

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 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 9:30 a.m.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Patrick Shay gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Harris Odell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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IV. ROLL CALL

Chairman Liakakis said, after the meeting, since our great City – I mean, our great County Manager did an outstanding job, as the deputies are supposed to open the meeting, I’m going to ask him to give our County Manager an honorary deputy sheriff. Mr. Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you were going to ask for another taser.

Chairman Liakakis said, and now, I’d like for Barbara Wright, who is our interim County Clerk, to give the roll call, please.

The Acting Clerk called the roll.

Present: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
 Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, District 8, Vice Chairman
 Dean Kicklighter, District 7, Chairman Pro Tem

Helen L. Stone, District 1
James J. Holmes, District 2
Patrick Shay, District 3
Patrick K. Farrell, District 4
Harris Odell, Jr., District 5
David M. Gellatly, District 6

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

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. INTRODUCTION OF ACCG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROSS KING AND PRESIDENT LAMAR PARIS.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'm happy today to introduce two individuals to not only our County Commissioners, we didn't have a tremendous amount on the agenda today, so our room is not filled like it usually is, but these two gentlemen have served the people of the State of Georgia for long periods of time. For the people that are watching us live now on our television, we'd like them to know, some of them do not know, that the organization that represents the 159 counties in the State of Georgia is called the ACCG. And today, we have two of those top leaders here, that I requested for them to come to Savannah to look around, and we're going to talk about one specific item, or maybe more today, but I'd like for both of those gentlemen, when I call out their names and tell you who they are, that they will come to the microphone and, of course, we can talk with them.

The first individual I'd like to introduce is a long-time member of the ACCG, who's been a Commissioner in his county for many years, and has served the organization with the Board of Directors and many other capacities for the 159 counties, is Lamar Paris, who now is the President, and we can see that, you know, from the things that Lamar has done in the past with the other staff people and the Board members, he's done an outstanding job, and that's why he was elected as President now of our 159 counties ACCG. So if you will come to the microphone now, Lamar, and, you know, if you'd like to say something, and then I'll ask your other cohort to come forth.

Mr. Lamar Paris said, thank you very much, Chairman Liakakis. It's great to be in Savannah again. As you know, we've had our convention down here for many years. One of the honors and one of the most fun experiences I have as a Commissioner is to actually get out of town and be able to come to Savannah and relax once a year. You have a great town and great county and, again, an honor to be here today. Just on behalf of ACCG, I wanted to -- you hear Chairman Liakakis talking about us in quite a fond way, and we appreciate that very much. Just a reminder, though, that our job at ACCG, some people perceive it just to be trying to help Commissioners, and that is a big part of what we do, but the bottom line is, we're trying to help the taxpayers of Georgia by giving you, the Commissioners, the service and the tools that you can use to help benefit your constituents, and keep the taxes low. I know you all are going through what everybody else is, trying to come up with a budget that we can live with and keep our millage rates as constant as possible, and every county, I think, in the State of Georgia is struggling right now, and it's an honor to you for what you all have done in this great county, to be able to try to hold the line on your budget costs.

As a reminder, though, ACCG does offer a lot of services to counties. We offer a lot of insurance services. We offer a lot of -- a very new service is jail medical insurance coverage that is of no cost to the counties, but actually allows the counties to have the cost of their inmates as if they were on Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance. So when they have a medical cost in the jail, at no cost to the county, this can be mitigated through just like we had an insurance company, and so the rates you pay will generally be about half of what the general hospitals normally charge. There's a lot of other things that we do. Ross can fill you in on those, but be aware that, again, the bottom line is Association of County Commissioners of Georgia is here to help County Commissions all over the State of Georgia, and do, and it's an interworking organization. We all work together, and we are now trying to increase our collaborations with cities, police, Sheriff's Departments, Chambers, so that we can all increase our -- I guess our spirit all over the State of Georgia, so that we are more known and more responsible to have a bigger voice when we go to the Legislature. And I think the bottom line, you're speaking of some assistance that you would like to have us help you, with trying to get some legislation passed this next year, and that's something we certainly want to work on. We think it's a very worthy project and we hope to do what we can to help, help not only Savannah, but the other counties that are involved, as well, so thank you all again for having us here. It's an honor. We look forward, we're going to be able to be here about four days, and we're really excited about it, so thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Lamar. And now I'd like to introduce the Executive Director now. The Executive Director, Ross King, he joined, I think, in 1987 with the ACCG and he's been one of the advocates and one of the hardest workers that we could have as Assistant Director, and now who is the Executive Director. We know that Jerry Griffin, who served for many, many years, did a great job of representing the ACCG for all of the counties in the State of Georgia and their citizens. And, of course, we can look at the history of Ross King and see the many things that he did in his leadership there as Assistant Director has made a big difference. And he has a great staff working for him, and, for a lot of people to know, that the ACCG began over 90 years ago. It won't be too long before they have their hundred year celebration and all, and he's got -- some of those people, I think most of our Commissioners know, like Clint Mueller, who's over there, one that I know Patrick Farrell and I have worked with on numerous occasions is Matthew Hicks, and then we've got Todd Edwards and Debra Nesbit and Michele NeSmith, and they do a lot of work with our Legislators and all, and that's really important to get laws, you know, that are favorable and that help the counties and all the citizens of Georgia. So after saying all that, I'd like Ross King to come forth.

Mr. Ross King said, Mr. Chairman, the grace that you bring to the job is something that I so deeply appreciate. Members of the Commission, thank you so very much for the invitation today. May 28th, last year, Macon, Georgia, Bibb County. The meeting was convened to decide the transition of power of our organization. We've had two Executive Directors up to that point, over a 52-year period. Prior to that, the Association, which began in 1914, did not have an Executive Director, so Executive Director Hill Healan for 27 years, and Jerry Griffin had announced that after 24 years of service, that he was going to step down and retire. The Board met in Macon to discuss the transition. During the dialog, where I had a chance to outline my vision for the organization, Commissioner Stone, who serves on our Board of Managers, rose and presented to her peers on the Board a unanimous resolution from the body that I'm looking at today, saying that you supported completely the transition of our Executive Director role from Jerry Griffin to myself. I stand in front of you today to say thank you. The bipartisan support, the coalition support, the strength of support, and as I look across the dias here to those of you who, some of which I have very, very dear friendships with and others, unfortunately, I haven't had the chance to spend quality time, but one in particular, my dear friend, your Vice Chair, Priscilla Thomas. We have laughed together, we have cried together, we have shared civic engagement thoughts together. She's someone that I hold in mentorship in my heart, soul, and mind. I love the woman profoundly. And we have had, as I've said, some pain that we've shared in regard to the path that we've walked in our lives.

It's important to understand in this business that it's a people business. We serve the constituents of Georgia. We do that with great passion. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have worked for the Association since 1987, but when I began in my new quest on May the 1st, the passion, energy, and enthusiasm that I brought to the job is boundless because of the team that you just identified. Now, ACCG is known primarily as a legislative lobbying body that also provides training on behalf of the membership. We are recreating the culture of that organization. We have a 75-person organization. When I stepped into office, I looked upon it as three sets of 25: 25 people working in our insurance claims office, 25 people working in our retirement office, and then 25 people in our central office working on policy concerns, training concerns, and matters of that nature. I have brought together since I stepped into office all 75 of those individuals and said, you work on the same team. We are in customer service business every day. We have to earn the business of every county in Georgia every day. And they have enthusiastically embraced that vision. We've also established a management team, and the management team collectively is talking about our vision and our next steps.

Now, in terms of policy, which is a core foundational issue for us, we can no longer focus on the Legislature from a 40-day perspective. Clint Mueller is our Legislative Director completely. I assigned him that role by license and permit the day I took my position. He is going to have a year-round legislative process now with his team. We're going to be working with Legislators throughout the entire calendar year. Our policy platform, which, quite frankly, has gotten too large, is going to be looked at and pared down substantially so we can focus on priority issues and concerns, and the area of concentration, the franchise fees, Mr. Chairman, that you brought up a moment ago, we're going to be able to hone in specifically on that, take a look at the chairs of various legislative committees, and have dialog and interaction with them throughout the year. We're also going to take a look at the fact that the Legislature meets in two-year cycles, so we're going to have a policy system that reflects that two-year cycle. In regard to training, I'm very proud of the training work that we've done and yet, and many of you have participated in our newly-elected officials program. I took a look at the 2006 and 2008 agendas and I said, I believe it's broken. So when we began to take a look at how to craft this for 2010, the decision was made to start from scratch. We completely deconstructed the agenda. I said, what we're missing is, we're missing the fact that you should celebrate that what you did in stepping into office is laudable. Public service is one of the highest vocations that I can

possibly think of, serving your constituents in very difficult public policy issues each and every day. So I want to celebrate public service. I want to celebrate leadership.

So we've got an enthusiastic group of individuals, some marquee names. In fact, the keynote closing speaker is going to be Sam Graddy, who was the Olympian who came in second place to Carl Lewis in the '84 Olympic Games, and then ran with him on the 4x100 goal medal winning world record team, and he is working in the Atlanta area now with the Boy Scouts of America. He's also worked with Oglethorpe University and the University of Tennessee on development. But he is a gentleman who talks about leadership and vision and has passion. I want individuals to walk out from that training program in December and say, I'm looking forward to my service on my respective county business, and be able to appreciate the fact that we have fellowship among our 802 Commissioners across the State. Years down the road, and not too many, because I like to focus on things, and focus on them through collaboration and focus, but I think quite frankly, we've got to take our Commissioners training program and turn it into ACCG University. I want to be able to drill them more specifically on policies and topics, that there's on-line training that's necessary for individuals because they can't attend training programs. We'd like to help establish that, too. We've got an incredible opportunity here to make sure that Commissioners get the information that they need on an ongoing basis, and so we want to applaud that.

From a staff perspective, the gentleman to my left here, Russ Abolt, I have worked with many managers, administrators, clerks, attorneys in county government, not only in Georgia, but across the nation for the -- actually, I've been in government since 1982, when I started in municipal government in Americus, Georgia, when I had the chance to work for the State of Georgia for three years before I accepted the position with ACCG. So I've seen many individuals from a staff perspective. I have profound respect for this man and also for Pat Monahan. I've had too infrequent interaction with Pat. I'd love to be able to interact with him more. The mind that these two gentlemen have is boundless. They are incredible leaders from a staff perspective, and I hold them in such high regard, and I know that the work that they do on behalf of the County is something that you do treasure, but it's important to treasure, because, quite frankly, we have had difficulties in some counties because of inappropriate leadership at the staff level. So what you have in place here in terms of a team is a team that I hold in high regard and I embrace.

We are looking at the capacity from a customer service perspective to create a new organization. I want to entice you to take a look at our insurance programs. I want to entice you to take a look at our retirement programs. I want to be able to turn to you and say from a volume based pricing perspective that we've contracted from a state Association standpoint with companies, firms, service groups, that can say based on ACCG serving as a conduit, we can reduce the price on these products and services to assist you with stretching the tax dollar, as President Paris said, to ensure that the best possible service is presented to the constituents of our state. We're looking forward, as we recreate this organization, to making sure that the membership that we hold so dear that Chatham County has is a membership that you will value, and we are going to be focused, as I said, on membership orientation and customer service on an ongoing basis. I have such pride in the position that I hold, but I realize that the seat that I occupy is a seat that the counties of Georgia hold. I will never forget that, and I promise you that the passion that you see that I have right now is a passion that is not an early marquee. Again, I'm coming on up on 24th anniversary, so I've been with this organization, and I realize where we have done tremendous work and I also realize where we can grow and be better for you, earning your business every day. Thank you so much for allowing me to speak with you today. I look forward to talking to you and revealing more detail about programs like the inmate health care program that President Paris talked about a moment ago. I've seen \$9 million worth of savings for counties just in that program alone across Georgia, and, yet, only 81 counties -- without a fee being charged

-- only 81 counties are members of that program as of this moment. We're going to do a better job in terms of providing you with the background to help you enter into programs of that nature, if you are interested, as well as create new programs that will assist you in the duties that you carry out every day. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you. I so appreciate the work that you do on behalf of the constituents of Chatham County and, in particular, the work that you have helped us with, with ACCG.

Chairman Liakakis said, and I'd like Lamar to come up to the podium also with you, because one of our really big concerns, as I have mentioned to you, and glad that you all have come here, is our franchise fee distribution. We are live on television right now. We have a great dissemination of our meetings here and it goes out several more times to the general public on Channel 16. One of the things we want -- a lot of our people in our community don't understand is, especially those that live in the unincorporated areas, the Special Service District, there are six counties in the State of Georgia that have Special Service Districts. But the distribution of the franchise fees that are collected in the unincorporated areas of those six counties, which we are one of them, and the largest one, is that the monies that come in, and there's some \$4 million -- almost \$4 million a year, and that money is distributed to the municipalities, the cities, as opposed to coming to us. It's the citizens in the unincorporated area that are paying for that and, yet, there is no real reason that anybody can justify sending that money to the municipalities as opposed to putting it in the place where the citizens pay for that, and that is in the unincorporated area of the county.

So we would like, you know, the ACCG to take this as one of their very important legislative items to get the Legislators in this state to come forth and to, you know, put some legislation in that would change that law, so that the monies will come to the counties, because what we have had to do here in the SSD district is to take money from other areas to balance the budget and to put it in there. So we want to alleviate that and do the right thing, because citizens paying for that, it should be put into place where the services are being, you know, provided and all, and so I ask both of you on a day-to-day basis, with Clint Mueller and your other particular advocates, lobbyists and all, Ross, to do that part. I know that you'll have a few cities, but there are only six cities (sic) in the state, you know, so it's not something that affects all the cities (sic) in the State of Georgia. I understand they might want to put on a big hurrah for it, because if it -- you know, if it affected them, and I heard one member say this on the other side in the city, well, the people in the county use the city roads, and I'm thinking, yeah, but you've got a lot of people in the cities that use the -- you know, the county roads, too, so that really isn't, you know, something that should be used as a defense for that. So anything that you and especially Lamar, who heads up, you know, the ACCG now as President, we really appreciate anything that you can do to help us in that. And we can see that with your great efforts you've done before, helping many of the counties and the citizens all over the State of Georgia, that there's a good possibility that you all might be able to get this through in the next session of the Legislature beginning in January.

Mr. King said, Mr. Chairman, absolutely, and as I said, with our policy development process being reconstructed and having a chance to focus in on a two-year system, as opposed to working through the summer and then district meetings and then ultimately legislative matters on a point-by-point basis, we want to make sure that we're embracing critical policy concerns that you just noted. And, in fact, as President Paris identified in his comments, one of the things that we're going to be concentrating our attention on, and it's a must, is dialog with our association peers. The Georgia Municipal Association, as an example, has invited us to attend their annual conference which begins tomorrow. This is the first time in well over a decade that the President and Executive Director of ACCG have been invited to attend the Municipal Association meeting. We've got a meeting planned for August the 9th with the Sheriff's Association, where we can sit down and have dialog between our respective leaderships on concerns between constitutional

officers and the Association. It's important for us to walk in each other's shoes and have an appreciation about the issues and concerns that we respectively face, but I understand the petition in regard to franchise fees specifically, understand that a policy process needs to embrace that on a tighter basis. I'm looking forward to having dialog with Clint Mueller about this discussion this morning and making certain that we can go ahead and embrace that in a manner that will best fit the petition that's been made here by Chatham County.

Mr. Paris said, and I'll be sure that I directly take this to Clint and to the policy committee and we cover it as one of our policy objectives.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you both. We've got a few Commissioners, we have Harris Odell, Priscilla, and Helen.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you, and welcome aboard. I've seen you at seminars for the last ten or so years and been extremely impressed. There was a seminar, mediation and negotiation? Mr. King said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell said, excellent seminar. Mr. King said, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, excellent seminar. Normally, Commissioners will go outside during breaks and drink coffee and talk about everything under the sun but educational. But in this particular seminar, people did not leave the room when they were breaking. Extremely good seminar. Mr. King said, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, those are just an aside remark. The franchise fee basically is where, in our SSD, for lack of a better word, funds are being collected from those citizens and distributed to other citizens not within that area. I don't know, it looks like taxation without representation. That's one point.

The second point is that in that you're revamping your seminar structure, one of the main goals of counties will be, the State of Georgia and even the Federal Government, will be to do more with less. Because county government and city government is based upon your ability to get elected, which doesn't necessarily relate to your ability or knowledge of the particular function, so over time, with the various constitutional efforts, they grew up based upon comfort level of the elected official, not necessarily the most efficient way to do things. If we look at for-profit industry and we look at concepts like work force, mobility, management engineering, industrial engineering, the possibility there for counties are unlimited. I mean, I think the greatest savings, other than getting a handle on crime, will be in our ability to streamline and make effective the system. When I started practicing law 30 years ago, I went to one deputy clerk and if I needed a rule nisi, and that is a hearing date, I got a rule nisi date, paid, filed it in, I'm out of the courthouse. In most places now, if you are filing a divorce, you go to a case manager that sends you to the clerk's office that sends you to the judge's office, then sends you back to the clerk's office. It's an all-day thing. My position is that that system has not had the benefit of a production study to look at the most efficient way of doing it. We've always had the ability to get money from our citizens through taxation. That ability is dwindling quickly, so I think the creativity part is, I have a ton of literature, and often feel like I'm crying in the dark, on management engineering, work force redesign and work force mobility, that I think have broader application. People have said you cannot do this for these high level positions like the court. In health care, they did it for health care, where you have the super egos. I mean, they did it for laboratories, they did it for emergency rooms, and there are companies who have made a substantial living converting an inefficient system in health care, as far as the way the job was inefficient. We've not had that in county government as of yet. We will. And those are my comments, and welcome aboard. It is really -- after your comments, I wanted to give you a standing ovation. I am refreshed and renewed. Thank you.

Mr. King said, thank you so much.

Chairman Liakakis said, Priscilla and then Helen.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, Ladies and Gentlemen. I just want to tell you again, thank you so much. I am so excited about the fact that the Chairman has invited both of you here today. Having worked with you over a period of several years, I have been inspired and certainly have been engaged in many, many activities along the way. I am so excited about your proposed vision and mission for ACCG and that is, you know, turning things around so you engage more people in getting more things done. We applaud the wonderful work that Jerry Griffin has done for a number of years. But having participated with you, particularly, Mr. King, over the years in various training exercises and et cetera, I think it's a wonderful thing for elected officials and ACCG does an excellent job. So again, thank both of you for being here today, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can honestly say that the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia is in very good hands. I've had the opportunity and the privilege to work with both of you, and, Lamar, as you said in your article in the newsletter, that we are the eyes and the ears, the Commissioners are the eyes and the ears of our county, and I will say, take it one step further and say that the ACCG is the eyes and the ears of all the counties across the State of Georgia. And I have witnessed the hard work that both of you gentlemen have put into this organization. Ross, certainly for a number of years, serving in the capacity as Deputy Director, and I agree with Commissioner Odell, that he is refreshed and renewed. Well, Commissioner Odell, we could really use that refreshed and renewed help with our Public Safety and the Courts Committee, and I would love to see you serve on that, because there are a lot of issues that are coming to the forefront. One I saw, Lamar, Wednesday in Eatonton, Georgia, and one of the main concerns that's going to come forward is the closing of some of our crime labs, which is going to back up our courts, which will back up our jails. So there are a lot of issues that I know that you all will stay on top of, that you have in the past, that you have responded quickly, effectively. You have an amazing staff, and I look forward to being more involved with the organization and helping you in any way possible, as I know my fellow Commissioners will be, as well, because there's a great opportunity during a very stressful time to extend the eyes and ears of everyone in making the county, the state, the best place to live, so thank you very much for being here today and for all the hard work that both of you gentlemen have put into this organization, and I've seen it firsthand. Lamar, I don't know if you're trying to make every committee meeting, but I was very impressed that you were there on Wednesday, and I know that you will be an asset to the organization. And, Ross, I know you will, too, so thank you both for being here today.

Chairman Liakakis said, you know, being eight years as Vice Chairman of City Council and knowing a number of the Senators and House members and all, but joining up with the ACCG and being chairman of the number one committee for transportation and economic development, that gave me the opportunity to work with a lot of more of the Senators and House members around the State of Georgia, and many of those leaders now happen to be personal friends. And I want you to know that anything that I can continue to do to lobby any of those leaders, whether it's the appropriations or whatever committee it might be, just let me know, because especially those that are leaders in the transportation area, both on the Senate and the House. I worked with a number of them, like Jeff Mullis and Vance Smith, when he was chairman for the House Transportation and now Commissioner of Transportation, and it's good. But thanks again for the leadership of both of you and the great things that you have done for the citizens, not only of one area, but the whole State of Georgia. And all these Commissioners, I know, really are proud of the ACCG and we want to support it as best we can.

Mr. King said, thank you so much.

Mr. Paris said, if I can get one last word, I wanted to thank Commissioner Stone, because she has really taken an extra role in working with us, and especially me and the Board of ACCG, and she does a fine job for representing Chatham County at ACCG, and we appreciate her and the extra work she puts into it. Thank all of you all again for allowing us the honor of being here. This is a real privilege, and for all your kind comments, thank you very much.

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2. NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE (CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER STONE).

Chairman Liakakis said, the next item is the National Flood Insurance. That's one of my items and Commissioner Stone. I had a couple letters, and especially a gentleman called me who is a resident of the county, and he stated that he had a bad situation. What happened on May the 31st, the program for the government for flood insurance expired, and it was not renewed by the Legislators. And what this gentleman told me, he said, I'm in financial straits right now. I'm having problems, and I was able to get a buyer for my home, to pay my obligations and all, and the proposed buyer, he said that he wanted to get it over with very quickly and to be able to purchase this house. Well, what happened was, he got a call from the would-be purchaser and he said, I can't buy your home, and he said, why not, and the reason was because the financial institution found out that he could not get flood insurance, so they would not finance the purchase of the home, and the guy was really upset about it. After I got back home and talked to others, I immediately called both Congressmen's office and talked to their leaders, both Jack Kingston's office and also John Barrow's office, and U.S. Senators Isaacson and Chambliss, and pushed really hard, and said, we've got a lot of people here, but I know around the State of Georgia also, and this is something that really has to be acted on. And I was told, well, it didn't look too promising, you know, by one of the leaders in the legislative area, and said, hey, this is really a bad situation, and I said, well, whatever we can do. And it was stated to me that they've got calls from all over the country about flood insurance and they're being overwhelmed right now with the reconstituting of the flood insurance situation. And thankfully, what occurred here just a couple days ago, that the Legislators, the Federal Legislators, did renew the flood insurance plan and it goes through September of this year. But that's something that ACCG might want to consider, you know, also with the Legislators, because it does prevent a lot of problems when you do you have that. A lot of people think their home insurance covers flood, but it does not, and it puts a lot of people in a bind in that situation. And I know that Commissioner Stone also, she talked to me a couple of days ago and stated that, you know, that she had some calls, also. Helen?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did receive some information about this and became very concerned, because at a time that we need our digest to grow and people to be able to sell their houses and to be able to purchase houses, if this is holding it up, this could be disastrous. It is my understanding, and I do not know if this information is totally correct, that it did pass the House and it is going on to the Senate and it is expected to pass, but it's not a hundred percent. And until it is, I think that we all need to be aware of the fact that this is going on, that we've got people that cannot purchase a home, we've got people that cannot sell a home, and I think in light of this economy, this is a very, very awful thing to be occurring. And I don't know, Mr. Chairman, if a resolution from this Board would be something that we would want to consider, or whether that's not appropriate at this time, but certainly to get the message across that all over the United States, we need to be able -- people need to be able to buy and sell houses to keep

this economy going, and if this is stifling that, this is a very serious issue. So I don't know what the appropriate measure at this point would be, to send a message to our Senators. I don't know how quickly they're expected to act on this, but I know that if this is holding up home sales in this community, then I see it as a huge problem.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, I just heard from one of the Senator's representatives that they were trying to get it and it looked like it was going to pass because of the overwhelming -- even from the first time I spoke to him until now, from all over the country, that they are getting bombarded and that it was going to pass. But what we can do also, we can -- let's have a motion on the floor to -- for a resolution, then, to go to the Senate to encourage them to go ahead and vote for it and --

Commissioner Stone said, then I'll make that motion, Mr. Chairman, to go ahead and send forward a resolution from Chatham County. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved that a resolution be sent to the Senators from Georgia to encourage them to vote for the renewal of the National Flood Insurance program. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Liakakis said, motion passes. Commissioner Shay said, it's nice to see nine dots up there again.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

- 1. INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS NEW DESIGN MANUAL FOR PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED STREETS (COMMISSIONER SHAY). Enclosed is referral to the County Attorney for additional review.**

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, this is an especially significant document, considering some of the discussions that we've had about conflicts between high volume, high speed automobile traffic and elementary schools that are located throughout the county. The design manual that has been the predominant one over the last 30 or 40 years is the ASHTO manual, and I see that Leon Davenport is here, so I'm not going to try and tell you what A-S-H-T-O stands for, but it's a traffic control design guideline, and that has been historically very biased toward high volume, high speed traffic. Not necessarily a bad thing, but it does mean that in a county like Chatham, where we have a lot of places where people who don't have access to automobiles need to walk, it can lead to unsafe conditions. In my experience as a Commissioner over the last 18 years, a lot of the things that my constituents have been asking for, better sidewalks, better intersections, other amenities for modes of transportation other than private automobiles, as well as private automobiles, one of the main impediments has been that this ASHTO manual doesn't really know how to recognize those other methods. They go by a lot of names. The most recent one that's being used is Complete Streets. This particular

document is something that's been peer-reviewed and adopted by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and I know it has legal implications.

I am not suggesting at this time, Commissioners, that we throw out the ASHTO manual and make this the new Bible, but what I'm saying is that we should very strongly consider the provisions that are in this document that's been looked at and reviewed by both transportation engineers and planners as an alternative, so that these standards might also be used in the evaluation of design challenges going forward. I would particularly like for it to be something that we look at in the Skidaway Road corridor. I think a lot of the challenges that we face there with a very narrow right-of-way and a parallel road down the Truman Parkway that moves high volume, high speed traffic next to it, that this would be something that would be particularly important.

And, Jonathan, I know it has legal ramifications, but I just want to say to you that, you know, it's ironic that by varying from the ASHTO manual, that we actually are led into circumstances that create a greater threat to public safety, especially for pedestrians, and especially for children. So the fear of litigation should not really be a reason for us to miss the opportunity to advocate for safer streets. I think this manual gives us something that -- we can't stop litigation. I know you guys are really good at it, and so there's always going to be somebody that wants to bring a lawsuit, but you now have the opportunity to introduce as part of your defense that there is a peer-reviewed planning document that is available that says that it's okay to have slightly narrower streets and wider sidewalks and some of the things that are advocated in the document. I know it's under consideration and that you're reviewing it. I think that's a good thing. I hope that it won't be long before Staff and the County Attorney can come back and say, we've looked at this document and we think that we can adopt it in total or in part, and make that a part of our planning strategy going forward. It's real hard to redo Montgomery Crossroad once it's built, but there's not an excuse for building bad high speed, high volume automobile dominated streets. And that's all I have.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, I know, and we really appreciate Commissioner Shay, because he's, you know, been dedicated to many things, especially on safety in our community, has a lot of knowledge in here, and we know that even in our county and city, there have been quite a number of subdivisions that have been built that had no sidewalks, and we can ride around in those subdivisions and see the kids, like especially going to school, are walking in the street, which is not safe. But, Jon, if you'll do this, once you review this, bring it back to the Commission and some suggestion that you might have that we can incorporate that, you know, for local legislation that if somebody in the county -- and then we can also maybe do that and encourage the City of Savannah also. Russ?

County Attorney Hart said, I look forward to reading all 215 pages of it. Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, the ASHTO manual is this thick (indicating). I'll bet you never read that.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, we've asked Jon to take a day or two to look at it. I want to also add to the equation the very significant and much-needed evaluation by Mr. Thompson and his staff.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen?

Commissioner Stone said, I was just going to make sure that Mr. Thompson and the MPC was involved at this level, because I know -- Mr. Abolt said, they have to be. Commissioner Stone said, right, but my previous time there, for example, with subdivision regulations that Ms. Jane Feiler was -- and I really pushed hard to get these sidewalks put into the subdivision regulations, so I just want to make sure that the MPC

is involved in this, because I think that's going to make a huge difference as far as what they approve, because in site plan review, that does not come before us. That is simply a decision by the MPC. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick?

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I'm not sure where this is going to ultimately wind up, but I like the direction that we're taking here in looking at alternatives and taking a more holistic approach to the very necessary transportation needs, but also, the needs of the pedestrians and the bicyclists and the young folks and some of us not so young folks that ought to be out of our automobiles a little more often than we are, so I really like the direction we're going in, and I look forward to the process and where we wind up.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, and, Russ, if you'll, you know, bring that information to Tom over at the MPC. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, it's already there. Yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

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2. TEXTING, CELL PHONE USE AND INTERNET USE WHILE DRIVING (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would imagine people's probably wondering up here why I actually placed this on the agenda. Well, I guess I'll just state that I have a 16-year old daughter now that I love dearly, and while she was obtaining her license, going through classes, I actually heard, you know, her state, and I believe I actually saw on television that the State of Georgia was passing a law that restrict -- at the time, I was thinking 16 and 17, but I heard it's 18-year olds, also -- from texting or using the Internet or cell phone use, like talking on it, while driving. And my initial thought on that was, you know, this is great. I mean, this is really good, because, you know, I don't know how many of you have -- if you have a kid in that age bracket, but they're constantly texting and talking on the phones. And then I sat around and actually thought about it a little while and I thought, you know, that's strange. Why pass an ordinance for the kids, you know, 16 and 17? Then I was kind of amused by the politics of it. I thought, ah, you know, 16 and 17, they can't vote. The rest, they left alone, you know, although it's not a safe thing. The politics of the matter tend to trump the safety of the matter.

I learned shortly after putting something on my Facebook, just wanting feedback from people about this, I learned, heard from someone on there, that the law actually of texting and going on the Internet applied to everyone, and then State Representative Burke Day actually confirmed that to me, which I think's great. But Burke Day also confirmed to me that the talking on the phone does not apply to people older, I guess, than 18. So basically, the only ones it applies to are the only drivers that's allowed to drive that can't vote. So after being intrigued by the politics and the laws that were passed about cell phones with the non-voting age drivers, I wanted to do a little research and just see why it was good for one and not possibly -- if there was some logic behind it other than politics. Now, I'm just going to go through the parts about the actual cell phones, because I am proud of the State of Georgia for actually doing the right thing on the texting part and

the using the Internet while driving. They actually did what was right on that and made it for all people. So I'm going to go through a few stats that I pulled up within, you know, just a few minutes.

This is from InfoZine.com news. It says, fully 61% of adults say they have talked on their cell phones while they're behind the wheel. 44% of adults say they have been passengers of drivers who used the cell phone in a way that put themselves or others in danger. Beyond driving, one-sixth -- one in six, 17%, cell-toting adults say they have been so distracted while talking or texting that they have physically bumped into another person or object. That amounts to 14% of all American adults who have been so engrossed in talking, texting, or otherwise using their cell phones that they bumped into something or someone. Adults may be the ones sounding the alarm on the dangers of distracted driving, but they don't always set the best examples themselves. And in the response I've heard even on that, and I've had -- and I'll state the majority responses on my Facebook page has been very much in support of this, but you have, you know, a few that want to know, well, how do you drive, how do you do this. You know, after listening to it, I thought about it. I've almost wrecked before, looking at the Internet riding down the street. I talk on the phone myself and, you know, it's dangerous.

It goes on to say eight in ten, 82% of American adults now own cell phones. 44% of all adults say they have been in a car when a driver used a cell phone in a way that put themselves or others in danger. This comes from another web site -- you all have it in your packets, so I won't cite it -- talking on a cell phone causes nearly 25% of car accidents. In Pennsylvania, there were 1298 cell phone related accidents in 2008. Of the accidents, nine resulted in death. In 2007, 1,093 cell phone related car crashes occurred in Pennsylvania. Of those crashes, six were fatal. From '03 to '06, car accidents from cell phone use led to 50 deaths across the State of Pennsylvania. According to Pennsylvania DOT, from 2002 through '06, there were 5,715 car accidents linked to the use of hand-held cell phones. The Penn DOT also reported 367 accidents in the same time period involving hands-free cell phones. This is key, because I heard a lot of feedback from the few that opposes any type of cell phone restriction, well, we could do it hands-free, we can do it hands-free; hands-free's safe, hands-free's great. Pennsylvania DOT also reports 367 accidents in the same time period involving hands-free cell phones or Blue Tooth communication devices. A car driver dialing a cell phone is 2.8 times more likely to get into a crash than a non-distracted driver. A driver reaching for a cell phone or any other electronic device is 1.4 times more likely to experience a car crash. A driver talking on their cell phone, 1.3 more times likely to get in a crash. A truck driver on a cell phone's 5.9 times more likely. A trucker reaching for a phone or other device is 6.7 times more likely to experience a truck accident.

I'm almost done here. Nationwide Insurance, Nationwide.com, a new on-your-side survey by Nationwide verifies with concrete cell phone driving stats, the general assumption that there is strong public support for legislation to restrict cell phone usage while driving. The results of the new survey show that there are varying degrees of support for different types of restrictions based on these texting while driving stats. 8 in 10 drivers actually support some type of cell phone usage restriction. The majority of respondents say they are supportive of laws restricting any type of cell phone use while driving. Two-thirds, or 67%, say they are supportive of laws restricting phone calls while driving. Of those who supported enacting some type of cell phone usage restriction, nearly three in four believed the law should apply to all drivers, not just specific groups. Distraction from cell phone use while driving, hand-held or hands-free, extends a driver's reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08%. That's from the University of Utah. Drivers that use cell phones are four times more likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving, 37% from Carnegie-Mellon.

All right, if you're wondering what I think we should do about it, I guess I'm about to tell you. Although I realize we can't pass a state law, I think that we can show other elected officials, whether it's our state-elected officials, elected officials in other cities or other counties in the State of Georgia, that public safety should trump political safety every day when it comes to our elected positions. I've heard many state, the government's in my business too much, the government this, the government that. Hey, I agree. I've got 13 years of a track record of smaller government to me is a better government, but, to me, our number one elected duty is protecting the people that we serve. You know, you hear people say common sense would actually prevent people from driving and, you know, using the phone, common sense and a little care would -- you know, that people have that. Yeah, granted they do, but a lot of people don't have that, and that's where the government has to come into play, because if that were the case, we would not need laws, we wouldn't have people that murdered other people, raped other people, we wouldn't have people that committed all kinds of crimes, so that's our duty, is to create laws and ordinances, which we can't do laws, but we can do the ordinances to prevent people from hurting others.

So what I would like to see us do as the elected leaders of Chatham County is start really leading today and I'm asking for your conceptual approval for an ordinance that prohibits all drivers from talking on cell phones, whether it may be the action of physically holding a cell phone or using a hands-free device or Blue Tooth. In addition to that, I think we need a conceptual -- I would like to have conceptual approval for a resolution that requests that all cities in Chatham County follow suit and follow the example of the ordinance, and that way, when people drive into our county, we could have signs that say we are a cells-free while driving county, and we can lead the way by example. We can show other politicians that it's never wrong to do the right thing, and stat after stat after stat will show that we save lives.

Sure, it will inconvenience some people. It'll inconvenience many people. But, you know, it wasn't too many years ago, you had to pull off the road and use a pay phone, you know, so if someone really needs to talk, they can pull off the road and just dial their phone. It's a lot more convenient than it was back in the pay phone days, no matter what ordinance we create. But the main thing is by the example of standing up for what's right and standing up for the safety of our people as we set that example, and maybe the State of Georgia and other counties and other cities around will follow the example of right and we'd save many lives and, you know, it -- it could be one of your own loved ones that you save by doing this and, you know, hopefully it'll pass, so I ask for the conceptual approval as stated, for both conceptual approvals, and I'll put that in the form of a motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, the County has an ordinance now for all county employees -- correct, Russ?

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, that prohibits the use of cellular phones while driving. We have that in there.

County Manager Abolt said, texting.

Chairman Liakakis said, texting, with that. One of the things we might want to consider is to have our attorney look at this.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's why I said conceptual approval, where we can work on that.

Chairman Liakakis said, and to come back with that before we do anything at this particular point.

County Attorney Hart said, sure, you can direct me to do -- look into what we need to do. I haven't reviewed the state legislation, so I need to do that to see whether there's anything in that legislation that inhibits our ability to pass an ordinance. I would make one observation is, if you're going to pass an ordinance like this, and that's obviously a policy decision way above my pay grade, it really needs to be something that's done in concert with the municipalities. You've got an enforcement issue there. We've got an MPD that enforces the law both in the county and in the city, and we have an awful lot of little towns in this area, so you're going to have citizens riding in their car and they're going to always have to be cognizant of what jurisdiction they're in, so that's a -- you know, that's just from an enforcement standpoint and from a citizen standpoint. You know, if you do it in concert with everybody, it'd sure make it a lot easier on the police department and, to be quite honest, make it much easier on your citizens. They'd just know not to do it versus, oh, I just left the county, I'm now in Thunderbolt, I can talk until I get to the Wilmington River and then I've got to turn it off again. I mean, that's just an observation.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so you're basically stating that it's very important to pass -- if they want to pass the first one, to pass both of my conceptual requests here.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah, pretty much. If you're going to do it, you've got to do it so it's functional.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, and that's why I wanted both approved, to request that the cities follow suit.

Chairman Liakakis said, the problem that we've had, though, just like with our Metropolitan Police Department, is, the City of Savannah had an alarm ordinance and the County did not until it was brought up and we passed it, so, you know, that information, whether -- how they handle it and the administration of it and all, but there are other examples, also, so --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, with all due respect, I think we are the county. I believe we contain all of the cities. I believe our duty is to lead the cities rather than follow the cities. We lead by example, we request that they follow suit. If it prevents one child from getting killed on that roadway going to the beach that is in an unincorporated area of Chatham County, we've done a good job, whether the City of Savannah chooses to follow suit or not. It's a minor thing to request that citizens put their cell phone down in their car if it's going to save lives. And stat after stat shows that it will. And it's that simple. And most people actually support it.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have a motion on the floor. Do we have a second?

Commissioner Thomas said, I made the second. I second it.

Chairman Liakakis said, you second it? Okay.

Commissioner Odell said, let's restate the motion so that we all are aware of what it is we're voting for.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, restate the motion. The motion is for conceptual approval of a cell phone restriction -- cell phone use -- conceptual approval to prohibit cell phone use while driving in the unincorporated area. And the motion also contains for conceptual approval of us to pass a -- help me out somebody, what I just said, without looking through notes --

Commissioner Odell said, a resolution.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. A resolution requesting that all other cities within the county follow suit. And it's conceptual approval. Thataway, our attorney can look into the legalities and bring something back to us to either approve or not at the next meeting.

Chairman Liakakis said, and this is not -- we're not approving anything. We're just asking our County Attorney to look at it and bring his recommendations to us and what the State -- maybe if there's some prohibition on that --

Commissioner Odell said, then we need to dice the motion up, because the second part of that motion seeks a resolution that we submit to the other municipalities, know whatever the County Attorney says. I have some serious concerns about this. I think that although we are -- have the ability to enact an ordinance, I think the State of Georgia has the right and have taken the lead on this. I have some serious concern. I'd like to see us have the County Attorney to look into it. And we don't need a motion to do that. We can simply instruct the County Attorney to look at Dean's concern and thereafter get back with us. I think if we go on record with this being a motion, we might be making a commitment to something that we're not willing to commit to at this point, and those are my concerns.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick?

Commissioner Farrell said, I'm always in favor of safety; however, I would like to know what percentage of drivers that were involved in accidents that experienced no distractions, so I didn't hear that statistic. I would off-the-cuff kinda think that if you're getting in an accident, it's because you're distracted by something, child screaming, flash of light, eating a hamburger. Could be a number of distractions, one of which would be a cell phone use. I would recommend that we also go with Harris' suggestion that we look into this thing and move methodically through it and thoughtfully through it and, without the necessity of having conceptual approval, we can certainly look into it and go forward with the process of vetting this concern.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, may I state one thing? There's also, and I don't know why I didn't send this, other stats out there, that they actually tested people that were legally drunk at the .08, 70 miles per hour down the road, against people just talking on their cell phones, and the only ones to actually crash were the people talking on their cell phones. It's -- it is a proven fact, and, you know, again I understand the concerns that could rest politically, because I've been here several years, but it's just simply doing the right thing. It's -- you know, I'm not -- it's not life or death for me. I'll just call for the question. You all can do what you want to do. I'm going to do what I think's the right thing, and that's that, and we'll just move on. I call for the question. You can bring it and then you can vote it down.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved for conceptual approval to prohibit cell phone use while driving in the unincorporated area, and for conceptual approval of a resolution requesting that all cities in the county follow suit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas. Commissioners Shay, Gellatly,

Kicklighter and Thomas voted yes. Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, and Chairman Liakakis voted no. The motion failed to pass by a vote of five to four.

Chairman Liakakis said, what we'll do now, Dean brought up some good ideas that did not pass, so what he was discussing about the safety of our citizens is very, very important, as all of us know, but, Jon, if you would just go through all of the things and -- you know, you heard what Dean was talking about, you know, over there, is that -- and then bring that information back to us, and that will help this Commission make a decision on what to do and, you know, we can put an ordinance in there if the Commission so chooses, but bring everything back to us that you can, and we'll go from there.

County Attorney Hart said, be glad to.

Commissioner Odell said, may I just add to the instructions, if I might? And in your review of the law that's currently in existence, not only State of Georgia, but if there was a bill passed that will go into effect January 1st, if we could have that. And also, if we could look at some of the other municipalities' ordinance as to -- especially the larger municipalities, like the City of Savannah, Garden City, Pooler, Thunderbolt, Tybee -- to see if they already have anything of this kind on the books.

County Attorney Hart said, be glad to.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thanks. That's the same thing I asked for.

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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 (*).

None.

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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) TRANSFER \$984,243 FROM GENERAL FUND M&O CONTINGENCY TO TRANSFER OUT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FUND, (2) TRANSFER \$200,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND M&O MOSQUITO CONTROL BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO THE CIP MOSQUITO CONTROL HELICOPTER

PROJECT, (3) INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN THE CIP FUND \$1,184,243 FOR THE ABOVE TRANSFERS IN FROM THE GENERAL FUND M&O, (4) TRANSFER \$15,000 FROM THE CIP MOSQUITO CONTROL EXCAVATOR PROJECT AND \$28,928 FROM THE CIP MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT TO THE CIP MOSQUITO CONTROL HELICOPTER PROJECT, AND (5) TRANSFER \$178,531 FROM RECORDER'S COURT TO INDIRECT COST ALLOCATION IN THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT.

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion on the floor. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Stone said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, is there any discussion? Let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved for approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: (1) transfer \$984,243 from General Fund M&O Contingency to transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund, (2) transfer \$200,000 from the General Fund M&O Mosquito Control budget to transfer out to the CIP Mosquito Control Helicopter project, (3) increase revenues and expenditures in the CIP Fund \$1,184,243 for the above transfers in from the General Fund M&O, (4) transfer \$15,000 from the CIP Mosquito Control Excavator project and \$28,928 from the CIP Mosquito Control project to the CIP Mosquito Control Helicopter project, and (5) transfer \$178,531 from Recorder's Court to Indirect Cost Allocation in the Special Service District. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stone and it passed unanimously.

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2. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2011 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL FUND M&O.

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion. Commissioner Holmes said, so move. Commissioner Stone said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, let's go on the board.

Commissioner Farrell said, are we voting on this without discussion? County Manager Abolt said, it's your privilege. Commissioner Farrell said, are we on Number 2? Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, we're on Number 2.

Commissioner Farrell said, I -- well, I'll just go ahead and vote. I'm still concerned about the \$1.6 million in borrowing from this current CIP for this current fiscal year to make up the budget shortfall in next year's budget. I feel like that a better choice may be to address that \$1.6 million and keep these funds available for very important capital improvement projects that we already have the money for and keep them current. My concern is, is that borrowing the money going forward in normal times would not necessarily be a bad strategy, but all the economic indicators that I see out there show that the budget digest -- this is the tipping point, and that we probably will have some very severe difficulties going forward with our tax digest, because it's -- the tax digest -- the ramifications to the county budget have a one or two year lag time from the economy, so we're just now starting to feel the beginnings of what I feel like could be some more serious problems coming into it, so I feel like that the budget borrowing against next year, when I feel like next year will probably be even deeper cutbacks on the amount of revenue received, and we've gone for the last five or six years with years of multi-million dollar increases in that tax digest, balancing this year's 1.6 million

with some reduced spending in some key areas, I think, is the better choice, and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen?

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I would like to -- I mean, you gave my perfect interlude of what I wanted to say -- and I've got some information that I'd like to turn over to the County Manager. In talking with the Chairman of Cobb County to identify some cost-savings there -- I'll just mention a couple of these ideas that he put forward, and they were able to balance their budget -- and one of them was to identify the savings in all of the departments, and I realize we've done some of that, but making the goal possibly around 5%, to identify vacant positions that can be removed, and I'm not talking about frozen, I'm talking about actually removed until the economy gets better; to take a good hard look at out-of-town travel for departments that is only required for certification and that kind of thing. Also, have we addressed -- and I want to be very clear about this, I'm not talking about the areas of public safety -- but any overtime spending? I have not gotten any figures on what we spend on overtime, but any reductions there with -- and I cannot underscore enough -- the exception of emergency and public safety. But those are some of the ideas. I would like to submit this to the County Manager. This budget this year may be a cake walk with what we might be faced with next year, and I think that it is imperative that we look within ourselves to find the savings, just as many people are having to do within their own household budgets.

County Manager Abolt said, and I would say I appreciate that. I do want to give credit to you in this year and past years, though, and all the departments, including elected officials. Remember, we cut them three plus percent last year. We cut them again this year. The positions are frozen, as opposed to eliminated. The reason for that is, in freezing positions, the money is not there, but to just arbitrarily cut because a position is vacant, that means that in future deliberations as a Board, you have to rejustify a position. The justification has been there in the past. The savings are attributed to the individual action of one person saying, I'm going to retire, I'm going to leave, so there's no rhyme or reason to say, let's just eliminate the position because it's vacant. You still have tight budget control. On training, you did cut training. That was part of our action to pare it down. You've had some push-back, as you know, from some of the elected officials, judges, in particular, because of the required training. But I do want to say that we will continue to look at it. We appreciate the leadership of this Board. You've got a good budget you can adopt. We're not unmindful about what you're talking about, and we appreciate the fact that all departments and elected officials have brought forward a document that I feel you can adopt.

Commissioner Stone said, and the last thing I wanted to add, if I may, Mr. Chairman, is that we should really take a good hard look at this intergovernmental agreement for our policing. It is really impacting the Special Service District budget. I can honestly say that when I was first elected and reading it, I was very surprised that the implications that were put forward in that agreement actually passed this Commission, because it has put an extreme hardship on the Special Service District. So I'm going to turn this over from Mr. Owens, from the Cobb County Chairman, to take a look at. I agree that we're going to have to really tighten our belts all the way around, and I'm not as comfortable with using money out of our contingency if we can save it within our own departments and within our own spending. And I know that, Mr. Abolt, you will take a look at that.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, ma'am, thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, because nobody wants to go into savings that we might need next year if, as the Commissioner alluded, things are worse, so I'll submit this to you.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me respond to that. At the huge amount of meetings between Staff and myself, with the City and all of that, what we did decrease this year was \$600,000 from the Metro Police Department. Is that correct?

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, over 600,000.

Chairman Liakakis said, \$600,000, so we did reduce it. And what's also in this budget at this time, because we need to continue to look at it, what they were putting on there for the police department, part of that was reduced this time, you know, and not to appropriate that, so the staff has looked at that. One of the problems that, when you eliminate a particular position, it might be a vital position in there, but since the County -- and we went along with it to freeze. They have frozen quite a number of vacancies. But to eliminate them could be a problem, because of that situation where it is a very vital position for the operation of the county.

County Manager Abolt said, an interesting quagmire we find, because the reference was to overtime, so you freeze a position. I mean, you freeze or eliminate the position. That does not mean that the work does not stop, so you have employees having to work overtime to do the same work. There are two edges to this sword.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to say, thank you, thank you. I finally feel a little bit validated for my one vote against that police merger out of 18 people. Another elected official acknowledging that that maybe wasn't a great thing to do, so thank you for that. I just want to commend, when I put my name in to speak, I want to commend Staff for what Commissioner Farrell was speaking against. I think that's brilliant maneuvering that was used in the past when we were in worse financial shape and, you know, any time you can save -- I'm not looking at the numbers right this second, but I think it was 450,000 a year over two years, you can't go wrong. It'll be paid back in two years. If two years down the road, the state -- financial state of the county is in worse shape, the loan will be paid off and we'll have \$900,000 more than we have now, so, way to go. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Harris?

Commissioner Odell said, I tend to agree that freezing is better, as opposed to eliminating a position, because in positions that are highly desired, you often have a greater mobility. People move. Often, those are key or essential positions, so I agree with Staff's conclusion that we freeze them as opposed to having to bring them back for reconsideration. I have universally and continue to disagree with across-the-board cuts. Across-the-board cuts, just from a management standpoint, makes the assumption that all departments are equally deficient, so if you do across-the-board 2%, 3%, then if you are an excellent manager or department head and you're running it as close to knuckles as possible, then that's a substantial cut. In fact, across-the-board cutting tends to benefit the department head that leaves fluff in. I think it benefits the department that leaves fluff in, and I'm not certain if that's what we want to do.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we have many little kingdoms within Chatham County. All of them act as if they're little kingdoms. We really need to look at having management engineering to look at some of the overlapping functions so that although you're King A, if King B has a similar function and neither one of you are running 100%, that you might be able to survive on a 50% of shared position. And it's politically hard for us to do, because each one of those kingdoms are elected just as we are, but ultimately, we are the ones who are accountable for the budget. I mean, when we raised the millage that minuscule amount a few years ago, not one other elected official was barbecued, crucified. And they use terms like right. Right is not found in the law, because right varies on who you are. Right for me doesn't mean it's right for Liakakis. My point being is that we're the ones who're going to get the heat off this. The only way we can do it is look at having a management engineering. Right now, there is no intent by any department to be excessive. There's no intent. I genuinely believe that there's no intent.

But the simple fact that you get to be an elected official does not give you years of education in business management. It does not give you that divine knowledge that you can only get through education. It is our job, as the central government, to provide that specialty function known as management engineering, which will create a higher level of efficiency we will not continue to suffer. I strongly hope that before we construct the jail, that we look -- and I'll talk to my good friend, the Sheriff -- that we look at how management engineering can be effective in streamlining the cost now. If you think we're in budget crisis now, wait until we open those additional beds and try to staff it. And having been a former personnel manager, I learned one thing. If I had a department that had a hundred people and we gave them ten additional positions, they found enough work for those additional ten positions. Now, the work often was not unnecessary; often, it was conflicting and very destructive. I'll guarantee you that within six months after we open that jail, it will be filled. And here's why it will be full. The Sheriff does not determine who's in jail. Other people determine who's in jail, and there's a disconnect between the cost of putting someone in jail over something insignificant and other alternatives.

But one last thing I do want to say is, this is a good time also to look at those take-home vehicles. My thought about take-home vehicles are that take-home vehicles are for the benefit of the county. Our wage and salary program are such now that we don't need to do that little extra compensation when we paid the worst in the land. We are no longer there. Our compensation system is competitive with any other municipality, any other government function, in this region. And I dare anyone to tell me that those take-home vehicles are used only for governmental function. They are not. It's like having your own private little car that you run to the grocery store, go pick up the kids, and all other things that -- this is not part of your salary. That is a cost. And until we start watching those costs, it's not going to be effective. We are not going to be effective, and I support Russ on the \$1.6 million borrowing. Russ, is that what it is?

County Manager Abolt said, we do this --

Chairman Liakakis said, David?

County Manager Abolt said, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm finished.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you. I listened very carefully to Commissioner Farrell and very carefully to what was said by others, and particularly Harris had some good points, also. I think that we have to be very careful of using reserves or spending money that we don't have. I personally think -- and if you look

at the economy and watch the news carefully, I don't think we're anywhere near the bottom. I think the real estate reports came out last week and in the month of May, it was absolutely the worse month for real estate since 1960, and if you -- if you just drive through some of the neighborhoods in Chatham County, there are houses for sale everywhere. And I think that it would be a huge -- I think for the amount of money that we need, I think we need to find it within the existing budget. I think that Harris Odell pointed out take-home cars. There's other areas, too. I think you're going to take a look and if you've got -- if you have an employee that takes his car home because they might be called out once a month, let's pay them mileage when they're called out once a month. Let's keep that car parked. There are other areas that we need to look at. I commend Russ for doing a fantastic job, pulling the budget together as much as he has, but I personally think that we can find that money within the budget. That's my own personal opinion and it would be really not the brightest thing in the world to be spending money that you don't have right now.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick Shay? Before I say the thing -- well, wait a minute, we've got another Commissioner speaking because of -- before we go on. Helen?

Commissioner Stone said, did you want to speak?

Chairman Liakakis said, no, no. Go ahead, Helen, because I'll say something about the vote, but not until the Commissioners are finished.

Commissioner Stone said, I have a question for the County Manager. If additional savings can be recognized within the departments and within the overall budget, would you then rely on that \$1.6 million or would you try to absorb it in any way that it could be?

County Manager Abolt said, the answer is yes. I mean, yes, we would. I don't want to get caught up on this term, non reoccurring or revenue that's not duplicate. The M&O budget is balanced with reoccurring revenue, and the action we've taken is very prudent, we feel. I don't want to become defensive, but we're not jeopardizing the solvency of the M&O. Your focus should be on the SSD. That's where we're spending the million and a half, you know, in non reoccurring revenue. Because the previous -- well, because your previous action, you adjusted the millage a while back, that's essentially why we're able to get through these difficult times. Had you not adjusted the millage, we would have no reserves. And so I feel very confident, as I know my staff, that you can adopt the M&O. That's not going to correct the economic trials of Southeast Georgia or the nation, but as a Board of Directors, you're doing something very prudent. You are not adopting a budget in the M&O that is funded by non reoccurring revenues. It's very prudent to make these decisions.

On the vehicles, I understand that. That's a continual concern. You remember each year, we give you a list of where those vehicles are. On my side of the house, we've reduced it. We're going to mileage. Every year, the department head in all departments, including elected officials, has to justify why vehicles go home. These are all issues that we have not been unmindful. We do have on retainer a management engineer, and I'm not defensive at all, please understand, of staff, but I do not want the concern expressed today to reflect inappropriately on all the departments, including the elected officials. They have taken the hits. They certainly can all take more. There's no question about it. But this is not a situation in which I feel you should feel either apologetic for or concern. You are balancing an M&O budget based on reoccurring revenues because of you. It's a good job you have done.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, one of the things on here is that I want all the Commissioners to know, I'm up here every day. I've never missed a day coming up except one time about three years ago. I'm up here, except if I'm in Atlanta or Washington, D.C., and a lot of the Commissioners go up there. But I want to tell you that Russ Abolt, the many times that I see him, that he's got different departments, or sometimes all of the departments in there, that he has had -- gone over with them multiple times, and a huge amount of meetings. He's had more meetings this year with the -- you know, not only the finance people, but the department heads, over and over again, to bring us back this budget, after going over many things with them. So I want the Commission to know that, you know, because I see that, you know, on almost a daily basis in the past. Okay, now -- go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, question to clarify. I just want the people at home to kinda understand a little bit better on this one. How much money is in the account that we're borrowing from?

Finance Director Linda Cramer said, in the bank? We have about \$20 million of cash.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, \$20 million in there. How much are we borrowing?

Ms. Cramer said, almost \$1.8 million.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, do we have to pay the \$1.8 million back that we borrow?

Ms. Cramer said, you do if you approve that item on the agenda.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, how much will that save us this year?

Ms. Cramer said, about \$900,000 impact on this year -- well, it'll be the 1.8 million this year and then next year we'll pay it back, 900 and 900.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, okay, so it'll save over a two-year period how much?

Ms. Cramer said, well, what it will do is balance our budget this year. We'll have the 1.8 million coming in as revenue. We'll pay it back over the next two years and that will give you an opportunity to look at, during your budget workshops that are coming up, additional operational cuts, so you'll have a well thought out process.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, so this particular item is not paying off a loan or interest -- that we're paying interest on?

Ms. Cramer said, we're refinancing a loan, refinancing a bond issue.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, and how much will that save over the next two years?

Ms. Cramer said, I guess you'll save that interest cost.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what would that be?

Ms. Cramer said, about 25,000.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, about 25,000? Okay, so to put it in perspective for people at home, it's like having reserves in your own savings account and borrowing it, having to pay it back within two years, and saving \$25,000 rather than pay interest to the bank.

Ms. Cramer said, right.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, 2 million out of 20 million? So it's pretty creative and, in my opinion, the only thing that to actually do in that situation and you're saving 25,000 over two years. I mean, how do you argue with saving \$25,000? Thanks.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you very much. The motion has passed, Barbara. You can indicate that now.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Holmes moved that the Board adopt the FY2011 budget resolution for the General Fund M&O. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stone. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion and Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly voted in opposition to the motion. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.



3. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2011 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ?

County Manager Abolt said, this is a document you've already reviewed. It's been adjusted to reflect the loss in property tax value. You, in effect, are adopting a program with which you're familiar. The balancing occurs from taking more of our reserves. We're now at approximately one and a half million dollars in reserves to balance the SSD and, as you know, there was about a 200,000 -- there is a \$200,000 cut in the increase requested by Chief Lovett for the SSD, so the cut comes in not in the money already funded, but the cut in request for increase. As the Chairman said last year, the MPD budget was cut by 600,000, and at the end of reconciliation for the Calendar Year 2009, the City of Savannah acknowledges that they will rebate to us about three-quarters of a million dollars. So you have a balanced budget. The problems with the SSD budget have been recited by you all and staff for months. This has not changed, but this is another get-by year and you can adopt it.

Chairman Liakakis said, when I spoke to both Lamar and Ross earlier in the pre-meeting, they are going to work really hard. And I think this, especially they meeting now with the GMA, with the President of GMA, their different executive committees, and also the Executive Director, that it's going to make a difference, and since it's only six counties, it does look like that those franchise fees could very well come to the county, as opposed to being distributed over there, because they're going to push it really, really hard, you know, in that. And then we'll have the money to put in the SSD, because we've been struggling with that, and we have to have this relief to do the right thing in the SSD budget. There's no -- absolutely no doubt about it.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we need a motion on the floor to adopt the Fiscal Year 2011 budget resolution for the Special Service District. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor. We need a second. Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, it was Priscilla Thomas and James Holmes. Okay, do I have any discussion on it? Any discussion? All right, let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Board adopt the FY2011 budget resolution for the Special Service District Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holmes and it passed. [Commissioner Shay voted no.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2011 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNTY'S PROPRIETARY FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUND, NON-MAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, AND CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS; AND AMEND THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SOLID WASTE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS.

Chairman Liakakis said, we were all distributed that information. Russ, do you have any comments on that?

County Manager Abolt said, no. If you vote for it, I'm going to say attaboy and ladies to you all, but, please, you're on the brink of doing something no other Commission has done. You have done now what, six years in a row, by approving this, if you choose to, approved and adopted a budget by the end of your fiscal year, which is very much appreciated and outstanding work.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Board adopt the FY2011 budget resolution for the County's proprietary funds, debt service fund, non-major special revenue funds, and capital project funds; and amend the proposed budget for the Chatham Area Transit Authority, Solid Waste and Capital Improvement Program funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holmes and it passed unanimously.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I want to emphasize for the viewing audience how important this is and how fiscally responsible this Board has been. In the past, when it got a little hot in the kitchen, the action has always by your predecessors to delay, and that would have made necessary the action that's only there as an alternative, to work on a continuing resolution. When you delay a difficult decision, it backs up everything. It backs up the audit, it backs up being able to adequately and efficiently manage the next year's budget, which will begin the 1st of July, and you're again showing that you truly are an outstanding Commission. You take the heat, you make the decisions, and we can move on, and for that, as your staff, I say thank you.

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5. THE FOLLOWING ACTION IS ONLY REQUIRED IF THE BOARD FAILS TO ADOPT FY2011 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS: APPROVAL OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2010, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011, TO ENABLE THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE UNTIL FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET IS ADOPTED.

County Manager Abolt said this is not necessary. Chairman Liakakis said, it's only required if we fail – so we don't have to do Item 5.

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6. TO PRESENT THE TAX DIGEST INFORMATION FOR TAX YEAR 2010 AND THE GENERAL FUND M&O FIVE YEAR LEVY HISTORY.

County Manager Abolt said, just information. You'll be acting on the levy in the next month.

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7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AN INTERFUND LOAN FROM THE CIP FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.

County Manager Abolt said, that's what you just talked about doing.

Chairman Liakakis said, now, I want this Board to know, because you all were really concerned about that police budget, and there were quite a number of meetings between our staff and the City staff on this, with their Finance Department and all of those people in there. I had numerous meetings negotiating also on this, so I took the instructions from this Commission, what you wanted about that, you know, the police budget, because we were looking and we were tight in that, and because of everybody working together, your desires, you know, about reducing the budget, we did have that \$600,000 there, because the Board instructed. It would have been more, but, you know, with this thing with the City situation that we had, but we will continue to follow your instructions.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, we do – I apologize – we do need to vote on Number 7 on the interfund loan. That's Alternative 1, so if we could please entertain a motion to adopt Alternative Number 1 under Item Number 7, please.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick?

Commissioner Farrell said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we adopt the recommendation Number 1 on Item Number 7.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor. We need a second. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, there's a motion on the floor and a second to approve the interfund loan as was mentioned by Commissioner Shay. Let's go on the board. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved that the Board approve Item 7, Alternative 1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holmes and the motion passed. [Commissioner Farrell voted no.]

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- 8. REQUEST BOARD 1) AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH, EFFINGHAM COUNTY, BRYAN COUNTY, BULLOCH COUNTY, LIBERTY COUNTY AND GLYNN COUNTY FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING THE SOUTH EAST GEORGIA REGIONAL RADIO NETWORK (SEGARRN) AND 2) TO CONFIRM THE CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE ON AN EXISTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH BRYAN COUNTY, LIBERTY COUNTY, AND GLYNN COUNTY THAT WAS SIGNED IN 2009 (\$7.7 MILLION PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT).**

County Manager Abolt said, just a motion to adopt. It confirms what we've already done. Commissioner Stone said, so move, Mr. Chairman. I think this is wonderful. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, and I want everybody – so all the Commissioners and the public to know, this Interoperable Fund will help the County, especially if we have some kind of disaster, that all of these counties, we can talk together on this particular communication system, and that would help us, because if we're in trouble, we can get those other assistance in some other area that needed assistance. They're able to request that with us and have the operation, so let's go, everybody now on the board. Patrick Shay? Commissioner Shay said, yes, sir. Chairman Liakakis said, motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved that the Board 1) authorize the Chairman to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Savannah, Effingham County, Bryan County, Bulloch County, Liberty County and Glynn County for purposes of establishing and operating the South East Georgia Regional Radio Network (SEGARRN) and 2) to confirm the Chairman's signature on an existing Intergovernmental Agreement with Bryan County, Liberty County, and Glynn County that was signed in 2009 (\$7.7 million Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and it passed unanimously. [Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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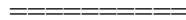
- 9. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH GRANT MATCH FUNDING. THE AREA**

IN CHATHAM COUNTY SERVED BY THIS TOWER SITE WILL PROVIDE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO COVERAGE IN AN AREA (PORT WENTWORTH) THAT IS UNDER SERVED BY THE COUNTY’S EXISTING RADIO SYSTEM.

Chairman Liakakis said, in your packet, in your packets, you can see that map that shows that, how important that is, you know, for us, so we need a motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to approve Item 9. Let’s go on the board. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Effingham County, Georgia, providing financial assistance with grant match funding. The area in Chatham County served by this tower site will provide public safety radio coverage in an area (Port Wentworth) that is under served by the County’s existing radio system. The motion passed unanimously. [Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]



10. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH CONCERNING OWNERSHIP OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASED WITH THE PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS GRANT.

County Manager Abolt said, again, this just – you have already done. We ask approval of it, please, to clarify.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, let’s go on the board. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign an Amendment to an existing Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Savannah concerning ownership of equipment purchased with the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farrell and it passed unanimously. [Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]



11. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR HARRIS.

Commander Harris said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Roy Harris, CNT. You have a copy of the monthly report in front of you. We'll look at a couple of individual items here. Weapons seized again, we mention that about every month. It continues to go up. 15 guns seized during this monthly period. Also, you'll notice that the majority of the cases made during this month were for felony sales/trafficking. To give you

an idea what that is, trafficking carries enhanced penalties way above what we have for mere possession or mere sales. So if you look at trafficking 28 grams of cocaine, meth, or any other substance, to 200 grams, that's a minimum of three years to a maximum of 30 years sentencing guidelines, with 25,000 to \$250,000 fine. We go from 28 grams to 200 grams is three to 30, and then if it jumps up to 200 to 400 grams, that's a minimum of five to 30, and then beyond that is a minimum of 10 to 30 years that you get for trafficking on these sentences. So this is what we're looking at on arresting these defendants, to go beyond mere possession or street level types of drugs. If you look down at the vehicles seized, you'll see that there were a lot of vehicles seized. These basically were a result of the major investigation we were in the process of culminating last month. A couple of items on there, a 1967 Chevelle SS and a '69 convertible Chevrolet Impala, are restored vehicles. We're now looking at that. If those cars are matching number cars, they're very high-dollar cars, but both of them are in excellent shape, and we have them stored in a warehouse at this particular point.

Within the next couple of weeks, we are currently working on this same case, preparing indictments for a good deal -- a good number of individuals, both in state and federal court, so hopefully within the next couple of weeks, those indictments will be -- will be handed down and we'll be arresting those individuals, which will involve several different drug organizations that were distributing drugs here in Chatham County, primarily getting their drugs, again, out of the Atlanta Metro area and then bringing them to Chatham County. The work on these types of cases, once the actual investigation is completed, the real work really begins. We used -- on this latest investigation, we used an entire box of copy paper to copy the affidavits and all of the other things needed by the courts. That's how voluminous this particular case was, and we can thank our friends in DEA for assisting greatly on that part of the investigation. The majority of those agents involved in that are now working with our two in-house attorneys, preparing these indictments, getting all of that ready for court, which is a very formidable thing for us to get done in this length of time. If you have any questions about the report, I'll try to answer those.

Chairman Liakakis said, one thing I will comment, I will be distributing, I finally got it from the District Attorney's Office about the prosecution, because working on the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Savannah and the County, one of the things that the Mayor asked is, what is the prosecution rate on drug cases that have been done by the CNT. And I got that information and I will now distribute that to you. You'll have it very shortly. Then you can see it's because of those two Assistant District Attorneys from the District Attorney's Office that help all of the agents to prepare the cases properly, to give them the proper training. And one of the things you might want to mention about the 300. Tell that figure about the 300, what that is, that has never been challenged, on the 300 things.

Commander Harris asked, warrants?

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah.

Commander Harris said, one of the things that they found out -- now, it was a little bit different figure, somewhere around 300 search warrants had been obtained in about a two year period by CNT agents and they had -- none of those were overturned in hearings in court, so that's 100% success rate on search warrants, and we do a tremendous amount of search warrants. One thing that's going to impact both us and District Attorney's Office, or already is impacting us is the Prosecuting Attorney's Counsel, due to state budget cuts, the local office here is closing. That means those attorneys that handled the asset forfeitures for everybody in Chatham County are no longer there. That job has been shifted over to our two in-house attorneys, so they're currently having to handle all of asset forfeitures for every agency in Chatham County.

We are the big agency for that, and we're trying to get trained up a little bit on doing these things, and hopefully getting some other assistance on that. Getting the software back from the State after they closed the office, that will help us on that. In talking to Chief Assistant Meg Heap, I think that's been approved and we will. But that will be an impact on us, which was a job beforehand that neither the D.A.'s Office or CNT had to worry about.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that was a shocker. So the State actually shifted some cost over to the local level? That shocks.

Commander Harris said, it's hard to believe, I know.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's hard to believe. It really is.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, you know, that goes back again to they're not paying the full cost of the -- you know, the inmates. The State -- you know, the state prisoners that are in the county jail, I think I just got another one yesterday that showed that the State of Georgia -- now, listen to this -- owes the taxpayers in Chatham County \$29,100,000, is what they owe now from March of 2001 to the present time.

Commissioner Stone said, that would take care of our budget. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, very right so.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

<p>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.</p>
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Chairman Liakakis said, okay, next item, Action Calendar. We have Items 1-4 and under Item 4 is A-O. Any specific items any of the Commissioners would like to hold up on? Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor to approve all the Action Calendar items. Let's go on the board. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved approval of the Action Calendar, Items 1-4 and Items A-O. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and it passed unanimously.

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2010, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2010, as mailed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and it passed unanimously.

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 3 THROUGH JUNE 16, 2010.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved approval of payment of claims v. Chatham County for the period June 3 through June 16, 2010, in the amount of \$4,485,269. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and it passed unanimously.

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE TAX COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE TO WRITE OFF UNCOLLECTIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE PERIOD 2003 THROUGH 2010. WITH AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR THEM TO INSTRUCT THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS NOT TO CREATE ASSESSMENT AND/OR ANY SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SAME PROPERTIES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved approval for the Tax Commissioner's Office to write off Uncollectible Personal Property taxes for the period 2003 through 2010. With an additional request for them to instruct the Board of Assessors not to create assessment and/or any subsequent assessment of the same properties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and it passed unanimously.

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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. 220 batteries for Express Poll voting equipment	Board of Elections	Premier Elections Solutions (Sole Source)	\$31,670	General Fund/M&O - Board of Elections
B. Summary Change Order No. 1 for the contract to provide paving, drainage and landscape improvements for an existing dirt parking lot at the Citizens Service Center for additional labor and material	Engineering	Collins Construction Services, Inc.	\$4,382	1999 CIP Bond Fund - Government Buildings
C. Task Order contracts for various engineering, geo-technical, surveying and environmental services	Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Yawn Land Surveying •Collins Engineering •Ecological Planning Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •NTE \$150,000 •NTE \$250,000 •NTE \$100,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SPLOST - (1985-1993), (1993-1998), (1998-2003), (2003-2008), (2008-2014) •CIP •Land Bank
D. Construction contract for the Quacco Canal maintenance road project	Engineering	Marchese Construction, LLC	\$119,413	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage, Quacco Canal West-US17 Project
E. Annual professional services contract with option to renew for one (1) additional year to provide drug treatment services for Drug Court	Drug Court	Recovery Place, Inc.	\$450 per client per month	Proposed FY2011 Budgeted Funds 1002100 - 52.39001 1002100 - 52.12099 2179936 - 53.17009 FY2010 DATE funds (as needed)
F. Annual contract with option to renew for four (4) additional one (1) year term to provide contract labor	Public Works and Park Services	Staffing Company, Inc.	\$9.75 per hour per person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SSD - Public Works •Solid Waste Management

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
G. Annual software license and maintenance agreement	ICS	Sungard Public Sector, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$60,690	General Fund/M&O - ICS
H Removal and demolition of dock from Slip 1 Riverwalk	Special Projects	Myrick Marine	\$17,844	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Riverwalk
I. Task Order contract for lot, property clearing	Special Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ziggy & Sons (MBE) •Trinity Lawn Care Services (MBE) •Complete Lawn Care (MBE) 	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2005 DSA Series Bonds •2005 DSA Series Bonds •SPLOST - (1998-2003), (2003-2008), (2008-2014)
J. Confirmation emergency purchase for cat cages and medial equipment for the new Animal Control facility	Special Projects	TW Medical	\$50,732	CIP - Animal Control facility
K. Change Order No. 4 to the contract for the construction of the new Records Center facility to add site lighting	Special Projects	Choate Construction	\$110,460	CIP - Records Facility
L. Change Order No. 5 to the contract for the construction of the new Records Center facility to add upgraded water service for fire suppression	Special Projects	Choate Construction	\$253,613	CIP - Records Facility
M. Video surveillance system for the Firing Range	Sheriff	Securitech Electronics	\$48,150	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
N. Utility vehicle with a sprayer attachment	Parks and Recreation	Hendrix Machinery, Inc.	\$10,388	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
O. Software licenses agreement	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$45,770	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved approval of Items 4 A-O. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and it passed unanimously.

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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

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED).**

A status report was attached as information.

- 2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).**

A status report was attached as information.

- 3. ROAD AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.**

Status reports were attached as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman declared a recess at 11:25 a.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF 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 Board approval of a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Holmes and it passed unanimously. [Commissioner Kicklighter was absent.]

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APPOINTMENTS

- 1. LIVE OAK LIBRARY**

Chairman Liakakis said that Daniel Brantley and Darlene Wilson have been suggested for appointment and Alan Berger is eligible for reappointment to the Board of the Live Oak Library.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that Daniel Brantley, Darlene Wilson, and Alan Berger be appointed to serve on the Board of the Live Oak Library. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and it passed unanimously. [Commissioner Kicklighter was absent.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2010.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman, Board of
Commissioners, Chatham County, Georgia.

Barbara B. Wright, Acting Commission Clerk