

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 13, 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 9:35 a.m., Friday, May 13, 2005.

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II. INVOCATION

The Reverend Dr. R. Mark Giuliano, Montgomery Presbyterian Church, 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

ABSENT: David M. Gellatly, District Six

IN ATTENDANCE: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
 R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
 Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Gellatly is out of the country and will be back at our next meeting.

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Liakakis introduced the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Leslie Walker, a Senior at Bible Baptist , and Stephen Watson, a Junior at Ramona Riley School.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR DONNA CONYERS WHO IS RETIRING FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AFTER 25 YEARS.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a proclamation for Donna Conyers, who is retiring from the Assessor's office, to please come up to the podium, and Commissioner Farrell will present you with the proclamation. And we want you to know that we do appreciate your long years of service to the County; that you have done an outstanding job and we appreciate that and we want to share our appreciation with this commendation.

Commissioner Farrell said, congratulations. At this time I would like to present this proclamation to Donna Conyers:

WHEREAS, it is befitting to recognize loyal employees who have provided honored and dedicated service to the citizens of Chatham County, and in that regard we salute, with pride, Donna Conyers for her countless contributions; and

WHEREAS, Donna Conyers accepted a position with Chatham County Government as a clerk in the Tax Assessor's office on May 5, 1980. She was promoted to an Appraiser I in 1983 and worked her way up to an Appraiser IV. She was the manager of residential properties for several years and is currently the supervisor for commercial properties where she has provided consistent and valuable services; and

WHEREAS, from her early days in 1980, she has been a competent, industrious and highly reliable employee who goes about her work in a professional manner and achieves exceptional results with a minimum of direct supervision. In the performance of her duties, Ms. Conyers has demonstrated outstanding devotion, a high degree of accuracy and reliability; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has benefitted greatly by having high caliber employees such as Donna Conyers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby extend grateful appreciation to:

DONNA CONYERS

for twenty-five years of dedicated service to Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, healthy retirement so that she may continue to enjoy life and make significant contributions to her community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 13th day of May, 2005.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Ms. Conyers said, I thank you all. I'm very grateful for being able to serve the people of Chatham County for the last 25 years. It's been an honor to work for the people of Chatham County, and I just want to say one more thing. The lady that hired me in 1980, and I want to give honor to her, her name is Lucy Groover, and she said to me upon first coming in, she said make sure that the way that you treat one person in Chatham County you treat all others in that manner, and each day I went about doing the work for the people of Chatham County to make sure that everyone got treated with respect and got treated with honor, and it was an honor for me to work for you for these 25 years, and I say thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, we thank you and especially with that attitude because the people see that we care, that the County employees care about the citizens and when we give that kind of impression, it makes a big difference in our County. Chairman Liakakis recognized Ms. Sheryl Snider.

Ms. Snider said, it's been a pleasure to work with Donna [Conyers] all of these years. I'm going to miss her and the Board of Assessors are going to lose a tremendous employee. She has been a supporter and a helper and in all of the years that I've worked for the County and all week long I've been struggling with what I was going to say to her today, and I think from the bottom of my heart I'm going to miss her and am going to miss seeing her in the office every day. It's been a —, again, it's been a pleasure and I've enjoyed it and God speed. And this [lamp] is a token of the County's appreciation. Ms. Conyers said, thank you.

Mr. Larry Lower said, I'd like to add something. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself please. Mr. Lower said, I'm Larry Lower, Chairman of the Board of Assessors, and when I first came on the board which was about three years ago, they sent us off to school to learn a couple of things and when we came back Donna [Conyers] was in charge and has been in charge of exempt properties, and she educated the board very, very smartly how exempt properties were being exempt, and if there's one person that really is going to have an affect on the office, it's going to be Donna[Conyers]. When she came before the board with exempt properties, we pretty much were sure that what she was telling us was accurate and we could take it to the bank. Her departure is going to set us back. This is one employee when they walk out the door is going to be missed and we're really going to have to scramble to get someone to bring us up to speed that she's done on exempt properties, and I really appreciate what's she done for us and Chatham County and I'm glad that you're showing that appreciation. Thank you very much.

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2. COMMENDATION FOR MELODY NELSON ON HER MUSICAL TALENTS.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to call on Commissioner Harris Odell to do the next commendation. As he's headed to the podium, and we'd like to call on Melody Nelson to please come to the podium. A lot of people don't know, we've got a great group of County employees that give their services to our citizens, but quite a number of our employees also they do things in the community. They belong to charitable organization, civic organizations and all, and of course this morning Melody Nelson is being recognized because she has gone out of her way to help entertain and provide things for our citizens in the things that she does and we are recognizing her, and right now we have a commendation that Commissioner Odell is going to present.

Commissioner Odell said, congratulations. Commissioner Odell presented the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the extraordinary contributions of county employees deserve recognition because of their selfless commitment to better our community and to improve its quality of life beyond the working day of public service; and

WHEREAS, Melody Nelson, an accounting technician in the Finance Department, embodies this principle through her extraordinary talents as a singer and through her musical arrangements and production; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nelson volunteers her singing talents at many special events, such as the Opening Ceremony at the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, which national and state leaders attend with county commissioners throughout Georgia, the Employee Recognition Ceremony, many retirement ceremonies and on behalf of many civic, social and religious events throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, besides the commitment of time for these events, Mrs. Nelson also devotes countless hours for rehearsals and special musical arrangements in preparation to ensure the highest quality presentation of her talents in representing Chatham County.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, as Chairman, with the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby recognize Melody Nelson for her extraordinary contributions and talent as a singer and entertainer and acknowledge that as "Chatham County's Songbird," she not only represents the best qualities of county employees but also helps to make our community a better place to live and raise a family.

ADOPTED: THIS 13th DAY OF MAY, 2005.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman

Attest:

Sybil Tillman, Clerk

Commissioner Odell said, congratulations.

Ms. Nelson said, thank you very much. It is an honor, it has been a pleasure, and unfortunately I am not retired yet so if you will excuse me, I must get back to my desk.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Melody [Nelson], and we're glad you're working for us.

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3. PROCLAMATION FOR SANDFLY ORAL HISTORY DAY, MAY 21 (COMMISSIONER SHAY AND COMMISSIONER STONE).

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to call on two of our Commissioners, Commissioner Patrick Shay and Commissioner Helen Stone, to make this presentation, and I'd like the members of the Sandfly organization that are in the audience to come up to the podium please.

Commissioner Stone read the following proclamation into the record:

Whereas, as individuals, we find in our families a sense of identity, purpose, and security. A family is more than group of individuals related by blood, marriage or adoption—a family is a community of persons united by their love and commitment to one another; and

Whereas, it is through family life that our most cherished values and traditions are passed from one generation to the next. Through our experience as members of a family, we learn important lessons about and faith, duty and respect, personal responsibility and concern for others; and

Whereas, because those lessons are conveyed to the community at large and because the family gives us a model of human relationships after which all other social institutions are fashioned, the strength and integrity of the family are vital to our well-being as a community; and

Whereas, families are the basic building blocks of society and models for caring from birth through the aging years and provide life, love, unity and security; and

Whereas, families need and deserve recognition, encouragement and support for all the daily miracles that they perform; and

Whereas, each of our communities has the ability to empower and enhance family and potential; and

Whereas, as we reflect and celebrate our own Family on Sandfly's Oral History Day let us reaffirm our commitment as individuals as a community to establish policies and programs that support parents, children and all individuals.

Now therefore, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Commission, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2005, as

Sandfly's Oral History Day

in Chatham County, Georgia, and call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, and businesses to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and programs in appreciation of community families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed, this 13th day of May, 2005.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk of Commission

Commissioner Stone said, congratulations, and I will say that I have had the honor to work with Mr. Kemp over the last few years with the Sandfly Betterment Association, and what you all have done to preserve out there is remarkable, and it's what makes Chatham County and Savannah so special.

Mr. Herbert Kemp said, good morning. We thank you for this proclamation. It is a notification that Sandfly is vital, and Sandfly has the distinct privilege of having two County Commissioners at our disposal plus one City Councilman. So we thank you and we will grant you to come out partake with us on next Saturday and we are having for refreshments fried fish sandwiches and lemonade. Come out and join us.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We appreciate all that you're doing in the Sandfly area about the culture and the history because Sandfly is a very important part of our community and thank you to all of the residents who live there. Mr. Kemp said, thank you very much.

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RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Liakakis said, before I go to the next item, I'd like to recognize, I see we have our Deputy Chief Willie Lovett in the audience and, of course, Major Doug Burkhalter, who represent the Chatham-Savannah metropolitan police department. And, of course, I see that we have Terry Tolbert here, who is Deputy Director of the EOA, and of course Art Gunter, who is a community activist and has worked in many areas of our community, and we thank each and every one of you for coming this morning. And I see Judge Lewis, but I'll be calling on him and his assistant in just a moment. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I see the Sheriff out there. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, yeah, the Sheriff. He was hiding behind Ty Butler. I've got to recognize our illustrious Sheriff in the back, Al St. Lawrence, and of course Dan Massey, the Clerk of our Superior Court. Commissioner Thomas said, and, Mr. Chairman, you do have Jacqueline Elmore with, I believe, the Youth Futures. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, I'll be calling on Jacqueline [Elmore]. We've got an item with her also.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. RESOLUTION REGARDING RISING FUEL COSTS.

Chairman Liakakis said, number one, a resolution that I'm going to ask our Commission to approve. Hardeeville, South Carolina, has adopted a resolution on high rising fuel costs, and most of you know, everybody in the audience out here, about what it's costing you to operate your vehicle and, of course, what it's costing us, the County, who are your servants to provide the services for you, these high fuel costs. And, of course, the State of South Carolina, City of Hardeeville, has passed a resolution that is challenging this, and what we want the White House to know that we will also, if it so be it with our Commissioners, that we send a resolution to them also. What we see is as the cost factors go up on a barrel of crude oil, what happens it might go up 25 cents in that market, yet the big oil companies, what they do, they raise the prices of the gasoline even before they get that and that made gasoline out of the crude oil, and so this is something that, you know, is a big concern of our citizens. It has really affected our economy and prices are going up, so I'd like —, I'm going to ask our County Attorney to draw up a resolution, but I'd approval from that so I'd like a motion from the floor from the Commission.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion from the floor and a second to do a resolution to go to the White House about our high fuel costs. Everybody go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the County Attorney draft a resolution to be sent to the White House regarding the rising fuel cost and its effect on the economy and on the citizens of Chatham County. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in recent months there has been an extraordinary increase in the prices of energy in the United States, especially for gas and diesel fuel; and

WHEREAS, such increased energy costs harm the citizens of our cities, counties and states through increased living and working expenses, as well as adversely affecting costs of production; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of this Commission that containing the present rise in fuel prices is one of, if not the most important domestic issue Americans face in their daily

lives, and those of our companies struggling to compete in an evermore competitive international economy; and

WHEREAS, it is the believe of this non-partisan Commission that this problem will require our elected officials in the White House, House of Representatives and Senate to devise a non-partisan solution addressing both short and long term needs, and may include providing tax credits or deductions, increased per diem for travel, incentives for additional refining capacity, and many other strategies that are beyond the scope of this resolution or this Commission to propose;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, being lawfully and duly assembled, that our legislative member of the House and Senate, and the President and his Cabinet are urged to put aside any partisan differences and diligently address this dire problem in the coming months to avoid further hardship on our citizens, whether individual or corporate, by devising short term programs to provide relief, and a long term strategy to avoid this problem in the coming years.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this 13th day of May, 2005.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

By: _____
Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

Attest: _____
Sybil Tillman, Clerk
Chatham County Commission

[SEAL]

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2. EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION IN SAVANNAH COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK.

Chairman Liakakis said, I this is really good that we were recognized, but what I would like to do is ask Van Johnson to comment on this.

Mr. Van Johnson said, certainly. Good morning. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, we teach our Youth Commissioners that it's impossible and almost criminal to be in a community and not be a vital part of that, and certainly we cannot teach that if that's not something that we're doing and it's already been demonstrated this morning, Chatham County employees are very vital and very active participants in their community. Through our United Way, through our various community influences, you see Chatham County employees out there in the community making a difference, and the same holds true for blood drives. Chatham County hosts approximately six blood drives a year. Because of donation requirements it takes about every 52 days we can actually host a blood drive, but we have some employees that give every single time. Four of those blood drives are hosted by the American Red Cross and only in the last couple of years Chatham County entered into partnership with the Savannah Community Blood Bank, which gives blood to Memorial Medical Center. In this case, we have recently received an award for 2004 being the number one governmental unit for blood donations. Mind, you give there two times a year, and this is due to our employees absolutely, because of our employees, and we have some that are here today, and we certainly think it is worthy of recognition. So I would ask Shirley Creel, Richard Edgecombe and LeAnn Stephens to come up. All of our other employees are busy working. So if they're here, they come up, and certainly we just think it's important and obviously we're getting a recognition so others feel it's important as well. We want to recognize them and also —, I'll call the other names since they're not here: Cindy Barfield from Child Support Recovery; Allison Bailey from the District Attorney's office, Lynda Caldwell [District Attorney's office] and Shirley Creel's with the Tax Commissioner's office; Richard Edgecombe with ICS, Theresa Harrelson is with the Tax Commissioner's office, Jerrell McReel from Facilities Maintenance; Sarah Moorhead from the District Attorney's office; Laura Reed from the District Attorney's office; LeAnn Stephens is with the Tax Commissioner's office; and Kirk Thomas with the Engineering Department. Again, these are our top donors for the Savannah Community Blood Bank Drive for 2004.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. I see you don't want to comment on that, but you have commented when you have given blood for saving lives and our citizens that need to be healed in our community, and we're really proud of our 16-plus employees that Chatham County is providing services for our people, and it's really great, you know, that you're being recognized for this great contribution and the blood drive and ahead of a lot of other agencies. We thank you.

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3. GEORGIA REGIONAL YOUTH DIAGNOSTIC UNIT CLOSING.

Chairman Liakakis said, some of you have heard this from me before, but it is a big concern. I have talked to some more of the people out at the Georgia Regional and Atlanta, and they're giving the Atlanta, somewhat a rhetoric concerning how great it's going to be with this crisis intervention type of program that they're going to put in place, but unfortunately the youth and adolescents in our community, not only in Chatham County, but the other 23 counties that these services are provided for, are going to be in somewhat of a burden, especially the families. When they transport the children and adolescents to Milledgeville, those patients will not have the family support that they should have and a lot of them do not have the resources to go up there, and then they tell me again, oh, boy, this group homes are really going to be great. You know, at Georgia Regional they give intensive medical treatment to those children, adolescents and adults out there. They have made a difference, they have turned people's lives around, they have cured them, helped heal them, but what they're talking about, these group homes, they will only with these group homes have a visiting physician, maybe a full-time or a part-time nurse at those group homes. They just won't have the treatment. It's really a tragedy that a million almost 200,00 dollars was taken out and they're closing the Georgia Regional Adolescents and Children's Section there. And I know that members of this Commission and myself will continue to lobby so hopefully and prayerfully we can reopen that they can get the treatment because those that are less fortunate than us and don't have the resources to get that kind of treatment, we need to help them. We have an obligation to reach out and help people.

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Youth Commissioner Walker said, I have a question regarding the Georgia Regional Youth item —, Diagnostic Center closing. You said that some parents were not able to make the transportation back and forth from Milledgeville to see their kids. Will there be transportation provided for them to go see them?

Chairman Liakakis said, unfortunately, Leslie [Walker], there's no program that's set up through the County right now to transport them other than the children that are going to be put in Milledgeville. They'll be transported by the Sheriff's Department and sometimes it might take two of those deputies, costing the citizens an additional amount of money, and actually those deputies are going to have to be trained to do that transport because the young children some of them are suicidal, some of them are very violent, and it takes trained people to transport them, and so as I know right now there is no transportation available. We can look into that, Leslie [Walker], but of course that's a situation that really puts a burden on those families because some of the family members, too, have to work and you've got a lot of one-parent families and they don't have the resources to go up there or the time because they're trying to work to make a living to support their family and to send them all the way, you know, three or four hour trip to Milledgeville and then come back, it puts a heavy burden on them. Now some of the parents will be able to go up their, family members, but see that's one of the things that the State just has not really taken into consideration to separate them from their families and put them up in those kind of circumstances. But we're going to keep pushing on that and, you know, if we get other citizens to write letters and do communications, hopefully our legislators will be able to put that money in the supplemental budget to reopen that. We'll just have to keep working on it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I think [Youth] Commissioner Walker makes a very good point in that this will have a disproportionate burden on families that don't have private automobiles, for example. We have an awful lot of people in our community that depend on public transit in order to be able to move around and while they can get on public transit to make it to Georgia Regional, they can't get on public transit to make it to Milledgeville. So I think it's something that we maybe should ask our State Legislators to consider whether or not they would help these families with offsetting some of their transportation expenses if they don't have private automobiles, for example, or don't have access to, you know, the kind of transportation it takes to get up there and back.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to elaborate a little bit. To me, this is —, basically mental illness is the same as a physical illness and, once again, the State has failed us miserably. I mean, this is horrible. It's the same as closing Memorial and Candler and St. Joe's Hospitals. It's a definite illness and, you know, I would encourage everyone in the community to write letters, get involved, get angry, because when a mental illness strikes someone, it's just like a physical illness and people need help and they're taking the help away. I would like to actually see some numbers, if we can get them, of the amount of children that utilize this facility over the past, you know, I guess year to year for the last few years, and basically I believe what we're going to find is people aren't —, they won't have the resources to —, the children that are not necessarily, let's say, arrested for something, but when a parent in this area knows that the child needs help, they're not going to be able to get the kid to the facility in Milledgeville to find out what's going on, and, you know, I think it's horrible, and I'd like to see the numbers if we can somehow obtain them of how many children utilize this facility.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Dean [Kicklighter], I think it's monthly about 40 to 45 that our Sheriff will have to transport under the new system. The impact of this is that we have three very memorable Juvenile Court judges and they will make a determination that their needs to be a forensic —, psychological forensic on a particular youth that's before them. Now the diagnostic unit is at Georgia Regional. That unit will be moved to Milledgeville. The impact of that is devastating. I do not understand why the community is really not outraged. This is not a poor person's problem. This is a person with mental illness program and to close it and shift them to Milledgeville, and Milledgeville is consistently crowded. What happens if they're shifted to Milledgeville, and Al St. Lawrence will have to call to see if there

is room at the inn before they transport, but what happens is — and this will happen —, Milledgeville is crowded. They cannot accept. Believe it or not, in our jails we take all comers. We've got 1200 and some odd spaces. If we have to put 1500 people in it, you commit a crime, we'll do it. That's what jails are for. What happens with a child who has been diagnosed? This is not a attitudinal problem. This is not little Johnny's just a behavioral problem. This is where little Johnny has registered on a psychological Richter scale which says he needs to be in intensive treatment for a minimum of ten days. Our Sheriff transports them. There's no place for them at Milledgeville. We can't keep them at our jail. What do we do? Return them back to the community? Unfortunately, the State of Georgia in bolstering this savings of \$1.2 million, has literally abandoned children with traumatic psychological problems, and there needs to be an accountability for this action. There's no accountability. We have been told that there will be a system. There's no system in place, and for those in the general public who do not know, this is the third time the State has lied to us on something. And, yes, yes, that is very strong words, but they're true. A lie's a lie. If you make a statement and the statement is not true, that qualifies as a lie. They lied to us about Bamboo Farm. Now we're paying State employees. They lied to us about reimbursement for State inmates. Now we're paying for that. And now they tell us that the children who need psychiatric help that they're going to develop a system for, which there's no system in place, it's outrageous. Someone should be accountable for this. I mean, we have things that go on in this community that devastates, and this will be devastating. If you don't believe it, talk to any of the judges of Juvenile Court. Go to Juvenile Court, and talk to our Police Chief —, we don't have the Chief, we have the Deputy Chief, Mr. Lovett, the fastest growing area of crime is juvenile crime. To the members of the Board of Education, when you have that Teacher's Day, when you go in and correct papers and the kids stay at home, crime shoots up for that particular day. Now the kids with the greatest problem, we're abandoning them by closing this unit, and it is abandoning. Our Chairman has worked on it and will continue to work on it, and we'll continue to try to speak out about it, but we're not the ones with the money controlling this. This is State of Georgia, who has a surplus, and they elected not to use that surplus for children with psychological problems.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, does the Board of Education utilize this particular unit also when they have problems that they deem maybe mental illness or —? Commissioner Odell said, they have to go through Juvenile Court. If there was a substantial problem at the Board of Education with a behavioral problem, then my thought is that they would call the Board of Education sworn police, a report would be made and they would go through Juvenile Court. Most of the kids who are in this unit comes from our court system. I mean, or —, I see Judge Lewis back there. I'm not certain if they would do those committed hearings also —. They do not. He's shaking his head for the audience. He says 17. Ms. Kim Birge said, they have to be 17. Commissioner Odell said, okay, Kim [Birge]. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Stephen Watson.

Youth Commissioner Watson said, I had a question to the Georgia Regional closing. I wasn't here when y'all were talking about why it's closing, but what does Milledgeville have to offer that Savannah at Georgia Regional doesn't? Commissioner Kicklighter said, a savings of money for the State of Georgia. Youth Commissioner said, savings of money. But, I mean, it's savings of money, but doesn't a child's live mean more than just money? I mean —.

Chairman Liakakis said, that's absolutely correct, Stephen [Watson], because what they told me, the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, I had a conference call with them and their assistants when I was talking with them, and the Governor's assistant was on the line with us also, and they said, well, when we close down that unit we're going to save about \$600,000 because when we move them out of Georgia Regional and put them in a Crisis Intervention Program and group homes, we can get 60% of that money funded by the federal government through Medicare. So, you see, what they're trying to do, save \$600,000, what they are doing, as was mentioned, abandoning a really good program that gives excellent treatment to those patients out there because they want to do that savings. But if you look at the overall budget, \$17 trillion in there, you can see there's some nonessential items, and something like this is essential, you know, for the citizens of the State of Georgia. Youth Commissioner Watson asked, when you say group home, do you mean a person like when they get in trouble with the court, like a group home when they get —, from their parents, they go live in a group home, that type of group home or is it a different type? Chairman Liakakis said, well, the group home that's set up is for mental —, children that have mental problems and it's going to be on a medical basis as opposed to like a —, that they're going in there because they're being sentenced by the Juvenile [Court] to some type of group home or to the Juvenile Detention Center or somewhere else.

Commissioner Shay said, to tell you the truth nobody knows the answer to your question because these homes haven't been instituted. They're just words right now and the Regional wing is going to close —, was it the first of June or the first of July? Chairman Liakakis said, June 30th. Commissioner Shay said, within the next couple of months it's going to close. There's talk of group homes, whatever that might mean, but there's not actually —, these places don't exist yet, so nobody knows what they're going to be. Youth Commissioner Watson said, all right.

Commissioner Odell asked, can I make a recommendation, Mr. Chairman —? Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Commissioner Odell said, directed to Dr. Thomas, as our leader on the Youth Commission. These young people have asked excellent questions and it impacts their group —, age group. But they're asking the questions to the people who don't have the solutions. They're asking us the questions, but we have what's know as legislators and senators, and those are the people who should be asked this question because they have the privilege to vote on that budget. They have the privilege to line item that budget and even today the Governor can do a line item veto. The Governor can make an exception for this particular item and other items, and what the Chairman was saying was that you have life and death kinds of items in the budget that you've got to do and you have slush fund kind of item that benefits, you know, like we're going to give you X-amount of money in grants and you can go to a neighborhood association and buy somebody a piano or whatever. What I propose is that, Russ [Abolt], we give to all of our Youth

Commissioners the names and addresses of all of our State Representatives and our Senators. I mean, if you have concern, you should direct it to, I would hope, to those people who can answer them, and these are concerns.

Commissioner Thomas said, Commissioner Odell, we have Ashley Johnson, who's the President of the Chatham County Youth Commission, has expressed that, and these are some additional questions that have come forth, and we certainly will be following up on those. They are being addressed to the Governor, the State Representatives, the Senators, and whomever that we need to address them to.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, and I'd like to have each one of the Youth Commissioners to receive the addresses and e-mail of all of our Representatives and Senators so that they can enjoy this trauma that we are too. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. This is what we've been expressing.

Chairman Liakakis said, Stephen [Watson], the group homes do not exist now, but the information that I gave you is what I was told by the Commissioner for the Department of Human Resources about how those group homes would be, you know, operated. That 's the information that I have.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. Commissioner Kicklighter requested that the Commissioners be furnished with the number of children that have utilized the Georgia Regional Youth Diagnostic Unit on a year to year basis for the last few years. Commissioner Odell requested that the each member of the Youth Commission be furnished with the names and addresses of our State Representatives and Senators.

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4. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL YOUTH GROUPS.

Chairman Liakakis said, now I'd like to call on Jacqueline Elmore, who is the Executive Director from the Chatham-Savannah Youth [Futures] Authority to come forth with her students. She has brought a number of students to our County Commission meeting this morning, and she would like to do a presentation for us. And, Jacqueline [Elmore], thank you very much because the Youth Futures is making a difference in our County.

Ms. Jacqueline Elmore said, good morning. Prior to introducing the most important people with me today, the youth, I would like to perhaps just comment 10 seconds on the Commissioners' concern on the Georgia Regional CNA Unit. It is the top priority, one of the three top priorities for Youth Futures, along with the Juvenile Justice issue. We are inviting the regional director as well as the state director for behavioral health to Savannah to talk about the impact that that closing will have on children and youth in Chatham County. So we are very much in favor of making certain that the right advocacy takes place. My reason for being here today, however, is wearing a different hat. The Youth Futures Authority supports Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in working with a group of middle school students who are being trained to become leaders in the 21st Century. I'm going to defer to the President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to talk a little bit about it and probably these young women, who were able to come out of school because their 12 counterparts are taking tests this morning.

Ms. Donna Brooks said, good morning, County Commissioners and in particular to Chairman Liakakis. Delta Sigma Theta is a public service sorority and to that end we support the education of our youth. We are especially committed to educating young ladies in our community. We have three mentoring groups here in the City, one is Delta's Delight In Reading, which is at Hodge Elementary School. We also have a group called Teen Lift, which works with high school young ladies, and the group you see before you today is what we refer to as our Delta Academy, and these are young ladies in the middle grades, and we are delighted to have them with our. We are working towards training group leaders, and of course none of us will be here forever and so we want to make sure that we leave our City and our country in good hands, and so this month is for them Good Citizenship Month, and so what better way to have them understand how government works better than bringing them here to witness this event with you all. So I'm going to let one of their spokespersons talk to you. And, again, on behalf of Delta Sigma Theta, we want to thank you for the opportunity to spotlight some of the activities we do here in the community.

Miss Ariel Ford said, good morning. My name is Ariel Ford. I'm an eighth grade student at DeRenne Middle School, and I'm a member of the Delta Academy and I would like to thank you for having us here this morning and tell you that this program is very fun and educational.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, thank you very much. We do appreciate all of you coming this morning and you seeing the operation because some day maybe one of you or more than one will be sitting up here at this area of the Commissioners because it's important that our young people get involved in thing in our community and especially see how the operation of the government is and to participate because if you do that and keep your —, keep in the right direction, then you will be successful in later life.

Commissioner Thomas said, I'd like to commend the advisor, the director and also the young people. I'm very familiar and I'm sure most of you are as well of the Youth Futures Authority, which started in this community some years ago. I was a part of that movement when I believe Dr. Otis Johnson was the director at that time. Since that time Ms. Elmore has taken the reins and she has really moved forward with this program. The County used to help fund this

program, but we no longer do that, and I want to point out the fact that had it not been for the Youth Authority, this community would have been in a much worse shape than we are today in terms of crime and some other things because they take an active role in helping shape young minds and keeping them out of the streets and so forth and so on, and they're also helping to monitor their academic progress and so forth, similar to what Summer Bonanza does, and I just want to applaud them. Don't give up, keep on moving forward, and keep up the good work. Ms. Ford said, thank you. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, what you young ladies are doing also, encourage your friends and all to come on board with you and join the program. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you now.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

At this point on the agenda, discussion was returned to Item VI-3, Georgia Regional Youth Diagnostic Unit closing.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS (continued)

5. FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL'S BUDGET REQUEST (WAYNE DAWSON).

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll ask Wayne Dawson to please come to the podium

Mr. Wayne Dawson said, good morning. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, the Fair Housing Council is coming forth today to request leverage funding so that we can apply for a Federal grant, and I'm pleased to be here with you today. For the record, I'm Wayne Dawson. I'm the Executive Director of the Savannah-Chatham County Fair Housing Council, and I'm pleased to have with me today our Board President, Mr. Terry Tolbert, and I'll turn it over to him.

Mr. Terry Tolbert said, thank you. Good morning. Thank you for having me, and I just want to make a comment on the issue that you talked about. The EOA in my paid position, we work with a lot of individuals who have mental illness. We actually manage money for roughly 200 people and half of those have mental illnesses and some of those are children, and I will tell you in this community based on our experience over the last four years, even with the services that are available, it's still not enough service to provide to those kinds in this community. Many of those children grow up to be adults and some of those kids who didn't get adequate treatment are now in the criminal justice system. And so it behooves this community to speak out to inform our legislators that it's important that we provide adequate mental health treatment for all the citizens in this community. And I'll tell you, some of the kids, some of the people that we've worked with, one of the guys went into a bank with a note and said he wanted his money. Well, the money that was in the bank was money that we had in the bank that was his money, and they put him in jail for 15 years. So that's the kind of thing that we're dealing with in this community that we don't have adequate mental health treatment even with the facilities that's available in this community today, and if you're poor it's even more so. If you're going to send kids, if you're going to send the parents up to Milledgeville, they don't have money to go to Milledgeville with transportation, even if they had the money to go. So just on that note I wanted —, it was getting to me while I was sitting there and I needed to respond to that.

Mr. Tolbert said, now with regard to our request to you today. First, I want to thank you for allowing us today to be here and thank you, Pete Liakakis, because you have supported us over the years when you were on City Council, so we want to thank you for that. The Fair Housing Council's been in the community for over ten years and most of our funding comes from —, our matching funding comes from the City of Savannah. We serve all of Chatham County and generally sometimes outside of the County. Segregated housing actually started during the slavery times and continually to —, I wish I could say that it doesn't exist, but it does exist in this community, and housing discrimination still exists in this community. The federal government, however, sometimes in the late 30's actually was a big proponent, and can cause many of desegregated communities all across this country. There's a real cost to segregation. Schools spend millions of dollars annually to deal with segregation. Our segregated schools are the result of our segregated housing patterns. There's a real value to being able to understand and relate to people who are different than ourselves, whether these people are another race, color, religion or disability. Segregation just does not occur. It is caused by lack of choice. Some might say that everyone chooses where they live, but there is no real or equal choice when African-Americans or families with children are only told by some that the units are available. The City currently provides us with \$38,000 annually. The Council diversifies its funding by getting money for the City from private grants, from the United Way, from a private foundation and applying for federal grants. The reason we're here today to request a portion of the local funding, which will increase our chance of securing \$100,000 in federal grants is that we have to show that we have local support. Certainly, we have ever, I think at least one time I think we did get some support from the County. We must show a matching local share in order to maximize our chances. We're requesting half of local match from the County which we serve. We're asking today if it's possible for us to receive \$15,000 in general revenue funds. In conclusion, housing discrimination has a real cost that can be lessened by committing local funding or it will be paid by our lack of ability to get along with one another, increasing more requests. Acknowledge —, we'd like to acknowledge again Pete Liakakis for his contribution in the past as a City Councilperson. Thank you so much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. To comment on that, we know that because of the Fair Housing Council since they've been in operation, it has helped many families to secure housing because there was some situations that went on that sometimes the landlords or the owners of the particular areas were not familiar and then some of them, not only with that, they just didn't want to comply with the federal regulations. So because —, I know there's a number of cases that the Fair Housing Council has helped. Now one thing that I'd like to tell you that we've got a real tight budget. As you know, that we are operating on a month to month basis because of our five to six million dollar shortfall that was put in there that revenue that was not available at the time when that budget was adopted, but we have talked —, I have talked to the County Manager and there —, there is some lead way, but what we'd have to do is if we were, you know, if we do appropriate that money, it would be on the condition that the City of Savannah would match that, you know, so that we're, you know, we can work that out. And that —, what's the possibility of that? Mr. Tolbert said, well, the City has actually committed already \$38,000. Chairman Liakakis asked, oh, they have? Mr. Tolbert said, yes, and we anticipate —. Chairman Liakakis said, well, if you do have a commitment from the City then, what we'll do —, Mr. County Manager —.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity. A simple motion to draw down SSD Contingency in the amount of \$15,000 would accomplish it.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make the motion. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like discussion. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think it's a worthy cause. I think you do a great job, I just want to warn, or if not, whatever, let the Commission know that you open the door on this, you're going to have to vote for the Rape Crisis Center when they come in front of you, another worthy nonprofit organization. You're going to have the nonprofits protecting the blind up here. We need to give them money. You're going to have to —, there's so many worthy nonprofit organizations out there, and when I came into office you think y'all just walked into something bad with a \$5,000,000 deficit, I walked in in 2000 and faced a \$12,000,000 deficit. We were the bad guys. We did what we had to do to not raise taxes. We stopped the money going out from our operating budgets going out to nonprofits. What in turn we tried to do, because we realize that they're great organizations and worthy, we decided that we would put —, gather requests before we voted in the Special —, the SPLOST. We used sales tax money to help the nonprofits throughout Chatham County by improving their infrastructure and capital projects rather than take the money out, because I'm here to tell you, wonderful group of people working hard for people, but when someone walks up here, and they're going to do it and I would do it if I was in a nonprofit, once this door is opened today, they're going to come up here, blind with their cane, and they need money and it's a hard thing to look. We took that hit back then to not raise the taxes. It was a terrible hard thing to do, but they're going to come up here definitely needing more money, more funds. Wayne [Dawson], I see you smiling. You remember all of this. You were here watching all of this. It was terrible. It was a hard thing to do and I'm just saying this door when it's opened today, be prepared because it's going to me in my opinion your responsibility that votes for this today to vote to give it to every nonprofit that comes up here that you deem worthy. And, believe me, there's a lot of worthy nonprofits in this County. That's all I have to say.

Chairman Liakakis said, and they do a great job, the nonprofits in our community, and they help because government can't do everything, we can't fund everything, but what occurred is the staff looked at it and found there was a little bit of money available, and because of this situation where they want to get the \$100,000 matching fund from the government, that this will give them the ability to give that money so they can provide these services. It's not just financing that organization. It's a matter —. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone asked, Mr. County Manager, did you say this came out of the SSD Contingency, so this is coming out of the reserves? County Manager Abolt said, well, the reserves in this case you can use contingency for this type of use. Because of the match from the City of Savannah, it's very appropriate to draw down on your SSD Contingency, which currently you have \$55,320.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, Dean [Kicklighter], I hear what you're saying. I approve what you're saying, but why don't we take the lead of our Manager. If he said that the money is there and we can pull it, then we should honor his lead. I don't think if someone comes before us and requests something and if it's not there, we can't give it, and we would have to honor where it's coming from, and he just stated where it's coming from, so I'm in tune with what the request is for and not deny it is not opening up some doors for some other nonprofit.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. May I same one on that? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, how much money's in reserves in the SSD budget? County Manager Abolt said, you have a Contingency of \$55,320. Commissioner Kicklighter said, \$55,320. How much money is in our reserves in the SSD budget? County Manager Abolt said, if I'm interpreting your comment as reserves meaning —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, savings put aside and set up for a rainy day. County Manager Abolt said, in our rainy day, I'll use that as synonymous with fund balance. Commissioner Kicklighter said, fund balance. County Manager Abolt said, as you know, we have well over two months of reserves in fund balance. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what's that? How much money approximately? County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to Linda [Cramer]. Ms. Cramer, can you respond? Ms. Cramer said, I think we have over \$3,000,000. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, over \$3,000,000? Okay. We have \$3,000,000 in savings when the other worthy people come forward that can be and probably should be given out if we open this door today. Again, your organization's wonderful. You deem it necessary to do this and

to respond to what the Chairman said, this is a one time offering, I imagine we have many, many, many sharp leaders of all of the nonprofits that can seek a grant like that [snap] that they need matching funds to improve they're a nonprofit organization. I know if I were in charge of one and I was watching this live, I'd be on the computer right now searching a matching grant to improve my nonprofit. So they will be here in front of us. So again, that's just, you know, it's your choice. I'm just warning of what will happen and what I believe you'll be obligated to do once you support this because, again, we have many worthy nonprofits in the area.

Commissioner Odell asked, I haven't spoken on this. Can I speak? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, I understand what you're saying, Dean [Kicklighter], but I live in a world in which majority rules. I'll support the allocation. If a thousand agencies come before us and there's a need, then we evaluate each one of them. I don't believe that we can set the bar. I have long since believed that it is a mistake to try to say that this County without ever in the history of this County can go without raising taxes. It's never been done in any other county. In America we have to evaluate the situation based on circumstances. I'm willing to do that. I call for the question and call for the vote.

Chairman Liakakis said, a motion's on the floor to make the —, a budget request of \$15,000 to the Fair Housing Council. Everybody go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Stone and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion carries.

Mr. Tolbert said, thank you. Mr. Dawson said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the County give \$15,000 from SSD Contingency to the Fair Housing Council as matching funds to obtain a \$100,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Stone and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY, TRUANCY AND GANG ISSUES (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

I call on Vice Chairman Dr. Priscilla Thomas to speak on that, youth and community safety.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission and ladies and gentlemen. I will be very brief. The purpose of putting this item on the agenda is the fact that we already know that the Mayor and City Council have called for action from the community in support of these various problems that are affecting our community. I would like to know what are we doing as a Commissioner as well as those of us who are in the County because there's a great impact, negative impact from the areas of truancy and gang related issues also stemming from drug activities. This concerns me greatly because I get a lot of phone calls from especially senior citizens who are being held hostage in their homes because they cannot come out because of these gang related activities that are being held outside of their homes or in front of their homes. Something has to be done. Even though when we call the policemen, and I give them all the credit in the world, they respond immediately; however, it's a continuing thing. People are afraid to call the police department because there have been times when their names are repeated to the criminals that they have had a call from such and such a one living at such and such an address. So people are afraid to make those calls. They also have stated to me that once they make the call, they didn't feel that they need to be calling every day, that there needs to be a follow-up at some point in time. That's a problem in my district. I don't know about other districts, but I know it is a big one in mine.

Commissioner Thomas said, I'd like to also inform you that the Chatham County Youth Commission has held —, participated in the Mayor's call for action, public hearings, and we have also followed up on those things and we are having workshops with other youth in the community trying to resolve some of those problems. Another program that is also a part of Chatham County is the Summer Bonanza Program Partnership, Inc., which comprises of more than 225 children, and we are trying to work with those children as well as parents to deal with the issues. I applaud the Chatham County Youth Commission for having dialogue with Colonel Bowen, who is the Interim Superintendent of the Board of Education on these very same issues. So we are addressing from the youth department from the County what I would like to see, Mr. Manager, is the fact that I don't know if we have anything in place to address these different issues at the County level. If so, I'd like to know what they are so that we can move forward. And then finally a plea to the police department, please when we make these calls please inform the officers do not identify those persons who are making the calls into wherever they need to go because that's why they don't make the calls because they are afraid that their names are going to be called, and you know what happens when they are identified, and so, therefore, they remain prisoners in their homes. We had a big situation last night on Lissner, Burke and Morin Avenues specifically and the policemen were out there in great numbers and I've gotten about 10 or 12 calls one after the other, and this has been ongoing and we have a lot of drug activities in those areas. So I'm calling and asking

for help and also asking the other Commissioners to take the lead because I'm sure there are things that are going on in your communities in your district as well. Let's deal with this as a composite body, let it be known that it is unacceptable and that we are taking a stand as well.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Ms. Stone, gentlemen, on point, as Commissioner Thomas said, the solution is unity. Two weeks ago I had the privilege of meeting with Superintendent Bowen. Michael Brown was also present. I encouraged and Superintendent Bowen in a matter of a few weeks we'll be coming with an initiative on truancy of which you might imagine the County not only will support, but hopefully we'll look to play an active role in it. As you know also, Chief Lovett is here today, but I want to acknowledge that Chief Flynn wished to be here today to make a presentation, but could not be here. The man is in tune to exactly what you're saying. The specifics that were brought up in the pre-meeting I will document extensively to the Chief today in written form. We will follow up on each to them and then in the days ahead you're going to have the opportunity in your budget session to go into great detail. Part of the budgeting is also putting priorities. Commissioner Thomas asked, exactly. County Manager Abolt said, it isn't just saying, well, we'll do this. You're going to do it with purpose and you're going to do it with expectations. So I will communicate to the Chief and he'll be prepared at those budget sessions to not only listen, but also come up with specific goals addressing each of these issues. Commissioner Thomas said, dealing with preventive types of things because —. County Manager Abolt said, yes ma'am.

Chairman Liakakis said, and we have Deputy Chief Lovett in the back and Major Burkhalter and both of them heard the concerns this morning in addition to what the County Manager will be going over and we'll be discussing these things at our budget hearing for the departments and especially the Police Department. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to commend the Vice Chairman, Dr. Thomas, for bringing this to the attention of the rest of the Commissioners. It's a big problem. Commissioner Thomas said, it's a big problem. Commissioner Shay said, we have in our community a small group, but a very prolific group of sociopathic teens and they are terrorizing older people and those who are unable to protect themselves, and I have first-hand knowledge of it. I have spoken with people. I was in a neighborhood in my district one night and spoke with an elderly woman on her front porch and we talked about it for a period of time and it began to become dark. It was on a Friday evening, and she said to me, this was an elderly woman, "You need to go on home now because it's not safe to be in this neighborhood after dark." And I thought at first, well, that was very compassionate of her and then I thought, well, that was also a pretty amazing statement from an elderly woman as I headed back to my car to go back to my neighborhood. It is a big problem. There are things that we're working on to try and assist the Juvenile Courts with alternatives. A lot of these young people are looking for some reason why they should continue to attend school, but it goes beyond the responsibility of individuals. All of these children have parents. Their parents clearly aren't watching out for what they're doing at night. We have laws, a curfew, that are not being enforced, and I know the police officers are very frustrated by this because if they pick up a youth at two o'clock in the morning on Friday, I guess Saturday morning, there's really no place for them to take these youth. Our Youth Detention Center is full. There's no place —, they can't take them home because their parents aren't home, their parents are out doing something, so it's a big problem and we are going to have to all work together to look at across the board solutions. It's going to take the School Board, it's going to take the County Commission. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Commissioner Shay said, I commend you, it takes the Youth Commission, it's going to take all of us and we're going to have to really focus a lot of energy and effort on these problems because we're losing our neighborhoods to these kids and that doesn't mean that every kid on every street corner is a bad one. There are a lot of good kids that are on street corners in the evenings because they haven't got anything better to do, but the ones that are sociopaths are basically getting away with it. When the State says we're not going to provide the funding for the juvenile centers so that they can be sentenced, when the State says we're going to close down the health facilities, the mental health facilities so they can be evaluated to see whether or not they need that kind of treatment, what it means is that we're what's left. This is the only government that's left to address these situations and that's going to take resources and that's going to make for some tough choices ahead. But we're on it and I think we need to help our District Attorney, for example, to understand that if there's a law on the books that says that there's a curfew law and a parental responsibility law, then we need to go ahead and start enforcing those and go ahead and prosecute the people that don't pay attention to it because otherwise the message is, hey, it's all right, go ahead and just break the law, don't worry about it. There are a lot of people in the neighborhoods that are very, very upset about this and some that live, as you say, too many that live in fear and terror of their own neighborhoods.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I would just like to also put a plea out to the parents and, I mean, you know, these children are the responsibility of someone, and we can put all the laws on the books and have as many police officers on the streets, but what it really comes down to it's part of our responsibility as parents. I want to send that plea out and I want to thank Dr. Thomas. It's very important to me that when people have children, this is a responsibility and to take it very seriously.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas requested that the County take a more active role in the problem of youth and community safety truancy and gang related issues. County Manager Abolt will communicate with the Chief of Police and request that he come up with specific goals addressing these issues.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do now, change a little bit on the agenda if you'll make a motion, I'd like to go to, instead of proceeding how it's made out in the agenda right now, a motion on the floor to go to Item IX under Individual Action for Item 6 there. We have Judge Lewis, who's in the office with Kim [Birge], his assistant, that he has to get back to the court, and what I'd like to do is go to that Item 6 because his is part of that request for additional employment.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, at this time I would make a motion to complete the Commission's portion of the agenda before going to the CAT agenda, starting with number six under Items for Individual Action. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor. Do we have a second? Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second. Go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Gellatly were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

[NOTE: At this point, Item IX-6 was heard and the Commission's portion of the agenda was completed prior to recessing to convene the Chatham Area Transit Authority.]

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Upon motion made by Commissioner Odell, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved, the Board recessed as the County Commission at 11:25 a.m., and convened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

Upon adjournment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the Board reconvened at 12:30 p.m., as the County Commission.

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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 (*).

None.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET TO RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$60,000 FROM PROBATE COURT FEES, AND APPROPRIATE \$60,000 FOR THE PROBATE COURT FILING FEES RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, AND \$21,000 IN REIMBURSEMENT FOR UTILITIES AT THE TYBEE PIER AND PAVILION AND APPROPRIATE \$21,000 FOR UTILITIES; GENERAL FUND M&O CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF: \$45,000 TO INDIGENT HEALTH CARE, \$5,000 TO THE TYBEE PIER AND PAVILION, AND \$50,000 TO THE POOL FOR TEMPORARY HELP; A TRANSFER OF \$15,000 WITHIN THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET FROM SALARIES AND WAGES TO VARIOUS LINE ITEMS; A TRANSFER OF \$250,000 FROM RESERVE FOR OTHER PROJECTS TO THE SEAWRIGHT DRIVE CONNECTOR PROJECT IN THE 2003-2008 SALES TAX IV FUND; AN APPROPRIATION OF \$800,000 FOR DUNDEE CANAL WITHIN THE VARIOUS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN THE 2003-2008 SALES TAX IV FUND; AND A SPECIAL**

SERVICE DISTRICT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$27,000 TO THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT; AND A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$15,000 FOR REPAIRS AT L. SCOTT STELL PARK.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second. All in favor of Item 1, go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the item passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the following: Amendments to the General Fund M&O budget to recognize additional revenue of \$60,000 from Probate Court fees, and appropriate \$60,000 for the Probate Court Filing Fees restricted expenditure account, and \$21,000 in reimbursement for utilities at the Tybee Pier and Pavilion and appropriate \$21,000 for utilities; General Fund M&O contingency transfers of: \$45,000 to Indigent Health Care, \$5,000 to the Tybee Pier and Pavilion, and \$50,000 to the Pool for Temporary Help; a transfer of \$15,000 within the Human Resources Departmental budget from Salaries and Wages to various line items; a transfer of \$250,000 from Reserve for Other Projects to the Seawright Drive Connector project in the 2003-2008 Sales Tax IV fund; an appropriation of \$800,000 for Dundee Canal within the Various Drainage Improvements project in the 2003-2008 Sales Tax IV fund; and a Special Service District contingency transfer of \$27,000 to the Traffic Lights expenditure account; and a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contingency transfer of \$15,000 for repairs at L. Scott Stell Park. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

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

ISSUE:

To request approval of amendments to the General Fund M&O budget to recognize additional revenue of \$60,000 from Probate Court fees, and appropriate \$60,000 for the Probate Court Filing Fees restricted expenditure account, and \$21,000 in reimbursement for utilities at the Tybee Pier and Pavilion and appropriate \$21,000 for utilities; General Fund M&O contingency transfers of: \$45,000 to Indigent Health Care, \$5,000 to the Tybee Pier and Pavilion, and \$50,000 to the Pool for Temporary Help; a transfer of \$15,000 within the Human Resources Departmental budget from Salaries and Wages to various line items; a transfer of \$250,000 from Reserve for Other Projects to the Seawright Drive Connector project in the 2003-2008 Sales Tax IV fund; an appropriation of \$800,000 for Dundee Canal within the Various Drainage Improvements project in the 2003-2008 Sales Tax IV fund; a Special Service District contingency transfer of \$27,000 to the Traffic Lights expenditure account; and a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contingency transfer of \$15,000 for repairs at L. Scott Stell Park.

BACKGROUND:

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) The Probate Court collects filing fees on certain proceedings that are disbursed to various parties. These transactions are budgeted in offsetting revenue and expenditure accounts in the General Fund M&O. Collections for the current year have exceeded original estimates. A budget amendment to account for the additional revenue and disbursements has been prepared. A copy of correspondence from the third quarter review is attached.
- (2) Expenditures for Indigent Health Care are above original estimates. A contingency transfer of \$45,000 is requested. A copy of correspondence from the third quarter review is attached.
- (3) The contract for operation of the Tybee Pier and Pavilion provides that the vendor will reimburse Chatham County for utilities expenses. A budget amendment to recognize the revenue and expense has been prepared. The annual estimate is \$21,000. The contract also provides that Chatham County is responsible for certain repair and maintenance expenses. Expenditures have exceeded original estimates. A contingency transfer of \$5,000 is requested. A copy of correspondence from the third quarter review is attached.

- (4) The Pool for Temporary Help has experienced usage that exceeds the budgeted expectations. A contingency transfer of \$50,000 will cover the expenditures to date.
- (5) The Human Resources Director has requested a transfer of \$15,000 within the department's budget from Salaries and Wages to various operating line items. A memo is attached.
- (6) The County Engineer has requested a transfer of \$250,000 from Reserve for Other Projects to the Seawright Drive Connector project in the 2003-2008 Sales Tax IV fund. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- (7) The County Engineer has requested an appropriation of \$800,000 for Dundee Canal within the Various Drainage Improvements project in the 2003-2008 Sales Tax IV fund.
- (8) The Traffic Lights expenditure account in the Special Service District will require additional funding for the current year due to rising utility costs. A contingency transfer of \$27,000 is requested.
- (9) The restroom facilities at L. Scott Stell Park are in need of repair. A transfer of \$15,000 from the CIP M&O contingency is required to fund the repairs.

FUNDING:

The budget amendment will establish funding in the General Fund M&O for Fact & Findings numbers 1 and 3. Funds are available in the General Fund M&O contingency, the Human Resources budget, the Sales Tax IV fund, Special Service District contingency and CIP contingency for the transfers.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- a) a budget amendment to recognize additional revenue of \$60,000 from Probate Court fees, and appropriate \$60,000 for the Probate Court Filing Fees restricted expenditure account,
- b) a budget amendment to recognize additional revenue of \$21,000 in reimbursement for utilities at the Tybee Pier and Pavilion and appropriate \$21,000 for utilities,
- c) a contingency transfer of \$45,000 to Indigent Health Care,
- d) a contingency transfer of \$5,000 to the Tybee Pier and Pavilion,
- e) a contingency transfer of \$50,000 to the Pool for Temporary Help,
- f) a transfer of \$15,000 within the Human Resources departmental budget from Salaries and Wages to various operating line items.

SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX 2003-2008

- a) a transfer of \$250,000 from Reserve for Other Projects to the Seawright Drive Connector project,
- b) an appropriation of \$800,000 for Dundee Canal within the Various Drainage Improvements project.

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

a contingency transfer of \$27,000 to the Traffic Lights expenditure account.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FUND

a contingency transfer of \$15,000 for repairs at L. Scott Stell Park.

- 2) Amend or deny the 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 Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE PROPOSED FEE INCREASES FOR THE PARKING GARAGE, TYBEE PIER/PAVILION, AQUATICS CENTER, MAGISTRATE COURT, BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES, AND WATER AND SEWER EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005; INCREASES IN EMPLOYEE AND RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2005; AND TO CITE RELEVANT STATE CODE SECTIONS AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTION OF HOTEL/MOTEL TAX IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIR'S "RULES GOVERNING HOTEL/MOTEL TAX REPORTING REQUIREMENTS."

Chairman Liakakis said, on this each of the Commissioners you received information in your packet about the increase in these particular fees that are needed to operate this facility. Do we have a motion on the floor?

Commissioner Stone said, so moved. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second. Everybody go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.] Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Agenda Item IX-2
Date: May 13, 2005

DATE: May 5, 2005
TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE:
 To request proposed fee increases for the Parking Garage, Tybee Pier/Pavilion, Aquatics Center, Magistrate Court, Building Safety and Regulatory Services, and Water and Sewer effective July 1, 2005; to request increases in employee and retiree health insurance premiums effective September 1, 2005; and to cite relevant state code sections authorizing the collection of hotel/motel tax in accordance with the Department of Community Affairs' "rules governing hotel/motel tax reporting requirements".

BACKGROUND:
 Board approval is required to make any changes to fees and to the revenue ordinance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:
 1. Parking in the Oglethorpe parking lot may cease as of June 30, 2005 due to the conveyance of this property to C.A.T. in association with a grant match for the transfer station. Funding of the parking garage's operation will require the following fee increases, effective 7/1/05:

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Reserved Public	\$70.00	\$80.00
Reserved County Employee	\$45.00	\$55.00
Non-reserved Public	\$55.00	\$65.00
Non-reserved County Employee	\$32.50	\$37.00

2. Proposed changes to the rental rates for the Tybee Pier/Pavilion are as follows, effective 7/1/05:

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Five hours or less	\$500.00	\$500.00
Over five hours	\$700.00	\$100.00 per hour

3. The Aquatics Center has not raised fees since July 1, 2002 and requests the following increases effective 7/1/05:

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Birthday Parties	\$40.00	\$45.00
Lane Rentals	Varies	\$ 0.25 per lane per hour increase

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
<u>Daily Admission</u>		
Adult	\$ 4.00	\$ 5.00
Child	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00
Senior/Military/College	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.00
Out of Town	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
<u>Swim Punch Card</u>		
Adult 10 Swims	\$36 .00	\$40.00
Adult 20 Swims	\$72.00	\$80.00
Children 10 Swims	\$18.00	\$24.00
Children 20 Swims	\$36.00	\$48.00
Senior/Military/College 10 Swims	\$27.00	\$32.00
Senior/Military/College 20 Swims	\$54.00	\$64.00

Special Events – increase by 10%

Examples:

Entire Facility per day	\$1,000.00*	\$1,100.00*
50 Meter Pool per day	\$ 800.00*	\$ 880.00*

*plus lifeguards. Rate is per day if facility is closed to public. 4 hours or less pro-rated to ½ day.

Water Aerobics

12 Classes 55 & older	\$30.00	\$36.00
12 Classes 54 & younger	\$40.00	\$48.00

Children are ages 3-12; children 2 and under remain free.

4. The Magistrate Court is proposing an increase from \$67.50 to \$68.50 to its filing fee effective 7/1/05.
5. The Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund is an enterprise fund and as such should be self sustaining. The following fee increases are proposed effective 7/1/05:

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
<u>Construction Valuation:</u>		
Residential	\$45.00 /sq .ft.	\$ 80.00/sq.ft.
Commercial	\$45.00 /sq.ft.	\$100.00/sq.ft.
<u>Permit Fee Rates:</u>		
Residential	\$ 2.00 /thousand	\$ 4.00/thousand
Commercial	\$ 4.00 /thousand	\$ 6.00/thousand

6. The Water and Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund and has a proposed long-range capital improvement plan for system improvements. In order to fund operations as well as meet the needs identified within the plan, the following rate increases are proposed effective 7/1/05:

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Base Water Rate	\$ 23.86	\$ 24.58
Base Sewer Rate	\$ 24.92	\$ 27.41
Flat Rate Sewer Only	\$ 53.80	\$ 59.18
Water Tap-in	\$ 225.00	\$ 247.50
Sewer Tap-in	\$ 225.00	\$ 247.50
Tap-in Runaway Point	\$ 700.00	\$ 770.00
Tap-in Hunter's Ridge	\$1,125.00	\$1,237.50
Deposit Water Only	\$ 38.50	\$ 42.35
Deposit Water & Sewer	\$ 95.00	\$ 104.50
Deposit Sewer Only	\$ 57.00	\$ 62.70
Water per unit usage (20 units)	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.33
Water per unit usage over 20 units	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.48
Sewer per unit usage (20 units)	\$ 1.17	\$ 1.29
Sewer per unit usage over 20 units	\$ 1.49	\$ 1.64
Rice Mill Capital Repayment Charge	\$1,250.00	\$1,600.00

- 7. Rising health care claim costs will lead to increased medical expenses for the County in fiscal 2006. Although the County will fund most of the increase, a portion will be passed on to the employees and retirees as follows, effective 9/1/05:

	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Biweekly Premiums		
Employee	\$ 13.85	\$ 17.31
Family	\$ 47.86	\$ 59.83
Monthly Premiums		
Employee	\$ 30.00	\$ 37.51
Family	\$103.70	\$129.63
Under 65:		
Retiree	\$ 18.00	\$ 22.50
Family	\$ 46.50	\$ 58.13
Over 65:		
Retiree	\$ 34.93	no change
Family	\$ 98.92	no change

- 8. In addition to these fee increases, Finance is reviewing the potential assessment of a mixed drink excise tax to generate revenue for the Special Service District. Authorized by O.C.G.A. 3-4-131, such a tax would allow the County to collect a 3% tax on the retail sale of distilled spirits. The County has identified 45 “pouring” establishments in the Special Service District. Further information on this tax will be provided to the Board following more due diligence by staff.
- 9. The Department of Community Affairs’ “rules governing the hotel/motel tax reporting requirements” calls for the incorporation of language to cite the appropriate paragraph in O.C.G.A. authorizing the County to collect the tax. Due to the DCA’s timeline for submission of July 1, 2005, this modification is being presented prior to the reading of the 2005 Revenue Ordinance, which will be published after the adoption of the 2006 fiscal year budget. The County Code will also be modified at that time to incorporate reference to O.C.G.A. 48-13-51 (a) 3.3.

The amended language follows:

Article F. Hotel / Motel Tax

Section 1 Levy of Tax

Pursuant to O.C.G.A., 48-13-51 (a) 3.3 (as amended in 1987 and 1989) authorizing each municipality in the State of Georgia to impose, levy, and collect an excise tax upon the furnishing for value to the public of any room or rooms, lodging, or accommodations furnished by any person or legal entity licensed by or required to pay business or occupation taxes to the municipality for operating a hotel, motel, inn, lodge, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished for value, there is hereby levied an excise tax on the charges to the public for such furnishings of any room or rooms, lodgings, or accommodations within Chatham County provided, however, that no tax shall be levied upon the fees or charges for any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished for a period of more than ten consecutive days, or for use as meeting rooms, or upon the fees or charges for any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished for a period of one or more days for use by Georgia state or local government officials or employees when traveling on official business.

FUNDING:

Approval of these increases will be incorporated into the 2006 fiscal year budget.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Board of Commissioners approves rates and fees for County activities.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Approve the fee increases as proposed above and the Revenue Ordinance change as presented.
- 2. Disapprove or modify the request.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Alternative #1.

Prepared by: Cheryl N. Deariso

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3. **BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM TERRY AND LUCY HUGHES FOR THE COUNTY TO DECLARE AN UNOPENED PORTION OF CHRISFANY PLACE RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO THEIR PROPERTY AT 10 CHRISFANY PLACE (PIN: 1-0126-01-007) AS SURPLUS AND TO QUITCLAIM THE RIGHT-OF-WAY. [DISTRICT 4.]**

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen, this is an item initially drafted that said for Board consideration. I appreciate very much the leadership of Commissioner Farrell, who's been on site. You'll notice that we do have an additional piece of information that came to you on the 11th of May wherein we're making the recommendation as to skinning down the amount of the portion of Chrisfany Place that would be shown for the actual modification and the quitclaim. I believe this is consistent not only with Commissioner Farrell, but also with Mr. Bungard's understanding. So we, in effect, would ask you to declare a 15-foot portion of the 60-foot right-of-way at Chrisfany Place adjacent to 10 Chrisfany Place with the PIN number cited in your memorandum, as shown on a map that's also attached, as surplus and quitclaim that right-of-way to Terry and Lucy Hughes. The petitioners must pay the County the fair market value for the right-of-way to be determined by a professional appraiser and provide the necessary appraisal, deed and plat at their expense.

Chairman Liakakis said, we've heard the motion and the explanation of that —. Do we have a motion on the floor?

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I so move to approve. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, I'll second.

Chairman Liakakis asked, discussion? Helen [Stone], did —? Commissioner Stone said, no.

Commissioner Farrell said, I've looked into this and I recommend that we approve.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, everybody go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Gellatly were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to declare as surplus and quitclaim to petitioners Terry and Lucy Hughes an unopened 15-foot wide portion of the 60-foot wide portion of Chrisfany Place right-of-way adjacent to their property at 10 Chrisfany Place (PIN 1-0126-01-007) at fair market value to be determined by a professional appraiser upon the petitioners providing the appraisal, quitclaim deed and plat at their expense. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Gellatly were not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

DATE: May 11, 2005
TO: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: A. G. Bungard, P. E., County Engineer
SUBJECT: Chrisfany Place Quitclaim Request

The above quitclaim request is on the May 13, 2005, County Commission agenda. We noted in the report's Facts and Findings #5 that Mr. Frank VanGeisen had expressed concerns about the requested quitclaim. Based on his opposition, the report shows our recommendation on the request to be "For Board Consideration."

The petitioners, Terry & Lucy Hughes, were notified of Mr. VanGeisen's opposition. They discussed it with Mr. VanGiesen and reached an agreement with him to narrow the quitclaim request to only 15 feet instead of the original 30 feet. We received a letter on May 9, 2005, from the Hughes modifying their request. A copy is attached.

We received a call on this date from Mr. Van Giesen confirming that he is agreeable to the narrower quitclaim. Therefore, we are revising our recommendation to the Board to be "Approval of Alternative 1." Alternative #1 is:

"Declare a 15 foot wide portion of the 60 foot wide Chrisfany Place ROW, adjacent to 10 Chrisfany Place (PIN: 1-0126-01-007) as shown on the attached map as surplus and quitclaim the ROW to Terry & Lucy Hughes.

The petitioners must pay the County the fair market value for the ROW to be determined by a professional appraiser, and provide the necessary appraisal, deed, and plat at their expense."

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3

AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

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

ISSUE: To present to the Board a request from Terry & Lucy Hughes for the County to declare an un-opened portion of Chrisfany Place right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to their property at 10 Chrisfany Place (PIN: 1-0126-01-007) as surplus and to quitclaim the ROW.

BACKGROUND: The petitioners own the property at 10 Chrisfany Place. Chrisfany Place is an un-opened 60 foot wide ROW that runs north from West Penrose Drive to the marsh, a distance of approximately 400 feet. See the attached map for more information.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The location of the requested right-of-way (ROW) is shown on the attached map. The petitioners are requesting a quitclaim of half of the width of the right-of-way adjacent to their property.
2. The ROW serves as the only access to four parcels. Two other parcels also have frontage on West Penrose Drive. The existing driveway is approximately 10 feet wide.
3. Staff has checked for possible County use for this ROW> There has been no need identified to retain the ROW for future road or drainage construction.
4. All five of the property owners with property fronting on the subject ROW have been notified of the requested quitclaim. They were notified of the quitclaim request on April 21st and advised as to the date and time of this meeting.
5. Mr. Frank VanGeisen, 11 Chrisfany Place, PIN: 1-0126-01-005, has expressed concern about how the requested quitclaim would affect his access, since at least part of the existing driveway is located inside the subject ROW.
6. In our discussions with Mr. VanGiesen, we explained our understanding that he would continue to have every right that he currently has to the full extent of Chrisfany Place ROW if the County were to approve the requested quitclaim. We advised that he should consult with an attorney on the matter.
7. If approved, the petitioners must pay the County the fair market value for the ROW to be determined by a professional appraisal, and provide the necessary appraisal, deed, and plat at their expense. The appraiser is selected by the petitioner and must be certified as a professional appraiser by the State of Georgia.
8. Staff reviews the submitted appraisals, deeds and plats for completeness and reasonableness before the deed is sent to the County Clerk for processing and the fair market value payment check is sent to Finance for deposit.

FUNDING: N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Declare a 30 foot wide portion of the 60 foot wide Chrisfany Place ROW, adjacent to 10 Chrisfany Place (PIN: 1-0126-01-007) as shown on the attached map as surplus and quitclaim the ROW to Terry & Lucy Hughes. The petitioners must pay the County the fair market value for the ROW to be determined by a professional appraiser, and provide the necessary appraisal, deed, and plat at their expense.
2. Do not approve the request.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Board must declare County property surplus and approve all quitclaim actions.

RECOMMENDATION: For Board consideration.

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4. VERBAL STATUS ON ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE.

Chairman Liakakis said, we'll ask the County Attorney, Animal Control Ordinance. I know that you've been working hard, you and your staff on that, to put together a good Animal Ordinance. Would you go into the status now?

County Attorney Hart said, sure, I'll be glad to. Week before last we met with various participants who wanted to discuss this item. We took their comments. This past week we met with our Animal Control people. The focus on that was to obtain what concurrence they felt like, and their suggestions were primarily focused on the issues of the things we were trying to do and how you would implement them from an enforcement standpoint. It's no good to draw an ordinance if you can't actually practically enforce it, and we've got some very good comments. I'm hoping to take all of that together and by next meeting have a package of various options and issues that the Commissioners will have to make some decisions on. I feel like I'm getting good comment and excellent cooperation from the Animal Control.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

County Attorney Hart gave an update on the status of the Animal Control Ordinance.

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5. EXTENSION OF TIME TO CREATE AN ORDINANCE COVERING BUILDING ON LANDFILLS (SEE ATTACHED MEMO FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY).

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, this I'll direct to, again, the County Attorney because he's been following up on this, working with members of my staff, but essentially we have a void of information now that causes us to be concerned as to our ability to deliver an ordinance within 70 days, and I'll defer to Mr. Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, basically it's a situation that there haven't been a lot of ordinances passed dealing with the specifics of constructions on landfills. Mr. Gregori Anderson, the head of Building and Regulatory Services [sic] did a pretty wide-reaching search in regard to that issue and did not come up with a particular ordinance that was very helpful. We received good cooperation from the land owner that's seeking this opportunity and his consultant did provide us some information which we found useful. Most of that information pertained to methane gas issue and the subsidence issue is apparently where we're going to have a great deal of difficulty in drafting something that is enforceable. I have spoken to several civil engineers, structural engineers in the community trying to gather information primarily to see where we could go to to gather something like that, and I'm reaching the conclusion that it's going to be extremely difficult to draft some standards there that are clear and ascertainable for both sides of the fence, the developers, say, and the people that have to enforce it from a safety standpoint. We're open-minded about it. We're still working towards that. I took the opportunity this week to put down the thoughts, general thoughts in a very rough draft form and I have distributed that to our County Engineering Department and Building and Regulatory Services [sic]. I have provided that information to representatives of the individual seeking the opportunity to do this and have invited all their comments. This is a situation where we need to have something that works before we go into this, and that's what we're going to strive to do. And we hopefully will be able if there is an extension for a time period of either 45 to 70 days that will give us time to perhaps fine tune that and come up with something that this Commission feels comfortable with and the staff feels comfortable with.

Chairman Liakakis said, you've heard the report by the County Attorney concerning this particular item. Do we have a motion on the floor to extend it 70 more days, which gives him the ability to get the information necessary for the County Commission?

Commissioner Stone asked, can I ask a question? Chairman Liakakis asked, do you make that motion, Helen [Stone]? Commissioner Stone said, 70 or —, I'll make the motion but I —. Chairman Liakakis said, well, Helen [Stone], before you discuss it, let me get a second on it. Commissioner Stone said, well, it had to do with the motion of how long. Commissioner Odell said, 70 days. Chairman Liakakis said, the 70 days. Commissioner Stone said, okay. I didn't know whether it was going to be a shorter —. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, he's asking in this for an extension of 70 days to bring back the information. Commissioner Stone said, I'll make the motion then for 70 days. Commissioner Holmes said, I second.

Chairman Liakakis said, James Holmes second. Now we can have all the discussion that you like. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I read the draft and with great interest because one of the things when the petitioner brought this forward that I was very concerned about was the subsidence issue. I'm not an expert on methane, but I am an expert on making buildings that don't move, and when buildings move even just a little bit, it's a very bad thing. We've also heard testimony, or I've read it at least, from the County Engineer that there's now concern about the infrastructure. It makes sense that not only the building's moving, but sewer lines, roads, those kinds of things. We've got to get it right. Seventy more days is fine. I don't think we have to be in a hurry. There's not any rush right now. What we want to do is make sure that we've got something that at the end of the day in addition to a registered professional engineer's seal and their engineer of record liability, that we have a standard so that Gregori Anderson can look at that and view it and Gregori [Anderson] is in the process of implementing Chapter 17, is it Gregori [Anderson], which I won't go into great detail, but it makes a lot more responsibility on the owners to be able to provide certifications and so forth. I think there may be a way to work this out, but we need to take our time and make sure we get it just right. This issue of the Sheftall Bluff thing is what brings it to our attention, but there are landfills all over Chatham County. As a matter of fact, I could make the argument that about all the land that's left is in one fashion or another a landfill. Hopefully, most of them were landfills that weren't filled with organic material. So let's take our time and get it right and I'm in favor of the motion.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Jon [Hart] —. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, — the last time a house was built in Sheftall Bluff was when —, 90 what? County Manager Abolt said, there were no houses built on Sheftall Bluff. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but we moved them out of there. County Manager Abolt said, they were moved south of there. There was a new subdivision that was the recipient of some homes that were relocated. To my knowledge there has not been any construction on Sheftall Bluff, a/k/a Weatherwood, in years. Commissioner Odell said, yes. When we had the houses moved, that was when? County Manager Abolt said, it's the same time, about '92. Commissioner Odell asked, about '92, '93? County Manager Abolt said, yeah, '92 or '93. Commissioner Odell said, the point is that they haven't built on the property since 1992 and 70 days is nothing. So if you need to go whatever, I agree with Commissioner Shay, this has to be right because we're looking at it just for Weatherwood, but he's right. It applies to most other vacant properties here to some degree, and we know that you have other things to do and that you will be as scholarly as always. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any other discussion. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Gellatly were not present when this motion was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to grant an extension of time of seventy (70) days for the creation of an ordinance covering building on landfills. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Gellatly were not present when this motion was taken.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE HIRING FREEZE AND AUTHORIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- **CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT - ONE (1) CLERICAL ASSISTANT IV AND ONE (1) CLERICAL ASSISTANT III**
- **PROBATE COURT - ~~ONE (1)~~ TWO (2) DEPUTY COURT CLERK I**
- **BOARD OF ASSESSORS - ONE (1) ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF APPRAISER/REAL PROPERTY, ONE (1) COMMERCIAL SUPERVISOR/REAL PROPERTY AND ANY RESULTING VACANCIES**
- **PUBLIC WORKS AND PARK SERVICES - THREE (3) SCOREKEEPERS AND TWO (2) RECREATION AIDES**

Chairman Liakakis said, Item 6 is request Board approval to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to fill the following positions: Clerk of Superior Court - one (1) Clerical Assistant IV and one (1) Clerical Assistant III; under Probate Court - one (1) Deputy Clerk. Now what —, I have talked to the Judge's assistant and what the Judge needs because there is an opening for two just to fill their positions over there at this particular time, that he is requesting for two positions in that court. The next one, Board of Assessors - one Assistant Deputy Chief Appraiser, Real Property and one Commercial Supervisor, Real Property, and any resulting vacancies, and the other item is Public Works and Park Services - three Scorekeepers and two (2) Recreation Aides. Now, most of you have this before you except for the other position for Judge Lewis that is vitally needed so that he can operate his court, and you have this information. Do I hear a motion on the floor?

Commissioner Shay said, I motion to adopt the —.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, just for clarifying the record, the agenda item has one Clerk of Probate Court, but it is in fact two. Judge Lewis said, yes sir. Chairman Liakakis said, right. Judge Lewis said, in deference

to the Commissioner from the First District, we are trying to get two employees with one stone. The fact of the matter is, we are —, we have two vacancies right now because we're putting in one person who is actually transferring to another office and someone else has resigned — retired.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do I have a motion on the floor? Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to —. Chairman Liakakis said, well, before we discuss this —.

Commissioner Shay said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Discussion?

Commissioner Stone said, just one question. It says in the book no additional funding needed. Is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, you're okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, call for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, the question has been called for. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Gellatly were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Thank you, Judge, and thank you, Dan [Massey]. I appreciate y'all coming in and thank you for the good work you do.

* * *

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, there are two more items under Item 6. The Clerk asked, can we complete that item before we go to another one? Chairman Liakakis said, well, he —, I thought the motion was to approve all of them. The Clerk said, I thought you said, move Item 6. Didn't you say move Item —? Chairman Liakakis said, no, he moved the —, he made the motion for all of it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I didn't make a motion to approve this item, I made a motion to move Item 6. The Clerk said, right. The entire item was moved up. So we need to complete that action. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I was under the impression that he handled the entire —. Commissioner Shay said, we did. The Clerk said, oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were just doing Probate —. Commissioner Shay said, we did the whole thing. The Clerk said, very good. Thank you. That's good. Commissioner Shay said, we appreciate your concurrence.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to fill the following positions: Clerk of Superior Court - one (1) Clerical Assistant IV and one (1) Clerical Assistant III; Probate Court - two (2) Deputy Court Clerk I positions; Board of Assessors - one (1) Assistant Deputy Chief Appraiser/Real Property, one (1) Commercial Supervisor/Real Property, and any resulting vacancies; and Public Works and Park Services - three (3) Scorekeepers and two (2) Recreation Aides. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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RECOGNITION SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to also recognize our illustrious Tax Commissioner Danny Powers in the back. Danny [Powers], thank you for coming today and hopefully that you can bring us a lot of money in where, you know, some taxes have not been paid to help us to provide services for our citizens. Tax Commissioner said, thank you, Pete [Liakakis].

Commissioner Kicklighter, Mr. Chairman, he saved us last year. Tax Commissioner said, you have a good afternoon too. Commissioner Shay said, that's what illustrious means.

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Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. Pierce, you wanted to make a statement.

Mr. John Saxon "Piccolo" Pierce said, yes. I respect our Tax Commissioner. I think he does his job as Tax Commissioner. Every time we get the taxes going up, the people don't get no job. They want money. The money's not —, where's the money go at? I don't know where the money go at, but I tell you one thing, they going to be in —, the federal government come down, somebody's going to find that money and we're going to be protected. I just —, I respect you and I'm asking everybody to respect you and go along with you because if the federal government come down, people in tax going to have to answer the questions. May God bless you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Mr. Pierce. We appreciate your comments. Of course, one of the problems that we have in this County and they have in a lot of other counties too is these federal unfunded mandates and State unfunded mandates that we put the burden on our citizens to help balance the State budget, for one.

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7. CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL TO REFINANCE 1993 DEBT SERVICE FOR DETENTION CENTER AND WRIGHT SQUARE COURTHOUSE. AT THIS TIME AN OPTION PRESENTS ITSELF TO EITHER SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS OR ADD TO IT REPLACING THE ROOF AT THE AQUATIC CENTER WITH SOME REDUCTION IN DEBT SERVICE.

Chairman Liakakis said, this particular item is one that thankfully our Finance Department and our County Manager are on and it can produce money, it can save the County a substantial amount of money, and I'd like to call on the County Manager now to give a report.

County Manager Abolt said, first I would like to thank the Chairman for allowing this to come as a late starter on your agenda. As you might expect, the priority for staff now and certainly through the month of June we'll be doing all we can to lessen the burden that's already on you when it comes to adopting a budget. This is very much going forward with that idea. The Chairman has introduced this as restructuring debt, which the County has done before as well as municipal corporations in the area. Mr. Monahan and Ms. Cramer take full credit for this in my eyes because they were looking initially at just issuing the debt for the Health Department and for SABHC which this —, the previous Board made a commitment to some time ago. They talked with Ms. McNabb of A. G. Edwards. It became apparent that we had had some outstanding debt going back to 1993, which covered the remodeling and the reopening of the building we're in right now as well as the improvements and the construction of the Detention Center. Because of interest rates and savings, we can in effect now restructure that debt and save some dollars. I don't think there's any objection to saving the dollars, and then we would ask conceptually for you to approve that, but here's where Christmas can come visit us in the month of May and June. You have an opportunity, if you wish, to save it all. You can save it and that will lessen the burden on the M&O budget, or you can also be sensitive to, which I know you very are, some capital needs and you heard presentations a few days ago on something that really affects so many of our citizens, the roof at the Aquatic Center, which as you know is a soft roof, is causing problems. It can be replaced for a little over three million dollars, three and a half million dollars —, these figures are about three or four years old —, with a hard roof, a roof that will not cause reoccurring problems at the Aquatic Center and that will affect the lives of many of those who use our recreation program. You can do that and lessen the amount of savings or, if you're not enamored by doing that for the Aquatic Center, you also have the choice, I know the Chairman's interested in an animal control shelter as well as a CNT building, but you do have choices and in this day and age it's nice to have choices. I know we want to save money and I want certainly you to be given every opportunity to do that. I also want to let you know that conceptually as you allow us to restructure the debt, we do have options that can include a new Aquatic Center roof or Animal Control and CNT building and this is an opportunity for you to make that choice, and again I appreciate the Chairman allowing us to put this on the agenda at the last moment. I would have Ms. Cramer and Mr. Monahan come forward to answer your questions.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a motion on the floor to refinance the 1993 debt service? Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Stone said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Go ahead.

Commissioner Shay said, the motion encourages a discussion, I suppose, but are we making the motion to keep the savings or are we using them —, or are we making the motion to take the increment that's available and spend it on CIP? County Manager Abolt said, before you go to the board for the vote, we'd ask for clarification on that very thing. Commissioner Shay said, because I want to speak —, go ahead, you can speak.

Mr. Pat Monahan said, let me start —, first of all, let me apologize because the recommendation should be Alternative 2 and not Alternative 1. Alternative 1 just addresses the taking advantage of the lower interest rate on the refunding, which would save the County approximately \$425,000 in the next fiscal year, and I think Mr. Abolt expressed in very broad strokes, I don't think there's any question about that the Commission would want to take advantage of that. The second question though is does the Commission want to take advantage of some additional savings, which only amounts to \$65,000 a year for the next six years. That's the difference between the current debt service payment and under the refunded debt service payment. We're only talking about saving \$65,000, but instead of saving \$65,000 we would increase the debt service payment by \$7,500 a year to pick up the three and a half million dollars hard top for the Aquatic Center, the \$7,500 being for the first year and the second year that would increase to \$16,000. So that's —, we're talking about just an incremental increase in the current debt service payments on an annual basis.

Commissioner Odell said, point of clarification. Could we at some point down the road retire this debt through the use of SPLOST funding? Mr. Monahan said, yes sir, you could do that, but —, you could do that because that's essentially what we did for the Henderson and the Mighty Eighth. That could be done. Commissioner Odell said, right. Pat [Monahan], if we don't do this, what do we do, let the ceiling fall in? Mr. Monahan said, I would say with —, and some of the Commissioners heard the presentation from the Parks and Recreation Department —, excuse me, Public Works and Parks Department —, that some action must be taken immediately either replacing the soft top, the dome, putting on a new protective coating or taking a look at the long term fix, and that is to make it structurally sound, and we have not done an analysis because this all came together so quickly, but we do project some savings, operating savings in the Parks budget because of the hard top. Commissioner Odell said, if we don't do this, we don't have funding otherwise. Is that —? Mr. Monahan said, no sir, we don't. The only other option we would have would be to wait until 2009 and put it on the SPLOST vote. Commissioner Odell said, so this is not only the best option, it's the only option. Ms. Cramer said, unless you go out for bonds with the Detention Center expansion, I mean, that would be —. Commissioner Odell said, if we put out for bonds our ratings compared to the

low reserve would not be welcomed I would imagine in the bond market. Mr. Monahan said, that's absolutely correct. We're hearing some of that now.

County Manager Abolt said, we honestly feel this is Christmas a little bit. So, I mean, we want you to take your time, but make your decision as quickly as you can. We feel this is an opportunity you don't want to miss.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I need a little bit of clarification. My motion [sic] was to go ahead and do the refinancing. I didn't make a motion to approve anything. I thought that's what we were just doing was to do the refinancing. So I don't know if that's what your —, the second was, but —. Commissioner Shay said, we'll probably do an amendment here before we get to —.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, just a point of clarification. \$400,000 in savings if we do this today either way in this year's budget. Is that correct — '06 year budget? Ms. Cramer said, correct, in the '06 year budget. We were going to restructure so that we do not make an interest payment July 1st, and that would save us —. Mr. Monahan said, \$425,000. Commissioner Shay said, \$425,000 impact on the budget that we are about to adopt, either way as long as we refinanced. Mr. Monahan said, the budget that you have received from the County Manager, that would be reduced by \$425,000. Commissioner Shay said, okay. And if we take all the savings, then we would reduce our annual payments by \$65,000 —. Mr. Monahan said, another \$65,000. Commissioner Shay said, — every year, not just in this year —. Mr. Monahan said, for six years. Commissioner Shay said, — for six years —. Mr. Monahan said, that's the —, yes sir. Commissioner Shay said, — or if we decide to make the Aquatic Center right, it would be an increase of \$7,500 in year one —. Mr. Monahan said, in fiscal year '06, right. Commissioner Shay said, — and then \$16,000, more or less, in the out years. Mr. Monahan said, that's correct. Commissioner Shay said, okay. I just want to make sure I understand.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do you want to —?

Commissioner Shay said, I'll offer an amendment then that we go ahead and do the staff's recommended, which is it should have said Alternative 2 in the book. Commissioner Odell asked is it two or three, Pat [Monahan]? Mr. Monahan said, it's two. Commissioner Odell said, it's two. County Manager Abolt said, we did it hurriedly. We apologize. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, do you —, do we have a second on his amendment? To Patrick's [Shay] amendment? Commissioner Odell said, I'll second it.

Commissioner Stone said, well, I —. Chairman Liakakis said, well, I'm going to get back to see if you will accept that amendment? Will you accept that amendment? Commissioner Stone said, well, I want to know if that is just for the Aquatic Center or does this include anything for Animal Control? County Manager Abolt said, you can't have —, either one. The Christmas is limited there. Commissioner Stone said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, it's either the big roof or look at Animal Control and CNT.

Mr. Monahan said, let me put a little asterisk by that. That is true that —, because our direction to our financial advisor was to keep our annual debt service payment about the same. We have the opportunity to go up to as much as \$25,000,000 total in debt. We're right now at \$24.2 so the Animal Control Shelter could be added, but that's going to further increase the annual debt service payment. So rather than a \$7,500 increase this coming year, it might be —, well, let me see. That would be \$70,000 —. Ms. Cramer said, we would probably be okay in FY06, but you will see a larger debt service going forward [inaudible].

Commissioner Stone said, I'm just very concerned about the condition of the Animal Control facility. Mr. Monahan said, you could add that, but just —, just in rough numbers it would increase it another \$30,000 for next year and after that it would \$60,000 a year. Commissioner Stone said, I know, I know. Mr. Monahan said, an additional. Commissioner Stone said, so it's one or the other. County Manager Abolt said, today I would hope you would pick one or the other to be created going forward, but today I would ask for your direction.

Commissioner Shay said, I don't know that my amendment got a second. Commissioner Odell said, yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's vote on the amendment. The Clerk asked, did you get a second. Commissioner Shay said, I don't think it got a second. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, yeah. Commissioner Shay said, it did, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, what's the motion now? Commissioner Shay said, to adopt Alternative 2 in the book, which is to refinance and use some incremental ability to finance to replace the roof at the Aquatic Center. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, would you break this motion in half to refinance as one motion and then to use the —? Commissioner Shay said, that's why we're voting on the amendment first, so you'll have the ability to vote yes to the amendment and for the main motion if you want to. I'm sorry, I'm acting like a parliamentarian. I'm sorry. Commissioner Stone said, but that's correct. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, okay, your amendment is to break it in half? Commissioner Shay said, my amendment is to clarify the first motion, which was to adopt —, to refinance. Commissioner Stone said, refinance. Commissioner Shay said, — by making it more specific and saying adopting Alternative 2. If it passes, then that would be the main motion. If it fails, then the main motion would still be out there. Commissioner Stone said, which was to refinance.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, you know, I had the opportunity of visiting the Aquatic Center and as soon as I got out of my car there were some of the employees out there and the first thing they said to me is, Commissioner Holmes, did you come to help us with this roof. I was only going out there just to look at and just to meet the staff, but this was a question popped to me before I even got inside, and what they were saying is that if we don't do something with that roof immediately, that we do have a major problem with that roof, and I just want us to look at that because I think if we don't act on it now, it could cause us more money in the future. So I hope we can look at it that way.

Commissioner Farrell said, it appears that with the high humidity and the chlorine that's trapped in that building and the poor ventilation you have, I have concerns for the people that work there and for the people that use that facility for their health, and it appears you're going to have a meltdown of the building itself because of those adverse conditions to the electronics, the wiring, the scoreboards, the sheetrock —, I mean, all these are factors, so something needs to be done and this appears to be a good solution to an unfortunate problem.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have an amendment on the floor, it's been seconded, to utilize —, on the re-financing to utilize that monies and set it up so that we can replace the roof on the Aquatic Center. Everybody go on the board. Chairman Liakakis, and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Stone and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, now the main motion that was made by Commissioner Stone [sic] was to approve the re-finance 1993 debt service for the Detention Center and the Wright Square Complex. It's been —, that motion was made and seconded and, of course, everybody go on the board. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, this is to save the \$400,000? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. The Clerk said, it is now as amended. Commissioner Shay said, as amended, that's correct. Chairman Liakakis said, as amended, correct. Commissioner Thomas said, as amended. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. The Clerk said, so that means with the money going towards the Aquatic Center. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, then mine is no on that. Commissioner Stone said, that's —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that was really confusing and the first part —, that part should not have been voted on anyway if we voted the other, right? Commissioner Stone said, well, this was just to refinance the money. Commissioner Kicklighter said, save the money. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, right, when you finance it because —. The Clerk said, but it was amended. Chairman Liakakis said, — of the bond market we're saving money that. Commissioner Stone said, but we've already voted on that. So —. Chairman Liakakis said, this is the main motion that you made about refinancing this debt service. Commissioner Stone said, right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, but then he amended it. Commissioner Stone said, but we already voted on that. Chairman Liakakis said, we voted on the amendment and you voted against that portion of it. Commissioner Thomas said, right. The Clerk said, so that amended your motion to include that. Commissioner Stone said, okay, well, then —. Commissioner Odell asked, can y'all make it any more complicated? I mean, really.

Chairman Liakakis asked, does everybody understand it now? Commissioner Odell said, no. Commissioner Shay said, the last vote was on the main motion as amended. Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Stone asked, but then why did we vote on the amended motion? Commissioner Shay said, that's because we had a motion on the floor and the motion was amended —. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. Commissioner Shay said, that's just how —, one of the ways that a motion —.

County Attorney Hart said, you can either do two things. You could have not accepted the amendment and withdrawn the first motion, made the second motion and voted on the second motion. Y'all elected to vote on the —, to amend —, vote on the amendment, which that amendment passed, which was incorporated into your original motion. Commissioner Stone said, okay, well, then my vote should have been no. County Attorney Hart said, yes, ma'am, if that's what you're choosing to do. Commissioner Shay said, that's why I did it as an amendment. County Attorney Hart said, but it passed, Item 2 passed —. Commissioner Stone said, okay. County Attorney Hart said, — Alternative 2 passed.

Chairman Liakakis said, will you make a note of that? The Clerk said, yes. Chairman Liakakis, and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion as amended. Commissioners Stone and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

Commissioner Kicklighter said, make a note that I am for saving the \$400,000, but opposed to dedicating it at this point to the roof's replacement.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to authorize staff to proceed with refinancing the 1993 debt service through the Downtown Savannah Authority for the Detention Center and Wright Square Courthouse. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion.
2. Commissioner Shay moved to amend the original motion to adopt Alternative 2 of the staff report which authorizes staff to proceed with refinancing the 1993 debt service through the Downtown Savannah Authority for the Detention Center and Wright Square Courthouse and authorize the issuance of an additional \$3.5 million in capital expenses for the replacement hard-top structure for the Aquatic Center. Commissioner Odell

seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis, and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Stone and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

3. A vote was taken on the original motion as amended. Chairman Liakakis, and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Stone and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-7
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Pat Monahan, Asst. County Manager
Linda Cramer, Finance Director

PURPOSE: To approve a plan for restructuring Chatham County's debt through refinancing 1993 Revenue Bonds (Detention Center and Old Courthouse) and take advantage of the result by either decreasing annual debt service payments or maintaining a similar annual payment to fund a new hard-top roof on the Aquatic Center.

BACKGROUND: Like a homeowner who refinances a home to take advantage of lower interest rates—with the option of either decreasing annual mortgage payments or using the lower costs for improvements—Chatham County has a similar choice. As part of preparing the debt financing for the 2005 Health Facilities Revenue Bonds (\$3 million for the SABHC and Health Department), the County's Financial Advisor, bond counsel and county staff reviewed the status of Chatham County's current debt level. Restructuring debt by refunding the \$18 million outstanding on the 1993 Revenue Bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates would result in a lowered annual debt service payment of about \$100,000. As important, by completing this transaction before July 1, 2005, the due date on the bond interest payment, the County would save \$400,000 that otherwise would be expensed as a General Fund M&O payment during the next fiscal year.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. Preliminary analysis on this plan began May 11, and the Board should recognize that numbers expressed herein should be considered preliminary, but the opportunity to take advantage of lower tax-exempt rates drives the potential savings or use of the funds. Notwithstanding the unknowns now, the Board would not be required to make a final decision on amounts until subsequent meetings in May and in June. Approval today only sets in motion conceptual approval.
2. Refunding the \$18 million in outstanding debt on the 1993 Revenue Bonds would save (based on preliminary analysis) about \$100,000 in annual debt service payments. In addition, by completing this transaction by July 1, 2005, Chatham County would save some \$400,000 that otherwise would be an expenditure in the FY 2005-2006 General Fund M&O budget.
3. To effect these savings, the Board will need to approve conceptually this plan at the May 13 meeting and request that the Downtown Savannah Authority serve as the issuing agency (the Board previously gave this authorization for the 2005 Health Facilities Projects). Chatham County would then pledge in June by intergovernmental agreement and resolution to assume full responsibility for payment, including pledge of its full faith and credit.
4. This restructuring provides the Board with two options (regardless of which option the Board approves, the FY 2005-2006 General Fund M&O debt service payment will decrease by \$400,000—assuming completion of this transaction prior to the July 1, 2005 interest payment):
 - 4.1 The Board could opt to use the restructuring, which takes advantage of lower interest rates, to reduce its annual debt service by \$100,000 annually for the six years.
 - 4.2 The Board could restructure the debt but maintain the annual budgeted amount to finance non-maintenance capital (i.e. 20-year useful life) items from the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Among the highest-rated projects would be replacement of the inflatable dome on the Aquatic Center with a hard-top roof, estimated at \$3.5 million, as expressed to the Board during a recent budget workshop.

- 4.3 Until the county's Financial Advisor completes the analysis, a possibility exists that the tax-exempt financing of the hard-top roof on the Aquatic Center would not just offset, but possibly increase, the current debt service payments but by no more than \$25,000 annually.
5. Whether the Board wants to replace the Aquatic Center dome with a hard-top structure remains an issue of priority. While some expense to extend the soft dome may be possible, replacement will otherwise become necessary within the next few years. Whether the expense of converting to a hard-top structure could wait until consideration of the SPLOST vote in 2008 awaits confirmation by engineering review. Nonetheless, a hard-top roof would alleviate operating drawbacks of the inflatable dome and probably decrease utility expenses and the high-tech equipment necessary to operate the pressurized interior system.
6. The Board may also opt to consider other Capital Improvement Projects in lieu of the Aquatic Center dome replacement, which is the highest-rated eligible project. Others for consideration would be the Animal Shelter Replacement, \$750,000; and the CNT Building Replacement, \$1.8 million. However, regardless of projects, the amount of debt issued should not exceed \$25 million (i.e. \$18 million plus \$3 million for 2005 Health Facilities Improvement Bonds).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board authorize staff to proceed with the refunding issue of the 1993 Revenue Bonds (Old Courthouse and Detention Center) through the Downtown Savannah Authority. Staff would return to the Board with specific amounts (now estimated at \$18 million in refunded debt), interest rates and terms, which would also include the previously-approved \$3 million 2005 Health Facilities Bonds (SABHC and Health Department improvements).
- 1a. This restructuring, if completed before July 1, 2005, would reduce the annual debt service payment in FY 2005-2006 by a projected (tentatively) \$400,000.
- 1b. Restructuring to take advantage of lower annual debt service payments would save a projected \$100,000 (tentatively) annually.
- 1c. Staff will return to the Board with actual dollars once these numbers can be confirmed.
2. (Same as Alternative 1 except for application of the potential savings of \$100,000 annually): That the Board authorize issuance of an additional \$3.5 million in capital expense for the replacement hard-top structure for the Aquatic Center. Some of the new annual debt repayment would be offset from the reduction of the old annual bond payment, but more detailed projections will not be available for several days. It is anticipated the difference would amount to up to \$25,000 more annually.
3. (Same as Alternative 1 except for application of the potential savings of \$100,000 annually): That the Board consider eligible (20-year life) CIP projects other than the Aquatic Center (i.e. Animal Control Shelter or CNT Building).

FUNDING:

General Fund M&O Budget funds the annual debt service payment for the 1993 Bond Issue (Old Courthouse and Detention Center).

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Chatham County has previously restructured bond debt to take advantage of lower interest rates, and this plan would provide similar benefit of lower annual payments. Whether the Board would want to take advantage merely of reduced funding requirements of debt service or maintain debt service levels to fund other needed improvements remains a policy decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative 2.

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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 said, the next on the Action Calendar, everybody's received the information for the Action Calendar. Is there any specific item that would like to be withdrawn? On Item 10 on the ADA, did you want to discuss that?

County Manager Abolt said, give credit —, again give credit to the Chairman on this. He allowed this as a late starter. It came from the Elections Board. This is a way of providing access to our precincts by those physically limited. It's a grant application. Money's available in our ADA program. I recognize certainly the leadership of Mr. Bridges of the Board of Elections and also the support he's received from Mr. Kaigler and Mr. Thompson.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I have a question on 11-C about the Skidaway Narrows Boat Ramp for \$23,000. That's just for the engineers, that's not the project? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct. This is not the repairs. Commissioner Stone said, right. County Manager Abolt said, this is SPLOST. Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to make sure on [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, we're on track to get them both done and get them done, as Commissioner Farrell will tell you from seeing the visual presentation yesterday, in reasonably quick order. Commissioner Stone said, okay, great. I just —, but I just —, when I saw the amount, I didn't —. County Manager Abolt said, this goes down to the ramp. Everything else is SPLOST. Commissioner Stone said, I understand. I just wanted to ask about the amount.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have the Action Calendar, and since we've only had those two items explained to us, let's move on and go on the board. The Clerk asked, did we have a motion?

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I move for the entire —, that we adopt the entire Action Calendar. Commissioner Thomas said, second. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

[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 APRIL 29, 2005, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the minutes for the pre-meeting and regular meeting of April 29, 2005, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 21 THROUGH MAY 4, 2005.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 21, 2005, through May 4, 2005, in the amount of \$4,035,830. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN ANNUAL RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE NECESSITY OF THE "E-911" AND WIRELESS ENHANCED "E-911" CHARGES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve an annual resolution to reaffirm the necessity of the "ER-911" and wireless enhanced "E-911" charges. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: **X-3**

AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

DATE: May 3, 2005
TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Linda Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE:

To present to the Board an annual resolution to reaffirm the necessity of the "E-911" and wireless enhanced "E-911" charges.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Commissioners have approved resolutions establishing E-911 charges. The state code requires that the necessity of the charge be reaffirmed by resolution on an annual basis.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

- (1) As provided for in state law, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution on November 8, 1991, to be effective 120 days thereafter on April 1, 1992, increasing E-911 rates in the unincorporated area and all municipalities with the exception of the City of Savannah from \$.16 to \$1.50.
- (2) On March 12, 1999 the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution reaffirming the need for the charge of \$1.50 per month per exchange access facility. On August 13, 1999 the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution imposing a \$1.00 per month charge per wireless telecommunications connection.
- (3) The Official Code of Georgia section 46-5-134(d)(3) requires that Chatham County reaffirm the necessity for the "911" and wireless enhanced "911" charge beginning with the thirteenth month following the month in which the emergency "911" system service is first provided and during such month annually thereafter.
- (4) The charges provide funds to pay for the operation of the E-911 services and for purchase of equipment for such purpose. The budget for FY 2005 is \$1,846,612. Under the inter-governmental agreement for police services between the City of Savannah and Chatham County, the County will remit E-911 fees to the City to fund the Savannah-Chatham County Metropolitan Police Department's E-911 functions.

FUNDING:

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) That the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution for the Chairman's signature.
- (2) That the Board not approve the resolution.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Official Code of Georgia section 46-5-134(d)(3) requires that Chatham County reaffirm the necessity for the "911" and wireless enhanced "911" charge annually.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, E-911 service serves a life-saving link between people and emergency services by improving response times and the accuracy of automated address location; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County now provides this valuable service to promote the safety, health and well-being of residents of Chatham County and its thousands of visitors each year: and

WHEREAS, it remains in the best interests of the citizens of Chatham County to maintain this E-911 service, which Chatham County provides to the unincorporated area and all cities (except Savannah) as a Public Answering Point; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County does hereby desire to establish a method of paying for this service that would also reduce reliance upon property taxes for these funds; and

WHEREAS, the amount of \$1.50 per month per exchange access facility provided to the telephone subscriber was approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on November 8,1991 to be effective on the first day of April 1992; and

WHEREAS, the amount of \$1.00 per month per wireless connection provided to each telephone subscriber was approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on July 10,1998 to be effective on the first day of December 1998; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 1999, the Chatham County Board Of Commissioners adopted an amended resolution to impose a wireless enhanced 911 charge within the geographic area that is served or would be served by Chatham County.

NOW THEREFORE, as required by the Official Code of Georgia, Title 46, Chapter 46-5-134(d)(3), the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County does hereby reaffirm the necessity for a monthly "E-911" charge of \$1.50 upon each exchange access facility subscribed to by telephone subscribers whose exchange to access lines are in areas served by Chatham County's Public Safety Answering Point, and reaffirm the necessity for a monthly charge of \$1.00 per month per wireless connection subscribed to by subscribers whose billing address is within the geographic area that is served by Chatham County or that would be served by Chatham County for the purpose of such an emergency "911" system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these charges remain effective as reaffirmed by the enactment of this resolution.

BE IT SO RESOLVED ON THIS 13TH DAY OF MAY, 2005.

ATTEST:

Pete Liakakis, Chairman

Sybil Tillman, Clerk

=====

4. REQUEST FROM SOUTHEAST ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, REGAL BUILDERS, FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR GEORGETOWN PLACE TOWNHOMES, LOTS 2 AND 6. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a request from Southeast Engineering and Environmental, engineer for the developer, Regal Builders, for the County to record the subdivision plat for Georgetown Place Townhomes, Lots 2 and 6. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 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 Georgetown Place Townhomes, Lots 2 and 6.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, Southeast Engineering and Environmental, for the developer, Regal Builders, requests that the County approve the subdivision plat for recording.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Georgetown Place Townhomes is a private townhome development (multi-family residential) on the east side of King George Boulevard, north of State Route 204. The paving, drainage, and streetlighting will be privately maintained by a homeowners association. The water and sewer improvements will be maintained by City of Savannah. This phase consists of 20 lots on 0.71 acres.
2. A performance guarantee for all required improvements was previously accepted by the Board.
3. An Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Georgetown Place Townhomes, Lots 2 and 6.
2. Do not approve the request.

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 7

PREPARED BY: Suzanne V. Cooler, P.E.

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5. REQUEST FROM KERN-COLEMAN, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, NORTH GODLEY DEVELOPERS, INC., FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR CHAPEL PARK, PHASE 1, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND CREATE A NEW STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT RATE DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a request from Kern-Coleman, engineer for the developer, North Godley Developers, Inc., for the County to record the subdivision plat for Chapel Park, Phase 1, accept the Subdivision Agreement and Financial Guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment rate district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 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 Chapel Park, Phase 1, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment rate district.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, Kern-Coleman, for the developer, North Godley Developers, requests that the County approve the subdivision plat for recording, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment district.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Chapel Park is a single-family residential subdivision located within Berwick Plantation. Berwick Plantation is located on Highway 17. This phase of Chapel Park consists of 86 lots on 29.73 acres. Paving and drainage improvements will be maintained by the County. Water and sewer will be maintained by Consolidated Utilities, Inc.
2. Staff approved construction plans and issued a permit. Construction of the improvements is underway.
3. The developer has submitted a letter of credit issued by United Community Bank in the amount of \$1,166,130.20, which is 100% of the cost of improvements.
4. The initial streetlight assessment will be \$54.
5. An Environmental Site Assessment was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Chapel Park, Phase 1, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment rate district.
2. Do not approve the request.

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 7

PREPARED BY: Suzanne Cooler

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**6. REQUEST FROM HGBD, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, BEACON BUILDERS, FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR ORCHID ISLES TOWNHOMES AND ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to request from Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung (HGBD), engineer for the developer, Beacon Builders, for the County to record the subdivision plat for Orchid Isles Townhomes and accept the financial guarantee. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-6
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 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 Orchid Isles Townhomes and accept the financial guarantee.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, HGBD, for the developer, Beacon Builders, requests that the County approve the subdivision plat for recording and accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Orchid Isles Townhomes is a private townhome development (multi-family residential) located on King George Boulevard, north of State Route 204. The paving, drainage and streetlighting will be privately maintained by a homeowners association. The water and sewer improvements will be maintained by City of Savannah. Orchid Isles consists of 46 lots on 4.75 acres.
2. Staff approved construction plans and issued a permit for construction of the improvements. Construction of the required site improvements is nearly complete. A letter of credit issued by The savannah Bank in the amount of \$45,221, which is 50% of the cost of improvements and well over 100% of the cost of completion, has been posted as a performance guarantee.
3. An Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Orchid Isles Townhomes and accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee.
2. Do not approve the request.

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 7

PREPARED BY: Suzanne Cooler, P.E.

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**7. REQUEST FROM EMC ENGINEERING SERVICES, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, GREEN ISLAND ROAD DEVELOPMENT CO., FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR MARSHVIEW LANDING, PHASE 4-A, AND ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a request from EMC Engineering Services, engineer for the developer, Green Island Road Development Co., for the County to record the subdivision plat for Marshview Landing, Phase 4-A, and accept the financial guarantee. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 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 Marshview Landing, Phase 4-A, and accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, EMC Engineering Services, for the developer, Green Island Road Development Co., requests that the County approve the subdivision plat for recording and accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1. Marshview Landing is a private townhome development on Green Island Road. This phase of Marshview Landing consists of 8 lots on 1.39 acres. The paving and drainage will be privately maintained. The water and sewer improvements will be privately maintained.
- 2. Staff approved construction plans and issued a permit for construction of the improvements. Construction of the required site improvements are underway. A letter of credit from United Community Bank in the amount of \$86,190, which is 100% of the cost of improvements, has been posted as a performance guarantee.
- 3. An Environmental Site Assessment was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Marshview Landing, Phase 4-A, and accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee.
- 2. Do not approve the request.

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: Suzanne Cooler

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A REQUEST FROM JAMES C. BARR FOR THE COUNTY TO DECLARE AN UNOPENED PORTION OF EAST BOULEVARD RIGHT-OF-WAY, SHOWN AS "PARCEL B" ON A SURVEY PLAT BY BERT BARRETT, JR., RECORDED IN SUBDIVISION MAP BOOK 27P-12, AS SURPLUS AND TO QUITCLAIM THE RIGHT-OF-WAY. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a request from James C. Barr for the County to declare an unopened portion of East Boulevard right-of-way, shown as "Parcel B" on a survey plat by Bert Barrett, Jr., recorded in Subdivision Map Book 27P-12, as surplus and to quitclaim the right-of-way. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-8
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

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

ISSUE: To present to the Board a request from James C. Barr for the County to declare an unopened portion of East Boulevard right-of-way (ROW), shown as "Parcel B" on a survey plat by Bert Barrett, Jr., recorded in Subdivision Map Book 27P-12, as surplus and to quitclaim the ROW.

BACKGROUND: The petitioner owns Parcel B and the property at 2106 Walthour Road. East Boulevard is an un-opened ROW of varying width that runs north from West Penrose Drive to the marsh, a distance of approximately 400 feet. See the attached map for more information.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1. The location of the requested right-of-way (ROW) is shown on the attached plat as "Parcel B". The ROW for East Boulevard was created on the "Wilmington Island Pleasure and Improvement Company Subdivision" in 1929. Portions of East Boule-

vard have been used for access by numerous property owners. The County has never maintained East Boulevard in this location.

2. Mr. Barr and his neighboring property owners (Maxie Wildes and Holly Rogers Clayton) have formally agreed among themselves as to how this formerly disputed portion of East Boulevard should be divided. The other owners may elect to request a quitclaim to adjoining portions of the ROW at some point in the future, although they did not want to proceed at this time.
3. A portion of East Boulevard where the existing privately-maintained driveway is located will remain as ROW to accommodate cross access.
4. Staff has checked for possible County use for this ROW. There has been no need identified to retain the ROW for future road or drainage construction.
5. All of the adjacent property owners have been notified of the requested quitclaim. They were notified of the quitclaim, request on April 11th and advised as to the date and time of this meeting.
6. If approved, the petitioners must pay the County the fair market value for the ROW to be determined by a professional appraisal, and provide the necessary appraisal, deed, and plat at their expense. The appraiser is selected by the petitioner and must be certified as a professional appraiser by the State of Georgia.
7. Staff reviews the submitted appraisals, deeds and plats for completeness and reasonableness before the deed is sent to the County Clerk for processing and the fair market value payment check is sent to Finance for deposit.

FUNDING: N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Declare a portion of East Boulevard ROW, shown as "Parcel B" on a survey by Bert Barrett, Jr., recorded in Subdivision Map Book 27P-12, as surplus and quitclaim the ROW to James C. Barr. The petitioner must pay the County the fair market value for the ROW to be determined by a professional appraiser, and provide the necessary appraisal, deed, and plat at his expense.
2. Do not approve the request.

POLICY ANALYSIS: This Board must declare County property surplus and approve all quitclaim actions.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 4

Prepared by: Vincent Grevemberg

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9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE CASE ENTITLED MICHAEL JARRELL V. THOMAS C. SPRAGUE, CAPTAIN MERRIMAN, DETECTIVE POLITE, WASTE MANAGEMENT, REPUBLIC SERVICES, U.S. DISTRICT COURT, CV404-012, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS NO. 04-15426-AA.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve final settlement in the amount of \$7,000 for all claims in the case entitled Michael Jarrell v. Thomas C. Sprague, Captain Merriman, Detective Polite, Waste Management, Republic Services, U. S. District Court, CV404-012, U. S. Court of Appeals No. 04-15426-AA. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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10. REQUEST APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON ACCESSIBILITY APPLIED FOR BY THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve an application for grant funds from the Secretary of State on accessibility applied for by the Board of Elections. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-10

AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

DATE: May 6, 2005
 TO: Board of Commissioners
 THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
 FROM: Russell Bridges, Elections Supervisor

ISSUE:

To obtain approval to submit a grant request to the Secretary of State requesting funds for upgrading access for individuals with disabilities at polling locations with a requirement for matching funds from Chatham County.

BACKGROUND:

All facilities used as polling locations during elections are required to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). A survey performed in 2003 identified ten polling locations that require upgrading to comply with these requirements.

The Secretary of State developed the Application for Grant Funds to Improve Accessibility of Elections to Individuals with Disabilities for the counties to submit requests for funds to implement improvements in the polling locations. This grant request requires that the counties provide a minimum of twenty-five percent matching funds in order to obtain a grant.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Board of Elections staff conducted a survey in 2003 and identified ten polling locations that need facility improvements to comply with the ADA requirements. The Board of Elections requested that the Chatham County Facilities Maintenance Department review eight of the identified polling locations and develop a cost estimate for the necessary improvements.
2. The County Maintenance Department surveyed the polling locations and determined that seven sites required upgrades to provide ADA compliant parking places and signs, and one site required upgrade to the markings and signs. The Maintenance Department developed an estimate of \$1990 per location for upgrading the parking and \$211 per location for the signage and markings. The total of the grant request is \$15,618 and the matching funds requested from the county are \$3904.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To approve the matching funds and allow the Elections Board to submit the grant request.
2. To disapprove the matching funds and forfeit the grant funds.

FUNDING:

The county matching funds of \$3904 are available in Maintenance Dept 1001565 account 52.11001 Management Consulting.

POLICY:

The polling locations used by the Chatham County Board of Elections must meet the requirements of the Georgia Election Code (Title 21, Chapter 2) and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve Alternative #1.

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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. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for the Louis Mills/Redgate drainage project for design changes	SPLOST	Thomas and Hutton Engineering	\$37,630	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage - Louis Mills/Redgate/Rahn Dairy Canal project
B. Professional engineering services contract to create a master plan for the Citizen's Service center site and design a connector road to Seawright Drive	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung	\$27,430	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Seawright Drive Connector (pending Board approval of transfer)
C. Professional engineering services contract for the project to pave the parking lot at the Skidaway Narrows Boat Ramps	SPLOST	Thomas and Hutton Engineering	\$43,065	SPLOST (2003-2008) - County Boat Ramps
D. One (1) 2005 Ford Ranger pickup truck	Tax Commissioner	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$18,103	•General Fund/M & O - Tax Commissioner - \$4,000 •CIP - Fleet Operations - \$14,103
E. Renewal of property coverage for various Tybee Island locations	Finance	Arch Insurance Company	\$26,000	Insurance and Surety Bond Premiums
F. Confirmation emergency repairs to the Causton Bluff Bridge	Bridges	H C Enterprises, Inc.	\$165,005	Reserve for Catastrophic Claims
G. Install electrical service and required lighting for Records Storage Facility	Administrative Services	Godbee and Rimes	\$37,000	CIP - Bond Funds - Records Storage Facility
H. Install HVAC required for the Records Storage Facility	Administrative Services	All Seasons	\$22,440	CIP - Bond Funds - Records Storage Facility
I. Confirmation of the engineering services for the emergency repairs for the Causton Bluff Bridge	Bridges	Campo and Associates	\$10,720	Reserve for Catastrophic Claims

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve Items 11-A through 11-I Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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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.

- PETITIONER JOHN S. KERN, AGENT FOR ROBERT CHU, OWNER, IS REQUESTING THE REZONING OF A 0.50 ACRE PROPERTY FROM AN R-2-A/TC (TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL LIMITED/TOWN CENTER OVERLAY) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A PUD-IS-B/TC (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-INSTITUTIONAL/TOWN CENTER OVERLAY) ZONING CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL IN CONJUNCTION WITH A GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4-6 54 (1) (A). MPC FILE NO. Z-050222-63781-1 [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

1. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XI OF THE *RIGHTS-OF-WAY ENCROACHMENT ORDINANCE* TO GIVE THE COUNTY POWER TO REMOVE AN OBSTRUCTION OR ENCROACHMENT IN A RIGHT-OF-WAY.

Chairman Liakakis said, as you'll remember, we had some discussion —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, — at the last meeting, you know, concerning that that the County had a problem in being able to remove obstructions that were placed on County property, and we had that discussion. It's in your book also. We have a motion on the floor and seconded. Everybody go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Gellatly were not present when this vote was taken.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Holmes moved to approve an amendment to Article XI of the Rights-of-Way Encroachment Ordinance to give the County power to remove an obstruction or encroachment in a right-of-way. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: XII-1
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Robert W. Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services

Issue: Request Board approve an amendment to Article XI of the *Rights-of-Way Encroachment Ordinance* giving the County the power to remove an encroachment or obstruction in a right-of-way.

Background: The *Rights-of-Way Encroachment Ordinance* regulates construction related activity in public owned right-of-way of the unincorporated areas of Chatham County.

Facts and Findings:

1. Permits for encroachment are issued through the Public Works and Park Services Department and applications are reviewed by the County Engineer's office including the County Arborist.
2. On occasion, encroachments occur without a permit. If construction is in progress, the violator will be stopped and work would not continue until a permit is issued. If construction is completed and the encroachment is in place, the County notifies the violator by certified letter of the violation and requires them to make an after the fact application within a specified time. If the work is determined to be substandard, the County will also require the violator to take corrective measures to bring the encroachment into compliance. There is a penalty provision in the ordinance upon conviction.
3. The County Attorney has recommended the ordinance be modified to give the County the power to remove an encroachment and seek reimbursement for expenses incurred.
4. Ordinance amendment is attached to the staff report.

Funding: Not applicable.

Policy Statement: Board action is required to amend an ordinance.

Alternatives:

1. Board approve an amendment to Article XI of the *Rights-of-Way Encroachment Ordinance* giving the County the power to remove an encroachment or obstruction in a right-of-way.
2. Board not to approve amendment.

Recommendations: Board approve Alternative #1.
All Districts

ARTICLE XI
Rights-of-Way Encroachment Ordinance

ADD:

§12-1106.2 Liability for Future Relocation Lies with Owner.

Paragraph 2

Should owner upon notification by Chatham County fail to remove any property encroaching in the right-of-way within 30 days, then Chatham County shall have the right to remove the obstruction or encroachment with all cost and expenses plus \$500 charged to owner in constituting a lien against the property.

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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: May 13, 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>
Fixed wing aircraft flight instrument panel lights	Mosquito Control	Blue Mountain Avionics, Inc.	\$2,990	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Repaired, reinstalled and tested shaft for the force main repairs at SPA	Water and Sewer	Water/Wastewater Contractors	\$5,115	Water and Sewer
Ten (10) emergency escape breathing apparatus	Detention Center	Samson Industrial	\$4,550	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Eight (8) replacement computers with monitors and three year technical support	Juvenile Court	Dell Marketing (state contract)	\$8,385	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Purchase and installation of Savin copy machine	State Court Judge	Automated Business Resources	\$6,220	General Fund/M&O - State Court Judge

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Prepare permitting documents for replacing two 48" diameter flap gated culvert with a single barrel concrete box culvert and flap gate	SPLOST	Collins Engineers, Inc.	\$2,950	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Culvert Replacement - Walthour Road
Asbestos abatement on County-owned property at 1916 Blue Jay and 1923 and 1925 Westlake Avenue	SPLOST	Southern Tri (MBE)	\$4,500	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Westlake Drainage
Demolition of County-owned property at 1934 Blue Jay Avenue	SPLOST	American Clearing and Hauling (MBE)	\$3,400	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Westlake Drainage
Demolition of County-owned property at 1909, 1911 and 1914 Blue Jay Avenue	SPLOST	D S, Inc. (MBE)	\$9,902	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Westlake Drainage
Perform a baseline home inspection and settlement monitoring for 19 Briarwood Drive	SPLOST	EMC Engineering Services, Inc.	\$5,330	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Pipemakers Canal
Wetland and delineation and permitting for Old Highway 204 bridges	SPLOST	Sligh Environmental Consultants	\$5,500	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Bridges

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written reports were received as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Roads
DATE: May 13, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County road projects.

BACKGROUND: The schedules for construction are dictated by the GDOT allocations of funds among the Congressional districts and the balancing of funds in the Chatham Urban Transportation Study (CUTS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The current TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) were approved by the CUTS Policy Committee on September 22, 2004. Key milestone events are summarized in the attached table.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway.

a. Phase 4. Under construction. The priority of work at this time is the Kingsway Canal box culvert under Whitfield Avenue. Phase 4 should be complete by November 2005.

b. Phase 5. The Local Government Project Agreement (LGPA) was approved by the GDOT on September 11, 2001. The Value Engineering (VE) Study required for projects

over \$25M was approved by the GDOT on December 17, 2004. The Concept Report was signed on February 9, 2005. Design is underway for right of way plan approval by June 30, 2005.

2. US 17, Ogeechee River to SR 204: Under construction. GDOT advises that a supplemental agreement with the contractor involving issues that stopped work has been executed and the contractor has resumed work. Also, during construction it was discovered that an existing storm water outfall ditch would have to be re-graded to accept the storm water runoff from the project. This work will require additional right-of-way to be acquired by the County. The revised right-of-way plans have been received to make the acquisitions, and the revised construction plans have been completed to correct this oversight. This will also require a supplemental agreement between the GDOT and the contractor for the additional work. A new project completion date will be negotiated but GDOT now estimates it will not be before December 2005, or January 2006.

3. Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road Widening. Under construction. Clearing of the right of way is mostly complete. Power lines, telephones, and water/sewer facilities are being relocated along the three mile length of the project. The conflict with placing plastic storm drain piping along the HAAF security fence is resolved. The GDOT will move this section to be under the southbound lanes using reinforced concrete pipe. The County's consultant redesigned this section and revised construction drawings (change order to follow). Scheduled completion is May 2006.

4. Stephenson Avenue. The contract completion date was November 30, 2004. Substantial completion was achieved on April 1. Liquidated damages totalling \$54,450 were assessed from December 1, 2004, at the rate of \$450 per day, to March 31, 2005. Based on the terms of the contract, once the project exceeds 80% completion the retainage for the project must be reduced from 10% to 2½%. The April pay request will reflect the project to be about 98% complete. Even though reduced, the retainage will be over \$100,000.

5. Skidaway Widening: The Final EA was approved by the FHWA on December 30, 2004. The County's consulting firm for this project is preparing a proposal for an amendment to the engineering services contract to incorporate all new GDOT requirements known to date to complete the design. There will be approximately 200 properties impacted by this project. In accordance with the LGPA, the County is responsible for acquiring the necessary right of way. The GDOT has agreed to fund, award and manage the construction project. Due to reductions in state and federal highway funds, staff will be looking at the feasibility of requesting that GDOT break this project into two or three construction contracts.

6. Whitfield Avenue Widening. The FHWA approved the EA/FONSI on February 13, 2004, which authorized the County to proceed with preliminary design which was completed in June. By letter dated June 30, 2004, however, the GDOT required that the preliminary design include the landscaping impacts before scheduling the Preliminary Field Plan Review (PFPR). Also, staff was advised on January 26, 2005, that the widening of the median to accommodate landscaping and the proposed reduction in speed limit would require amending the previously approved Concept Report and Environmental Assessment. The wider raised median causes at least four additional residential displacements on the west side of Whitfield Avenue and increases the GDOT's right of way acquisition costs. These changes cannot be accomplished in time to have approved right of way plans by June 30 (the end of FY 2005) as is currently programmed in the CUTS TIP. At this point it does not impact the schedule for construction to start in FY 2007.

7. Diamond Causeway Widening. The Draft EA was approved by the FHWA on February 25, 2005, for advance to public hearing. The GDOT has scheduled the public hearing for June 9. The GDOT has tentatively scheduled a meeting on May 10th at 1:00 pm in the Bridge Conference Room in Atlanta to discuss the alignment, speed design, pier alignment and structural details of the high level replacement bridge and a low level bridge widening.

8. Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2 (I-16 to US 80). Another revised Final EA with a Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) was forwarded to the GDOT on September 15, 2004. The GDOT forwarded the EA to FHWA on December 14, 2004, for approval. On March 1, 2005, the FHWA issued six additional comments requiring changes and an update of the Conceptual Stage Study.

9. White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Road. After many reviews and revisions to the Draft Environmental Assessment over the last seven years, the FHWA questioned the Need and Purpose for the project, suggesting it does not warrant the extent of the improvements

originally proposed. In the opinion of County staff, the traffic analysis indicated that safety improvements are warranted due to the narrowness of the existing pavement and some intersection improvements are needed. No four lanes are warranted anywhere. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) was held on August 12, 2004, at the Windsor Forest Baptist Church to solicit public input on the project. The turn out was good ... approximately 200 attended. GDOT has finalized the written responses. Letters to respondents are being prepared. A staff level meeting with the GDOT, FHWA and the City of Savannah was held on March 7, 2005, to discuss a preferred alternative. The Need and Purpose is being revised to essentially create a 3-lane section from Willow Road to Cedar Grove (near entrance to Country Day School) and improve the two lanes (i.e. widen pavement to 12 feet wide travel lanes) from Cedar Grove to Rose Dhu Road. The project will include either sidewalks on both sides or a multi-purpose trail on one side.

10. Eisenhower Widening from Abercorn to Truman Parkway. The Concept Report was approved by GDOT on June 22, 2004, but was not received by the County until November 15, 2004. Because of the high estimated right of way costs (over \$22 million -- local cost), City of Savannah staff has been asked to look again at the need and purpose and the proposed width of the raised median. Also, the \$22 million does not include costs to relocate utilities and other infrastructure.

11. Abercorn widening from Largo Drive to Rio Road. The concept meeting with GDOT and City of Savannah held September 16, 2002. When the concept report is approved, preliminary design can start. The Concept Report has been revised to reflect the changed terminus from Deerfield Road to Largo Drive and was sent to GDOT on June 28, 2004. This project is affected by two other projects currently under design. This project is being coordinated with the other projects to improve the intersections at Largo Drive and the Abercorn widening project from King George Boulevard to Rio Road.

12. Bay Street Widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct. The Concept Report was approved by the GDOT on February 9, 2005. Collection of field survey, property and utility location data continues. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office continues. The Draft EA is being prepared for submission to the GDOT by May, 2005.

13. US 80/SR26

a. Lynes Parkway to Victory Drive. GDOT is preparing the EA. The GDOT schedule shows a public hearing in 2005 and award of a construction contract in 2007.

b. Bull River to Lazaretto Creek. GDOT is working on the EA. Programmed in 2010.

14. Local Roads

a. Dirt roads being designed by EMC Engineering for paving.

(1) Fountain Road. Final plans and ROW plats have been sent to Moreland/Altobelli for right-of-way acquisition which is underway. Due to the new alignment of the road, the USACE has determined that wetlands are impacted (permit pending).

(2) Bond Avenue, Heather Street, Betran Avenue, Shore Road, Mobley Street, Yucca Place, Perkins Place, Stone Street. All the plans have been returned to the engineering consultant for correction. GDOT has authorized a County Contract for the projects. Contract documents will be sent to the County soon for execution.

b. Andrews Street. Staff sent letters to every property owner on Andrews Street to meet and discuss the process for making Andrews a private roadway. The meeting was held on March 21, 2005. Four property owners attended. Staff explained the process and implications of a quit claim of the County's interests. The County may have to retain a drainage easement. By State law, a public hearing is required to abandon a public roadway. One of property owners that staff believes wants to keep the road public did not attend. The property owners that did attend believe that they can convince the one opposing the action to change their mind. They have written a letter to the County requesting the action be taken to quit claim the roadway to them. Staff sent a letter to the property owners on April 5, 2005, explaining the actions the County must take before placing the issue before the County Commission. On April 29, 2005, Ms. Doris Love called the County Manager to voice her strong objection to any effort that would make Andrews a private road.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

SUMMARY OF ROAD PROJECT STATUS
May 2005

PROJECT	ELEMENT	MILESTONE FOR COMPLETION	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	NOTES
Truman Parkway, Ph 4	Construction	Nov 2005	GDOT	
Truman Parkway, Ph 5	Environmental ROW Final Design Construction	Complete July 2006 Feb 2007 TBD	County County/GDOT County/GDOT GDOT	EIS approved 8/12/99 CST LR
US 17: Ogeechee Riv/SR204	Construction	Oct 2005	GDOT	Will be extended.
Stephenson Avenue	Construction	Nov 2004	County/GDOT	Substantially complete as of April 1.
Middleground/Montgomery Cross Road Widening	Construction	May 2006	GDOT	
Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy, Ph 2	Environmental ROW Construction	Unknown	County County GDOT	CST FY 2007
Whitfield Avenue Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Feb 2004	County County County/GDOT GDOT	EA/FONSI signed Feb 13 Preliminary plans on hold. ROW funded FY2005/06 CST FY 2007
Diamond Causeway Widening and two bridges	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Unknown	County County GDOT GDOT	Draft EA signed Feb 25 by FHWA FY 2008 CST LR
Skidaway Road Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Complete	County County County GDOT	Final EA signed 12.30.04 Change order needed for design to continue.
Bay Street from I-516 to Viaduct	Environmental ROW Final Design Construction	Dec 2005 Feb 2007 Apr 2007 TBD	County County County GDOT	Concept Report approved Feb 9, 2005. CST LR
US 80 Widening - Bull River to Lazaretto Ck - I-516 to Victory Drive	Environmental Environmental	Unknown Unknown	GDOT GDOT	CST FY 2010 CST FY 2007
White Bluff/Coffee Bluff	Environmental	Unknown	County	CST FY 2008
Eisenhower (Abercorn to Truman Parkway)	Environmental		County	Concept Report approved June 22, 2004.
Abercorn (Largo Drive to Rio Road)	Environmental		County	Concept Report pending approval
NOTES: CST = FY in which the projects are programmed for construction in the CUTS 2005-2007 TIP.				

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Drainage
DATE: May 13, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County drainage projects.

BACKGROUND: For construction contracts that have been awarded, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates. For projects pending environmental permits, start dates are best estimates. All project scopes include varying degrees of canal widening, bank stabilization, larger bridges and culverts.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Pipemakers Canal
 - a. Phase 1 (From the outfall at Savannah River to SR 21). Double channel size, replace bridges, replace tidegate, and provide maintenance access.
 - i. The County awarded the contract for construction to Phoenix Construction on July 25, 2003. Change Order No. 1 was approved by the Board in February 2004 and Change Order No. 2 was approved by the Board in January 2005 and Change Order No. 3 approved by the Board in April 2005.
 - ii. The date for substantial completion is August 2005.
 - b. Phase 2 (From SR 21 to I-95). Double channel size and provide maintenance access.
 - i. ROW acquisition is underway.
 - ii. Replacement of existing bridges in this section to be delayed pending construction of proposed pump station.
 - iii. Preliminary drawings have been reviewed by Staff and returned to the consultant. Staff expects Preliminary Design to be completed in May, allowing the permitting process to begin.
 - c. Golf Course (section of Phase 2 on Airport property). Widening of this section of canal completed in 2000.
 - d. Kahn Mitigation Site. The final mitigation package for Phase 2, which includes the Kahn Site, is being designed concurrently with Phase 2 design.
 - e. Phase 1a (isolated areas within GPA up to SR21). A project to provide canal improvements that were not included in the Phase 1 Contract. This work was delayed until relocation of the water pipeline can be accomplished by the City.
 - f. Bridge Removal and Sheet Pile Wall Modifications. A project to remove the existing bridge (with the tidegates) restricting the flow of drainage from Pipemakers Canal into the Savannah River. A consultant to prepare the design has been selected. Staff is negotiating a cost for the Contract to be approved by the Board.
2. Hardin Canal
 - a. Phase 1 (From SR 307 to I-16). Widen channel and replace bridge crossings.
 - i. ROW and construction plans for the channel are complete. Staff is continuing efforts to acquire necessary permits from the USACE. Further revisions might be necessary as a result of continuing negotiations for the permit from USACE.
 - ii. Crossings at SR307. Enlarging the crossings under Dean Forest Road (SR307) will be accomplished as a separate construction project. Design work is in progress.
 - b. Phase 2 (From I-16 to Pine Barren Road). Widen channel and construct a detention pond. No target construction date.
3. Westlake/Springfield Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Crossing and channel improvements from Perimeter Road on Hunter Army Airfield downstream toward the Forest River. Completed January 2002.
 - b. Phase 2. Acquire flood-prone properties and convert the acquired land into a storm water retention facility to provide greater protection to remaining properties in the area.

- i. The County has title to all properties except two which require condemnation proceedings to clear the title.
 - ii. Reimbursement to the County of a portion of the acquisition costs by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency is expected by May 2005.
 - c. The railroad undercrossing Final Design Report has been approved. Preliminary construction drawings have been reviewed by Staff and returned to the consultant. Distribution of plans to the railroad and to Hunter Army Airfield for approval is expected to occur in May 2005.
4. Placentia Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Tidegate at Bonaventure Road. Completed February 1999.
 - b. Phase 2. Crossing and channel widening from Bonaventure Road to Shell Road in Thunderbolt. Completed October, 2002.
 - c. Placentia Beautification Project: Correction of a drainage problem along Tennessee Ave. and to improve the appearance of the canal near the Bonaventure Bridge. Staff has prepared a preliminary plan of improvements. Negotiations for the necessary rights of way and easements are pending.
5. Conaway Branch Canal (tributary of Pipemakers Canal) Widen channel with road crossing improvements and a maintenance road.
 - a. Phase 1 includes channel improvements and crossing upgrades north of Main Street to Pipemakers Canal.
 - i. Preliminary title searches are complete. The consultant is proceeding with wetlands permitting, and coordination with GDOT for the crossing at Highway 80. Review of revised construction plans and preliminary right of way plans is underway. The estimated construction cost exceeds the current available budget. Staff is considering options to address this issue. Staff and Consultant met with USACE regarding permitting issues. On site project walk through with the USACE was conducted to help define permitting issues.
 - ii. Staff has approved recommended improvements of additional area requested by City of Bloomingdale. Consultant is working on preliminary construction drawings. Construction of these improvements to be funded by the City of Bloomingdale.
 - b. Phase 2 includes improvements to system south of Main Street to Hardin Canal. The plan to improve drainage south of Main Street will require an Intergovernmental Agreement with Bloomingdale.
6. Little Hurst Canal Improve undercrossings at SR 21 and railroad, and widen channel downstream of SR21. Revised hydraulic analysis and recommendations were completed in 2004. Staff utilized the consultant's recommendations to prepare an engineering scope of work for a design contract.
7. Wilmington Park Canal
 - a. Phase 1. (Construction of tide gate) Completed September 2002.
 - b. Phase 2. Widen channel and improve culvert crossings under Wilmington Island Road.
 - i. Received permit from USACE on July 5, 2002. Project is under design, incorporating changes to reduce cost while still attaining storm water goals. Surveying for alternative route is complete.
 - ii. Staff has directed the consultant to proceed with survey and design of a project to provide slope stabilization at Wilmington Island Road. Review of preliminary recommendations is underway.
8. Kings Way Canal Widen channel and enlarge culverts east of Whitfield Avenue to Vernon River.
 - a. Improvements to crossing of the canal under Whitfield are being constructed as part of GDOT's Truman Parkway, Phase 4 project.
 - b. Preliminary design and rights of way drawings are under review by Staff.
9. Romney Place Drainage
 - a. Phase 1. Improve drainage along Central Avenue. Completed October 2001.
 - b. Phase 2. Improve storm drains and road crossings. Preliminary recommendations by the consultant for drainage improvements on Romney Place and along Parkersburg Road have been approved by Staff. Staff is negotiating a price with the consultant to complete the design of recommended improvements.
10. Village Green Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Upgrade culvert under Cambridge Drive. Completed October 1999.

- b. Phase 2. Staff has accepted the consultant's recommendations for improvements. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE. Compilation of citizen drainage survey to help establish project need and purpose for permitting is complete.
11. Port Industrial Park Increase the capacity of the crossing under State Route 307 and improve the channel downstream to Pipemakers Canal.
- a. The crossing under SR 307 is being coordinated with the GDOT SR 307 widening project from R. B. Miller Road to SR21. Design of the project to improve the canal downstream from SR307 to Pipemakers Canal is complete. The wetlands permit has been signed by the County Engineer and was approved by USACE District Engineer on September 24, 2002.
 - b. GDOT has concurred with the County's proposal to include construction of the crossing under SR 307 as a County Contract. Conditions of revised Intergovernmental Agreement are not acceptable. Staff is evaluating options.
 - c. GDOT has approved new curb cuts at SR 307 to improve access to the canal for maintenance.
12. Louis Mills Canal Widen channel from Veterans Parkway downstream to outfall at Westlake Canal and improve crossing under Marshall Avenue.
- a. Preliminary design and Easement/ROW drawings have been reviewed by Staff.
 - b. Acquisition of Easements and ROW is underway. A meeting with area residents was held on March 29, 2005 to discuss the project.
 - c. As a result of problems associated with trash build-up on a security screen installed by HAAF on a downstream section of the canal, Staff has directed the consultant to include in the Louis Mills project a trash screen to be maintained by Chatham County. The recommendation to amend the design consultant's contract for this added work is pending Board approval.
13. Redgate/Rahn Dairy A project to provide larger underdrains at several road crossings, canal widening and provisions for maintenance access.
- a. This project will reduce stormwater flows in the Louis Mills system as well as provide improve drainage in the existing canal.
 - b. Preliminary design and Easement/ROW drawings are under review by Staff. Acquisition of Easements and ROW will begin upon completion of the review.
14. Diggs Avenue Drainage (part of Louis Mills) This drainage improvement project involves improving drainage at the east end of Diggs Avenue. Acquisition of ROW is in underway. Staff has negotiated a price for design of the necessary improvements, which will begin upon securing a right of entry agreement with the property owner. An agreement to acquire the necessary property has been accomplished with the property owner.
15. Ogeechee Farms
- a. Phase 1. Improve internal collector system south of Vidalia Road. The project is substantially complete. Contractor is completing punch list items. Issue regarding sections of installed pipe determined by Staff to be unacceptable has been resolved. Contractor shall be making repairs as agreed.
 - b. Phase 2.
 - i. The County has received the Section 404 wetlands permit from USACE. Final paperwork utilizing the County's new banking instrument for mitigation is complete.
 - ii. The design is being revised to incorporate changes including an additional road undercrossing in the project and installation of box culvert sections instead of multiple pipes.
16. Fawcett Canal
- a. Phase 1. Widen channel and improve crossings from Georgetown downstream to crossing under Grove Point Road, and replace tide gate.
 - i. Drainage improvements completed August 2002.
 - ii. Project to improve the appearance and drainage function of the lagoons is about 90 percent complete.
 - b. Phase 2. Provide increased storm water drainage capacity in areas affecting Red Fox Drive and White Hawthorne Drive. Acquisition of needed easements from the City of Savannah is in progress. Design work is currently underway.

17. Quacco Canal Drainage Improvements East of US17 (Formerly the Ecosystem Restoration Project) Improve Quacco Canal and associated road undercrossing capacities from US 17 to marsh, including removal of a private tidegate structure. The work is expected to reduce the 50-year flood level by about 2 feet at US17 and at the same time restore a salt marsh ecosystem to its original condition.
 - a. Staff cancelled taking construction bids for the work as a result of permitting difficulties encountered. A permit from USACE is expected in July 2005.
 - b. Access agreements to the private property and acquisition of easements is underway.
18. Quacco/Regency Park Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. The draft Design Study Report has been reviewed by Staff and discussed with the USACE in regard to potential permitting issues. Responses obtained through the USACE from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies all state that any alternative impacting the existing wetland areas surrounding the Little Ogeechee River will be strongly opposed by these agencies. As a result of these responses, design is proceeding with an alternative (albeit more costly) to construct the improvements needed.
19. Halcyon Bluff Subdivision Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. A construction contract was approved by the Board on December 17, 2004. Construction is underway.
20. Golden Isles Subdivision Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community.
 - a. Phase 1. Outfall improvements completed 1997.
 - b. Phase 2. Improvements to collector system. Approval by Health Department to proceed with acquisition has been obtained. Preliminary title searches of affected properties are underway. Right of way acquisition has commenced. Closing has been completed on 3 of 26 parcels.
21. Henderson Channel and crossing improvements to alleviate flooding in the subdivision.
 - a. Canal 1 (henceforth referred to as Brown Thrush Canal): Crossing and channel improvements on the canal parallel to Brown Thrush Road, from Al Henderson Blvd. to Little Neck Road. Survey and analysis are complete. Staff's review of consultant's final report is complete. Staff is reviewing Consultant's fee proposal for design of recommendations.
 - b. Canal 2 (henceforth referred to as Henderson Canal): Provide maintenance road for canal from Gateway Blvd. to Little Neck Road through wetlands. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE.
22. North Rice Mill Right of way acquisition services to provide for drainage improvements to a local drainage system tributary to the Georgetown Canal. Property acquisitions required for construction and maintenance of the recommended improvements is underway.
23. Georgetown Canal Upgrading roadway undercrossings to improve drainage capacity. Design for the replacement of the St. Ives undercrossing is completed. A construction contract was approved by the Board on December 17, 2004. Construction is underway.
24. Walthour Canal at Off Shore A small project to improve the undersized culverts under the entrance road to the Off Shore Subdivision. Final construction documents have been received. Permitting is underway.
25. Wilmington Outfall A project to correct storm sewer drainage pipes between Wilmington Road and the Wilmington River. Preliminary engineering work on the project is underway

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

Prepared by W.C. Uhl, P.E.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Odell and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 12:31 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioners Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Liakakis declared the meeting adjourned at 1:21 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