in effect, understand it. They asked for some things to look over the next twelve months, which we'll do, but I'll turn to Mr. Bungard if you'd like specific questions. And Ms. Cooler.

Mr. Bungard said, I think you all know Ms. Cooler. She actually attended the meeting with the Homebuilders. The changes, they understood. Our intent here also, by the way, is that those changes be revenue neutral. Over the course of the year, we've been taking a look at certain permitting actions which did seem a little bit high for the nature. Case in point, Commissioner Farrell, was Bethesda. So we attempted to come up with a scheme where basically we'd simply reduce -- not simply -- we reduced --

County Manager Abolt said, no scheme. No scheme.

Mr. Bungard said, no scheme. We reduced the base fee for some of those activities where the -- both the plan review and the enforcement would not be quite that much, and then increased the price per acre moderately. But in the end, it -- we can't say that there's a trend in permitting, so -- but the intent is that those changes still be revenue neutral in terms of balancing the LDA budget. They requested that a minor change be made, recognizing instead of acreage, disturbed acreage, and one other small change like that.

Chairman Liakakis said, pull the other microphone up with you there, too. Thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, so it's priced on a per -- like if it's a 20-acre site, but they're only going to disturb 13 acres, you're going to -- per acre is on the disturbed site. Is that what I'm hearing? Okay.

Mr. Bungard said, correct.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, any other question for the engineer? Any other questions?

Commissioner Farrell said, I make a motion to pass that, with the caveat that you're going to look at the suggestion from the previous meeting with the homebuilders and developers. Commissioner Shay said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second about the engineering fees. Let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion made by Commissioner Farrell to approve changes to Article R (Engineering Fees) was seconded by Commissioner Shay. The motion passed unanimously. [Commissioner Kicklighter was not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. You've now adopted the Revenue Ordinance, upon which we can make sure that the budget is in line with your direction.



Chairman Liakakis said, I want to mention two things quickly right now. I don't know if you had an opportunity to read the legislation that was passed that came from ACCG that was sent to all of the Commissioners, but one of those in there that stated that the lock funding will no longer be in existence shortly, and there will be another distribution formula that will be implemented, and so that's a situation that we're going to have to face, because there could be a reduction to us in our county and could be a considerable amount. If you haven't read that, you need to look at it. The other thing, I sent a note to all the Commissioners also, that the -- I requested the Executive Director and the President of the ACCG, the Association of the County Commissioners for the State of Georgia, for them to be here at our next meeting. They have agreed. The reason for that request to them is for them to support us with legislation for the franchise fees not to be distributed to the cities, but the six counties that have franchise -- you know, that have the Special Service District, that that monies be distributed to the counties where it should be. That money should not go to the cities, and there's no justification where the franchise fees should go to the cities. It's collected from the people, the taxpayers in the unincorporated area, and that's where it should be, because that would really help us in the budget in the unincorporated and the SSD district, because what happens is, that \$4 million that's going to the cities will come in and balance and give us a good status in the SSD budget.

Commissioner Farrell said, and the caveat is going to be that it only applies to counties that have an additional special millage rate just for those unincorporated areas. Is that right?

Chairman Liakakis said, right, yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, perfect.

Commissioner Farrell said, so that differentiates it from being state-wide down to approximately six counties.

Commissioner Stone said, that's good.

Chairman Liakakis said, it's just going to be the six counties, is what it is, and that's why I'm bringing them here, and they have agreed to come and be at our next County Commission meeting.

Commissioner Farrell said, that's the kind of major legislation that can do wonders for our train wreck.

Commissioner Stone said, that's right.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, next item.

IX. ITEMS FOR *INDIVIDUAL ACTION*

Unless the Board directs otherwise, adoption of an Action Item will mean approval of the respective County staff report and its recommended action.

1. To request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: (1) increase revenues and expenditures in the General Fund M&O \$66,930 for the Counter Narcotics Team overtime reimbursement, (2) transfer \$ 24,500 from operating line items to overtime and temporary salaries in the General Fund M&O Bridges department, (3) increase revenues and expenditures in the General Fund M&O \$50,000 for Probate Court Filing Fees.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve the budget amendments and transfers listed above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and the motion passed unanimously. [Commissioner Kicklighter was not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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2. Budget options for the General Fund and the Special Service District Fund based on preliminary tax digest information.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, this is to get you prepared for two weeks from now, when you'll be asked to adopt the budget in final form. As you know, we now have the digest numbers in hand from Ms. Snider. Ms. Cramer and I have crafted a recommendation that will deal with the first time ever deterioration of digest numbers. And as we do this, we want to take you through both the M&O and the SSD budgets, which are the point of concern at this juncture. We've given you an awful lot of paper in the intervening days, but I would like to focus, with your permission, just on the Staff Report, which acknowledges the problems that we're having and, more importantly, how we plan to correct it. It is in typical Staff Report form as my memo to you. It's entitled "To Recommend Budget Options," as the Chairman read.

As I begin the specifics of it, I do want to thank you first for creating an atmosphere in which we have the full participation and understanding of elected officials, constitutional officers, and department heads. When the numbers came in, the Board was the first to know in my Staff Report. At the same time, we did offer copies of this to the constitutional officers, elected officials, and department heads, plus we worked with certain departments on some line item adjustments. To a department, each one of those individuals have cooperated. There have been some minor requests for adjustments, which we can make very easily, but I am very proud of this organization. I am very proud of you, because you create an atmosphere and a commitment of hope, even in difficult times, and you left those in the position of having to be the recipient of those dollars giving them, starting the 1st of July, realizing it was done with their participation in advance, and that means everything.

Now, with that as the beginning, we do have the numbers and, as you know, those numbers are down. We're down \$3.6 million beyond what I'd estimated when applied budget for M&O and \$366,500 in SSD. And as referenced a few hours ago relative to what could happen based on our conversations with Ms. Snider and others, it may very well be that this could worsen, based on appeals and the normal progression of dealing with revaluations and what-have-you in the months ahead. Those numbers and impacts would not be in hand until sometime in the Fall of the year. So the strategy that we have in front of you deals with an imbalance in my spending plan for M&O of \$3.6 million and an imbalance in SSD for approximately \$367,000. And we are in balance. And we're in balance in the M&O based on a series of cuts, and they are -- I want to use the right words on this -- to make sure, without getting into specifics, unless you wish, we are cutting reoccurring expenses with two exceptions. And where we move from that is, we are dealing with discretionary choices that you can make this year and not have to make a following year.

The significance of that is, because of the tax increase you voted in a number of years ago, the M&O budget is not in the best of shape, but it's in very good shape to deal with the problems the community is now facing. So we're able to address and not continue a problem that would say, okay, we'll solve this based on using non-reoccurring expenditures and we'll cut those. And by doing that, obviously, if they're not -- they're non-reoccurring revenues, excuse me. If the revenues are not there a year from now, then we've got a problem. So Ms. Cramer and her staff and myself, we've come up with a plan in the M&O where you've got maximum discretion, given what we know right now about the condition of the digest. So I feel as your professional manager that you can adopt the M&O budget and not worsen a year from now the type of decisions we're going to have to make, and allow time for those departments I just complimented to come back with the reality of whatever the budget numbers are a year from now. But we are, based on a complex strategy, but a somewhat involved strategy, able to say you can find the \$3.6 million and do it in the main by using cuts in reoccurring expenditures. If you'd like, Ms. Cramer can go over that in detail.

Obviously, this is in stark comparison to the issue involving the Special Service District, and yes, it did deteriorate 366,000, and in a budget the size of the M&O, that's no big whoop in the budget that we've had, that I've used the analogy of a train wreck. That creates more than whoop; it creates a problem because we're about tapped out. We are using resources that are non-reoccurring by referring to either this past -- the current year's contingency and a little bit more of our savings, which initially amounted to about \$1.4 million and we're upping that to reflect this additional hit in revenue loss, and then, as Commissioner Kicklighter referenced, I've talked to Chief Lovett, I've asked for a reduction of \$200,000 in the SSD budget for police. Now, what does this mean? It means last year, I cut the police department budget -- my recommendation, which you approved -- cut the police department budget 600 and some thousand dollars, and that was implemented the first of the calendar year. And the adjustments were made and we did just fine. In fact,

as you know, we have had returned to us 750 or more thousand dollars based on the fact that it was not spent during the past calendar year.

But in this particular year, as we entered it, Chief Lovett said in his request he would like to have 475,000 approximately in additional revenue, not restoring the 600,000, only 475, and so I said we'd do that. And my budget was balanced based on that expenditure. When the digest came in at the level it did, I cut 200,000 from the 475,000 increase. And also with the same strategy, the Chairman and I have found, I think very sensitive to our relationship with our partner in the MPD, that wouldn't go into effect until the 1st of January, because the City of Savannah, as you know, is on a calendar year, and that would allow, then, the full impact of this to be worked out by the police policy committee, of which the Chairman, the Mayor, the City Manager, and I are party. And again, \$200,000 in a \$14 million budget is not going to be of great consequence, in my opinion. That's the option. And that, obviously, you can adopt and say, okay, we get by another year.

I have taken another strategy, though, and this is to gain, I guess, focus and attention beyond this Board, because this Board is well aware of this train wreck we have in the SSD. So I said for the purpose of stanching what bleeding we have now based on the digest deterioration, I'm suggesting a .9 mil or .09 mil, nine cents per thousand of taxable value, tax increase, which would yield \$370,000 approximately, and avoid the cuts in the police department and avoid taking any more money out of our reserve. That does not solve the SSD problem, but I do it because I realize in trying to get, you know, the general public to understand how bad the problem is, I want them to realize we're at the point at which a tax increase is our only option, given this expenditure plan. That's why. And again, you can adopt both budgets and you can do so with the understanding in M&O we're okay there. Our problems are not going to be aggravated based on what we now know about revenues a year from now, because we're cutting reoccurring expenditure on SSD. Obviously, the problem worsens, and to get everybody's attention, I am saying increase the SSD tax by nine cents per thousand of taxable value. And as I mentioned yesterday when I was talking to the editorial people at the paper -- and I'm not shopping this -- this is nine cents per thousand of taxable value, and I initially just figured that'd be \$3.60 per home valued at \$100,000. Ms. Cramer corrected me this morning -- how much is it?

Ms. Cramer said, 2.52.

County Manager Abolt said, \$2.52 a year for that situation, of increasing the tax by that amount. But it only -- it yields just \$370,000. Now, and then, looking at the challenges that we're faced by the sister organization down the street, the School Board has passed a budget that will have an increase in taxes that equates to 72, 73 cents per thousand of taxable value. And I'm not criticizing it. I'm trying to put in the context of the predicament that governments locally face for a lot of reason, by and large, economic; also because of actions by the State Legislature in artificially leveling the digest. And this is the first time ever, Ladies and Gentlemen, that I've had this experience, where we've had a negative digest. No one, to my memory, has ever thought of a digest not growing. In fact, you might remember in years gone by, and your predecessors said, by golly, we'll live on the growth in the digest. But for the first time, it has not grown.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick?

Commissioner Shay said, every year, it seems to me at about this time, we always have hearings about adopting the millage rate, and those are related to our budget deliberations, but they're actually separate meetings. In all those years since they started making us calculate to roll back millage rate, we've always

had an increased digest or, as in last year, maybe a flat digest. This year, with our decrease in the overall digest, does that not mean that if we adopt the millage roll-back rate, that it will be more than the year before? So if we did what the law asked us to do, it would actually be -- it would be encouraging us or making us disclose that if we adopt the roll-back rate, that it would actually be higher than the year before?

Ms. Cramer said, yes, that's true. You would have a higher millage rate in the general fund and the SSD if you adopt the roll-back rate, which is really a roll-up rate in a negative year. You could technically adopt this millage rate or roll-back rate without any public hearings under Georgia law, because you're adopting the roll-back rate.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, sweet.

County Attorney Hart said, and when they were doing this, they didn't contemplate that when you did the formula, it would come out to a negative number.

Commissioner Shay said, and nobody ever did, because even though we were able to increase the amount of services we were providing during the years when we had very, very robust growth, nobody, especially banks, ever thought that the value of real estate in Chatham County would decrease from year over year. I just put that out there. I mean, if we adopted the roll-back millage rate right now, we would not have to have public hearings. We would be doing exactly what the State Legislature intended for us to do when they adopted the program, and we would have -- although some more revenue -- probably a bunch of angry taxpayers, wouldn't we? Because their tax bills would go up. But I mean, I just point that out, that the time for us to be real, as Commissioner Holmes implored us today, would allow for some of this to take place.

Chairman Liakakis said, and we saw the announcement in the paper, too, that was in the favor of the County, where it said zero, zero, zero. Okay, then, we need a --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, let me ask a question. Why do we -- why do we have -- why are we doing this now instead of when the budget's here?

County Manager Abolt said, well, you're doing -- you're in the process of leading up to a vote on the 26th. Commissioner Odell mentioned at your last meeting to make sure the agenda for today's date was light so you could deal with the issue of what would be known between that meeting and today, namely, the digest. As of last Monday, or Friday the previous week, a week ago, we knew the digest numbers, so this is all relative to the digest numbers, and this is our plan for you all to use when you adopt the budget two weeks hence.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so what are we accepting? I mean, what are -- you know what I'm saying? You presented two options, one --

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, let me -- this is unusual again, because the digest numbers affect directly the budget. In years gone by, when the digest was robust, to use Commissioner Shay's term, you had a wish list and, rather than taking away, you looked at adding back when you adopted the budget. Now, you're put in a position of taking away, so Staff wants to put you in -- so two weeks from today, you can adopt the budget. I'll make the plea now and I'll make it again, hopefully even stronger, in my estimation, it's imperative for you to adopt the budget in two weeks. Any time you delay, which you have never done

adopting the budget before the next fiscal year starts, problems occur. We can't start the audit. And everything fiscally that we use as the bellwether for how we're progressing is delayed, and that's bad.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so what are you recommending to us? That we approve Option 1?

County Manager Abolt said, I'm recommending --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, or Option 2?

County Manager Abolt said, I'm recommending you approve the Option 1 for the M&O, which, in effect, is the -- okay, in the -- I apologize. I don't want to get tripped up in the -- in the M&O, I'm recommending you adopt the adjustments that Ms. Cramer and I have made. In the SSD, to get the attention of the community, my recommendation is to adjust the millage nine cents per thousand of taxable value. You do have the option, if you don't agree with that, to say, no, we can get by one more year without it, but my intent in the nine cents, which is very trivial, is to fire a shot across the bow of the community to realize how bad things are getting. And some might say with tongue in cheek, and some of you follow the entertainment world, concern for the Mayan Calendar, that 2012 the world's going to come to an end? Well, I think we're following the Mayan Calendar in the SSD.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so M&O is your -- you've stated, then, that's Option 2, make the cuts that you recommended in Option 2.

County Manager Abolt said, make the cuts in M&O.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, SSD, you're recommending Option 1, which is the increase.

County Manager Abolt said, the increase. But again, you don't have to do that; you can do the other. I think we've identified all the choices you might have so it would not preclude adoption of a budget two weeks hence.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but whatever is done today, like if we approve Option 2 on the M&O --

Commissioner Shay said, we're not going to vote on anything today.

Commissioner Stone said, we're not voting today.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh, there's no vote; you just presented two options.

County Manager Abolt said, I understand the confusion. Let me explain. Remember, we talked about let's have some workshops with the Board, and so you had your one budget workshop. And then the issue was well, we really don't want a second workshop. Let's keep the agenda light for today and go through it. So this is kind of a formal workshop, but I'm giving you --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so there's no votes. You just presented us with two options to consider for the next meeting.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. And you can adopt the --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, good. That makes sense. I thought that you all were seeking a vote today to incorporate one way or the other into the budget, and, to me, that would be kind of approving the budget, so that's why I was asking.

County Manager Abolt said, it's a process.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. All right, this recommended budget that you're recommending today for the M&O, does this include interfund loan?

County Manager Abolt said, yes.

Commissioner Farrell said, proceeds in -- okay.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. And I want Ms. Cramer to explain this to you, because I can see where there's going to be a point of confusion. In fact, with your permission, we want to answer all your questions, but if she could just take a moment to explain in detail the strategy in M&O, which is a little bit arcane, but it's very creative and very good. Go ahead, Linda.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I'll state it worked well in the past when we were in worse financial shape than we are now. It worked well to borrow from that account.

County Manager Abolt said, well, but even then, I want to explain what she's doing. I mean, this is really great.

Ms. Cramer said, well, basically in the general fund in our next fiscal year, we have debt service currently of about \$5.5 million for Fiscal 2011. When we looked -- and then subsequently, in 2012, that number drops off to \$2.7 million. So we felt like there was an opportunity there to do something recurring, so we did a little intercounty debt service financing. We had about \$20 million in cash in the CIP Fund right now. That is money that we've moved over there for projects that were waiting on, either projects to be approved or just waiting on projects to get started. So we thought, well, hey, let's borrow a little money, a little revenue, from the CIP Fund of about \$1.8 million and pay that back in the next two years, which is 2012 and 2013. That way, we get a little bit more revenue into the general fund for Fiscal 2011, which would cut, you know, how much -- how many other reductions we had to have, and we'd be adding a little bit of debt service back in 2012 and 2013, but you'd still have a substantial decrease in your debt service from the next fiscal year. I know one thing we've looked at in our long-term forecast is how that drop in the debt service could help us fund and pay for detention center operating expenses when that detention center comes on line. So I think if we -- if we applied a little bit of additional debt service in, in 2012, 2013, it won't jeopardize any of our long-term financial planning. I think it, you know, would just help us out this year. We'll pay CIP a little bit of money for use of those funds.

Commissioner Farrell said, does that -- does that include the assumption that next year is going to be better or the same or what?

Ms. Cramer said, no, actually, you know, under that scenario, even if next year is worse, we still have lower debt service next year and 2012, I'm talking -- in 2012. When we're sitting here a year from now, our budget

would be lower in debt service than it is now, so it's not really -- I don't consider this recurring just because that debt service is --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's 450,000 savings per year. Right? 900,000 over two years?

Ms. Cramer said, well, 900 a year to the debt service in 2012 and 2013.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so we're saving like 900 or 450,000 a year?

Ms. Cramer said, well, you're just -- you're just really deferring that debt service cost from this year and you're pushing it out two more years, so it's kinda like you're extending your loan a little bit, without having to go out into the market to do it. We're just doing it ourselves.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so we're not paying the loan off in two years, is what --

Ms. Cramer said, yeah, it'd be paid off by 2013. It would be paid -- yeah, it is paid off in the next two years.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so it saves a total of 900,000 over two years?

Ms. Cramer said, it gives us the cash flow option, yeah. We still have to pay it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so 450,000 a year savings there.

Ms. Cramer said, right.

County Manager Abolt said, it's slick, plus the savings.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, I've got a couple questions. You know, we were -- at the end of this month will be the end of an era where we have increasing tax digests for -- in my estimation, for a number of years. With the state moratorium on assessment increases, with the state of the economy, with the possibility that some of our tax digest may go to the Federal Government when or if any of our banks should fail, they all come off the tax digest, we're looking at the first repercussion with this 3% tax digest fall. We've already been forewarned that it could, before the end of this next 12-month fiscal year period, it could fall another 2 to 3% possibly through appeal process, because an inordinate amount of people have appealed. Then we get into 2012 and 2013, and I don't see economic conditions changing much. If anything, they'll probably continue on this pattern, and I'm a little leery of going to the CIP that we have built up from all these good years and, you know, taking money, a little bit this year, and perhaps we might need a little next year, or maybe a little bit more six months from now. We've come into a budget before where we've coughed up significant seven-digit sums of money to pick up some shortfalls. My concern is, over a period of years that our CIP, which, according to Ms. Cramer, is at \$20 million in M&O total right now, could erode over time and different projects -- we've got over -- nearly \$100 million worth of CIP projects in our five-year plan. 20 million will fund a fifth of them; 10 million would fund 10% of them; 5 million, 5%. And I'm afraid over time that we may come to a point where, you know, we're not adding to the CIP. I don't -- does this budget add anything to the CIP this year?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it, by law, has to be paid back, if I remember right. Right?

County Manager Abolt said, correct.

Ms. Cramer said, right. The CIP Fund is where we have tax supported capital projects, you know, that you all do that every year you go in, and those projects -- you've approved project budgets for all the projects in that fund except for about \$6 million worth of money that is just idle in the fund right now, and that is the project budget list we gave you in the recommended budget back in April. So I'd say, you know, if you're looking at the 20 million as a hard number, 14 million of that is committed to other projects, and you've got 6 million left. We're just -- we're just borrowing idle cash in this interfund loan. It doesn't have anything to do with the project budgeting, in my mind. Of course, I think different. But the \$6 million that's left in the fund, we do have -- we did give you a project list in April of projects that the CIP committee had recommended for funding, and we do have, you know, in this Staff Report kind of a deferral plan on funding some of those projects, and I think this is what Commissioner Farrell is addressing, that, you know, we -- we were saying that maybe because we have this uncertainty on some of the tax collections and we won't -- we won't have any resolution on that for several months, that we might want to defer some of those projects for a few months.

During that time period, we could either come up with a further non-recurring cost reduction plan based on what we're seeing occur, or just use that as a strategy to get through the year. I think anytime you start talking about your capital program, of course, you get concerned about deferring maintenance. I know we had this discussion five years ago about all the maintenance that had not been done in the county. You're talking about deferring critical projects. I think in the funding plan we've put forward right now, which does fund a couple of the projects immediately, it does fund some of the critical projects that were identified. So I think -- what we're trying to do is come up with a solution for that first hard cut on the digest and then as we look going forward on the uncertainty, you know, we do need to come up with maybe some more strategies, but --

County Attorney Hart said, one thing that needs to be remembered when we do these interloan funds, we look for a source of repayment before we go out and do that, and this -- this money could be paid back very easily just over the next two years as a reduction in what your debt service is going to be next year. It's going to go from five to two and something. So you --

Commissioner Farrell said, is there any scenario where, if this goes forward, that this money doesn't -- this \$6 million doesn't come back to CIP? Is there any possible scenario where it gets used and, for some reason --

County Attorney Hart said, you all spend it somewhere else.

Commissioner Farrell said, in CIP.

County Attorney Hart said, but the point is, you're borrowing --

Commissioner Farrell said, in CIP or we spend it somewhere else in the budget?

County Attorney Hart said, yes.

Commissioner Farrell said, which one?

County Attorney Hart said, you spend it somewhere else in the budget.

Ms. Cramer said, but you would have to approve that.

Commissioner Farrell said, so it could disappear forever.

County Attorney Hart said, but you'd have to get that approved.

County Manager Abolt said, yeah, you'd have to approve it.

Ms. Cramer said, you would approve that.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, of course, we would. But it could --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it has to be paid back to the CIP by loan --

County Attorney Hart said, we've got to have some way to pay it back.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and then we would have to do an entirely new process to remove it again. In other words, it -- it -- that's what made it easier before is, we have to pay the CIP back.

Ms. Cramer said, the loan -- we would come to you at the next meeting with a Staff Report on the loan and approving the loan and the repayment, so that would be a documented action by the Board. The funding for the rest of the capital budget is also going to be a documented action by the Board. I mean, that \$6 million is there. What you want to use it for, if you want to pull some money back into the general fund, that would be something you would approve.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay, that is why earlier, I had asked our County Manager to put a proposal up there that left the CIP money alone and just balance the budget with -- with other funding, because my fear -- or my concern is that as each year goes by and we have a constantly eroding revenue source, which is what I just -- I anticipate for the near future, that it becomes more and more tempting to spend CIP money on things in the general fund budget, and then it disappears. And now, you know, this money that's here right now, I don't think -- does this money have any new money for CIP? This proposed budget? New funds? New money?

County Manager Abolt said, what you had was \$6 million --

Commissioner Farrell said, right.

County Manager Abolt said, -- that was recommended. And initially, we were going to use it, as you might remember --

Commissioner Farrell said, that's in this current budget.

County Manager Abolt said yeah, yes, sir. But the issue --

Commissioner Farrell said, and we're good stewards of it and we haven't spent any of it all year.

County Manager Abolt said, let me go -- the issue was, Commissioner Shay was the one that led the charge, by golly, we need to have a stimulus package on our own, so we initially came to you, we advanced -- remember? We advanced the determination recommendation and there is \$6 million, we want to go and march with it. But then, because we're starting to get, you know, the bad vibes from the Assessor's office, so we -- even though we want to get \$6 million out in the economy, you know, let's preserve your options, so that's what -- but let me continue on on a thought, because I read in detail what you told me, several have written to me several times. It goes beyond CIP. If the sensings that Commissioner Farrell has described so well bear out, then, as I've said, it's time to have, in my opinion, a special Board goal session, as opposed to waiting until January, once we know how bad it might get -- worsen, I should say, to use the word, maybe in the Fall of the year after we hear from the Board of Assessors, Board of Equalization.

Then we'd come together and allow the maximum participation and feedback from your partners, the constitutional officers and elected officials, because we could fast find ourselves back in the day when we're getting push-back from those same elected officials because they were not being considered in what their needs are. And then, if we really want to get pessimistic, we layer on the fact that we're going to have a jail under construction come the Fall of the year, and we know going into it, even in the best of times, we have to plan \$6 million more just to staff it. So I guess I don't want to call it a summit, that's an exaggeration and that's dramatic, but I would say that if it continues to worsen, that sometime in the Fall of the year, you would have your budget goal session. You'd involve the departments, the staff would be prepared to give all the good stuff as far as what we know about it, and then we could begin a budget process. But this is a partnership that's worked very well under your leadership.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, going back to the CIP and anticipating more difficult times in the next one to three years, how -- what would a budget look like that just totally left this money alone and we didn't borrow it or anything right now, and took -- and made some of the hard decisions to -- you know, wherever those decisions have to be made, to balance the budget without -- with leaving the CIP money intact, because one year from now or two years from now, I'm just a little concerned that -- you know, that we're going to come up and say, well, we would like to build this or do that, well, we don't have any money, and we can't -- and we don't have any CIP money, because we spent it all in the general fund and it -- you know, it's here now and it's in this budget. I just hate transferring it and, you know, --

County Manager Abolt said, I agree. At that stage -- and I'm not trying to be flip -- at that stage, that'll be the situation you all inherited, when you had policy decisions made that were ill-advised and when -- I'll give you an example, and it's a parable. The Chairman and the windows in this courthouse. That's exactly what was deferred and deferred. And all the improvements that you've made in the Recreation, all that was deferred, because everything was going into, in effect, overstating our ability to pay for things that we didn't have either the money for or, more importantly, we were doing nothing to maintain what we had, and you changed that around.

Commissioner Farrell said, and going off of that past performance, you know, what would a budget look like that preserved this CIP and just balanced it on -- without using that? What would that look like? And how -- is that possible? I mean, what would the ramifications be?

County Manager Abolt said, I think we've done it, but -- I'm not trying to be -- I believe we've done it, but let Ms. Cramer explain it. I thought we'd done that, but go ahead.

Ms. Cramer said, I think our budget proposal does do that. We still have the money in the CIP. We're just loaning a little bit over, okay? But that money is the CIP's money. It's going back into the CIP Fund. As far as the projects in the CIP Fund, the \$6 million of projects, yes, those projects will not be funded right away. Will they be funded in January? Possibly. You know, if we can develop -- and I think that it's kind of a trick on this budget, because we don't have a definite digest cut reduction to 5 or 6%, you know, it becomes kind of a dilemma of how much we should cut right away, until you get more information.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, may I, Mr. Chairman, please, on this? This is to bring back an old analogy. At this point in time on the Commission with the deficit we're facing, I see it kinda like we need to repair the roof right now from leaking, rather than thinking of building on, and that money you're talking about is the build-on money, and we can borrow from it and, you know, stop the roof from leaking and pay it back in two years and then, if we're in better financial shape, we build something else. But right now, we're in an emergency and it's very much similar to being able to borrow money from Mom, which will let you save 450,000 each year and pay her back in two years, or go to the bank and borrow it and have to pay 450,000 extra. But, either way, we have to pay it back, and it's really a brilliant way to help knock a little bit of the hardship off. And, again, it's not going to solve the problem, but the budget, to me, if I'm seeing the numbers right, without the loan would look like a \$450,000 increase for the next two years that would be there, that we can take away by just simply borrowing from Mama. So that's the -- I mean, you know, I understand and I respect what you're saying, but this is your first rendezvous with hard times up here, and it is hard to look at your constituents and say, we can't build that, we can't do this. I mean, but we're -- it's sad, but we've just got to get in cut mode and cut, and that's sad, but that's where we're at.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick?

Commissioner Farrell said, my concern is that this isn't a typical dip, that this is something that's a trend that's going to be with us for a while. It's not -- you know, if it was just a one or two year dip and it shot back up, you know, we'd probably, you know, weather the storm and move on. But, you know, this -- with state legislation and with a lot of foreclosures and a lot of banks that are in deep trouble in this area and all over the country, and with the general slump in the economy, you know, it could be a good while before that tax digest starts to going back to where we're sitting at right now in Fiscal Year 2010, so -- and that just gives me a little concern that -- that maybe we should start making some cuts or some -- you know, cuts in the budget, without -- you know, and still -- we can defer spending the money, but just kinda leave it there. But, anyway, I've said what I need to say.

Chairman Liakakis said, Pat?

Commissioner Shay said, Commissioner Farrell, I share your concern, and the reason I share your concern is, when I look at the activity that's on the horizon, this market that's identified in terms of development permits and building permits and the activity that we would normally look at and say, well, that's a precursor to more -- what I think of as organic -- growth in the digest. Not digest growth because we revalue things. It's not there. And as a matter of fact, it's way, way off. So I'm hopeful that there'll be a day when we look at that activity and say, boy, there are a lot of developers here and industrialists here that are looking and kicking the tires on doing major expansions and moving forward. I think we have maybe a few of those on the horizon. I'm not trying to present a gloom and doom picture. One of the things that I know would help us, not next year, or even 2010 -- or 2012, is, if we were aggressively working right now with the resources that we have to develop rules and guidelines that would attract those kind of development opportunities, and I know Tom Thompson is here, and they're going through the Uniform Zoning Ordinance process, the areas

that are to be preserved, whether it's Isle of Hope or Wilmington Island, where there's already as much development as the people that live there are excited about, the Uniform Zoning Ordinance, I hope, is going to do more to protect them.

But in the areas that Commissioner Holmes and Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Shay represent, there are substantial opportunities for us to, instead of continuing to add weed killer, to add fertilizer to these areas, so that we can get the kind of growth in the urban area that we have seen over the past decade, or two decades, in the islands and the suburbs. It is possible, and I would encourage that, as we look at those rules and how they're promulgated over the next six months to a year, that we be very mindful of the fact that we have a lot of infrastructure that's in our county that's already built, roads, water, sewer, all that kind of stuff, that is very under-performing and under-utilized, because over the years we made rules that were really great for some areas, that were restricting development, but we applied them all across the board to other areas, mainly the areas that the four urban Commissioners represent, that have caused those to, in my view, become development deserts, so --

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, this is an epiphany, Ladies and Gentlemen. I've been doing this business for forty years, and there's always been the mindset somehow, you know, digests will grow and property tax will somehow -- even though I argued against it -- create enough money to continue on. Big developments never paid their way. But that aside, the mindset was, somehow government will get by on the growth in the digest. This is -- no better word -- it's an epiphany. In our lifetime, it's changed. Like never before. We have no point of reference on this at all, so we have to obviously take our strong points, which is the hope that you give the organization and the community to do it right, but, more importantly, to realize as we look at things, like Commissioner Shay has said so well, our value system -- no pun intended -- but the way in which we look at things has changed. It has changed with that digest.

Commissioner Shay said, and if we take a little bit of what we have left -- and we have a lot of resources here, and I tend to agree with Commissioner Farrell, as well, that we haven't looked at every possible cut yet that could be made in order to reduce the cost of our annual government, but if we look at buying some fertilizer and using that to help our digest grow again in the areas that are under performing, that that may very well be a way that we can sort of dig ourselves out of this eventually. It probably won't be -- we won't get invited back to the County Commission meeting four years from now, whoever's on that Board, and say, boy, you guys sure did good. But, you know, Dean, the work that we did to build roads and do a lot of things to stimulate the growth on the west side, I think it's time now for us to start looking at the urban area and seeing if we can't do some of the same kinds of things in different ways in the urban area.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we're not voting on this, so let's go on to the next item.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, yes?

Commissioner Thomas said, before you go to that, I would like to have a statement.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, I've been holding my hand up for a lot of stuff, so at this point, I do want to make a statement. In reference to everything my colleagues have said, I am in agreement with you. The

other thing that I think we need to be very, very cognizant of is the fact that we need to continue to stress or work towards getting the State to take care of its share of responsibility that have been placed on the -- you know, on the backs of the citizens of Chatham County in reference to the jail, you know, housing the prisoners and other unfunded mandates. I'm hoping that we will not stop working towards those things, because it has a great impact. And a lot of times, people do not understand why we aren't able to do certain things. It's because they don't know the greater impact that we're faced with, and there are things that we, as Commissioners, are not able to do because of those things. It's not that we haven't been trying, but it's because we have not had the total cooperation in all aspects. So we need to continue to work towards that, as well.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, can I just thank Staff for -- I think what you've presented as far as cuts were the least painful cuts I've ever felt, and thank you for that. And I want to agree with Commissioner Farrell by -- I think definitely before this comes up, because of the predicted possibility of the much lower revenues, I think we need to look at all the other areas and find a lot more cuts in addition to that, to save ourselves in the long run. But I think that was off to a very good start, and thank you.

County Manager Abolt said, I appreciate it. I appreciate that very much but, again, it's a team, and that team includes elected officials and constitutional officers.

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Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Item 3.

3. Information concerning the schedule for Public Hearings on the millage rate levied for ad valorem tax purposes.

Chairman Liakakis, said, so we -- June the 22nd for public hearings at 9:30 a.m. and the same date, 6 p.m.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, we've already advertised the -- this is just a reminder, and also remember at that morning, at the end of that, you'll have your 10:00 special called CAT meeting --

Chairman Liakakis said, right.

County Manager Abolt said, -- to deal with budget and the Veolia contract. This is just a reminder.

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Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Action Calendar. We have Items 1 through 4 and under 4, Items A through S. We need a --

Commissioner Stone said, I make a motion to approve, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve Items 1 through 3, both inclusive, and Items 4-A through S, both inclusive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed unanimously.

[Commissioners Farrell was not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

The Board can entertain one motion to adopt the below-listed calendar. Such motion would mean adoption of staff's recommendation. Any Board Member may choose to pull an item from the calendar and it would be considered separately.

NOTE: Action of the Board is shown on each item as though an individual motion was made thereon.

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2010, as mailed.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2010, as mailed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed unanimously. [Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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- 2. Claims vs. Chatham County for the period May 20 through June 2, 2010, in the amount of \$4,353,620.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve payment of claims of \$ ___ for the period May 20 through June 2, 2010. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed unanimously. [Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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- 3. Request for new beer pouring license for 2010. Petitioner: Sergio S. Moreno, d/b/a El Paraiso, located at 4001 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31405. [District 5.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve a new beer pouring license for 2010 for Petitioner Sergio S. Moreno, d/b/a El Paraiso, located at 4001 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, Georgia 31405. the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2010, as mailed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed unanimously. [Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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4. Request Board approval to award bids as follows: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Mitel telephone equipment and network upgrade licenses for the Judicial Courthouse	I.C.S.	Integrated Network Solutions, Inc. (State Contract)	\$27,171	General Fund/M & O - Communications
B. Annual software maintenance agreement	I.C.S.	System Management Planning (Sole Source)	\$28,446	General Fund/M & O - I.C.S.
C. Contract for the County Parking Garage waterproofing repairs	Special Projects	Collins Construction Services, Inc. (WBE)	\$10,690	SPLOST (2008-2012) - Courthouse Construction
D. Extend on a month-to-month basis the contract to provide primary healthcare services to the indigent citizens of Chatham County	Commissioners	Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care, Inc.	\$362,338	General Fund/M & O - Indigent Medical/ Health Care
E. Contract to resurface streets at various locations within the County	Public Works and Park Services	R.B. Baker Construction, Inc.	\$219,039	CIP - Public Works
F. Renewal of software support agreement	Public Works and Park Services	Cartegraph Systems, Inc.	\$23,075	SSD - Public Works
G. Annual agreement for system network maintenance for the County portion of the 800MHz Smartzone Communication System	I.C.S.	Motorola Communications (Sole Source)	\$124,930	General Fund/M & O - Communications

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
H. 29 computers with software, keyboards, mouse and 19" monitors and three (3) 20" monitors	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$39,920	General Fund/M & O - Superior Court Clerk
I. Four (4) Canon scanners with maintenance	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$14,695	General Fund/M & O - Superior Court Clerk
J. Annual renewal on anti-spyware software	I.C.S.	Technology Integration Group (Sole Source)	\$11,000	General Fund/M & O - I.C.S.
K. Two (2) servers and 30 laptop computers	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$58,205	General Fund/M & O - CEMA
L. Contract for remediation work at the Sharon Park and Dillon Road Landfills	Public Works and Park Services	Advanced Environmental Management, Inc.	\$26,135	Solid Waste Fund
M. Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract to provide paper and chemical supplies to recognize a manufacturer's imposed price increase	Various	Georgia Correctional Industries	Varies by item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various
N. Purchase and installation of an Access Control System	District Attorney	Simplex Grinnell (Sole Source)	\$15,000	General Fund/M & O - District Attorney
O. Two (2) replacement trash truck bodies	Fleet Operations	Consolidated Disposal Systems, Inc.	\$103,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •General Fund/M & O - Recreation - \$45,000 •Solid Waste - \$58,400
P. Confirmation of the emergency repairs to plumbing at the Tybee Pier	Public Works and Park Services	Consolidated Plumbing Service	\$20,700	CIP - Recreation

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Q. Renewal of revenue producing lease agreement for office space located at 408 West Broughton Street	Court Administrator	First Judicial Administrative District	\$10,716	Revenue Producing
R. Deductive Change Order No. 4 to the annual contract to provide lawn care services to terminate lawn care at the Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center	Chase Landscape	(\$1,140)	N/A
S. Confirmation of the emergency purchase of firing range software	Sheriff	Action Target (Sole Source)	\$15,530	General Fund/M & O - Sheriff

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to award bids outlined in Item 4, A through S. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed unanimously. [Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting. On first reading, presentation by MPC staff and discussion only by Commissioners will be heard. Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

None.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

Note: See “Tabled Items” for Second Reading on Revenue Ordinance.

1. Amend the Chatham County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance in order to retain “Issuing Authority” status under the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975 (O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 et seq).

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion to vote it off the table.

County Manager Abolt said, you did that. This was just a housekeeping thing. You've already done that. This is to remind – there was an item on the table that would have been on second reading. You took it off the table and you voted on it, so you've already done that.

Chairman Liakakis said, Executive Session.

County Manager Abolt said, you have to adopt your second ordinance there on soil erosion, the issuing authority, which is a housekeeping matter.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, motion on the floor.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved for approval of the amendment to the Chatham County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance in order to retain "Issuing Authority" status under the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and passed unanimously. [Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Progress report on General Fund Contingency Account - M & O and the Special Service District (see attached).
2. List of purchasing items between \$2,500 and \$9,999 (see attached).

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Recess to Executive Session

Upon motion made by Commissioner Odell and seconded by Commissioner Thomas the Board recessed at 12:35 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel, litigation, land acquisition.

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Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 1:58 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a motion to authorize the Vice Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Kickighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [Chairman Liakakis and Commissioner Stone were not present. Commissioner Gellatly was absent.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Vice Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED: THIS DAY OF _____ day of _____, 2010.

PETE LIAKAKIS, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

BARBARA B. WRIGHT, ACTING COMMISSION CLERK