

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005, 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., Friday, February 18, 2005.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Liakakis introduced Rev. Edward Ellis, Pastor of the First Bryan Baptist Church. Chairman Liakakis said, a little bit about Rev. Ellis, he's been a long time part of our clergy, one of the outstanding pastors in our entire community. The First Bryan Baptist Church, as many of you might know, they have many outreach programs in the community where they help the homeless and many other things. Really a lot of the members of their church are community activists and have made a really good difference in many parts of our community. Welcome, Rev. Ellis.

Rev. Ellis gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Pete Liakakis, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight B. Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District Seven Helen L. Stone, District One James J. Holmes, District Two Patrick Shay, District Three Patrick K. Farrell, District Four Harris Odell, Jr., District Five David M. Gellatly, District Six
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Liakakis recognized Mr. Van Johnson.

Mr. Johnson introduced the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Danielle Cummings, a Sophomore at Jenkins High School, and Arnecia Newton, a Sophomore at Jenkins High School.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROPOSAL TO MERGE BOARD OF ELECTIONS WITH BOARD OF REGISTRARS (THOMAS COLE, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ELECTIONS).

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Thomas Cole.

Mr. Thomas Cole said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Tom Cole, and actually there is a bit of a presentation. Each of you has in front of you a manila envelope and inside there from the Board of Elections is your official Certificate of Election. So we went ahead and passed those out. We hope y'all don't mind. But what —, the principal reason for me coming here today was to talk to you about a combination of the Board of Elections and Board of Registrars. In the election process, the actual process is divided between those two boards and under ideal circumstances the two would work in a seamless fashion. Because it's two boards, what we endeavor to do is sort of get a zipper effect where we mesh together well, but again our ideal would be a seamless process. I did explain to the Board of Registrars, who's not here today, when I met with them that I would inform the Council [sic] of, I guess, the circumstances of that. We were placed on the agenda on Tuesday. Wednesday we contacted a member of their board and then actually met with them —, I met with them Thursday and their expression was they really —, they wanted more time before coming before the Commission, and we're actually going to be meeting with them on Tuesday to discuss this issue. At the Council's —, or the Commission's pleasure I can go ahead with my comments or it could be moved for two weeks later, but I am prepared to go forward.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell asked would you feel comfortable giving them the additional time so that we can hear both from your board and from them? Mr. Cole said, what I explained to them is I would tell them —, I would tell you exactly what I just told you and then, you know, at your pleasure I could go forward and tell you what I've got to say. The —, and the reason —, the only reason that the Commission may want to consider this is today or consider part of it today is we're dealing with two time crunches. The first is both bodies are being moved as a part of the courthouse renovation project into the same building out on Eisenhower Drive and that construction is imminent. So the question is do they build one facility or two facilities in that same building, and the second issue is anything that would happen would have to be done by local legislation and, as you know, the time frame in Atlanta is relatively short.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Do we have any other comments from members —?

Commissioner Shay said, I'd like to know a lot more about this before I vote on it. I think what's been presented has some merit, but I don't really understand yet and don't want to take the time today to fully understand the difference between how the two bodies are constituted and how they're directed. The Board of Elections, I think, is a board that is inherently bi-partisan, but partisan nonetheless, and the Board of Registration [sic] I would hope is non-partisan, not bi-partisan, and I'm a little bit concerned about understanding the differences between those two before I would vote on something.

Chairman Liakakis said, Tom [Cole], in the essence of time I know how important it is and you're talking about a crunch of time, but it might be better, you know, if it's possible that you can have them call a special meeting that that's a request from the Commission so that you can speak to them and go from there and then come back to us at the next meeting so that they will be there because you'll make your presentation and then if they come up at a later time and make a valid and a strong position that they feel that this should not be a combination, then the Board might decide not to do that. In the essence of time I'd like to request right now that what you do is go to them, see if they'll set up a special meeting immediately and then get back with the Board and then we can, you know, hear. We've got all the facts that you have given us today. We can look those over. The Board members can give you a phone call and then we can take it from that position and you come up to the next meeting also with the members of the other group. Mr. Cole said, I'd be happy to do that. I mean, clearly that makes some sense. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. All right then. Mr. Cole said, thank you, sir. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Tom [Cole].

Commissioner Odell asked, do we need to table that action? County Manager Abolt said, this as such is not an official agenda item. You're giving instructions you want it to appear on your next agenda, which we will do.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Liakakis requested this be placed on the next agenda so that representatives of both the Board of Elections and Board of Registrars can appear regarding a proposal to merge the Board of Elections with the Board of Registrars.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. REFERRAL TO MPC REQUESTING PREPARATION OF A COUNTY PRESERVATION ORDINANCE (COMMISSIONER SHAY).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, this is one of the items that I asked for us as a group to consider as part of my hopes and desires for the four-year term. Right now there is a Preservation Ordinance in place in the City of Savannah, but in the unincorporated area of Chatham County there is not an ordinance that would make it possible for individual neighborhoods or even individual buildings to be nominated for historic preservation. I know that our community has been a leader in the preservation effort in Georgia and in some ways —, in many ways in the United States, but the unincorporated area is now kind of behind the rest of the State of Georgia. There are a lot of communities throughout the State of Georgia that are taking advantage of some of the opportunities that are availed to communities in terms of grants and other legal protections by having a Preservation Ordinance in place. I'd like to point out to the Commissioners that this would not be a matter of trying to force any particular legal constraints on individuals, it would just now allow them to come forward and petition for this protection if they wanted to. So it's not us telling anybody what they have to do, but rather trying to fashion a program whereby an individual neighborhood could nominate itself for protection under a County Preservation Ordinance. And I guess what we're being —, what we would do today if the Commissioners so desired would be to refer this matter to the Metropolitan Planning Commission so that they could further study it and come back to us with a recommendation. I see the Director of the MPC, Mr. Thomson and Beth Reiter, who's the Preservation Officer, out in the audience. Do you wish to speak to the issue? You don't have to, I'm just asking. Mr. Tom Thomson said, no, we don't need to. Commissioner Shay said, okay. Mr. Thomson said, we're ready to serve.

Chairman Liakakis asked, all right, do we have a motion on the floor to refer this to the MPC. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Commissioner Shay said, I move it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second. Discussion?

Commissioner Stone said, I was just going to add coming from the MPC side that I would definitely support something like that. Knowing what I would see when petitions came before us with the historic preservation for the downtown area, it was extremely helpful to have this information and have someone looking out for it. So I would support that wholeheartedly.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any other discussion? Okay, we have a motion on the floor to refer this item to the MPC. Everybody go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passed.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved that the Board refer to the Metropolitan Planning Commission a request that they study and prepare a Preservation Ordinance on behalf of the unincorporated area of Chatham County. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. TO INFORM THE BOARD ABOUT THE 2005 YOUTH COMMISSION TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC, PHILADELPHIA, PA, AND NEW YORK, NY, ON MARCH 6-10, 2005 (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Thomas to explain this.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. We are delighted that our Youth Commissioners will have the opportunity of traveling to Washington, DC, again to participate in the NACo Conference, and I'm going to ask Mr. Van Johnson, who serves as the Director, to come up and fill you in with the details.

Mr. Van Johnson said, good morning again. This is something that we have looked forward to every year for the last number of years. It's certainly a case of survivor, if you will, as we take 30-40 of our young people up to Washington, DC, for four days. We have been the only youth group in the country for the last eight years that has participated in the National Association of Counties Annual Legislative Conference. So if you go this year you will see 40 young people from Chatham County. Every year that we have been up there we have received glowing reviews, we've received highlights in the nation —, I forgot the name of the publication —, the county publication that comes out, and people all over the country have been dazzled and been amazed by the brightness of these young people from Chatham County. You provide this in your annual investment to the Youth Commission. It's our opportunity to change their experiences by changing their exposure and getting them excited and they come back here and they talk about the wonderful things that are happening in Washington, DC. They talk about the wonderful things that they are learning and they also have a much better understanding of the work that you do every single day as they talk with your colleagues from across the country. So we're excited about the trip. We then try to include a little bit of fun. We'll find some way to get up to Philadelphia to give them an historic tour, as well as New York City for them to see some of the things that are happening there, and some time on that Thursday morning we will creep back into Savannah safely and soundly, but begin with young people with a whole new wealth of experiences they'll be able to take with them for the rest of their lives.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Johnson, also mention about their appearance on the television.

Mr. Johnson said, absolutely. Last year we had the opportunity —, Pete Nichols, our Cable Access Coordinator, was able to arrange for us a in-studio appearance on Fox and Friends, which is on the Fox News Channel, and our young people were featured in a five-minute segment, which actually in news time is pretty significant when you're talking about a national cable show. They were so impressed with us we've been invited back this year. So on Wednesday, March 8th, I think —. Commissioner Thomas said, the 9th. Mr. Johnson said, March 9th, at around 7:30 a.m., your young people from this community will be in New York and at the Fox News Channel and being spotlighted across the county. Again, this is just a significant, significant achievement. I think it's a testament to Dr. Thomas and your willingness to continually invest in our youth.

Commissioner Thomas said, and we have just had a request from the Commissioner from Canada —. Mr. Johnson said, Canada. Commissioner Thomas said, — requesting information and asking if it were possible they were to send for a representative to come to Canada to help them set up a Youth Commission would we be willing to do that. Mr. Johnson said, we've become international. And it all started here in Chatham County.

Chairman Liakakis said, right, right. Under the vision and all of Commissioner Thomas, who thought that this was a good idea and we have seen that because many of the young people, you know, have gone into other areas that they might not have decided to. A number of them have talked about going into the field of elections, you know, and to serve the public. So that's really great. We really appreciate that and thank you, Commissioner Thomas, for the —, what you have done because, as was mentioned, international recognition for the City of Savannah for a great, you know, Youth Commission. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I would just —, I want to say how proud I am that Dr. Thomas and Alderman Johnson have done this for us, and I have two teenagers who are following this Youth Commission very closely and have learned something from watching it, and I know it's a lot of your time and a lot of your energy, and thank you very, very much.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell asked, Mr. Alderman, do we give our Youth Commissioners like the Legislative highlights, things that the County and the City would be interested in seeing accomplished so that if one of the major Senators or Representatives were to say, "Hello, little girl, how are you?" she could say, "No unfunded mandates." Mr. Johnson said, we have had those opportunities in the past and certainly wherein we do not advocate a political position, obviously this is the —, the Youth Commission is your creation. Commissioner Odell said, it's not politics if you cut funding for mental health. Mr. Johnson said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, it's not politics because that affects both parties. It's not politics if you cut funding for low income housing. It's compassion. Mr. Johnson said, well, our Youth Commission had the opportunity, they met with Laura Bush during her —, when she spoke at the NACo Conference, as well as Tom Daschal. I understand this year John McCain will be speaking, so we've given them the idea of contemporary issues that may affect this County, but certainly they will have the opportunity as they rub shoulders with these individuals to let them know, and they have let them know in a very, very definitive way how these issues affect them here. Commissioner Odell asked, and you're going for us, right? You will be there? Mr. Johnson said, I will be there. Commissioner Thomas said, I'll be there. Commissioner Odell said, I feel better knowing that you and [inaudible]. Mr. Johnson said, half asleep I'll be there.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I agree with Harris [Odell]. They're not the Georgia Youth Commission. Let's get them, that's right, going for us. But, Dr. Thomas, asked me to say something because she knew that I trained in Washington about four years ago with the Youth Commission, and I'm here to tell you, sitting in those classes once these young folks were finished with their questions and comments, the adults in the room didn't want to open their mouths for fear that they couldn't come up with things as intelligent as those guys did. They are well prepared, well versed, and they're doing an outstanding job, and I commend all of y'all that participate. And, Dr. Thomas, Van [Johnson], y'all are doing a great job and we're definitely helping these high school people here move forward, and I believe we're going to have some great leaders coming out, which we've already had, and they're great leaders right now for the other high school kids and also I'm proud of what y'all are doing. Y'all do a good job. Mr. Johnson said, thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Van [Johnson]. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Youth Commissioner Danielle Cummings said, being a member of the Youth Commission I would like to thank you all for funding our trip to Washington, New York and Philadelphia. This is my first time venturing on the trip and I really am looking forward to it as an educational enrichment for me, and I just want to thank you and let you know that what you're doing is greatly appreciated.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Danielle [Cummings]. Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Arnecia Newton.

Youth Commissioner Newton said, Arnecia. On behalf of myself and the fellow Youth Commissioners I would just like to thank you for your continuous support. This is my first year and I've never been to any of these places before, New York, Washington and Philadelphia, so I see it as a great learning experience and a new one. I hope I [inaudible] myself and, you know, so thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information a preview given by Mr. Van Johnson of the planned trip by the Youth Commissioners to attend the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, and their visit to New York City and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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3. PRESENTATION BY PUBLIC DEFENDER MICHAEL EDWARDS OF A REIMBURSEMENT CHECK (COMMISSIONER SHAY).

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Shay would like to discuss this.

Commissioner Shay said, Public Defender Michael Edwards and I had coffee earlier this week and he wanted to tell me a little bit about some of the programs that the Public Defender's office had, but he also told me that they wanted to come and give us some money, and I thought that was a areal good idea.

Mr. Michael Edwards said, good morning. Chairman Liakakis said, good morning. Mr. Edwards said, I am Michael Edwards, the Public Defender for the Eastern Judicial Circuit, which is a —, as we all know here —, a single county circuit consisting of the wonderful County of Chatham. So I can say in all honesty I am Chatham County's Public Defender and I'm proud to be. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, thank you for permitting me a few minutes this morning. As Commissioner Shay indicated, he and I had occasion to have coffee earlier this week and discussed generally the Pubic Defender's office, what's happening both at the State level and what we're trying to accomplish at the local level. I would like to hopefully come back within the next few weeks and perhaps time permitting and the Commission having the interest in doing so to give you a somewhat lengthy presentation. Many of you on the Commission have received much of this information previously, but there are others on the Commission who have not had the opportunity to receive that information. I'd like to take that opportunity and I will speak with staff and Mr. Abolt and the folks in his office over the next few weeks about a time that would be convenient and conducive to do that.

Mr. Edwards said, I want to take just a few moments this morning to tell you that there is good news. Things are happening in Atlanta in a way that I hope is going to be beneficial to us locally. I have heard the comments already this morning concerning the County's concern with unfunded State mandates and please know that we are aware of those concerns. We know what the counties and the municipalities and what not are experiencing with this new State law and I want you all to be aware, and I hope that this is going to be something that you're going to be pleased to hear rather than the opposite, sometimes one never knows, but I have been in Atlanta most of the week this week at the General Assembly, as have a number of my colleagues from around the State, and we have been expressing to the representatives primarily, we were on the House side, the need for full, complete, thorough, adequate State funding for these programs that are being instituted within the criminal justice community, specifically the Public Defender's office. Some of you may and likely are already aware that the Senate passed the State budget yesterday which included a component of that budget, that the Senate passed at any rate, was the additional supplemental funding that the Pubic Defenders Standards Council had sought for the balance of the calendar year for the Standards Council to distribute around the State. Also, we had a committee recommendation, do-pass recommendation from the Judiciary Committee on the House side earlier in the week concerning funding for specialized dedicated juvenile defenders, which is desperately needed throughout the State, in this community as much as any place. As you all know, we have three Juvenile Court judges full time, three Assistant District Attorneys, pardon me, full time, the Juvenile Courthouse is roughly seven miles away from our office, we have one individual that is manning that operation presently, it's Mark Nathan and he's doing a terrific job. To date in Juvenile Court —, I'm getting a little off track while I was here, but I just want to share just a bit of information with you if I can —, to date in Juvenile Court the Public Defender's office has touched in some fashion in excess of 300, almost 400 juvenile filings since the first of the year. Mr. Nathan has closed something in the neighborhood of 50 cases, disposed of approximately 50 juvenile cases to date, and that's really remarkable for a one-person operation. We're extremely proud and pleased with Mr. Nathan's efforts. On the adult side we presently have in the neighborhood of 105-110 pending felony cases being handled by the lawyers in the Public Defender's office. We have disposed of roughly a dozen to 15 cases to date. We are very active. We're very involved in the courts throughout the County including several municipal courts with whom we have developed relationships in a collaborative fashion to assist in those courts as well, so I think that in an objective sense and in fairness I can say the state of the Public Defender's office seven weeks into this process is very good and we're hoping that it will continue to improve. We appreciate your assistance and support to date and are going to ask that it continue.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Michael [Edwards], recently the Supreme Court rule regarding DFCS. If you are attempting to remove a child from the home, then that nine-year-old could step up and say, "Where's my attorney?" In that case, assuming that that has impact here, that could perhaps triple the workload out there. Mr. Edwards said, it absolutely could. That's one of the issues that we were addressing with the committee earlier this week in regard to the Juvenile Court specifically was exactly that, Commissioner Odell. At this point in time the State law with regard to the Indigent Defense Act of 2003, which is our starting point, indicates and requires that the mandate that we have is to provide representation in delinquency cases. For those who may not be familiar with Juvenile Court, delinquency cases are but a single category of juvenile cases. There are also deprivation cases and there are other types of cases as well. We don't know what the impact of that ruling is going to be at this point but without doubt it's going to increase case loads and it's going to increase the necessity of having lawyers present. Whether or not we're looking at a significant change to the statute as it presently exists to address that particular opinion I don't know that yet, but there's no doubt about the fact that our office is going to be looked to to provide more attorneys in more cases as time progresses under that new opinion. Commissioner Odell said, I think just being a practicing attorney that knowing a lot of the people

that you have, and we're very fortunate to have you as our Director and to have many of the staff that you've employed, I'm personally grateful because being poor should not mean that you're not entitled to good representation and I think our system will provide good representation. I'm very pleased about that. Mr. Edwards said, well, I appreciate those comments and share the Commissioner's feelings and I think that we all do and that's the reason that we're working so hard to make this program work. Commissioner Odell said, just one last point, Michael [Edwards]. Let the record reflect that the two people here today, Tom Cole and Michael Edwards, are attorneys and they're doing positive things. Mr. Edwards said, I might add that we were classmates at the University of Georgia and I'm very proud of that. Commissioner Odell said, that was a good class, Michael [Edwards]. Mr. Edwards said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we appreciate both of you good two attorneys there.

Mr. Edwards said, let me just also quickly share with you, I shared with you some preliminary numbers. I also want the Commission to be aware, and I want to extend some appreciations while I'm here, we were speaking already about the Juvenile Court. I also want to let the Commission know that the Juvenile Court has been extremely helpful to our office. They have provided us with an office space, which was extremely valuable in light of that seven mile distance about which I was just speaking. The Sheriff's Department, I want to thank the Sheriff —, he's here with others this morning. The Sheriff's Department has provided us with an office inside the facility that we are in the process of staffing and upfitting as we speak. Actually, the department has upfitted it for us and we're very appreciative of that. The Recorder's Court has given us some wall space in their area of the Courthouse to provide some notice posting to notify lawyers of their involvement in cases, lawyers that are outside the Public Defender's office, the overflow lawyers, to give them notification of their assignment of cases so that we can try to ensure that lawyers are where they need to be when they need to be there at all times, and there have been others. We've had a couple of the municipalities to offer us spaces in their courts as well so that we have a place that we can have those confidential contacts that we need to have to move people through the system so that we can do what we're charged with doing and what I told this —, the last Commission that we would do and that is move people through the system fairly and effectively, but also and importantly efficiently. And we recognize that and we're doing all that we can to see to that. I want to thank Mr. Abolt and his staff for all of their work, Mr. Kramer and their staff for all the work. They've been extremely helpful to us. We are just extremely grateful to them.

Mr. Edwards said, finally. In 1993 the State of Georgia instituted the Clerks and Sheriffs Trust Account Program as a way to help to defray indigent defense costs at the county level statewide. The trust account consists of interest from monies deposited in certain interest-bearing accounts to include cash bond accounts and any number. There are over two dozen different types of accounts from which the interest that is generated that goes into the Clerks and Sheriffs Trust Account Fund. That money is then sent out to the counties twice a year and that money is sent to those counties to assist them in defraying the cost of indigent defense, and I am here today because I have with me a check that I would like to present to the Commission representing its portion —, this County's portion of the Clerks and Sheriffs Trust Account monies for the period of July 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004, and the amount of that check is \$63,381.54. It is with great pleasure that I have previously to this morning handed that check to the County Manager's office. That money is in the coffers, as I understand it, of the County as we speak and I am proud to have the opportunity to do that, and I want to say in closing let it never be said that the Public Defender's office appeared before this Commission and asked for a dime before it offered a dime. So with those comments and with again my great appreciation for all of your assistance, I look forward to continuing to work with the Commission and hope that this \$63,000 check will in fact assist in defraying the cost of indigent defense in Chatham County. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Michael [Edwards]. We appreciate you and your department for the good job organizing the Public Defender's office because it will make a big difference in our community, and thanks again for the check to put in the coffers, the treasury of the County. Mr. Edwards said, well, we hope that it will help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, I'm sure it will.

Commissioner Farrell said, come back and see us soon. Commissioner Odell said, with money. Commissioner Shay said, we made about \$10,000 a minute there, you know, and that's not bad.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Public Defender Michael Edwards presented, and Chairman Liakakis accepted on behalf of Chatham County, a check from the Clerks and Sheriffs Trust Account Fund in the amount of \$63,381.54 to help defray the cost of indigent defense in Chatham County.

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED 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 (*).

- * 1. **REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS THE PROPERTY AT 5000 JASMINE AVENUE AND OFFER IT FOR SALE AT PUBLIC BID. (NOTE: Commissioner Shay requests a neighborhood meeting on this matter to discuss use options.)**
[DISTRICT 3].
Neighborhood meeting to be held on Tuesday, the 15th of February. It may be possible to pull this off the table for action this date.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not untabled for consideration by the Commissioners, but remains on the agenda for consideration at the meeting of March 11, 2005.

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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. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONFISCATED ASSETS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO RECOGNIZE \$75,010 IN REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$75,010 TO THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM FOR EQUIPMENT; A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$500 FOR A TRANSFER OUT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND; AN AMENDMENT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND TO RECOGNIZE THE \$500 TRANSFER IN FROM THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND AND APPROPRIATE \$500 FOR LAND PURCHASE; A TRANSFER IN THE GENERAL FUND M&O TO MOVE \$170,000 FROM SABHC DEBT SERVICE TO CONTINGENCY; AN AMENDMENT TO THE SALES TAX I FUND TO TRANSFER \$240,000 WITHIN THE VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS PROJECT FROM EXISTING ROADS TO FOUR NEW ROADS; AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE SALES TAX IV FUND TO ALLOCATE \$1,350,000 FROM UNINCORPORATED COUNTY ROADS TO SIX SPECIFIC ROAD PROJECTS; AND A TRANSFER OF \$5,964 WITHIN THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT BUDGET TO FUND RECLASSIFICATION OF A POSITION.**

Chairman Liakakis said, before we vote on that I'd like to ask if the Chief [Flynn], if you would like to come up and also Commander Williams about the CNT.

Commander Eddie Williams said, the request that we're making is confiscated funds. We are almost about 11 years old now and a lot of our surveillance equipment is outdated and we need to upgrade it somewhat and this will take care of that, and that's why we need to take it out of our Confiscated Funds Account.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Chief [Flynn].

Chief Dan Flynn said, I'd like to add to that. You know, there's some ironic justice in money taken from criminals paying for police equipment to investigate criminals. It's a good way to spend this money.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to make a comments. First of all, I'd like to thank the Chief and Commander Williams. I'm sure that we're all aware of the fact that they have just made a major bust and this is going to really, you know, help this community in terms of safety in getting some of these criminals off the street. And I want to also say that Commander Williams has certainly been very forthright in terms of responding. Anytime you call to ask for some assistance in any particular area, they're there. I mean they respond immediately and the same applies to Chief Flynn, and we just want to thank you. We need to let them know when they're doing a great job because they certainly get a lot of criticism about, you know, what's going on in the community and we want to make the community safer. So I just wanted to say that funding for the equipment that they're, you know, requesting would certainly be in order as far as I'm concerned.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Well, I'd also like to thank Commander Williams because what the CNT, the Counter Narcotics Team, has done is made a big difference in our community. We still have the drug problem, but the CNT Unit has made thousands of arrests since they've been in existence over 10 years in our County, and it's important because we have all the cities, you know, the Sheriff's Department, and all of them in the County, you know, putting officers into that CNT Unit and the intelligence in working with the federal agencies and all have made a difference in our community. And to you Chief Flynn, thank you very much for the drop in crime. You know, it's not always what's right or wrong, what's true or false, it's people's perception and no crime is acceptable, but if we look at what's happened in Savannah and Chatham County and all of the communities, we can see that we have a drop in crime in our community and the police officers are working good. The Metro Police Department now are making a lot of strides to reduce even more crime in our community and we feel that the citizens owe them a lot of thanks for the job that they are doing protecting our citizens. Commander Williams said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell asked, could they introduce the other officers here? Chairman Liakakis said, sure. Chief? Chief Flynn said, the other officers are Captain Claire McCluskey [phonetic] and Capt. Larry Branson. Captain McCluskey is the —. Commissioner Odell asked, could they just stand up so we can —, everybody can see them? [Applause.] Chief Flynn said, they are —, Captain McCluskey is the Commander, Precinct Commander of the Southside Precinct, and Captain Branson is the Commander of the Central Precinct, the old Precinct 2. They're actually —, they're here today in support of another issue. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but we had a neighborhood association meeting for one of our neighborhood associations and the Captain did such an outstanding job, and we get crime statistics. I don't know if most neighborhood associations do, but we look at burglaries and everything for that particular precinct,

and for the last reporting period I think we had one burglary, which I think is just incredible. You're looking at a population of 28,000 people and we only had one incident, but if you don't know these people, they're excellent officers and next time I'm speeding through there remember —, no, I'm just —.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much, Chief, Commander Williams. Okay, I'd like a motion on the floor for Item #1. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion and a second for Item #1. Go on the board please. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following: An amendment to the Confiscated Assets Special Revenue Fund to recognize \$75,010 in revenue and appropriate \$75,010 to the Counter Narcotics Team for equipment; a Special Service District contingency transfer of \$500 for a transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program fund; an amendment to the Capital Improvement Program fund to recognize the \$500 transfer in from the Special Service District fund and appropriate \$500 for land purchase; a transfer in the General Fund M&O to move \$170,000 from SABHC Debt Service to Contingency; an amendment to the Sales Tax I Fund to transfer \$240,000 within the various county roads project from existing roads to four new roads; and an amendment to the Sales Tax IV Fund to allocate \$1,350,000 from Unincorporated County Roads to six specific road projects; and a transfer of \$5,964 within the Clerk of Superior Court budget to fund reclassification of a position. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: February 18, 2005

DATE: February 11, 2005
TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Linda Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE:

To request approval of an amendment to the Confiscated Assets Special Revenue Fund to recognize \$75,010 in revenue and appropriate \$75,010 to the Counter Narcotics Team for equipment; a Special Service District contingency transfer of \$500 for a transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program fund; an amendment to the Capital Improvement Program fund to recognize the \$500 transfer in from the Special Service District fund and appropriate \$500 for land purchase; a transfer in the General Fund M&O to move \$170,000 from SABHC Debt Service to Contingency; an amendment to the Sales Tax I Fund to transfer \$240,000 within the various county roads project from existing roads to four new roads; and an amendment to the Sales Tax IV Fund to allocate \$1,350,000 from Unincorporated County Roads to six specific road projects; and a transfer of \$5,964 within the Clerk of Superior Court budget to fund reclassification of a position.

BACKGROUND:

Board approval is required for budget amendments and transfers between organizational units.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) The Counter Narcotics Team commander has requested an appropriation of \$75,010 in seized assets for purchase of equipment. A budget amendment has been prepared. A staff report is attached.
- (2) The Board of Commissioners approved contingency transfers in the Special Service District (SSD) fund and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund totaling \$139,000 for land purchase at the December 3, 2004 meeting. An additional \$500 is needed. A transfer from SSD contingency is requested. This appropriation will amend the CIP fund budget. A copy of the Board action is attached.
- (3) The adopted FY2005 budget included an appropriation of \$170,000 for SABHC Debt Service. It appears the funds will not be spent in FY2005. A transfer to the General Fund M&O contingency is requested. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- (4) The County Engineer wishes to transfer \$240,000 from existing projects to four new roads in the Sales Tax I budget. Project detail is included in the attachment to the memo dated January 12, 2005 (attached).

- (5) The County Engineer wishes to transfer \$1,350,000 from Unincorporated County Roads to six specific road projects Sales Tax IV budget. Project detail is included in the memo dated January 21, 2005 (attached).
- (6) The Clerk of Superior Court has requested that a position in the department be reclassified. A transfer of \$5,964 within the departmental budget from furniture and fixtures to personal services is necessary to fund the reclassification. Copies of correspondence are attached.

FUNDING:

Funds are available in the Sales Tax I and Sales Tax IV. Fund project budgets for the transfers. Funds are available in the Special Service District Contingency and the Clerk of Superior Court budget for the transfers. The budget amendments will establish funding in the Confiscated Assets Special Revenue Fund and the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) That the Board approve the following:

CONFISCATED ASSETS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

an amendment to recognize \$75,010 in revenue and appropriate \$75,010 to the Counter Narcotics Team for equipment

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

a Contingency transfer of \$500 to transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program fund.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND

an amendment to recognize \$500 in revenue and appropriate \$500 for purchase of land

GENERAL FUND M&O

- a) a transfer to move \$170,000 from SABHC Debt Service to Contingency
- b) a transfer of \$5,964 within the Clerk of Superior Court budget to fund reclassification of a position

SALES TAX I (1985-1993) FUND

a transfer of \$240,000 within the various county roads project from existing roads to four new roads per the attached schedule

SALES TAX IV (2003-2008) FUND

a transfer to allocate \$1,350,000 from Unincorporated County Roads to six specific road projects

- 2) Amend or deny request.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law grants the Board authority to transfer funds within the budget during the year as it deems necessary.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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2. TO PRESENT THE FISCAL YEAR 2005 SECOND QUARTER REPORT DATED DECEMBER 31, 2004 TO THE BOARD FOR INFORMATION AND CONTINUE THE HIRING FREEZE.

County Manager said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this information though very timely has been in fact advanced a couple of weeks ago when you had your first briefing on the budget and then you had your budget retreat. Ms. Cramer and her staff have been very thorough in her report that goes beyond just the Maintenance and Operation budget. She gives you a status on all funds and, in particular, she's responding to your request for monthly updates going forward as to our financial conditions in M&O. If you'll look particularly at Fact and Finding #4, she reports that we have monthly closings occurring about the 20th day of the month and in addition to that the Finance Department will forward the Tax Commissioner the report. Excuse me, will forward from the Tax Commissioner the report received as to revenues collected. So even though it's not the audit where we have exact figures, Ms. Cramer and her staff, as well as myself, are committed to giving you as timely and current information we have on our financial conditions.

We're also asking, though a motion is not required unless you wish to change our position, that the hiring freeze for M&O with all the conditions for those excluded would continue probably for the balance of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Odell said, what that means that everything would come through us. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Everything though, remember, has been perfected. There has been exclusions for revenue-producing positions, Tax Commissioner, the Child Support Recovery. Also there have been specific exclusions for law enforcement. Commissioner Odell asked, do we handle this by way of direction to staff or motion for continuing? County Manager Abolt said, well, you've already given us —, the previous Commission has given us direction on who qualifies or who is eligible or ineligible for the freeze. I did commit to the previous Commission and carrying forward now that we'd give you an update on the status as to whether or not a hiring freeze should be maintained. The hiring freeze, you might recall from a previous report, only save about 80 or 90-some thousand, \$80,000. It's an issue more of form than substance. We want to be able to communicate with the exception of those urgent positions in all departments and they have responded so well, but they exercised budget discipline.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Russ [Abolt], because we have several positions being requested here today, right after this one, are any of these —, which ones of these has staffed recommended that would be allowed or not —. County Manager Abolt said, we always allow you to make a decision based on the merits, but I must tell you —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, which is recommended, I mean, for this? County Manager Abolt said, I will tell you and this is not meant to be clever or cute, but when that budget went together the positions that were in there were vital and those —, some are more vital than others. You heard Dr. Lewandowski, for example, comment as to the need to have Entomologists and those people technically trained in time for mosquito season. I would never argue against any department coming before you asking that a position be filled only knowing that when the budget was put together back last Spring and early Summer, it was my considered opinion then that the positions were justified. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Based on the policy itself, not an opinion, which —. County Manager Abolt said, fill them. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, all of them can be filled under the policy? County Manager Abolt said, fill them. Yes sir.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just really would like to commend the staff because in the report they're saying at this half period that we've only expended 47% of our budget, and I think that demonstrates clearly that the department heads and the departments are working hard to help us and keep the budget in line, and I just —, I think they should be commended for that. I really do.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I certainly share that sentiment. The hiring freeze is something that we have to be as rigid as we can about this year because we know that we have a very difficult year this year and that some of that difficulty carries forward at least into next year. But I would just like to say that I hope in the relatively near future we can get to the point where when we pass a budget, we pass a budget that fully funds all the positions and that then when we have a vacancy that that savings could in essence be returned to the fund balance so that we can have that as a method for helping to build up fund balance. County Manager Abolt said, that's well said because that's the real way in which you build fund balance.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you. Commissioner Shay said, long term financial planning. Chairman Liakakis said, we'll continue the hiring freeze, but the citizens sometimes get confused because we say we having a hiring fuse [sic] and then —, a hiring freeze and then what happens they say, hey, you are asking now for additional personnel in departments but some of these departments we really need that staff because we save overtime and to operate those different staff positions. What happens is we can effectively give the citizens better service as opposed to leaving those —, some of those critical positions unfilled.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to assume that the two Commissioners here wished to comment, but I've had private conversations with both Commissioners Farrell and Commissioner Stone as to the results of a visit to Atlanta in talking to delegation about jail costs. I think they are very up to speed on that. I would say, as they remarked, that if this County could just solve its jail problems as far as funding, our financial problems wouldn't be there.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, we've got well over \$4,000,000 the State of Georgia owes the County because of them, the State, not taking their prisoners, not paying their jail bill over there. But what happened is just the last several days is Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Farrell went to Atlanta for Commission training that's required by State law. Not only did they take that training, but they should be commended too because they spoke to a number of the elected officials and others up there so that —, for them to help us get that \$4,000,000-plus to the County that the State owes, and they got some positive results I think. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, one thing that we became aware of when we went to Atlanta was that the State of Georgia has somewhere between 850 and a billion more tax dollars this year to spend than they had last year, and my concern and my question is before the State Legislature spends money on other worthy projects, that perhaps they should attempt to pay off what is due the different counties for the housing of the State inmates in our jail and it boils down to getting a subsidy from the property taxpayers in this County, and with all that extra revenue after two hard lean years in the State, I think it's time for the State Legislature to make good on their debt to Chatham County and the other counties throughout the State.

Commissioner Stone said, and I'll just take it a little bit further. The ACCG, which is for the audience the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, was listening when Commissioner Farrell and I spoke. They've offered assistance.

There is —, there are some additional monies. I think it's now time to work on this. The reception that I think we got was somewhat positive. No one told us flat out no, and I noticed in my packet yesterday I got, I'm sure it was just a form letter from the Governor and he said if there's anything that I need from him, to let him know. So I thought —. Commissioner Odell said, \$4,000,000. Commissioner Stone said, excuse me. Commissioner Odell said, \$4,000,000. Commissioner Stone said, well, that's what I'm going for. At any rate, I'm going to take advantage of it and when the Governor spoke and the Lt. Governor spoke, they both made reference to the fact that they know that they owe this money countywide —, I mean, statewide, and I think now is the time and I've talked with the County Attorney about drafting a letter and a follow-up to the people, not only our elected officials in Atlanta, not only the Governor and Lt. Governor, but some of our fellow ACCG members who were willing to offer their support. So I think now is the time to jump on it, be in contact —, be in contact with our elected officials in Atlanta and let them know that this is a priority of ours. And I don't intend to give up, so I think we had a very successful two days. Thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, if they could pay what they owe the County, it would go a long way to solving a lot of these budget problems that we're faced with right now.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, when we had our convocation of the various municipalities not that long ago, one of the things that came out of that was the suggestion to the municipalities that they pass a resolution supporting our pursuit of full payment for that, and I'm happy to report that Thunderbolt did so immediately, and if County staff would be about contracting the City Manager over there, by now I believe the resolution will have been signed by each of the members of Thunderbolt City Council, and that too can be added to this effort and I know, Dean [Kicklighter], you maybe had a chance to pitch some of this to the Westside municipalities, but I think that if we can get all of our local municipalities to line up with us behind this effort, because they know that each and every one of their citizens are Chatham County taxpayers, then that will add additional weight to the effort and I would like to commend our two freshmen Commissioners here for the effort that's been undertaken. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I believe the other cities are waiting on a draft to come from the County Attorney with a resolution for them to basically pass. In Thunderbolt, I commend them for just jumping out there and doing it, you know, but we stated in that meeting that we'd like for our staff to come up with a resolution and send it to them and get them to approve it. So if you could, that would be helpful.

Chairman Liakakis said, and for the citizens to know in case they didn't see this in the news media, we had a historical meeting last week with all the seven cities, all of the mayors, their council people and all along with the County so that we can work together as a team so that —, whether we need something on a statewide level or a federal level, all of us working together to on issues that are important to the individual cities and the County, and I think, you know, it was successful that particular meeting and we're going to have regular meetings with all of the cities, the Town of Vernonburg and the County on a regular basis. So every 60 days we'll have that and they'll bring issues, we'll all bring issues to the floor so that if we can see that we can support one another and we'll see a big difference in the atmosphere in the entire county with all of this teamwork working on things for the betterment of our County.

Commissioner Odell said, one thing that I noticed in that meeting was that a lot of the different aldermen and what have you like from Tybee may not have known people from Pooler, so what we've, in addition to that able to accomplish is that we now know one another and realize that many of our problems are very similar, and I'd like to compliment the Chairman for taking leadership in calling this meeting. We had 60 some-odd people, Pete [Liakakis]? Chairman Liakakis said, 60 with administrators and elected officials altogether. Commissioner Odell said, we had an excellent meeting and a candid, very candid discussion of issues facing this County, and I was very pleased with your leadership and I thank you. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, one thing. Can someone from staff contact the association of what —, city councils in Georgia. I believe this jail issue would, you know, like our cities actually all of them support us. I believe we would have the same situation throughout the State where it benefits the cities as well as the counties if we could get —. County Manager Abolt said, I believe Mr. Hughes has already done that with the Georgia Municipal Association. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, great. So if we can get both statewide bodies on board, that would be —. County Manager Abolt said, he's doing that. I've kept in contact, as many of you have. He's an excellent choice to do your bidding. He's also working, I believe he has concurrence with the City of Savannah lobbyist to go to important people on the delegation to have funding for our Mosquito Control problem at the DMCA.

Commissioner Stone said, just to —, Commissioner Kicklighter, I talked to Mr. Hughes when I got back from Atlanta and he will be meeting probably right as we speak with the ACCG to go over what our issues are to bring it to the —, so that the entire association can go forward with some of these issues. Commissioner Kicklighter said, great. Commissioner Stone said, and apparently they meet every Friday. Commissioner Kicklighter said, great. Commissioner Stone said, so, yes, we're on board with that.

Commissioner Farrell said, just for the public's information, the ACCG is the Association for County Commissioners for the State of Georgia in which all the 159 counties are a member of that organization and if they get behind an issue, they can speak with one louder voice than individual counties.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The Board received the Fiscal Year 2005 Second Quarter Report dated December 31, 2004, as information and continued the hiring freeze.

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ELEVEN**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CREATE TEN POSITIONS IN THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND EIGHT POSITIONS IN THE DETENTION CENTER BUDGET.**

Chairman Liakakis said, on your agenda you saw a ten. That was a typographical error. There are eleven positions that the Sheriff's Department is requesting along with the eight positions in the jail.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I ask the Sheriff a question? Because I'm prepared to make a motion if just I can get one answer. These positions are being funded through the overtime that you already have in your budget? Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, yes. The —, really this subject, this issue should have been decided last year but we never could get to it because of other problems, but it's —, the money is in the budget. Right now we're spending \$1,400,000 a year in overtime between the jail and the enforcement bureau. Is this going to solve all our problems? No, it's not. Last year you were mandated, state-mandated the creation of a new State Court judge and then there was a creation of another Juvenile Court judge, and when you had the opening for Judge Burke in Juvenile Court, instead of just replacing Judge Burke, you created another Recorder's Court, so I've had three new judgeships last year. I'm borrowing on an average of 12 people a day for the courts, borrowing three for the Juvenile Court and that's —, these people are being paid at time and a half and there's nothing I can do about it, but again it's not going to solve all our problems. We have a lot of needs, I know you have a lot of problems with revenue, revenue stream. I can't tell you how to solve that problem. Your comment, Mr. Chairman, about the four million, it's going to amount to more than that. If they paid every year what they're supposed to pay, you wouldn't have any financial problems.

Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence], I'm prepared to make a motion to support this request and simply to say that in an organization as large as this, there's no way that you're going to ever eliminate all overtime. There's no way, you're not going to do it, and the Sheriff I don't think, Al, you're saying that this will eliminate all of the overtime —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no, it will not. Commissioner Odell said, — but for those staffing needs where you can identify I need a position at this point and at this time, that this proposal solves that problem. Is that true, Carl [Blair]? Mr. Blair said, yes, that's true. I would make a motion to approve. Commissioner Farrell said, I'll second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second. Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, to comment —, thank you, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. To continue the theme of financial planning, this is good financial planning. As you've done so well in explaining to the viewing audience why certain things are necessary, the reason why the addition of full-time positions makes better sense is that for all too many years this department and other departments have been required to —, told don't add new positions. So, that sounds good but in actual implementation the work still has to be done. So that means your existing work force does the job working more than the 40-hour week and they're paid for it if they're in that category. So we're paying time and a half for positions now at full-time rate will not be due the time and a half.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out that the Sheriff brings along some big old guys when he asks for jobs like this. So I just wanted you to know out there. Sheriff said, it's not the [inaudible]. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I kind of get it, Sheriff. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I can't answer all the questions. It's like the other day I took the lead at the retreat to answer the question about how much we pay for an inmate's meal of over 4,000 meals a day and I said 81 cents. I was corrected right away by the Colonel [Holmes]. It's 78.6 cents a meal. So I want people here that can answer the questions.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Sheriff, I just want to ask if you continue to consider diversity as you create these various positions. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, absolutely. Absolutely. That's my —, that's my thought there.

Chairman Liakakis said, Sheriff, as we hear the comments from the Commissioners and when we talk and get things together, I'd like to extend our thanks to you for the outstanding job you do as Sheriff of the County and the many things that —, innovations you have put into the Sheriff's Department if you look at the record in the past that have saved the County money and things that you're doing to educate prisoners, so what happens is hopefully they don't come out that they have, you know, they've been educated, they can get a skill and not lead a life of crime, and that's important that we have them as productive citizens as continuing in the criminal field. But thank you very much and that's really great that we have a sheriff that has been voted by the peers of all 159 sheriffs in the past as the top sheriff in —, for Georgia.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, let me just say, and I won't take but a minute. There's a lot of needs, there's a lot of funding that we don't ask for. I could go back 12 years and last having a meeting with my staff, Chief Flynn's staff, about a central warrant depository. Just let me give you an example what that would mean. It would be a central deposit —, warrant depository. It would be located in the jail. It would have all the warrants from all the municipalities, all the warrants from the courts, out-of-state warrants and all, and when an officer stops somebody on the street he can check to see if there's a warrant outstanding. If there is, the clerk's got her hand on it. If they bring them to the jail and book them and fill out the return, the warrant is taken out of the system. No lawsuits, no false arrests. These are some of the type things we need we're not even asking for funding for, but it's something that Chatham County needs very badly. I have an outstanding warrant backlog now of 11,000 warrants. I had a man in the other day that said to me, he said why don't you appoint one man to do all the dispossessories and the evictions. I said do you realize how many we have? He said well I imagine you've got 70, 75 or whatever a month. Well, I had January 2005 activity report for the street division and there were 787 dispossessories filed in the month of January. Always 10 or 15% that requires

we go out and put our hands on the property physically and remove to the public right of way. So, you know, everybody's got a tough —, every department's got needs. We've got needs too. This will go a long ways to helping us and I appreciate it. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. We have a motion on the floor and a second to give these positions. Go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the creation of eleven (11) positions in the Sheriff's Department budget and eight (8) positions in the Detention Center budget. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION FOR RENEWAL OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSES FOR 2005. PETITIONER: CHARLES R. JONES, D/B/A SILVER DOLLAR BAR & GRILL, LOCATED AT 2883 FORT ARGYLE ROAD. [DISTRICT 7.]

Chairman Liakakis asked, do you have any comments? Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Farrell said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor signify by going on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Charles R. Jones, d/b/a Silver Dollar Bar & Grill located at 2883 Fort Argyle Road, for an extension for renewal of beer, wine and liquor pouring and Sunday sales licenses for 2005. Commissioners Farrell and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present when this vote was taken.]

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5. VERBAL STATUS REPORT ON MEETING WITH PROPONENT OF A MENTAL HEALTH COURT.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen this is an issue really of recent times brought to staff's attention by Commissioner Stone, but there has been a continuing effort of a theme that maintains an issue of how many folks are actually being sent to the Detention Center. As we know all too well and in too many traumatic situations, those that really are in need of mental health assistance and care are to be given, quite frankly, the only choice that is available to be incarcerated. That's expensive, that's inhumane. In this particular concept presented by NAMI, and also proponents, Ms. Wheeler and Ms. Culhane, staff sees a potential to work with this interest group to give the courts another choice other than incarceration. You may wish to hear from Ms. Stone.

Mr. John Richards said, Commissioner Liakakis —. Chairman Liakakis said, excuse me. Would you pull the mikes down just a little. We want to make sure we hear you. Mr. Richards said, okay. Chairman Liakakis and County Commissioners, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Savannah, your local affiliate, appreciates this opportunity to come before you and present a problem that you're already too well aware of and possible solutions. I came by Wednesday and brought nine red folders by identified for each Commissioner and the Chairman and what we would like to do, your local affiliate NAMI, working in collaboration with many, many different professional groups in the Savannah area to include the Sheriff's Department and the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, Mayor Johnson and others, want to address a problem that again you Commissioners talk about frequently, and the problem is that mentally ill citizens get routed to the jail and not into medical treatment. Right now we know that at a minimum you have 200 citizens that are incarcerated in our local detention and jails that are seriously mentally ill. At a minimum cost of \$40 a day not counting the expensive cost of medication times 365, you're talking about expending over \$4,000,000 in this community every year to take care of these seriously mentally ill citizens. We think there's a better way. We're here to present to you a resolution in order to address this and we would like to say that this resolution will address three elements that will provide relief for this County and the citizens and the poor folks that are incarcerated. One, it will turn prisoners into productive citizens through treatment. We know treatment works if we can just find treatment to give to them. We need to get the Sheriff out of the business of running the largest acute care inpatient mental health facility in this region. Not Georgia Region —, Georgia Regional or Memorial or any other facility houses and takes care of to the best of their ability the Sheriff's Department does for these citizens. So we need to get the Sheriff out of that business. It's really inappropriate and unsupported for us to continue to ask him to treat as a medical facility inmates and citizens who would better be treated in a medical model. Along these lines we intend, NAMI Georgia and NAMI Savannah and the other sister affiliates, the other 34 sister affiliates, intend to provide a program that we will pay for in training law enforcement officers across the State of Georgia in a 40-hour special program that's certified that will enable them to deal with our mentally ill citizens in our community in a way that will allow them to be moved into medical treatment instead of incarceration.

Mr. Richards said, we have a resolution that I'm sure you've already read, but I would like to read it again, and our resolution addressed to this Commission is:

WHEREAS, mental illness will strike one in five Americans in any given year without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, religion or economic status; and

WHEREAS, one in five children suffer from diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder, and one in ten have a serious disorder which, if left untreated, can lead to school failure, job loss, substance abuse and even suicide; and

WHEREAS, the cause of brain disorders are not fully understood but the illnesses are treatable and recovery is possible if those affected receive effective treatment, advocacy and support; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill exists to raise awareness of mental health, mental illness and discrimination against people with mental illness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Savannah Chapter of NAMI's Board of Directors hereby requests the Chatham County Board of Commissioners consider applying for a grant derived from the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (S. 1194), and be it further resolved that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners consider in-kind help in the form of providing court space for the formation of a mental health court in Chatham County.

Mr. Richards said, there are \$50,000,000 that have already been set aside by the federal government for grant applications for political subdivisions, such as this County, to apply for. Along these lines we would suggest, but we're not professionals or administrators and you folks have to make these kind of decisions, we would suggest that you use the existing courts at night as a mental health court and utilize this funding from a successful grant application and additional funding which we will work with the County to develop in order to have a mental health court. Judge Bass and his drug court and the remaining judges in this jurisdiction support our efforts in this area. We currently have two existing mental health courts in the State of Georgia that are currently funded, one in DeKalb County and one in Columbus. We think it's time to have one in Savannah, Georgia, and Chatham County. We know it will be cost effective. Along these lines, and a mental health court is not the total solution to the problem that we're trying to address, NAMI Georgia and the 35 affiliates in this State have developed a crisis intervention team training program for law enforcement across the State of Georgia. We have Governor Perdue's support and we have a great number of collaborators that have signed onto our task force. They include Sheriff Al St. Lawrence, they include Chief Flynn, the two officers you see here, Captain Larry Branson and Captain Claire McCluskey are a part of our task force, Colonel McArthur Holmes, who runs the Detention Center, is a part of our task force, and they have been to Memphis, Tennessee, to participate and witness the Memphis model of Jail Diversion and Crisis Intervention Team Training. It's very successful. Everybody has bought into this program and NAMI is going to pay for the training. We're not asking for any money, so I know that will appeal to the County Commission. We're going to pay for it. It's the best thing since sliced bread and a lot of folks say, "Well, if it's that good, why hasn't somebody done it before?" Well, because nobody's willing to pay for it and we're going to pay for it. So, again, that's what we offer to the County and the State of Georgia. Our biggest advocate right now is GBI Director Vernon Keenan. August of last year we had a public forum in which law enforcement officials from all 159 counties attended here in Savannah and we had Major Sam Cochran from Memphis and Dr. Dupont [phonetic] come in and give a forum to the senior executive officers across Georgia and everybody unanimously has bought into this program. So, again, this is a process in which we look forward to making this complete system where we can finally start addressing the needs of our citizens who have mental illness that come to the attention of our first responders, who are our law enforcement officers, and we will provide them 40 hours of post certified special training and the Georgia Public Safety Training Center has developed this 40-hour curriculum and we plan to start training in April of this year in Savannah, Georgia. We've already had two classes graduate in metro Atlanta and, again, in April we're going to start training down here. We want to train 20% of all law enforcement officers in the State of Georgia by December 31, 2006. We want to train over 120 officers in the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Force by that time. We have absolute support of all the officials who have looked at this program and, again, we look forward to really making a difference in this community for our citizens and also impacting what it's costing us to treat people inappropriately when instead we can move them into a medical model —, treatment. Now we work with DHR right now. We don't intend to let the State of Georgia slide on this. They've already given us grant funding, we've got some funding from Eli Lilly and we intend to raise more funding. But again, we must do something to assist our citizens who suffer from brain diseases and, as Chief Flynn said, in 2003 he had a public forum at Savannah State. Folks, we need to understand we have 35,000 people in this metropolitan area that suffer from brain diseases. They're not just having a bad day, they have a chemical imbalance in their brain. We've got to start doing something about helping our folks receive appropriate treatment instead of incarcerating them in jail. Now what will happen, they will get —, if we incarcerate them in jail and take care of them to the best of our ability, they're still going to get out and be on the streets. Once before I worked with Chairman Liakakis in which we identified a problem that wound up in the *Savannah Morning News* and it was called "Unruly Children," in which as a businessman he and NAMI and Jan Skutch with the *Savannah Morning News* worked on this particular case in which "Julie" was arrested 52 times and put in jail, and a lot of times before the law enforcement officers could get back on the street, "Julie" was back out there. Now we've got to do better than that. That's costing us money and it's not appropriate to "Julie." I will report now that the last report I got "Julie" was finally placed into treatment and she's doing very well. Her family is pleased. She's in her 50's and she's now a peer specialist teacher to other mentally ill folks because she's finally in treatment, so these are the kind of things that we want to address with the support and help of the Chatham County Commission.

Mr. Richards said, again, I have Ms. Diane Reeder here with us. She is our Jail Diversion Coordinator for this region and she serves on the board of NAMI Georgia in Atlanta and she's also our Director of Family Education here in your local affiliate. I would suggest that if we're successful at what we do, and your help and all the supporters we have in this area, and I did give you a sheet of who's on our task force and who are our state supporters, if we're successful we're going to make the biggest impact for our citizens in this area that's been seen in many, many years, if ever. So, again, we're asking for your support and I would like to ask Diane Reeder, our Jail Diversion Coordinator, to come up and close out my comments so that you can get the good cop side of the bad cop story. We team up. I'm the bad cop and she's the good cop because she's a lot prettier than I am. So I'm going to ask Ms. Reeder to come up and close this out.

Ms. Diane Reeder said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, at one given time in our NAMI affiliate there were four of our young sons that were incarcerated, one of those being my very own. And I'm left to wonder had there been a CIT program in place how much of their young lives could have been salvaged and how further along they could all be in their treatment right now. And I'm working with a young mother whose 13-year-old son is in a lot of trouble and I'd like to be able to tell her that incarceration jail term will not be a normal part of her child's mental illness. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We appreciate your organization's doing this, getting involved because it's really a sad situation that we have citizens that have mental problems in our community that go and they're placed in jail when they really need medical assistance as opposed to going to the jail and, as you said, you know, some 200 —, over 200 in the —, incarcerated in our jail system here is, you know, a terrible figure and with your help, you know, working together we can see, you know, about reducing that. Go ahead.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to hear —, we sent two officers to Memphis. I'd like to hear from our Captain. You both are, but —.

Captain Claire McCluskey said, thank you. Yes, Larry [Branson] and I both went —. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself. Captain McCluskey said, I'm sorry. Claire McCluskey, I'm a Captain with the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, Southside Precinct. We both went to Memphis earlier this month. You really don't have time to hear about this trip. It was very eye-opening to see another police agent, another metropolitan police agency handling mental illness the way they did. Basically there are three reasons for this that would be important for you to know without going into the whole story. The first is officer safety. The CIT process stresses that's a priority, officer safety. The second reason is consumer safety. Consumers are the patients. And the third reason is, and this is what Diane [Reeder] likes to say, is it's the right thing to do.

Captain Larry Branson said, Captain Larry Branson, Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, Central Precinct. The experience in Memphis was not necessarily a revelation because in the business of peacekeeping or law enforcement, we will deal with the problem. Whatever it takes we will handle the problem. The key is the collaboration between local law enforcement and the mental health community. Oftentimes what happens now is a police officer will encounter someone, a consumer, in the public who needs some type of help, and we recognize that. Our only alternative is to take them to Memorial Hospital for evaluation, the Regional Trauma Center, where they get a medical and a psychological evaluation by a doctor, and at that point that doctor will determine that they need to be moved to another facility for further treatment or evaluation. What it means to law enforcement is that we're required to stay with that consumer. It may take forty-five minutes, it may take two hours, it may take two and a half hours. If that individual shows out in some way, if they spit or cuss or in some way act out, that's a trauma center, that staff will leave that patient and go on to the next patient and come back. Again what that means to us is that we have to stay with that person. We can't just hand them off and go back to work on the street. In this collaboration, in this model that Memphis has built, it is a collaboration between law enforcement and local mental health agencies. There's a facility designated in place so that when local law enforcement is trained properly, they should see an incident here in the street and recognize that this is a consumer who needs some help. The entire police department's on board with it, command staff, each and every officers is on board with it, medical personnel, fire personnel who respond in Memphis are all on board with this model and they understand what it means so that when that officer transports that consumer to the hospital to that facility, they are ready to receive them. The officer hands the person off and goes back out on the job of keeping the peace in the community. That facility is set up to address the needs of that individual. It is an outstanding program. It was an outstanding opportunity to be a part of that and I am absolutely confident that we could shine in this community if we were to get on board with this.

Commissioner Odell said, better treatment modality, better way of handling the consumer —. Captain Branson said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, — and it reduces the amount of time for sworn officers. Captain Branson said, that's correct. Commissioner Odell asked, did you —, had either one of you been to Memphis before? Captain Branson said, that was my first experience. Captain McCluskey said, mine too. Commissioner Odell said, well, growing up in Tennessee, did you conclude that that is a nasty town? Trash everywhere. Captain Branson said, well, we did have an opportunity to ride along with the officers and we got —. Commissioner Odell said, I'm old, Dean [Kicklighter]. Captain Branson said, — to see probably the worst of the worst.

Captain McCluskey said, just one more comment. Larry [Branson] mentioned the time it takes for a police officer, one of your police officers, to process a mentally ill patient. He was very conservative when he said it takes, you know, up to two hours. This week one of the officers in my precinct sat at the hospital for six hours. Sat at the hospital for six hours. So it's a really lengthy process. We're dealing with these people now. Your police officers are dealing with these police officers now not very well. The process can be enhanced, it can be streamlined, it can be much more efficient than it is. Colonel Holmes from the Sheriff's Department went on one of the earlier Memphis trips and was also very enthusiastic and I'm sorry he's not here —. Captain Branson said, he is. Captain McCluskey said, oh, is he? Okay. Oh, I'm sorry. He's sitting down. I was looking up here for him. He explained the budget for just the mentally ill patients that are housed in the jail now as just hundreds of thousands of dollars. I mean, this is for medication. It's

just —, you know, I'm learning a lot. I appreciate the opportunity for you to hear what we've been through and for you to support the program you have. So, thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I just want to go on the record of saying that this is the best proposal that I have heard yet. This is something that we in the community have been looking forward to for a long, long time. There is a dire need for this type of program, and I'm hoping that we can get on board and support this proposal because I have witnessed firsthand what you have just said about patients being in the hospital and the policemen are there because they're trying to keep order or whatever. I had two occasions just the past two weeks and it's frightening and they don't really know what they're doing at that particular time. So I firmly believe that jail is not the answer. We have to get down to the actual root causes of their problems and also find some assistance, medical assistance to help them along. So I support this wholeheartedly.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I commend everyone and the Captains for presenting this also. It's a really good idea. My only concern would be as far as are we talking about a mental health court, an actual mental health court like stated here?

Chairman Liakakis said, yes. That's the proposal that was being made, and there's a lot of things you have to put in it, not only the court but, as he was speaking, about the assistance and putting together the grants and there's a lot of administrative part of that. So that's the situation. What I'm going to do right now, I'd like to appoint Commissioner Gellatly, Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Stone as a committee to work with the court systems, to work with the police department and to work with your organization also so that we can —, you bring back a plan to us so that we can vote on it and put something into place so that we'll be able to address this problem.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, may I finish comment —, question/comment there? My only concern would be the clever lawyers throughout the country area that tend to —, and I know by far we have mentally ill people that need assistance and we need to help them. I would just hope that this committee, this board that's just been appointed would look long and hard to the steps, definite steps available to come up with who actually gets the shot at going to a mental health court versus a regular court. And that's my only concern there is we need to take care of the mentally ill, but we also need to definitely punish those who may claim to be mentally ill to seek hospital treatment versus a time in our federal or state prison, so the —, state prison system. So that's my concern, but I appreciate everything. I think it's a great idea, I just think we have to have those steps in place to help the mentally ill but make sure the criminals without mental illness are not using that to avoid prison terms. So that's —.

Mr. Richards said, and, Mr. Chairman, I would say in response to that, the protocol for that is well established. The Memphis model is in over 150 cities across the country. It's well established. The State of Georgia will be the first state to do it statewide on a post certification basis and we will use the lessons already learned. Those things are well established and those kind of concerns have been addressed. Again, if we work together we're going to find a way to impact our citizens that need help and punish those that need punishment. But, again, these things are well established.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Thank you.

Ms. Reeder said, I would say too that if CIT works well, very often the consumers don't make it to court. The court system does not have to be involved.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Sheriff, you wanted to make a comment?

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yeah. I wanted to say that his numbers were correct and there is always about 200 people involved in mental health in the jail and some of them are severe, but the —, and the program, I'm familiar with the program. Colonel Holmes has been there. I totally support it. Just bear in mind this is another thing where the State has fallen short, particularly in the last 12-15 years on mental health. That's why we've got so many in the jail. But if you're going to run night court, you're talking about transport, you're talking about deputies. We'll do it. I think the program is worthwhile and we should do it, but those are considerations. You're applying for a grant, you apply for that as well.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, I think what our committee will do, Sheriff, they'll be talking with you and Colonel Holmes and with your committee also, the police department, and all of us working in conjunction with one another that we can come out with a plan and service to those less fortunate in our community who are mentally —, have these mental illnesses.

Commissioner Stone said, I just want to say that I think that we have an obligation to the citizens of this community and we cannot not afford to look at this.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I noticed in your presentation that you said that Governor Perdue was a supporter and I think that's a great thing, but I can't not point out that the Governor in his most recent budget reduced the funding for an entire wing of Georgia Regional Hospital and that by closing that wing, if that budget is passed, that it would place an even greater strain on this community because not only would we lose the ability to house the hundred or so that are available in beds, but we would also lose I'm told our ability to do diagnostics and refer them to be able to do the

research into the type of mental illness and instead that these people would have to be transported all the way up to Milledgeville in order to be evaluated, that that would probably take two Sheriff's deputies away from this jurisdiction every day to do nothing but transport people back and forth, again placing a tremendous burden on our resources and our local taxpayers. I'm also told that the reason behind this, at least in part, is the Governor felt that these people should be transitioned into congregate care facilities, and I can tell you from attending a lot of my neighborhood association meetings that this is not a popular idea. The people in the neighborhoods are already very concerned about the fact that we have people with mental illness that are not capable of being cared for in these homes properly that are being put into these homes. So we have a problem here where I hope through your good efforts and the good efforts of this Commission that we can also prevail on the Governor and our legislative delegation to fully fund Georgia Regional Hospital. I can't see how having a night mental health court is going to be a great benefit to us if we don't have any place where we can get diagnosis and referral here in the local community.

Mr. Richards said, well, we in NAMI understand. Again we had another attack on Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah, but simultaneously we had an attack on the regional hospital in Columbus. NAMI is adamantly advocating for the Governor to change his attitude on that. We think we're going to win. We won before whenever they attacked Georgia Regional Hospital. We think we're going to win again. Again, the establishment of what's called a med [phonetic], a medical component that receives these folks from the CIT officers, is a part of this process, and if you'll examine the folders that I gave you, you'll see contained in that was the necessity for us to develop that. We are working right now with the Department of Human Resources and SABHC, Gateway, St. Joe/Candler, Memorial. We are putting together the necessary supports from a medical standpoint in which we'll be able to route these citizens when appropriate as determined by the CIT officer into medical care. Those folks who obviously have committed a felony belong in a forensic environment will naturally go into that environment.

Commissioner Shay said, just as a follow-up, if I could, and I'll be brief. The subcommittee that's going to be studying this, I commend the idea of a subcommittee and I think you've appointed the right Commissioners to it, but let's be clear that if Georgia Regional is not an option, that it's going to be very difficult for us to have a court that uses a medical model of treatment that is not going to be an even greater burden on us. I do not support at all the idea the Sheriff being a great mental health provider in Chatham County. I don't think he wants to do it, I don't think we want him to do it, and I don't think the people that are there want it to be done, but with Georgia Regional potentially being halved, I think, in capacity, where will you —, where will these people go? I mean —, I'm not sure I understand. Mr. Richards said, well, NAMI —, NAMI does not accept the fact that we're going to lose the battle on Georgia Regional. We just won't accept that and, again, we think that we're going to prevail in that arena as we did before. We're currently involved in a very vigorous battle over the child and adolescent shutdown out at Georgia Regional. We think we're going to win that battle irrespective of what's being said.

Commissioner Odell said, we're going to have to look long term at what we do and make the assumption that for the last ten years mental health reimbursement from the State has been reduced; that whatever the party, Democrat or Republican, that is an easy ox to gore. It is a problem with citizens of Chatham County. Pat [Shay], we're going to have to come up with a solution that impacts us and not —, I think we're going to save Georgia Regional this time just out of politics, but I think that it's going to be up to be gored next year. That is a substantial problem. We have a lot of different providers of mental health services. One of the problems, and being a person who has a —, who studied clinical psychology at the Masters level, one of the problems I have with the system is that it's not a system. We've got components, but it's not a system. We should have a beginning and an end and there's some ways that we could creatively do this, Pat [Shay]. We're going to have to think out of the box. This gentleman, you don't —, he don't look like it, but he is a legend. I think he literally —, it is not popular —, you don't get major compensation, major reward, there's not going to be a big pool of people to vote for you if you support mental health or mental retardation, but I am in shock that our often classifying ourselves as a country or state of family values, but those members of the family that needs the help —, help most, get dumped the first, and what we've done to people in the State of Georgia who has mental health, mental retardation problem is hideous. I mean, but we're going to have to solve that, and when this committee meets we'll think out of the box and we will also think about a grant, I do not believe, will compensate for the Sheriff's transport. It may, but there are going to be some other financial considerations and we need to look creatively, setting up a system which we understand that the federal government and the state government are going to contribute over to our left, and the question is how can we fund that so that it's not a continuing drain, and —. I'm sorry, Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Abolt said, there's a partner here that's been addressed in passing, but it's critical to bring this along to the point you can make a decision as to court system. As you know from correspondence I put in the file, I was not expecting nor would I urge adoption of any resolution today. Certainly your support is obvious in your comments. My offering would be, and I've already met with Ms. Arnsdorff and talked to Mr. DeLoach of the court system, that they would be allowed in the detail of this and possibly work with the committee, but just as successful as the drug court is I know you want this to be a successful. Well, it requires a whole lot more than just a resolution. There's some obligations there, there's a commitment to the court, there's treatment components, what have you. So to make sure we don't lose any momentum on this, the committee is certainly well formed, I would intend with the cooperation of Mr. DeLoach and Ms. Arnsdorff to ask that they begin to do the detail work and then as appropriate work with the committee.

Commissioner Odell said, and would serve as staff. County Manager Abolt said, that's a great —. Commissioner Odell said, Mr. DeLoach would serve as staff. County Manager Abolt said, I cannot assign Mr. DeLoach, but I would certainly urge him to do that. Commissioner Odell said, okay.

Mr. Richards said, Mr. Chairman, I would venture to say that the Commission needs to move rapidly and apply for part of this \$50,000,000. The money's there and we in NAMI would apply for it if we could, but it requires a political subdivision such as this County to apply for it.

Chairman Liakakis said, but it's money there —. Mr. Richards said, the money is already —. Chairman Liakakis said, we need to apply for it. Mr. Richards said, right. The money's there, let's apply for it and then we can determine how we spend it later on, but we need to move on that now. That would be —, and as far as —, I appeared before Commissioner Odell before some years past in which he made two accurate statements. One is we live in an uncivil society, which we do; and, two, the State of Georgia has abandoned its citizens. So we need to find a way, as he says, think outside the box and start helping ourselves. We can't wait on the State of Atlanta anymore. We need to help our citizens now.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Danny [DeLoach], did you want to make a comment?

Mr. Danny DeLoach said, just one comment. Of course, just like any —. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself. Mr. DeLoach said, Danny DeLoach, Superior Court Administrator. Just like any drug court we started around the State, we're going to need the commitment of a judge in this and as far as I know, we have the support of all the Superior Court judges, where this is probably going to end up, but we don't have a mental health judge appointed, and it takes a hundred percent commitment from the judge. I think that's —, for any drug court that's needed. That's the first thing we need to do if this is going to be called a court is to find the appropriate judge to handle it. Of course, there's the —. Commissioner Odell asked, who would do that, us or you? Mr. DeLoach asked, sir? Commissioner Odell asked, would we do that or would you do that? Mr. DeLoach said, well, one of the sitting Superior Court judges would have to volunteer. We cannot legislatively create —. Commissioner Odell said, I know. Would they step up to the plate like Bass stepped up to the plate and said, "I'll be the judge for the drug court." Mr. DeLoach said, I can sure run it past them at our next meeting. Commissioner Odell said, yeah. Y'all meet weekly, right? Mr. DeLoach said, we do, and we met on this last Wednesday and, like I said, there's a hundred percent support for the concept, but we're looking at space, we're looking at administrative cost, and the commitment of a judge is number one.

Chairman Liakakis said, instead of belaboring this too, what we can do is the committee come back with us and meet with all of the entities so that we can go from there because I think that's the most expedient thing to do is let the committee get with everybody and then we'll go from there. Patrick [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, if you'd be willing to accept a motion that we authorize County staff to work together with the subcommittee that you just appointed and the folks from NAMI to be about applying for whatever grant monies are available in the short term, but that it would come back to us in the context of an overall plan. I think there's an awful lot of this that still needs to be worked out and I certainly would defer to the judgment of those that are on the subcommittee that have much more knowledge on this, but I don't want us to miss even an hour of opportunity to at least apply for —, if there's \$50,000,000 out there, then we need to go get our fair share. The citizens of Chatham County pay more than their fair share for bearing the burden of the cost on this. The State of Georgia collects more sales tax revenue in the urban counties of Georgia than it does from any other source and yet the return on that is dwindling. If there's an opportunity for us to go get some of that money that's been raised largely in Chatham County and other urban counties and return it to us to help us with this problem, I think we should take advantage of it.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a first and second to apply for a grant to the government as was just stated for this mental health plan. All in favor go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved that County staff be authorized to work with the committee comprised of Commissioner Gellatly, Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Stone along with the individuals from NAMI Georgia and NAMI Savannah to apply for grant monies for a mental health plan. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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6. REQUEST BOARD WAIVE HIRING FREEZE AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS FOR:

SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATION

- **ONE (1) CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (COUNTER CLERK)**
- **TWO (2) PART-TIME INFORMATION ASSISTANTS**

MOSQUITO CONTROL

- **ONE (1) ENTOMOLOGY TECHNICIAN**
- **ONE (1) MAINTENANCE WORKER III**
- **TWO (2) MOSQUITO CONTROL AIDES**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Mr. Danny DeLoach.

Mr. DeLoach said, these present positions I've held open as long as I can. The Information Specialists used to be a full-time position. I'm making it part-time for two reasons. To save the County money —, we won't have to pay the benefits in that respect and, two, if one of them out I can call the other one in. This is the position that's in the front entrance to the courthouse. The Sheriff's bluecoats have been having to do this for the last, say, nine months and it's taken a toll on them. They have to derelict their duties for security and I need somebody back in that position. The

clerical position is in our Case Management system. This young lady just took a promotion to the DA's office. It's critical. It's a public contact. It's a contact with the lawyers. She handles all the transcripts, the judge assignments, the judicial courtroom assignments, and I just need that position filled right away.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Wait a minute. The Clerk asked, who made the motion? Chairman Liakakis asked, who made the motion? Commissioner Thomas said, no one. Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Commissioner Farrell said, I make a motion. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, Mosquito Control, another County department. Mosquito Control are requesting one Entomology Technician, one Maintenance Worker III and two Mosquito Control Aides, and as you remember that we had this in our retreat last week. We discussed this and it was explained to us from the Mosquito Control people this is important that we have these positions filled so that we can give better mosquito control in our community, and it's vital right now because they're unable to do certain jobs because they don't have these positions filled. Can I hear a motion on the floor?

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, I move for approval. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, it's been —, a motion has been made. Go on the floor [sic]. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Farrell moved to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to fill the following positions for the Superior Court Administrator: One (1) Clerical Assistant III (Counter Clerk) and two (2) part-time Information Assistants. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]
2. Commissioner Thomas moved to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to fill the following positions for Mosquito Control: One (1) Entomology Technician, one (1) Maintenance Worker III, and two (2) Mosquito Control Aides. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have any of the items under Action Calendar that you would like to —. Commissioner Farrell said, six. Chairman Liakakis said, all right Commissioner Farrell wants to hold Item 6. Wait a minute, let me just get them all. Any other items besides Item 6. Commissioner Shay said, I believe Commissioner Kicklighter in the pre-meeting requested that Items 11-D and 11-E be considered individually. So I'll place that mark for him. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, Item 6 and Items 11-D and 11-E. Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Kicklighter had to run out for a moment. He'll be back in a half moment if we can —. Chairman Liakakis said, there he is. Okay, do we have a motion on the floor to adopt the Action Calendar 1 through —.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, except for Items 6, 11-D and 11-E. All right, we have the motion on the floor. All in favor signify by going on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 6, 11-D and 11-E. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

[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 FOR THE PRE-MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2005, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the minutes for the pre-meeting and regular meeting of February 4, 2005, as mailed. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 27 THROUGH FEBRUARY 9, 2005.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period January 27, 2005, through February 9, 2005, in the amount of \$1,609,892. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN AND CLERK OF COMMISSION TO SIGN AN APPLICATION REQUIRED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) THAT STATES CHATHAM COUNTY WILL ACCEPT MAINTENANCE AND ENERGY COSTS FOR A TRAFFIC SIGNAL ON US 17 AT WESTGATE BOULEVARD.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Chairman and Clerk of Commission to sign an application required by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) that states Chatham County will accept maintenance and energy costs for a traffic signal on U.S. 17 at Westgate Boulevard. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: February 18, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: A. G. Bungard, P. E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To authorize the Chairman and Clerk of Commission to sign an application required by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) that states Chatham County will accept maintenance and energy costs for a traffic signal on US 17 at Westgate Boulevard.

BACKGROUND: The north side of the intersection is located in the City of Savannah. Two businesses located in this area have requested a traffic signal. In 2002, GDOT had a traffic study performed which recommended that a traffic signal be installed. Based on the mapping that was provided, it appeared the intersection was in the City of Savannah so Chatham County did not accept the traffic signal permit application from GDOT. After reviewing the 1986 petition for annexation, it was determined that the intersection was in Chatham County.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Chatham County will be responsible for the maintenance and energy of the traffic signals. The estimated annual energy cost for the signals will be \$700 to \$1100.
2. The County will also be responsible for the design of the signalization and other intersection safety standards (i.e. crosswalks, pedestrian refuge islands).
3. For this type of project, traffic signal components are typically provided by the Georgia Department of Transportation.
4. The City of Savannah has indicated that they will assist with the implementation of the signal. The costs of design and construction and the levels of participation by

the GDOT and the City of Savannah will be determined later (subject to Board approval).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To authorize acceptance of maintenance and energy costs for the proposed traffic signal at US 17 and Westgate Boulevard.
2. To not approve Alternative 1.

FUNDING: Funding for the cost of operation and maintenance of the traffic signal is available in Special Service District - Utilities.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Board must approve intergovernmental agreements.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Alternative 1.

District 7

Allan R. Black, P.E.

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY ATTORNEY, CLERK OF THE COMMISSION, AND COUNTY ENGINEER TO SIGN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE CHATHAM COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL ASSISTANT RESURFACING PROGRAM (LARP) WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) FOR THE RESURFACING OF COUNTY ROADS. [DISTRICTS 1 AND 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, Clerk of Commission, and County Engineer to sign all required documents to enable Chatham County to participate in the Local Assistance Resurfacing Program (LARP) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the resurfacing of County roads. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: February 18, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: A. G. Bungard, P. E., County Engineer

ISSUE: That the Board authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, Clerk of Commission, and County Engineer to sign all required documents to enable Chatham County to participate in the Local Assistance Resurfacing Program (LARP) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the resurfacing of County roads.

BACKGROUND: GDOT has a LARP with local governments to resurface roads. GDOT funds the cost of resurfacing. They require that the County certify ownership of the roads to be resurfaced, prepare the roads for resurfacing (to include milling) and maintain them upon completion.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. GDOT requested a list of roads for the 2005 LARP from the County. It was submitted August 11, 2004. The list consisted of 99 roads throughout Unincorporated Chatham County. GDOT has a rating system by which they determine the roads that qualify for resurfacing. They also have an allocation system that limits the amount of resurfacing granted to each county or municipality. Six of the 99 roads were selected to be resurfaced by the GDOT.

<u>Road</u>	<u>Length (Miles)</u>
a. Little Neck Road	1.800
b. Galleon Court	0.206
c. Heatherwood Drive	0.530
d. Kent Drive	0.450

e. Old Whitfield Avenue	0.845
f. Rose Avenue	<u>0.265</u>
Total	4.096

2. Some of the streets require milling to remove areas of existing asphalt before resurfacing to prevent excessive asphalt build up. Without milling, drop offs from the pavement edges into driveways cause vehicles to scrape the pavements upon entry or exit. This is considered a preparation cost. The estimated cost to the County for milling should not exceed \$18,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, Clerk of Commission and County Engineer to sign all required documents to participate in the LARP.
2. That the Board not approve participating in the LARP.

FUNDING: Funds are available in 1985-1993, SPLOST, LARP.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Board must approve intergovernmental agreements.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Alternative No. 1.

District 1, 7

Prepared by: Kirk Thomas

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5. REQUEST BOARD TO APPROVE A REQUEST FOR EARLY ACQUISITION AS A PROTECTIVE BUY FROM MR. AND MRS. RICHARD HEARN AT 1340 CROSSBROOK PLACE DUE TO THE WHITFIELD AVENUE WIDENING PROJECT. [DISTRICT 1.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve a request for early acquisition as a protective buy from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hearn at 1340 Crossbrook Place due to the Whitfield Avenue Widening Project. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5
AGENDA DATE: February 18, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: A. G. Bungard, P. E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To approve a request for early acquisition as a protective buy from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hearn at 1340 Crossbrook Place due to the Whitfield Avenue Widening Project.

BACKGROUND: The Hearn's are requesting early acquisition because they had intended to sell the property so they can enhance their retirement income.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Whitfield Avenue Project will involve the widening toward the Hearn property and will necessitate acquisition of the property, and the house. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will reimburse the County for the cost of the property. The County will be responsible for demolishing the house.
2. The Hearn's were starting an extensive remodeling of the house when they found out the County will be acquiring the house and property. Acquisition of the house was not shown on the public hearing exhibit. A wider raised median for landscaping necessitates the acquisition.
3. the early acquisition of the property as a protective buy will save the GDOT money because the Hearn's will not have to be reimbursed for the cost of improvements.
4. According to the Tax Assessor's records, house and property have a value of \$103,500. A certified appraiser will determine Fair Market Value for the property.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board approve the early acquisition for the Hearn property at 1340 Crossbrook Place due to the Whitfield Avenue Widening Project.
2. That the Board not approve the request.

FUNDING: Funds are available in the 1993-1998 SPLOST, Whitfield Avenue Widening.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Board must approve early acquisitions for the road program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Alternative No. 1.

District 1

Prepared by Allan R. Black

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6. REQUEST FROM THOMAS & HUTTON ENGINEERING CO., FOR THE DEVELOPER, WATERWAY VILLAGE, INC., FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR MOON RIVER LANDING, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, AND WAIVE THE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT AND LIGHTING STANDARDS. [DISTRICT 4.]

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I'd like to make a motion that we pass this about the streetlight assessment and lower the amount of lighting in this new neighborhood for the —, so that it will be consistent with the rest of the neighborhood that it's going to be associated with upon completion of this project.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, — and a second by Commissioner Kicklighter. All on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the request from Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co., for the developer, Waterway Village, Inc., for the County to record the subdivision plat for Moon River Landing, accept the financial guarantee, and waive the streetlight assessment requirement and lighting standards. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-6
AGENDA DATE: February 18, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: A. G. Bungard, P. E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To record the subdivision plat for Moon River Landing, accept the financial guarantee, and waive the streetlight assessment requirement and lighting standards.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co., for the developer, Waterway Village, Inc., requests that the County approve the final plat for recording, accept the financial guarantee, and waive the streetlight assessment requirement and lighting standards.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Moon River Landing is a private subdivision (single family residential) development on the southwest end of Skidaway Island. The paving and drainage will be privately maintained by the Landings Association. The water and sewer improvements will be maintained by Utility Inc. of Georgia. The subdivision consists of 70 lots.
2. Staff approved the construction plans and issued a permit for construction of the improvements. Construction of the required street improvements is underway and has been certified as substantially complete by the engineer. The total cost of the improvements is \$1,352,000.00 a letter of credit in half that amount has been posted as a performance guarantee.

- 3. The developer desires that the streetlighting system be privately maintained by the Landings Association and has requested that the Board waive the requirement for a streetlight assessment district. The developer also requests to waive the streetlighting standards because the Landings Association's streetlighting standards are substandard to the Streetlighting Ordinance (see attached letter).
- 4. An Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. One positive finding was found in the ESA and remediated to the satisfaction of County staff and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The finding is noted on the plat.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Moon River Landing, accept the financial guarantee, and grant the waivers for the streetlighting.
- 2. Approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Moon River Landing, accept the financial guarantee, and do not grant the waiver for the streetlighting assessment district which annuls the need for the streetlighting standards.
- 3. Approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Moon River Landing, accept the financial guarantee, grant the waiver for the streetlighting assessment district, and do not grant a waiver from the streetlighting standards.
- 4. Do not approve any of the requests.

POLICY ANALYSIS: This action is consistent with the subdivision regulation regarding the creation of lots through plat recording.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 4

PREPARED BY: Dana Hornkohl, P.E.

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**7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF PHASE 14 & 15 DUTCH ISLAND WITH DEVELOPER AND HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION.
[DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve for release of a cash bond in the amount of \$13,661.50 from the developer to Dutch Island Homeowner's Association in settlement of a legal dispute concerning acceptance of the water and sewer system for Phases 14 and 15, Dutch Island, and approve entering into a three-way agreement among Chatham County, the developer and Dutch Island Homeowner's Association. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7
AGENDA DATE: February 18, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

ISSUE: Approval of Settlement of Phase 14 & 15 Dutch Island with Developer and Homeowner's Association

ISSUE:

Request Board approval for release of cash bond in the amount of \$13,661.50 from developer to Dutch Island Homeowner's Association and approve entering three way agreement among Chatham County, developer and homeowner's association.

BACKGROUND:

The homeowner's association and developer have had a legal dispute as to acceptance of water and sewer system in Phase 14 & 15 of Dutch Island by the homeowner's association due to allegations of defective design and installation. The homeowner's association and developer have reached an agreement to release claims against each other. As part of the agreement, the County will release \$13,661.50 of a cash bond

held in the developer's name to the Dutch Island Homeowner's Association that will assume all responsibility concerning design, installation and maintenance of the water and sewer system in Phase 14 & 15, Dutch Island. The County is a party to this agreement in order to have authority to release a cash bond and for an acknowledgment by homeowner's association of their assumed responsibility.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The homeowner's association and developer wish to resolve a legal dispute concerning the acceptance of the water and sewer system for Phase 14 & 15, Dutch Island, and have reached an agreement.

2. The County will be a party to this agreement allowing for the release of a cash bond to Dutch Island Homeowner's Association.

3. The Dutch Island Homeowner's Association will assume responsibility for the maintenance and operation for water and sewer system, Phase 14 & 15 Dutch Island.

FUNDING:

No funds required.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the County becoming a party to a three way agreement which will allow the County to release the developer's cash bond to homeowner's association and homeowner's association accepting responsibility for the maintenance and operation of water and sewer system, Phase 14 & 15, Dutch Island.

2. Do not approve the County becoming a party to a three way agreement which will allow the County to release the developer's cash bond to homeowner's association and homeowner's association accepting responsibility for the maintenance and operation of water and sewer system, Phase 14 & 15, Dutch Island.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative No. 1.

RJH/dc

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8. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER POURING LICENSE FOR 2005. PETITIONER: RUSSELL C. DAWES, JR., D/B/A SANTINO'S INC., LOCATED AT 5548 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Russell C. Dawes, Jr., d/b/a Santino's Inc., located at 5548 Ogeechee Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer pouring license for 2005. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

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9. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2005. A. PETITIONER: MATTHEW K. STARLING, D/B/A CRAB CREEK CAFÉ AT BONNABELLA MARINA, LOCATED AT 2740 LIVINGSTON AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.] B. PETITIONER: MAEYU C. WU, D/B/A HUNAN'S RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 318 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.] C. PETITIONER: SURENDRA PATEL, D/B/A DENNY'S RESTAURANT, LOCATED WITHIN THE BEST WESTERN AT 1 GATEWAY BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the following petitions for renewal of beer and wine pouring licenses for 2005: (a) Matthew K. Starling, d/b/a Crab Creek Café at Bonna Bella Marina, located at 2740 Livingston Avenue; (b) Maeyu C. Wu, d/b/a Hunan’s Restaurant, located at 318 Johnny Mercer Boulevard; and (c) Surendra Patel, d/b/a Denny’s Restaurant, located within the Best Western at 1 Gateway Boulevard. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 10. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2005.**
- A. PETITIONER: WILMA LEA WEAVER, D/B/A CHEERS TO YOU, LOCATED AT 135-B JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.
[DISTRICT 4.]**
 - B. PETITIONER: RAYMUNDO L. JAIME, D/B/A EL POTRO MEXICAN RESTAURANT #14, LOCATED 1 FORT ARGYLE ROAD.
[DISTRICT 6.]**
 - C. PETITIONER: RICKY PERRY, D/B/A FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, LOCATED AT 5406 LAROCHE AVENUE.
[DISTRICT 3.]**
 - D. PETITIONER: JOHN R. TURNER, D/B/A ISLAND OYSTER BAR, LOCATED 444 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.
[DISTRICT 4.]**
 - E. PETITIONER: JOHN R. TURNER, D/B/A SALTWATER GRILLE, LOCATED AT 7000 LAROCHE AVENUE.
[DISTRICT 3.]**
 - F. PETITIONER: JAMES BARNETT MERCER, D/B/A SAVANNAH YACHT CLUB, INC., LOCATED AT END OF BRADLEY POINT ROAD.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the following petitions for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring licenses for 2005: (a) Wilma Lea Weaver, d/b/a Cheers to You, located at 135-B Johnny Mercer Boulevard; (b) Raymundo L. Jaime, d/b/a El Potro Mexican Restaurant #14, located at 1Fort Argyle Road; (c) Ricky Perry, d/b/a Fraternal Order of Eagles, located at 5406 LaRoche Avenue; (d) John R. Turner, d/b/a Island Oyster Bar, located at 444 Johnny Mercer Boulevard; (e) John R. Turner, d/b/a Saltwater Grille, located at 7000 LaRoche Avenue; and (f) James Barnett Mercer, d/b/a Savannah Yacht Club, Inc., located at end of Bradley Point Road. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

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11. 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. Exchange/ overhaul of the main rotor assembly on the helicopter	Mosquito Control	Heli-Mart, Inc.	\$23,850	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
B. Confirmation of emergency approved construction contract for the County Adolescent Residential Treatment Center (ADTC) Sewer on-site disposal system	Land Bank	Mill Creek Septic Tank	\$84,787	Land Bank Authority Fund
C. Annual contract with automatic renewal for four additional one-year terms to provide contract labor	Public Works	Eastern Personnel Services of Savannah	\$6.89 per hour per man	•SSD - Public Works •Solid Waste Management

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
D. Change Order No. 1 and Change Order No. 2 to the annual contract to provide high volume paper and chemical products to recognize manufacturer imposed price increases on various items	Various	•Morrison Chemical Company of Savannah (Change Order No. 1) •Paper Chemical Supply Company of Savannah (Change Order No. 2)	Varies by item	•SSD - Various •General Fund/M&O - Various
E. Contract for Group Health and Employee Benefit Plan consultant services	•Finance •Human Resources and Services	Mellon Human Resources and Investor Solutions	\$282/hour - Not to exceed \$154,500	Health Insurance Fund
F. Administration of red light camera at S. R. 204 and King George Boulevard	Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police	•SEDA •City of Savannah	Monthly lease based on collections	No funding required
G. Reject proposal for lease arrangement and authorization to negotiate a management contract with Team Savannah	Weightlifting Center	Team Savannah	N/A	General Fund/M&O - Weightlifting Center
H. Installation of the wing spar failsafe splice plate on the fixed wing air tractor	Mosquito Control	Southeastern Aircraft Sales and Service, Inc.	\$10,900	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control

As to Items 11-A through 11-H, except Items 11-D and 11-E:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items 11-A through 11-H, except Items 11-D and 11-E. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

As to Item 11-D:

Change Order No. 1 and Change Order No. 2 to the annual contract to provide high volume paper and chemical products to recognize manufacturer imposed price increases on various items; Various; Morrison Chemical Company of Savannah (Change Order No. 1); Paper Chemical Supply Company of Savannah (Change Order No. 2); Varies by item; SSD - Various and General Fund/M&O - Various.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. September 26, 2003, the County awarded a annual contract with an automatic renewal for four years to provide chemical and paper products. Here we are one year, five months later and this company has come back to us and they're asking for a 17% increase. I understand that their products actually went up, and after talking with staff and this Board in the pre-agenda [sic], I would be willing to compromise because of the price increase, but I believe it would send a statement that we're not going to tolerate huge increases in the middle of contracts. They requested 17%. I would —, I make a motion that contingent upon reducing their increase to half of their request down to 8.5% rather than a 17% increase we approve.

Commissioner Gellatly asked, is that a motion? Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's a motion. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, it's been —, a motion has been made and seconded concerning the supplies from the chemical company for the County. Go ahead, Michael [Kaigler].

Mr. Kaigler said, just a point of clarification, sir. If —. Chairman Liakakis said, excuse me, Michael [Kaigler]. Identify yourself. Mr. Kaigler said, Michael Kaigler, Human Resources Director. Just for a point of clarification, if they aren't able to do the 8.5%, then your —, the Board wishes then to go out to rebid? Commissioner Kicklighter said, to rebid.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I ask a question? Mr. Kaigler, when this company notified us of the 17 what have you percent increase, did they notify us as to why there was such a dramatic increase? Mr. Kaigler said, they notified the Purchasing Department that they had received a manufacture increase in the product that they distribute, and they're just passing that cost on to us. Commissioner Odell asked, and when we originally bid —, bid the contract, was there a provision in the bid proposal that allowed for this flow through? Mr. Kaigler said, there's not a provision that allows for a automatic flow through, but we have looked at and we tell them if we will at the time when they come back with an increase, we would review that at the time they come back. Commissioner Odell said, your Purchasing —, was maybe shaking his head about some other reason. Mr. Bill Parson said, he's correct. We have a policy in

the bid package like that, that they have to prove there was a manufacturer's increase. Commissioner Odell asked, is —, what I'm trying to do, and I'm not articulating it that well and I apologize, but if the price is going to be the same from various providers because the various providers obtain it from the same manufacturer or similar manufacturer with the same problem, I'm not certain what we do by going back into the market, and I wonder if either one of you can address that. Mr. Parson said, I'm Bill Parson, Purchasing Agent. If we go back in the market, it's going to cost us money. Time to advertise and rebid, and it's time. Commissioner Odell asked, but is —? Mr. Parson said, but we'll be glad to —. Commissioner Odell asked, but are we going to get a better price? Mr. Parson asked, pardon? Commissioner Odell; asked, are we going to get a better price. Mr. Parson said, I don't think so. Commissioner Odell said, you don't think so. Mr. Parson said, no sir. It's because the oil —, increased price of oil, crude oil. All chemical products —, concrete, steel, everything's going sky high. Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Parson, you look like a teenager, but I know you've been doing this for a while, and that opinion of yours is based upon many years of experience? Mr. Parson said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, okay. So even if we bid it, what we get for the bid is we're going to get the cost of the bid and the staff time. Mr. Kaigler said, unless that particular firm is willing to absorb that increase. They may want to absorb it, we don't know. Commissioner Odell said, okay, so if they have a substantial profit margin —. I'll yield to Dave [Gellatly].

Commissioner Gellatly said, the only thing I have a concern there is I think we're sending a powerful message to the venders that if you're going to get a two-year, three-year, four-year contract, you can low ball it because they know they can come right back in and jack the price up in the middle of the contract. At our pre-meeting I pointed out, you know, I've done a lot of reading on how Wal-Mart operates and, you know, if a Wal-Mart Store —, if we were a Wal-Mart Store and a vender came in and said we want to increase the price 17%, Wal-Mart would tell them to suck it up or lose the contract, and I just really think that 17%, that's a heck of a jump in what, one year and five months or something like that, and just a comment and an observation. I think that we have to be awful careful of that or we're opening the door with a precedent that every time we go out for a contract a potential bidder is going to take into consideration that all we have to do is low ball it for the first year and we can jack it up 17% in the next year, and I think that's a very dangerous thing and very expensive.

Commissioner Odell said, Dave [Gellatly], I agree with you totally and I'm not opposed to rebidding it. I think it sends the message, but I would like to have a breakdown of the costs of the rebid. Commissioner Gellatly said, I agree with that.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, but wouldn't —, originally because I wanted to rebid it right off the bat, but didn't we come to the conclusion that we thought that it would be fair to split that. In other words, give the 8.5% because I'm all for rebidding right now. I just —, I recommended that out of small —, or half, splitting the part —. What are you saying, because I'll gladly change my motion to rebid.

Commissioner Odell said, my position is that if you are a vender, then you have a profit margin built in because obviously you're not in business to do it for nothing. You're in business to make a profit. If this exceeds their profit margin and there's no way that they can adjust it, I think we're better off —, if the sentiment is to rebid, let's go ahead and skip the renegotiating and say rebid it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I will change my motion with that to rebid for this contract. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, will you change the second? Commissioner Gellatly said, change the second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor for Item 11-D, the change order, to go out and rebid that contract with the chemical companies. Everybody go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

As to Item 11-E:

Contract for Group Health and Employee Benefit Plan consultant services; Finance, Human Resources and Services; Mellon Human Resources and Investor Solutions; \$282/hour - Not to exceed \$154,500; Health Insurance Fund.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, you gave us certain direction —, it wasn't direction actually, but expressed consensus in your pre-meeting for staff to meet with the con—, excuse me, the firm that we're recommending for award of contract. I'll let Mr. Kaigler explain the status of that discussion.

Mr. Michael Kaigler said, based on our discussion we found out that they weren't able to do any adjustments to the hourly rate.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Can I take it from there now? Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. I pulled this item because —, and I appreciate you trying to negotiate that. Basically we have a contract out there right now. We had a request for proposal to provide group health and employee benefit consultation services. Staff recommended Alternative One and I feel that we have a better option out there, which would be Alternative Two. Staff came up with a —, if I could finish it would be great then because did you just say it was —, did I understand you that they would not renegotiate the price? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir, but —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, and then —, if you'll let me finish then I would appreciate it. Mellon Human Resources of Atlanta bid \$282 an hour, estimated time that it would be 548 hours of work needed. It came up to a total of \$154,500. We had AON Consulting Incorporated of Atlanta, they bid \$213.04 and hour for 460 hours of service for a total of \$97,998.40 — \$56,501 less than the staff recommended group here. Pointing this out I want to remind also if you'll look at number three, option number three of staff's recommendation, this group estimated their time of

completion to be 455 hours. So you compare number two and three. They are basically —, they're right there at 458 hours of service is what both of these groups estimate to complete this task. This group, the recommended group, number one, they're estimating 548 hours. So it's a huge difference between the hours that number one believes will be needed and the hours that number two and three says will be needed, not to mention the huge difference in the per hour cost. Okay, RFP. We don't have to go with lowest bidder. We get to pick quality on this one. This leads to the total ranking that the County did. We had —, cause I, you know, I believe in paying for quality not just low, we have to have quality also. Total ranking point system there was only .9%, .9% of difference between number one and number two of what the County recommended. We had Mellon Human Resources ranked at one —, help me out if somebody's looking at that part there —, 146 or 140—. County Manager Abolt said, 145.79 versus 144.83. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. So we had less than one point out of 145 points separating what the staff deemed to be quality service, yet we have \$56,000 separating the two. My point on this is for the amount of, you know, the ranking there. One-third higher cost is not worthy of that little .9% of a point there, and I would recommend at this point that we approve option number two for this contract to save the money and not lower in my estimation the quality of service.

Chairman Liakakis said, question, Michael [Kaigler]. We looked at the experience that the three companies had in this particular area of consulting for this health program. Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. Chairman Liakakis asked, the second bidder, as Commissioner Kicklighter was talking about, they have the experience, you know, in doing this type of work also? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. We felt that all three firms actually had the necessary experience to do the work that we required, it's just based on the technical proposals and the interviews, the Interview Committee scored Mellon higher. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any other —?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I'd like to —, I meant to do this, but I'd like to put that in the form of a motion that we approve option number two rather than option number one. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any other discussion? Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I noticed in the evaluation sheet that was included in our package that under Qualifications and References that AON Consulting actually had the lowest ranking of the three. Was there a —, did we get a less than satisfactory reference from someone? [NOTE: Mr. Kaigler indicated an affirmative response.] Commissioner Shay asked, we did? Mr. Kaigler said, what —, in talking with Ms. Cramer and if it's your position that you don't want to accept our recommendation for Mellon Resources [sic], we'd ask that you allow us a little extra time to go back and look at the other two and come back with a recommendation. Commissioner Shay said, well, I haven't come to that conclusion yet. I had the question though about the AON Consulting, so —. Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir, that is correct.

Chairman Liakakis asked, what was the comment, Michael [Kaigler], about AON because, you know, this is a considerable amount of money? We need to know the facts so that we can make a decision that's best for our citizens. Mr. Kaigler said, well, we've got a not —, a less than favorable reference from the work that they did for the City of Atlanta. We have to take into consideration that they had some factors in the City of Atlanta that they were dealing with that when we called to check references, to kind of quote what their HR person told the committee, was that they did a fair job with what they had to work with and they wouldn't elaborate any further, but that gives —, makes me believe that the condition that they were working under in the City of Atlanta was less than favorable. Chairman Liakakis asked, well, when you state that they did a fair job with the information that they had, was it because they didn't have all of the information from the City of Atlanta so that might be a negative in that area? Mr. Kaigler said, well, that may be a negative, but they wouldn't —, they couldn't elaborate any further on what kind of problems that they had encountered.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so basically I'm to understand that we have a —, from hearing this if this is the case —, we undoubtedly have a huge problem with our ability to weigh percentage-wise each item in a contract bid. Mr. Kaigler said, well —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, you know, do we assign a certain percentage per —? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so let me ask you, am I out of line to say that bidder number two was only .9 behind bidder number one? Does that mean that bidder number one probably had some faults that you could point out right now too? Mr. Kaigler said, we didn't get that. Based on the reference check, that was the only negative reference that we got in check that particular firm. Also based on the fact that the committee felt that they had more of a, to use Ms. Cramer's terms, more of a cookie cutter approach to looking at and looking at our services and providing us a recommendation. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, and, you know, my reading of the staff report I see that we have two, if not three, outstanding possibilities to select here, the major difference being the amount that it would cost to fund them. If not, our ranking system is totally out of whack in the County and we need to take a closer look at it because, you know, if ranking that close is, to me, I take that into consideration in trying to make an educated opinion here.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, I don't want to get sidetracked unless the Board does on the ranking system, but realize this is a qualitative choice and just as if you were the panel and each one of you might very well have a different opinion and you might choose to —, whether it's a decimal point or a full point —, to rank one proposal over another. This is not a bid. This is all qualitative and what we're saying to y'all in that qualitative process, and knowing full well the importance of the decision that you'll have to make come June or July on the budget, we want to make sure we have the very best. Now in this case we're blessed with some good firms, but I would ask you, I would urge you not to get sidetracked on the ranking only because from the get-go rankings are qualitative.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, well, my thing there, and again I see the gentleman from the company, I'm sure it's a fine company, but to put this into a just regular common person's perspective here, to me this is like going out

to purchase a house. You have an identical house, one has a brass doorbell and it sells for \$50,000 less than the other one, and they're identical but one has a doorbell on it that's a little bit better and, you know, that's how close it is except for the amount of money. If this were my personal money, I'm going to save \$50,000 on that brass doorbell. This ranking is nearly identical, but the difference in the amount charged to the residents of this County is astronomical in comparison to that. That's why I made the motion and, you know, that's all I will say on the subject.

County Manager Abolt said, not to argue, I'd never argue with the Commissioners, but remember it's more than a brass doorbell. This is \$13,000,000 and growing in obligation so it's far beyond just the cost of a consultant.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's why I would like to —, for us to maybe consider his final request here for them to go back, give them a little bit more time and then let them come back to us. Commissioner Kicklighter said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Thomas said, no, he just —, Michael [Kaigler], when you were speaking earlier, he asked that they be given some extra time and let them come back to the Commission. Commissioner Kicklighter said, he said to reevaluate the other two, which we supposedly already had a thorough evaluation of all three companies, so I don't understand that request.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I would join Dr. Thomas. What I'd like to see happen is to send this back, let's not make a decision today one way or the other and to send it back. If we can get a Human Resources and Finance Department joint recommendation through the County Manager, then Dean [Kicklighter], it might come up and beat it. We might come up and it might be the third, but I guess the message that we didn't send originally is price is a factor. It's a factor and we, if you look at programs I guess you could have the high and the medium and the low, I'm getting a sense that we're looking at something around the mean or medium, not necessarily the high end but certainly not necessarily something that's not sufficient.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay —. Go ahead, Michael [Kaigler].

Mr. Kaigler said, just for a point of clarification. If you will refer to the last page of the worksheet agenda, based on the technical proposal, the interview and the reference check, Mellon scored higher. Before we even looked at price, Mellon Scored Higher. The other two firms, AON and Palmer & Cay, they were within two points of each other, within two points of each other. Then you factor in the disparity and the cost. That's when the points between Mellon and AON get a whole lot closer, and that's where that one point —, when we factor in costs?

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what were the points there originally, the 7 points —. Mr. Kaigler said, it was a seven point difference between number one and number two. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, seven out of 146 points? Mr. Kaigler said, out of a hundred points. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, out of a hundred? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir.

Commissioner Odell said, can we —, we could do this —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I will withdraw my motion and go to —, Harris [Odell] wants to delay —. Commissioner Odell said, yeah. I'd like to delay two weeks, come back, you understand where we are from a commission standpoint. It will be three weeks, and maybe we can get —, get out a unanimous consensus as to a bidder. And I —. Commissioner Thomas said, I move what he suggested. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, second. Commissioner Thomas said, extra time to do that.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Michael, how many —, when you checked out references how many references did you check out for each individual company? Mr. Kaigler said, we split that up. I think there were about five for each company. Chairman Liakakis asked, five for each company? Okay. One of the things we need to remember now that we're looking at, according to our financial advisors and all, that we have a higher cost than we thought on our health benefits for our, you know, our employees and, as was stated, it could go up to \$15,000,000, and in the essence of time we need to approach this and get this information to us right away, Michael [Kaigler], because we need to address it as soon as possible so that we can look at all of the different avenues here so that we make sure that we've got the best insurance policy for our employees with the saving money also. Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, Mr. Kaigler, I have a question. Were there any negative references to the third candidate, Palmer & Cay? Mr. Kaigler said, no sir, and I guess my characterization of the reference on Mellon —, I mean, on AON, it wasn't necessarily negative, but it wasn't as glowing as the other references we got on the other firms.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, Commissioner Kicklighter has withdrawn his motion, the second has been withdrawn. Commissioner Thomas makes a motion that we —, that the department that you go out and come back to the next meeting and bring us additional information so that we can make a decision on it. It has been seconded by Commissioner Odell. Everybody go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, all right, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items 11-A through 11-H, except Items 11-D and 11-E. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

- 2. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Item 11-D. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- 3. Commissioner Thomas moved to delay Item 11-E until the next meeting to give staff time to review the bids and bring the Commission additional information on the bidders. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present when this vote was taken.]

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do is recognize a couple of people in our audience today. The President of our Savannah-Chatham Chamber of Commerce, Bill Hubbard, who has done an outstanding job with our Chamber of Commerce since he's been to the City. Bill [Hubbard], I'd like for you to stand up for people to recognize. Bill Hubbard. And, of course, we have Trip Tollison, who hounds the political part for the Chamber and he's done an outstanding job. He's worked with a lot of legislators up in the State and has helped us get legislation that was important to our County. One other recognition I'd like to do, too, because I know that Howard Cohen came here today to see about the Weightlifting Center, and as many of you might know, he's been one of the top weightlifting people in the entire country and his son has been on the Olympic team. And, Howard [Cohen], thank you very much for all that you've done for the athletes in our community.

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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. 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.

- 1. **REQUEST FOR MAP AMENDMENT, JAMES AND CINDY LYNNAH, OWNERS, ARE REQUESTING REZONING OF A PORTION OF 5651 OGEECHEE ROAD (APPROXIMATELY 2.36 ACRES OF A 9.2 ACRE PARENT TRACT) FROM A-T (AGRICULTURE-TOURIST) AND R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS TO A P-B (PLANNED BUSINESS) ZONING CLASSIFICATION. MPC FILE NO. Z-041222-37053-1.**

Chairman Liakakis said, there's no activity on it today. We'll have a second reading at our next meeting. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I would like for the record to allow that this is a cousin of mine and I will abstain from any discussion or any vote for any appearance of any impropriety.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, which district is this in? Chairman Liakakis said, the district on —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, it's normally listed. Is it in there? Chairman Liakakis asked, is that Ogeechee Road? That's —. Commissioner Odell said, it could be either one. Commissioner Thomas said, it could be either one of us. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if the MPC could, find out which district that's in. It could be any one of us four. Commissioner Thomas said, right, exactly.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Liakakis read this item into the record as the first reading.

**Petition of James and Cindy Lynnah, Petitioners and Owners
MPC File No. Z-041222-37053-1
Page 9**

MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present A-T (Agriculture-Tourist) and R-A (Residential-Agriculture) zoning classification to a P-B (Planned Business) zoning classification.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point located on the centerline of Ogeechee Road approximately 1630 feet south of its intersection with the centerline of Derrick Inn Road, thence proceeding in a

southwesterly direction along the centerline of Ogeechee Road a distance of approximately 129 feet to a point, thence along a line South 45 degrees 00 minutes East a distance of approximately 100 feet to a point, thence southeasterly along a line South 62 degrees 35 minutes East a distance of approximately 285 feet to a point, thence South 43 degrees 10 minutes East a distance of approximately 380 feet to a point, thence northeasterly along a line parallel to the centerline of Ogeechee Road a distance of approximately 190 feet to a point, thence northerly along a line North 43 degrees 10 minutes West a distance of approximately 310 feet to a point, thence westerly along a line parallel to the centerline of Ogeechee Road a distance of approximately 100 feet to a point, thence northerly along a line North 45 degrees 00 minutes West a distance of approximately 150 feet to a point, thence northerly along a line North 53 degrees 15 minutes West back to the point of beginning.

The property is further identified by Property Identification Number as follows:

P.I.N.: 1-0991-07-024

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2
DATE: February 18, 2005

**List of Purchasing Items between \$2,500 and \$9,999
 That Do Not Require Board Approval**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Software license and activation fees	Mosquito Control	ESRI, Inc. (sole source)	\$9,600	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
4,502gl jet fuel	Mosquito Control	Sommers Oil Company	\$7,176	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
One (1) Motorola XTL5000 radio for the helicopter	Mosquito Control	Motorola (sole source)	\$3,487	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Purchase and installation of commercial grade carpet	Public Defender	Savannah Floor Covering, Inc.	\$5,188	General Fund/M&O - Public Defender
Asbestos abatement at the Public Defender's office	Public Defender	Southern Tri	\$8,700	General Fund/M&O - Reserve for deductible
Various traffic material and supplies	Public Works	American Traffic and Safety	\$4,811	SSD - Public Works

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Miscellaneous electrical work for the modular unit	Public Works	Braddy Electric	\$5,975	SSD - Public Works
Asphalt leveling to President Street Extension at Richardson Creek	Public Works	Apex Property Maintenance	\$4,119	SSD - Public Works
One (1) CD rom server	ICS	Kintronics, Inc.	\$3,339	CIP - NetPlan 2000
Deed record book copy paper	Superior Court Clerk	Brown's River Bindery, Inc. (sole source)	\$5,600	General Fund/M&O - Superior Court Clerk
Purchase and installation of carpet for Judge's offices and Courtroom M	Magistrate Court	Moore's Floor Covering	\$4,969	General Fund/M&O - Magistrate Court
Replace three (3) metal doors	Detention Center	McCarthy, Inc.	\$3,234	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Tower inspection and structural analysis of 2875ft guyed structure located at Sheriff's complex	Sheriff	Four Se, Inc.	\$4,700	•General Fund/M&O - Sheriff - \$2,350 •General Fund/M&O - Detention Center - \$2,350
Wetland delineation and permitting for Old Highway 204	SPLOST	Sligh Environmental Consultants	\$5,500	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Professional fees
Demolition of County owned property at 1918 & 1920 Blue Jay Avenue	SPLOST	D & S, Inc. (MBE)	\$5,007	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Westlake Drainage
Asbestos testing of County owned property at 1912 & 1932 Blue Jay Avenue	SPLOST	Southern Tri (MBE)	\$3,000	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Westlake Drainage

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:43 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:28 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST BOARD CONSIDER MARKET ADJUSTMENT TO COUNTY ATTORNEY'S BUDGET.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a market adjustment to the County Attorney's budget to \$100.00 an hour. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Liakakis declared the meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2005

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK