

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 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 9:48 a.m., Friday, June 10, 2005.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Patrick Farrell gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do, we're going to have a special ceremony this morning and we can see those beautiful members of the Youth Commission who will be graduating, and that's wonderful. What I'd like to do right now, we have three members of the Youth Commission who are officers. We have Chantel Flowers, who is the new Chairperson-Elect from Beach High School, Akeem Mitchell, who is Vice Chairman-Elect from Jenkins High School, and Katie Watters, who is Secretary-Elect, Savannah Christian. Welcome and we're glad to have the new leaders.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. YOUTH COMMISSION GRADUATION.

Chairman Liakakis said, you know, we're going to have this morning the youth graduation ceremony this morning and, you know, this is really important. People say, you know, sometimes why does government get involved in those things, but what this Youth Commission has done in the last number of years, as the majority of people know that Dr. Priscilla Thomas, our Vice Chairman, it was her idea to put it together, and we've seen some wonderful results from this. The students from the schools getting involved, doing positive things in our community, being successful, many of them who have graduated and gone on to higher things, and we really do appreciate that. And they get involved and they come up here on our meetings, you know, and sometimes they have discussions and they have regular meetings, you know, so that they can get involved in government, which is a good thing because they could be future leaders of this Commission, our City Council, our State or Federal Government. Now I'd like to call on the Director for the County, Van Johnson, to have the ceremony.

Mr. Van Johnson said, thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, ladies and gentlemen. Today is a bittersweet day for us. While we constantly hear of the 20% of young people that are not responsible and are not doing the right thing, we come today to celebrate the accomplishments of those who worked hard, who sacrificed and who made it happen. Ladies and gentlemen, this is your work. This is the fruit of your investment. This is because you and your predecessors before you since 1992 made the policy decision to make youth development and empowerment a goal that you were willing to invest in. To create a premier youth organization made up of ordinary young people doing extraordinary things together. Since the inception of Dr. Thomas' vision in 1992, we've had several hundred young people to graduate from this program. We've heard from several of them over the last month or so. We had an alumnus from Georgetown University that will be attending Case Western Reserve University School of Law. We had another alumni, who graduated from Emory University, another from one Savannah State in three years who will attending social work school on a graduate level at South Carolina State University. We also had alumni to graduate this month from Albany State, Fort Valley State and Armstrong Atlantic State University. This is your work, this is the fruit of your investment. And certainly we have enjoyed great support from all of our Commissions throughout the years, and certainly this Commission this year has been no different. Certainly many of you, most of you, all of you have been very encouraging, very, very supportive and these young people know it, they appreciate it and they know that not only do you care about them, you

actually like them, and that's important as well. You have bridged the racial, economic, educational and social divide in this community by uniting our most common denominator — our youth, and because of this bridge, we have formed relationships that will transcend this organization and lifetime bonds are created.

Mr. Johnson said, this 2004-2005 edition of the Chatham County Youth Commission has accepted the call to serve and serve they did. Consider the following: We were most honored when the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah chose this organization to model the Savannah Youth Council, where the Youth Commissioners personally mentored junior high school students. Chatham County Youth Commissioners, you saw them in Washington, DOCUMENT, at the 2005 NACo Legislative Conference where they had the opportunity to meet Senator John McCain. You saw them in action right here in Savannah at the 2005 ACCG Conference right here, and of course you remember in October 2004 the Chatham County Youth Commission held its first Town Hall Meeting. This meeting, we believe, was unique because we had the quorum of three governmental bodies: the Chatham County Commission, the Savannah City Council and the Savannah-Chatham School Board. We've served as partners for Truancy Protocol Committee, and you'll be hearing about more exciting things coming from that. This group raised over \$2,889 for various non-profit youth efforts right here in this community. And where high school students in the education system in public education only have to have five hours of community service they have an average of 197 hours of activity between September 1st and June 1st, and our average Youth Commissioner has about 150 hours of community services. We were invited to invited to San Jose, California, at the request of the National League of Cities to talk, Ms. Jackson and myself, to talk about what you are doing right here in Chatham County. This certainly would not be possible without our love and support from our community here in Savannah, and certainly, Mr. Chairman, we thank you for your constant support of this organization. We have a wonderful staff of people who give of their own time, their own efforts, their own energy to be an inspiration to these young people: Pete Nichols, who's somewhere around, who's our Public Access Coordinator, Debra Allen, who is out of town at a conference, who wanted to be here but she could not, Sandra Smalls and Bonnie Taylor, who are members of my staff that work so hard and diligently, and we also had the opportunity this year to have a graduate advisor, Ms. Taqwaa Saleem, who is a last year graduate and loved it so much she couldn't get away so we put her to work; Mr. Abolt, who's always been very, very supportive us of, my Director, Mr. Kaigler, our County department heads, who cannot seem to say no to these young people, to school principals and administrators, who give these young people time off from school to be able to attend our various functions, and certainly we have parents and guardians and loved ones and family members that are here. So if all of our parents and family members that are here for these young people, please stand and be recognized.

Mr. Johnson said, so I now present to you the graduates for the 2004-2005 Chatham County Youth Commissioner:

Ashley Jackson, served as our Chairperson, graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and she will be attending Claflin College

Dr. Thomas, if you'll come down, and Mr. Chairman and Russ [Abolt]. Now we're not going to have any crying up in here today.

Our Secretary, Catherine Cornelius, graduated from Jenkins High School and will be attending Savannah State University, where you can get anywhere from here

Alex Salter, who we call "Big Daddy." He graduated from Bible Baptist and he will be attending Armstrong Atlantic State University right here, and he was the recipient of the Secretary of State's Excellence in Citizenship Award

Clarissa Davis, she graduated from Johnson High School and she will be attending somewhere between Spelman College and Savannah State

Tiyanna Hurst, who graduated from Johnson High School and she will be attending Savannah State, I believe.

Jessica Morse could to be with us. She is on a cruise with her family. I can't believe how someone would rather be on a cruise than be with us, but she graduated from Jenkins High School, and she'll be attending Georgia State, but you can give here a round of applause

Leslie Walker, who graduated from Bible Baptist, and she will be attending Paine College in Augusta, Georgia

Mr. Johnson said, ladies and gentlemen, the 2004-2005 Class of the Chatham County Youth Commission. Let's give them a big round of applause. You may be seated. It's my pleasure at this time to introduce for the final time in this capacity, our Chairperson for the 2004-2005 Chatham County Youth Commission, Ms. Ashley Jackson.

Miss Ashley Jackson said, good morning. It was a beautiful Summer day in Savannah, which of course means it was blazing hot. My new friends and I, dressed in white T-shirts and cutup jeans, were among the hundreds of people in the lot between St. Philip's Church and Carver State Bank on MLK. There was food, games and entertainment for people of all ages. We worked that day, my friends and I, watching kids, manning booths, making sure this event went smoothly. The day I am describing is the 2003 Chatham County Back to School Rally. This was my first real CCYC event and that day I witnessed how a group of young people could positively impact an organization —, excuse me, could possibly impact a community. Even though I had known about this organization since the age of 10, that was the day I realized I needed to be a part. The thing I did not realize that day was that those same friends would choose me to be their leader for the 2004-2005 year. At that point in my life I did not see the potential that they obviously saw. I want to thank you CCYC family for your support and for seeing what I could not yet see. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I only hope that I lived up to your expectations. Vocalizing our views for a prosperous future. We lived by our mantra again this year. We listened to the voice of the youth. [Inaudible] with the normal activities in Savannah, gave them a back-to-school boat ride, a new year's party and a youth rally that they will never forget. We participated in a Hip Hop Forum trying to explain this culture that we have adopted to those who didn't understand. We called the political leaders in this area to listen to us by holding a Youth Town Hall Meeting and, as expected, we traveled to the National Association of Counties in Washington, DOCUMENT, so that national leaders could listen as well. Of course none of this would have been possible without the support of you, the Chatham County Commission. I thank you for your cooperation, your support, your help and your trust. I thank you for allowing this life-changing organization to exist. I have been afforded opportunities I could have

never dreamed of. Thank you. To our parents: Thank you for supporting us through all the early mornings, late nights and all of the affairs. We know your sacrifice and we love you for it. To our advisors: Ms. Allen, Ms. Smalls, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Saleem, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to keep us organized and in line. To our Director and our parent, Mr. Johnson. Words cannot express the personal thanks I want to express to you. You have been a friend and a parent, and at times even a pain, but it was all for my good. Thank you for the lesson, thank you for believing in me. We love you. To our founder, Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas. Thank you. You are an inspiration and our number one fan. Thank you for caring for us and, when it is needed, disciplining us. Thank you for congratulating us when we've done well. Thank you for fighting for us and believing in us. I am eternally grateful. On behalf of the 2004-2005 Chatham County Youth Commission, we would like to present you with this small token of our appreciation. And on behalf of the class of 2005, I would like to say thank you and we ask that you pray with us as we move on to another phase in our life. Thank you for your time.

Miss Catherine Cornelius said, It has been the goal of the Chatham County Youth Commission to get youth involved by making sure that every high school student that is 17 and a half years old and older is registered to vote. This year, during the week of May 6, 2005, Youth Commissioners registered students in seven public and seven private high schools. On behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, I would like to present 146 completed voter registration forms to Ms. Williams of the Chatham County Registration Department.

Ms. Sandra Williams said, on behalf of the Board of Registrars we thank the Youth Commission for their assistance in helping us register the citizens of Chatham County. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson said, the Beverly M. Whitehead Award was created in 1999 and it was named in memory of Beverly M. Whitehead, who was Chatham County's first Human Resources Director, and was instrumental in the organization and development of the Chatham County Youth Commission. This award honors people, organizations and businesses who have demonstrated a heart for children through service to the Chatham County Youth Commission. Previous recipients include Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Dr. Billy Hair, Mr. Russ Abolt, Mr. Pete Nichols, Rody's Music, Ms. Kim Gusby, WSAV, Cumulus Broadcasting, and others. To present this award to this year's recipients, is Beverly Whitehead's youngest daughter, Monica, Miss Clarissa Davis and Miss Tiyanina Hurst.

Miss Monica Whitehead said, good morning. During our trips out of town, it is necessary for the safety and security of our students for our staff to be able to communicate with each other. For the past several years, this business has donated radios to us for our various trips so we can stay in touch. It is my pleasure to present the my Mother's award, the 2005 Beverly M. Whitehead Award, to Savannah Communications and Mr. Marc Bigbie.

Miss Clarissa Davis said, wherever the Chatham County Youth Commission goes, they take us. They pick us up and get us where we are going safely and on time. From Savannah to Atlanta, Washington, DOCUMENT, Philadelphia and New York, our excursions are unlimited. We even have our own official and personal bus driver. On behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, it is my pleasure to present the 2005 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to Excursions Unlimited, Mr. Jim Lanier and Mr. Hollis Johnson.

Miss Tiyanina Hurst said, the Chatham County Youth Commission has been fortunate to receive constant media coverage over our radio stations —, television stations, I'm sorry. Whenever we need them, they are there and they help get our message out. This year we received several unique opportunities to feature the Chatham County Youth Commission. During the month of February, a certain anchor selected Youth Commissioners to tape segments about famous and not so famous African American heroes. Then in March, a certain television reporter traveled with us during our Annual trip and filmed reports about the many wonderful things we saw, did and experienced during this trip. It is my pleasure to present the 2005 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to WTOC-THE VICTIM, Mr. Bill Cathcart, Mr. Larry Silbermann, Ms. Kim Angelastro and Ms. Dawn Baker.

Mr. Bill Cathcart said, we thank you so much for this recognition. Whether it's civic or corporate life, there's nothing that is more important to eventual success in our estimation than leadership and integrity. Those are two qualities that simply must be there to move things forward in a positive way, and I think that's why we were so delighted to be just a small part of this year's Youth Commission activities because obviously the Chatham County Youth Commission is all about building leaders and instilling integrity. Thanks so much for this recognition.

Mr. Johnson said, we're almost finished. The Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the Year Award was created last year in memory of Brandon Brown, a Youth Commission graduate who passed away in January 2004. This award is given to a current Youth Commissioner, who is not an officer, but demonstrates excellence, leadership, scholarship, and was a model Youth Commissioner during this year. To present this award is Brandon's mother, Mrs. Sadie Brown.

Mrs. Sadie Brown said, good morning. Van [Johnson] said don't cry, but I just talk like this anyway. It is an honor to be here today to present this award. First, I'd like to say to the parents, you have outstanding children. Love them, understand them and listen to them. Children, you have outstanding parents. Love them, understand them and listen to them. Today I'd like to present this award to a young lady that has done outstanding work. Would Katie Watters could forward? Katie [Watters], on behalf of Brandon [Brown] and on behalf of Mr. Johnson and myself and Brandon's brother —, would you please stand —, we would like to present this award to you along with Brandon's trademark. You know he's known as "Little Tiger," so this is Brandon and this is your award.

Mr. Johnson said, and one final presentation by Miss Leslie Walker.

Miss Leslie Walker said, there are generally two ways of leaving the Youth Commission, either by graduation or involuntary emancipation. In this case, we have a Youth Commissioner who is leaving us because she is moving from this area. We will miss her and while we could not allow her to graduate, we wanted to give her something to remember us by. We would like to make this presentation to Youth Commissioner Kirsten Pratt. Youth Commissioner Pratt said, thank you.

Ms. Taquaa Saleem said, and of course we are successful because of you all and the vision of Dr. Thomas, but certainly because of the leadership of Mr. Van R. Johnson, our Director, and as he is a well-traveled man, we want him to have this to think about —, this of us when he's traveling and he can put this overhead in the plan, a little rolling duffel. Sometimes his luggage gets a little tattered. Mr. Johnson said, they must see my luggage.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We want to thank each and every one of you and, you know, this is another Savannah first. We have many first things that happen in the USA right here in Savannah and Chatham County and we're really proud, and I'll tell you this, that the County Commissioners of Georgia, too, they represented the Youth Commission and now they're talking about supporting this statewide, which will be great. We've had other cities, and we've had national recognition on television showing the Chatham County Youth Commission. We're really proud of you. It's wonderful. We thank very much our Vice Chairman here, Priscilla Thomas, for coming up with the idea and of course with Van Johnson who has worked with that to help out with the program and the others. Each and every one of you, you know, we thank you and may all of you be blessed.

Commissioner said, Mr. Chairman, the Youth Commissioners will be featured in the Georgia magazine I believe in the July edition.

Chairman Liakakis said, great. We want everybody to look at that issue. Okay, thanks again.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. JUNE 14TH MEETING BETWEEN COUNTY COMMISSION AND MUNICIPALITIES, 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

Chairman Liakakis said, as you know, this is another first that we have in Chatham County where we are meeting with all the seven cities, Vernonburg and of course with the Chatham County Commission for helping each other on many issues. We're proud to have that, and that's 6:00 p.m., in these Chambers on this coming Tuesday, June 14th.

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2. PRESENTATION BY LIVING INDEPENDENCE FOR EVERYONE (LIFE).

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to call on the members of LIFE, that's Living Independence for Everyone for a presentation.

Mr. Bart Brody said, good morning. Can you hear me? Chairman Liakakis said, sure. Identify yourself please. My name is Bart Brophy. I'm the Executive Director of LIFE, Inc. It's the first time I've really had a chance to talk to council. I appreciate you giving me the opportunity. I know Mr. Liakakis is a long-time supporter of our organization and I hope the rest of you are familiar with what we do. I just want to make a statement. We are a center that develops independent living plans for people with various disabilities. We then assist those individuals so that despite a serious disability they can become full participants in our community. By providing these services, we become aware of barriers and cracks in the system. We advocate for the barriers to be removed and the cracks filled in. At times, we apply for funding to provide what the community does not provide for people with disabilities. We have money to purchase assistive technology and we do certain home modifications to provide access to people for the last ten-plus years. The United States has asked this County to remove all the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from being fully included in this community. That is a tremendous effort that requires every entity's participation. Our center is uniquely qualified to provide guidance in support of this effort. Our

board is required to have 51% people with disabilities. Our employees are highly qualified and have a cross section of the most serious disabilities but function completely independently, including working and paying taxes.

Mr. Brody said, I am here on behalf of LIFE to ask the County for financial support. To continue receiving Department of Education funds and State funding, we need to show strong local support. We have been serving on boards and committees in Chatham expressing the opinions of people with disabilities and solving issues daily. Our Chatham County support has dropped off from \$24,000 to zero over the last five years. We understand the County has had financial difficulties. We have continued to serve hundreds of individuals each year and thousands over the years. We feel we have been a tremendous asset to this community and will continue to be an asset. And I thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Living Independently for Everyone is a very important, you know, organization. If you look at their history, a lot of people that have severe disabilities have been helped. They have doing a number of things in the community, and a lot of them are employed. And what they want to do is live, you know, independently like LIFE stands for, and if you can see the miraculous happenings that has occurred because of LIFE, you can see that we don't have a lot of people that have disabilities that might feel, you know, stay in a home or might be in some service home or might be in a nursing home. They have worked together. Each year they have a number of events out at Lake Mayer and we can see how they have prospered, but of course they need assistance like has been requested today. We hope that others in the community, business and industry will come on board because if you can see them, what they're doing, they're working a number of them on a daily basis, they get out into the community and one day as I was riding down Waters Avenue, I saw one of the most severely disabled person in his wheelchair, not being stuck in his home, but he was in his automated wheelchair coming north on Waters Avenue. He reached Victory Drive right there and then he turned east on Victory Drive, and you could see him —, I even took pictures of him and showed it to City Council because we wanted some more ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY things to be done so that we could have a better situation for our people that have disabilities. But, I mean, that's really inspiring to see people like that getting out into the community and a lot of them becoming productive and paying, you know, taxes. So we thank you very much for the presentation and, Mr. County Manager, you make note of that.

Mr. Brody said, thank you very much for those comments, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that very much. Chairman Liakakis said, all right.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON FUTURE OF HENDERSON GOLF COURSE. (COMMISSIONER STONE, COMMISSIONER ODELL AND COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to call on Commissioner Stone to start it off please.

Commissioner Stone said, well, Mr. Chairman, I think this was brought up actually by Commissioner Odell to look at some ways that we could generate revenue in our budget and, as a result of the pre-meeting, I guess it should probably be capsulized for the benefit of the audience what —, the information that came forward if there are any benefits and, if there are, what. And then I think probably Mr. Kicklighter —, Commissioner Kicklighter has some comments as well.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I don't think that there is any need to go into any lengthy discussion. We had looked at the feasibility of leasing or selling the Henderson Golf Course because in part the debt was retired by SPLOST. Is that correct, Mr. Hart? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, SPLOST would place certain limitations on what can and cannot do and any funding, and ultimately it might be a vanishing —, we would not realize a \$4,000,000 recap to our Recreation Authority or it would be rather neutral and in that it costs us nothing and it's revenue neutral, and I'm going to abandon that idea. County Manager Abolt said you pretty well explained that in 30 seconds. It took me seven pages to pretty much say that in an opinion. Commissioner Odell said, but they were a good seven pages.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, and we might look at that avenue, too. of getting maybe a private organization that will operate it like the City does and bring it more income. You know, it's revenue neutral right now, but bring in more revenue like they did, and it still the property of the County having all of those facilities ready and, you know, available for County residents.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, if I could comment. That's what we already do. It's paid off and, Pat [Monahan], can you elaborate on that?

Mr. Monahan said, just to provide the Board with an update of where we are, during 2004, based on direction from the County Commission, started looking at options to remove that financial burden of the Henderson Golf Club, particularly since the County did pay off the outstanding debt with the sales tax program. We did seek proposals on a lease. We have a lease. This Board actually approved that lease. We did not execute pending the discussion today, but that lease will be executed and it guarantees the County approximately \$50,000 a year, but just as important —, it's run by a private operator who operates several of these courses, including other municipal courses in the State of Georgia —, but just as important, there's a provision in there that the County seeks that the County over the base amount, depending upon the number of rounds and the revenues earned will —, can earn additional funds, maybe as much as \$100,000-\$125,000 a year. That money goes —, becomes transferred into the General Fund/M&O. It does not stay in the Henderson Golf Club account so that it will become —, used for other recreation purposes.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Mr. Pat Monahan explained that the in 2004 the County Commission directed staff to look into options to remove the financial burden of the Henderson Gold Club. A lease proposal was sought from a private operator who operates several other golf courses, but it was not executed pending today's action.

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2. SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO SUMMER BONANZA PARTNERSHIP, INC., YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAM BY THE SAVANNAH CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE LINKS. (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Liakakis said, the next item, we're going to move it up in the Commissioners Items, Special Presentation to Summer Bonanza Partnership, Youth In Action Program by the Savannah Chapter of the National Association of The Links. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be very brief. The Summer Bonanza Partnership Program with Youth In Action Program Countywide, which was founded the same time that the Youth Commission was founded back in 1991, it is also a nationally known organization and we were seeking some assistance with our reading program and, of course, you know I don't have any boundaries in terms of asking people for anything when it comes to those children, so I did ask The Links, I mean, Mrs. Virginia Edwards if she knew anyone who could help us, and she came forward and The Links are now here to make the presentation to the Summer Bonanza Youth In Action Program, I which will kick off on tomorrow at Moses Jackson Resource Center in West Savannah, 200 children. Please come forward.

Ms. Virginia Edwards said, good morning. To the Honorable Chairman Pete Liakakis and the members of the County Commission, on behalf of the Savannah Chapter of The Links, we are pleased to be here today to share in the partnership with Commissioner Thomas, and I want to commend the Commission for all the you are doing for youth in the community. One of our goals is to serve youth. The Savannah Chapter of The Links is a service-oriented organization and, if you will indulge me for a few minutes, I'll give you just a little bit of information about who we are and we have a brochure to share with you and some of the members are here with me and I'll ask our members to please stand as we make this presentation. And I would also like to bring greetings on behalf of our President Shirley James, who was unable to be with us today due to a prior family commitment, but The Links is seeking to approve the quality of life for others in four program facets. They are The Arts, International Trends and Services, National Trends and Services and Services to Youth. The Links is composed of over 276 chapters, 42 states, the District of Columbia; Nassau, Bahamas; Frankfurt, Germany; and South Africa. We have more than 15,000 members and we are considered one of the most prestigious national organization and, in fact, international. And so we are pleased to be here today to make this presentation to the Summer Bonanza Program, and Dr. Thomas specifically asked us for books and we are here to present to the Summer Bonanza Program over two hundred and, I think, fifty dollars worth of books that we purchased to support the Summer Bonanza, and we look forward to an ongoing partnership with Dr. Thomas and the Summer Bonanza Program, and thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to thank the ladies and we certainly will be utilizing those books beginning on tomorrow. Thank you so very much. Wow. Mrs. Edwards said, notice our motto is "Links Care." Commissioner Thomas said, all right. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank each and every one of you and you see I have Carol Bell, one of the City Administrators today, and a great group of ladies that have done much in the community. Our former Superintendent of Schools, she retired from the school system after giving a lot of education over the

years, but she has not sat by idly. You can see her participation in the community. We really do appreciate your community activism. Mrs. Edwards said, thank you very much

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Mrs. Virginia Edwards on behalf of "The Links" presented \$250.00 worth of books to the Summer Bonanza Program.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board recessed at 10:30 a.m., as the County Commission and convened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Following adjournment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the Board reconvened at 12:20 a.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 (*).

1. CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM. Note: At meeting of May 27, 2005, item was continued to next meeting on June 10, 2005.

Chairman Liakakis said, I have spoke to the people at the Civil Rights Board and they wanted to make an explanation. They have not finished their discussions with City Council. So at this particular point, I'd like a motion on the floor to continue that to the June 24th meeting.

Commissioner Thomas said, so moved. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to continue the issue of the Civil Rights Education Program until June 24, 2005. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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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: (1) TRANSFERS WITHIN THE GENERAL M&O FUND BUDGET OF A) \$50,000 WITHIN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S BUDGET FROM SALARIES AND WAGES TO VARIOUS OPERATING ACCOUNT CODES, B) A TRANSFER OF \$320,000 FROM THE JUVENILE COURT BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, C) A TRANSFER OF \$54,000 FROM COMMUNICATIONS TO ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES; (2) AN AMENDMENT TO THE CNT CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND TO APPROPRIATE \$48,510 ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR A VEHICLE PURCHASE TO INSTEAD PURCHASE EQUIPMENT; (3) AMENDMENTS IN THE CIP FUND TO A) RECOGNIZE A TRANSFER IN FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF \$320,000 AND APPROPRIATE \$320,000 FOR JUVENILE COURT IMPROVEMENTS, AND B) TRANSFER \$124,000 FROM CIP M&O CONTINGENCY TO FUND THE OLD COURTHOUSE VENTILATION UPGRADE (\$74,000) AND THE OLD COURTHOUSE VIDEO SYSTEM (\$50,000); AND (4) AN AMENDMENT TO THE CIP BOND FUND TO ADJUST THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS AMONG PROJECTS TO ACQUIRE REMAINING PORTION OF AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROPERTY.**

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a motion on the floor? Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll be happy to make the motion, but I also have a question after —, if there's a second. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Commissioner Stone said, I know there's a simple explanation, but under the District Attorney's request there's a replacement of computers, but then under the CNT under Confiscated Funds, it also says two laptop computers for the Assistant District Attorney. So, would somebody make that explanation?

County Manager Abolt said, sure. Within the Counter Narcotics Team budget they're authorized strength, are two Assistant District Attorneys. They're technically the employees of the District Attorney, but they work and all their resources come from CNT.

Commissioner Stone said, that's what I thought, but I just wanted some clarification.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any other discussion? Go on the board on this motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the following: (1) Transfers within the General M&O Fund

Budget of a) \$50,000 within the District Attorney's budget from Salaries and Wages to various operating account codes, b) a transfer of \$320,000 from the Juvenile Court budget to transfer out to CIP, c) a transfer of \$54,000 from Communications to Administrative Services; (2) an amendment to the CNT Confiscated Revenue Fund to appropriate \$48,510 originally planned for a vehicle purchase to instead purchase equipment; (3) amendments in the CIP Fund to a) recognize a transfer in from the General Fund of \$320,000 and appropriate \$320,000 for Juvenile Court improvements, and b) transfer \$124,000 from CIP M&O Contingency to fund the Old Courthouse Ventilation Upgrade (\$74,000) and the Old Courthouse Video System (\$50,000); and (4) an amendment to the CIP Bond Fund to adjust the distribution of funds among projects to acquire remaining portion of Air National Guard property. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2005

DATE: June 2, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Linda Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE:

To request approval of the following: (1) Transfers within the General M&O Fund Budget of a) \$50,000 within the District Attorney's budget from Salaries and Wages to various operating account codes, b) a transfer of \$320,000 from the Juvenile Court budget to Transfer out to CIP, c) a transfer of \$54,000 from Communications to Administrative Services; (2) an amendment to the CNT Confiscated Revenue Fund to appropriate \$48,510 originally planned for a vehicle purchase to instead purchase equipment; (3) amendments in the CIP Fund to a) recognize a transfer in from the General Fund of \$320,000 and appropriate \$320,000 for Juvenile Court improvements, and b) transfer \$124,000 from CIP M&O Contingency to fund the Old Courthouse Ventilation Upgrade (\$74,000) and the Old Courthouse Video System (\$50,000); and (4) an amendment to the CIP Bond Fund to acquire the remaining portion of the Air National Guard property.

BACKGROUND:

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) The District Attorney is requesting a transfer of \$50,000 from salaries and wages to operating account codes within the departmental budget. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- (2) The Juvenile Court General Fund M&O budget includes funds for capital equipment and improvements. Due to the amounts involved, it is proper to budget the funds in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund. A budget resolution has been prepared. A copy of correspondence from the Juvenile Court judges is attached.

- (3) The ICS Director has requested a transfer of \$54,000 from the Communications budget to Administrative Services for operating expenditures. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- (4) The Counter Narcotics Team Commander is requesting that funds originally appropriated for a vehicle purchase be programmed to purchase equipment. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- (5) A transfer of \$124,000 from CIP M&O Contingency is necessary to fund the Old Courthouse Ventilation Upgrade (\$74,000) and the Old Courthouse Video System (\$50,000) projects. The award of contracts for these projects is contingent on funding availability.
- (6) The Assistant County Manager has requested an amendment to the Capital Improvement Bond Fund so that the County may acquire the remaining portion of the Air National Guard property. A copy of correspondence is attached.

FUNDING:

The budget amendments will establish funding in the CIP Fund. Funds are available in the District Attorney's, Juvenile Court, CNT Confiscated Revenue Fund, CIP M&O Contingency, Administrative Services, and Capital Improvement Bond Fund budgets for the transfers.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- a) a transfer of \$50,000 from salaries and wages to operating account codes within the District Attorney's budget.
- b) a transfer of funds in the amount of \$320,000 from the Juvenile Court budget to transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund.
- c) a transfer of \$54,000 from the Communications budget to Administrative Services.

CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND

an amendment to the Confiscated Revenue Fund to appropriate \$48,510 originally planned for purchase of a vehicle to purchase equipment.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FUND

- a) an amendment to recognize the transfer in of \$320,000 from the General Fund M&O and appropriate the funds for improvements to Juvenile Court.
- b) a transfer of \$124,000 from M&O Contingency to fund the Old Courthouse Ventilation Upgrade (\$74,000) and the Old Courthouse Video System (\$50,000) projects

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND FUND

an amendment to appropriate funds to projects as shown in the attached schedule.

- 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. PRESENTATION BY DIANNE MCNABB, FINANCIAL ADVISOR, A.G. EDWARDS & SONS, INC.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, some of you may or may not have had the opportunity to meet Ms. McNabb. She —, you'll recognize her signature on financial policies that have been adopted by the previous board. She has been a strong adviser of not just this staff, but also previous County Commissions. She's here today because we feel it's very germane to the budget decisions you're about to make and also, coincidentally, you have and quite fortunately on your agenda the issue of bond issuance and she is our expert in that area also.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Diane [McNabb], do you want to —, yeah, thank you.

Ms. Diane McNabb said, thank you. It's good to be here again. I know most of you may not recognize me because last time I was here my hair was a good bit longer. That was before chemo, so I'm really thrilled to have what little hair I have at this point. Russ [Abolt] was correct. I'm here to kind of reiterate the kind of factors as you go through the budget process that become or impact your ability to borrow. Not —, the things that I'll talk about are really not a whole lot different that what you would think about in terms of your own personal finances, things like making sure that you've got money put aside for unexpected expenses. Those types of things, and in the late 90's the financial position of the County began to decline, and this probably old news to all of you, but I want to put it in kind of a historical context. During that time period the budgeting became more aggressive, and when I say more aggressive I mean in terms of the estimates were more precise, expenses weren't simply increased, there's, you know, percentages across the board. In become more precise and budgeting, that necessarily left less cushion. Less cushion in revenue, less cushion in expenditures or flexibility, amounts that would—, theoretically, revenue in excess of expenditures that would occur after all of the accounting was done at the end of the year. So, as it became even more important, the staff pursued one-time revenues at the direction of the Commission to make the budget balance so that as ongoing expenditures, expenditures that were going to occur every single year, still had to grow, instead of identifying additional recurring revenue to pay for those, the County —, you continued to use one-time revenues or like the sale of property, for example, and of course when you use a one-time revenue, that means that that expenditure isn't funded for the following year. So you make an expenditure today, you

budget an expenditure today, and if you haven't identified recurring revenue to pay for it, then that's a revenue that you have to generate again the following year, and I'm going to get into that a little bit more. The other thing that occurred during that period or one of the major one-time revenues that was used during that period was fund balance, and fund balance is basically your assets minus your liabilities. It's what you —, the working capital that you have left over. Just as a ball park, I think most policies would indicate that you would need at least one month's expenditures in that fund balance as your cushion.

Ms. McNabb said, now in the past, no tax increase I think has always been in the forefront. That's always been the primary objective, I think, and I think that having no increase has been a primary objective of prior Commissions versus trying to maintain a structurally balanced budget. A balanced budget in the State of Georgia is simply revenues have to equal expenditures, and it does not require that all those revenues be recurring revenues. So you can use that property sale, you can use fund balance to balance that budget, but that's kind of the easy part of it. I mean, the easy thing is to raise expenditures, create programs, those kinds of things. The hard part is identifying the recurring revenue source that's going to fund them, and I think the —, it's kind of coming home to roost at this point because it's gone on for so many years now. Unless you want to identify programs that need to be cut, I think the option of one-time revenues, if you intend to maintain an adequate working capital reserve, those type of expenditures somewhere along the way would have to be eliminated. You know, I think that —, you know, everybody loves a tax cut or holding taxes, but that's kind of easy to say. I know that with the social security crisis right now, I keep hearing that they want to restructure the tax system so that my taxes are going to go down. Well, they're going to lower my taxes, but that sounds real good, but my question is who's taxes are going to go up then? I mean, somebody else's taxes have got to go up. The same way with Stephens-Day, when we began to have to deal with Stephens-Day. If my taxes are going to go down, somebody else's will have to go up. Now if everybody's taxes are going to go down, then my question becomes, oh, well what services am I going to be giving up then? If I can't —, if my taxes are going to go down, then —, and everybody else's are, then it's the expenditure side that I want to know what expenditures are going to be cut. And based on what expenditures are going to be cut, are those things I'm going to be paying out of my pocket? I think garbage collection is probably a pretty good example of where in some instances government pays for garbage collection and disposal, but in most counties, of course, we pay it directly. So if you're going to cut my taxes —, if I've been paying for garbage and you're going to cut my taxes, am I going to have to turn around and start paying my garbage bill? So I think it's important to focus on those patching the holes where we've had historically one-time revenues used in the budgetary process.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I ask you a question? Do you think using the SPLOST money to pay off some bad project in the past as far as financial projects, such as the \$2,000,000 we saved per year when we used SPLOST to pay off the Mighty Eighth and the golf course —? Ms. McNabb said, and the golf course. Commissioner Kicklighter asked —, was a pretty good move? Is that what you're referring to? Ms. McNabb said, yes. I do, but that was a one-time revenue because the SPLOST is exclusively to be used for capital improvements. So that is effectively a one-time revenue that's being used to pay for a one-time expense and it was —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it was paid off is what I'm saying —. Ms. McNabb said, right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — instead of we eliminated that yearly expense and for us to have an operational revenue to cover that every year. So —. Ms. McNabb said, yeah. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I think we've been heading in that direction.

Ms. McNabb said, that was reducing an ongoing expense with a one-time revenue. That's the good way

to do it, but again to try to get back into this structural balance, the fund balance become critical in that. You've got —, you need fund balance for emergencies or unexpected needs and you need a structurally balanced budget in order to not defer tax increases so that basically whatever one-time revenue was in the prior budget, that was budgeted in the prior budget for ongoing expenditures, was the deferral of what would effectively be a tax increase. So you've really got a situation where I know at this point one of the alternatives that you've been presented is in fact an increase in millage rate, but in many instances that's the result of expenditures that have been made in prior years and decisions made in prior years that now have got to be funded. You know, if you've got these things funded by these one-time revenues and those —, the easy part is spending the money and saying you're not going to increase taxes. When you do that, it ends up the responsibility of some subsequent Commission that's either going to have to cut the programs or raise the revenue.

Chairman Liakakis said, so, Diane [McNabb], what you're basically saying though that previous Commissions, if they —, if there was a shortfall or if the situation is that if we put off responsible things that we need to do now, it could cost us money because we have not in a number of years done all the CIP programs that you need. Ms. McNabb said, you're getting ahead of me here. That's exactly where I was —. Chairman Liakakis said, well, I think you can go over it again, but then if we don't do certain things right now, that means the next Commission, the burden will be on them and at some point along the way it's going to be crucial and a financial —, maybe a real big problem for the County. Is that a true statement? Ms. McNabb said, oh, yeah. You know, I think that some of the things that have happened over —, since the late 90's in an effort to hold the tax rate but continue to provide the same level of service has been the use of fund balance and the deferral of not only capital improvements but also of major maintenance.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Ms. McNabb, if I may ask, what was the fund balance in, say, the six months into the year 2000? Ms. McNabb asked, in the middle of the year? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. Middle of the year. It was at zero basically, right? Ms. McNabb said, yeah, I think that's right. Wait a second. Linda [Cramer] was gracious enough to bring me a graph. My computer conked out on me. But, yeah, I think basically we got into a deficit, an accumulated fund deficit back in that 2000 time frame. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, and at the end of 2004, do you have the number in front of you how much money we had in the fund balance then? Ms. McNabb said, yes, it was a positive amount, about \$10,000,000. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so we were heading in the right direction at that point. Ms. McNabb said, yeah, but —, but it was —, when at the end of the year when you budgeted to use fund balance and spend the money, but then at the end of the year you end up with an excess, that's really just kind of luck. You know, it's —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, have you heard the saying it's better to be lucky than [inaudible]? Ms. McNabb said, absolutely, and I believe it a hundred percent. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so basically at this point financially we're pretty stable aren't we with the \$5,000,000 to pay off the deficit from before with the new increase in revenues and the additional \$3,000,000 to apply towards the next year's budget. No, sir, McNabb said, I think that —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we're sitting pretty good now. Ms. McNabb said, — so long as you don't use any fund balance and that you eliminate the one-time revenues being used for expenditures, but then going a step further I think that the infrastructure in the County has been pretty neglected and you've got probably a good amount of public works projects that haven't been funded and you —, it takes money to do it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, which would come out of the SSD portion of the budget, not the M&O where we're really talking —, what you're basically referring to with this whole —. Ms. McNabb said, well, the SSD —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — speech has been in the M&O portion

of the budget I would assume. Ms. McNabb said, yeah, but —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, the SSD budget has been completely solid for the last several years. Ms. McNabb said, but that only covers improvements within the SSD. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Ms. McNabb said, okay, but other things outside of the SSD also have —, other improvements are necessary. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, but Public Works does not work outside of the SSD budget other than utilizing them as far as some of the few parks out there maybe to mow the grass and some of their equipment also. I just —. Ms. McNabb said, I can't speak to that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — didn't get off track and mislead the public. That's not a —. Ms. McNabb said, actually where that occurs. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Ms. McNabb said, but I must say, for example, you need to replace the HVAC system in the jail. Commissioner Kicklighter said, uh huh. Ms. McNabb said, well, when you don't —, when you are tight in your budgeting for years, you haven't made —, you haven't been able to spend the amount of money maintaining it the way it should, then maybe you have to buy a whole new air conditioning system five years before you would have otherwise had to. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Well, do you like the idea of using the SPLOST funds to support the capital improvements, just as HVACs and all of that. I mean, because that's financially pretty sound because it rolls around every five years as far as major capital replacements? Ms. McNabb said, I think that that's an excellent source of funds for your major improvements, but I'm just not sure that —, it can't be used —, generally, it's difficult to use it for road projects. Just difficult. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's one of the main purposes of the State allowing us to use SPLOST was for road projects. Ms. McNabb said, originally, yeah, it was. It's just that that can take a long time and more and more governments have been using it for regular capital needs like to build a jail. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm going to be honest, Ms. McNabb, and I don't question your character. I know you do a fine job, but I felt as I was sitting here that I was hearing a speech of why this present Commission has the right to just go out there and raise taxes, all these past previous bad guys that neglected this and neglected that, and that's the whole angle of that, what I took out of that first spiel, when in fact we had \$10,000,000 in reserve. We came up \$5,000,000 short. By luck or whatever we want to call it, there's \$5,000,000 there to pay it off and three more to put towards a new budget. So as far as leaning towards —, here's why we need to increase taxes, if this Board so chooses to do so, there's plenty of reasons that they can blame other than previous Commissions, being the unfunded mandates from the State of Georgia, the \$5,000,000-\$6,000,000 a year that the State would not reimburse this County for the jail costs —. Ms. McNabb said, that's exactly what I'm talking about though. Those recurring expenditures that you've had to absorb over time with the same level of revenue, and that's exactly what I was talking about. But I'm speaking more than an ongoing management perspective. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. And wouldn't you agree that we collected or at least headed in that direction over the past four years? I'll state that prior to that SPLOST funds were used to purchase huge buildings. We will address one shortly, just as the Aquatic Center that loses over \$500,000 a year in operating —, operational expenses. That's a major, you know, drain on the taxpayers of the County. Also, the Mighty Eighth along with the golf course. Great facilities, but we were looking at \$2,000,000 a year out of our operating budget to pay those facilities off. But we took those steps to move forward to pay those off with the SPLOST funds to get rid of those operational expenses and, you know, I just —, I think we're headed in the right direction and the message I got from you has been that it's been recent poor money management, and I don't believe that's the case. Ms. McNabb said, well, I think that from a management perspective, again, before you absorb or budget ongoing expenses, and this is a policy matter, but there ideally would be some sort of policy in place that when you adopt ongoing recurring expenditures that you've identified the recurring revenue that's going to support it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I agree one hundred percent with that. Ms. McNabb said, that has not been done.

Chairman Liakakis said, absolutely. In fact, I want to ask you a question right now. In 2000 we were talking, you said that we were also in a deficit —. Ms. McNabb said, no, you were in a deficit. Chairman Liakakis said, — with the fund balance. We were, correct? All right, now let's just say this, that in 2004 and 2005 the fund balance was —, it grew back up to the amount that it is now because if we look at the records, because of the savings in the different —, Mr. County Manager, are you listening —, the savings that were made by the departments and also because the taxes, the one time taxes that our Tax Commissioner that went out and got those delinquent taxes and he brought it in and that's the reason why that fund balance when up there and really no real reason because of the, you know, things that were put in place by the Commission for a recurring balances. And one of the things that we have to look out, because whatever has been happening in the past. We don't want to put blame on people, but we need to be fiscally responsible. We have to provide services for the citizens in our County, and those that were just mentioned about the State-mandated things where we have \$1.3 million that we have to pay for the Public Defender now; that we have the \$5,000,000 in other —, for State prisoners that they won't take their responsibility, that we also for the attorneys that went there for the indigent care they could not afford, we paid \$2.3 million for that; the Health Department that required by the State of Georgia we have to pay \$2,000,000 a year for that; the stormwater, we pay \$200,000 for; the health in the jail and all of that; I'm signing contracts or payment schedules of over \$300,000 a month now to pay for that; and the Bamboo Farm is costing us \$200,000 because we're having to pick up the State's thing. Now, the reason why I'm saying all of that, we can make all these excuses and we can talk about being fiscally responsible, but we've got a duty to the citizens that they are demanding services. We have to have the Police Department we have to pay for, and the protection of life and property is the number one duty of any government. We have to pay for the District Attorney's office, we have to pay for the Health Department, we have to pay for the Tax Commissioner, we have to pay for the Probate Court, the State Court, the Superior Court, the Recorder's Court, Magistrate's Court, we have to pay for all these engineering departments we have to pay for, all these multitudes of things, and the Tax Assessors we have to pay for that. There are multitudes of things that are required by law that we pay for that other city entities do not. And my concern is this: When people want to be fiscally responsible —

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, because I want people to know. It's nice to be fiscally responsible and, you know what? This has nothing to do with what party you belong to. This is a responsibility for us to be fiscally responsible, do the duties that we are required to do, and help the citizens of our community. And just because somebody doesn't want to do something, I understand that. They've got a right to talk that way and do anything that they want to do and vote any way. But what we need to do, we take all these things into consideration and we need to be fiscally responsible and do the right thing, because if we continue to go like we have for the last number of years, Diane, won't it cost us more money for the infrastructure, the CIP and all, that we haven't done the Capital Improvement Program that we should have been? Thankfully, this Board right here working together, we have put some things into place in order to do that.

Ms. McNabb said, well, you've got a staff that has really, I think, come through with some additional forecasting models and planning models that should really help you plan beyond the current year, which is really kind of Part Number 2 to, one, getting your budget structurally balanced so that recurring revenues pay for recurring expenses and, you know, it is extremely unfortunately that we have a lot of costs that are mandated from Atlanta. And then, of course, then they hit us again with things like Stephens-Day so, you know, they -- Stephens-Day being a good example. My taxes are not going to go up. Where is that money going to come from? Somebody else has to replace that money, and I think

that what I'm getting to is the whole idea that a budget is a two-prong process. It's identifying the expenditures, the services that you either must provide or your citizens believe you should provide, like recreation, and then coming up with the revenues, and it really should be an iterative process, which it has been iterative, but not with the focus on recurring revenues and recurring expenditures and on the maintenance of capital and keeping up with your capital needs.

Commissioner Odell said, can I ask a question? Diane, hello, how are you? Ms. McNabb said, fine, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, point of clarification, and just to cut to the quick, what amount in fund balancing dollars should we have? 8 million, 12 million, 10 million? Ms. McNabb said, it would be one-twelfth of your general fund budget, should be in your general fund, unreserved fund balance. Commissioner Odell said, so it's 8 to 9 million? Ms. McNabb said, 9 million. Mr. Abolt said, 9 million. Ms. McNabb said, and that's in unreserved fund balance. Now, it's some other things that you can put into play, is making certain that you have a five year capital plan that identifies all of your capital needs and when those capital needs -- when money is needed to fund those capital needs. That way, you could fund them in an efficient manner by either setting aside some current year revenues -- let's say, for example, this year capital needs are 5 million, next year they're 10 million. We can see that in the capital plan. This is just an example. Well, you don't want to put 5 million in the budget this year and then have to put in 10 million next year, because you're -- and then increase your -- I mean, your taxes would go like this.

Commissioner Odell said, would this be in addition to the funding depreciation or that's part of the -- Ms. McNabb said, so long as you fund depreciation on everything, yeah. That would effectively get you there, because you take that cost and divide it by a number of years and fund it as you go. Commissioner Odell said, right, so we have to buy equipment, so we can determine the life of the equipment and fund whatever the pro rata amount is for that time period, so we can go into the market when it's in our best interest. Ms. McNabb said, uh-huh. Commissioner Odell said, rather than when the rates or we can no longer -- Ms. McNabb said, exactly. And that was going to be one of my other points. Right now, I don't think your Purchasing Department can take advantage of potential deals from bulk purchases. I'm not saying they don't do bulk purchasing, but there are efficient ways to spend your money, and then there are emergency ways or last resort ways that you spend your money.

Commissioner Odell said, okay, my last question is, being that you're going to lose some of the Commissioners relatively soon, and we've got a couple other items, may I ask you the big three or four remaining things, if you could hit those in summary fashion, because some of us have got to leave. I mean, believe it or not, this is not how I make my living. Ms. McNabb said, because of your full time job? Commissioner Odell said, yeah, this is community service. Ms. McNabb said, well, I think, you know, the County's bond rating was downgraded a few years ago, and not only was it downgraded, but it was downgraded from a AA rating to a A rating, and it also -- Moody's also gave you a negative outlook even on that downgraded rating, which means that it's likely that you'll -- unless things turn around, that you'll be downgraded again. Now, obviously, with the fund balance that's in place now, that looks a whole lot better to Moody's, and we've had conversations with them. Linda and I have had conversations with them about the improved financial condition, but the next question that, of course, they always ask is, well, what's in place to maintain this, and we've got some policies in place, but we're going to have to prove to them that those policies will be adhered to, that there were policies in place before the downgrade and those policies were not adhered to.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm sorry, Pete. So by our being downgraded from a AA to an A, with an advisory opinion, the impact of which is that if we have to go into the bond market to, say, float a bond issue, it costs more for an A with an advisory than a AA. Is that true? Ms. McNabb said, oh, yeah, your interest costs goes up, but it's not a huge amount that it goes up. I think that in many cases, governments and government officials look at the input that we receive from Moody because it gives you a good overview of the kinds of things that are good management. You know, they don't tell you, you've got to do things a certain way. But we focus on that primarily for the input that they give. Commissioner Odell said, when were we downgraded? Ms. McNabb said, it was, I'd say 2001 -- 2000 or 2001, I think, was about the time. And all of your bondholders at that point lost money. I mean, everybody who held a Chatham County bond at that point, when you were downgraded, that bond was worth less money. If they wanted to turn around and sell it, they would have lost money on it from the day before, and I would say that that probably cost more money than the increased interest cost.

Chairman Liakakis said, now, on a bond issue, I mean, does it increase? Like we wouldn't be saving, we're going to refinance something to save money now, but if we didn't have this fund balance, that interest rate, we wouldn't be saving this kind of money, would we? Ms. McNabb said, I don't think so, no. They would go through with the downgrade, the additional downgrade, and it would cost you more money. Chairman Liakakis said, in addition to that, also, in an emergency, if we had to borrow money for a short period, or whatever the time element might be, the interest rate would go up? Ms. McNabb said, oh, yes. The more often you have to do something at the last minute -- that goes back to the efficiency in using your cash. If you don't have cash on hand, it's very difficult to spend it efficiently.

Commissioner Odell said, so by not having a funded fund balance consistent with advice of counsel, not having that, and not having a management system in place to ensure that we fund the streams of our desires, we make decisions, but need to have an income stream over time to pay for those continuing costs, that ultimately would impact our ability to borrow money -- Ms. McNabb said, to borrow it cheaper. Commissioner Odell said, cheaper, so ultimately, those decisions would cost taxpayers money. Ms. McNabb said, the decisions to use fund balance? Commissioner Odell said, right. Ms. McNabb said, yes, they do cost taxpayers money.

Chairman Liakakis said, Diane, another question. Have you looked at this year's budget that has been proposed? Ms. McNabb said, yes, I have. Chairman Liakakis said, you went over all of the figures and you looked at it. You have great expertise in that area, because not only talking as a financial advisor as you are to us right now, you have multitudes of clients, also, and have many years of experience. Correct? Ms. McNabb said, uh-huh. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, now, let me ask you this. Did you look at the 2004-2005 budget? Ms. McNabb said, yes. Chairman Liakakis said, and did you see where it was stated about that revenue that was coming in and it has been said by our finance people, by two outside auditors, that our auditor here, our County Manager, Linda Cramer, you know, the people in the Finance Department, the budget people and all, did you come to the analysis also that we were over \$5 million in revenue that did not exist? Ms. McNabb said, yes, because the policy to develop the revenue by the property tax revenue budget was done, just as it's always done, but then there was \$5 million added to it. Chairman Liakakis said, it's \$5 million added to it, but you didn't see where the revenue was coming from, like all the other eight or nine or 10 people? Ms. McNabb said, exactly. I mean, you know, it isn't to say that it won't materialize because, you know, budgets are estimates, but you can't just throw money in -- I mean, that goes back to Moody. I mean, if the way you're balancing your ongoing expenditures is by just plugging a number in, then that's not really balancing it. Just because it ultimately

materializes doesn't mean that it was an appropriate addition.

Commissioner Odell said, it's voodoo budgeting. Ms. McNabb said, I like to work with the ongoing revenues to pay ongoing expenditures.

Chairman Liakakis said, the recommendation that the finance staff -- you looked at the budget and all -- and their recommendations, you saw their recommendations. Do you agree or disagree with how they are talking about the budget, to balance it, and to do what they have recommended to the County Commission? Ms. McNabb said, yeah, I don't have a problem with it, so long as it doesn't include any alternatives that's been fund balanced. You know, you need to have that fund balance and then you need to budget conservatively. Then, at the end of the year, if you have money left over that's in excess of the necessary fund balance, you appropriate it the following year to Capital Improvements, and that is generally the way most of the large counties work their budget, is, you have -- you maintain your fund balance and then you budget conservatively. You don't, you know, make sure that you consider funds that you may not collect. You know, you use a consistent budget approach in determining your revenues, and one that comes down to the most realistic, consistent approach to budgeting revenues.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. I believe I've gotten the point well of this whole conversation, I'd like to just make one brief statement and then I'd like for this to end. I think we all know that's pretty much common sense in government, everything that's being said right now. I'm basically -- I'll sit here and say it proudly, I'm not ashamed at all of my belief that less government and less taxes are better, and I don't think bad of anybody else at all. I don't think bad of you if someone else is under the opinion that larger government, bigger government is better government. That's fine with me. I respect the opinion. I'm proud of the record that I have here, never raised the millage rate whatsoever here. For the most part, we gave employees better raises than is being proposed right now with this current budget that has a tax increase and \$3 million extra to spend over this current working budget. When I first walked in office, we had a \$12 million deficit in 2000, zero money in reserves. Fast forward to now and we're poor-mouthing now. We've got millions upon millions in reserves, we've got \$3 million more to spend in this upcoming budget than we have in the present budget. Don't blame me. We are in much better shape than we were back then when I went in office. This is a cake walk compared to what Dave Gellatly and myself -- because it's not easy cutting those things, weighing what window can be replaced, and which this, that, and the other, because things have to be done. But I'm proud that we waited. I'm proud that we didn't take anybody's advice and raise the taxes last year. That was one more year, whatever we want to call it, the homeowners in this county didn't have to miss a meal on their table. They didn't pay it then, they didn't get them raised then, and by luck or whatever, they don't have to be now, because we have more money to spend on the future budgets. And, you know, like I said, I don't mind a bit, I know there's things that can be done and improve the area, but that's my philosophy on small government. If somebody has one about a larger government, use it, but don't blame the past. You can go back past 2000 when they were building swimming pools that drained a million dollars a year and when they built race tracks that nobody races on, but don't blame the last four years when we -- I'm proud we pulled it out of financial trouble. Blame whoever, but this is getting a little ridiculous.

Chairman Liakakis said, number one, let me make a statement. I'm not blaming anybody. I'm just saying people are making outlooks on things, looking at a fiscal situation, that nobody is blaming Dean

Kicklighter or Dave Gellatly – Commissioner Gellatly said, don't pull me in on this. Commissioner Gellatly said, no, I tell you, what happened the last four years, if there's blame, I accept it. I've got big shoulders. No problem. If it's my fault, it's my fault, but let's move on.

Chairman Liakakis said, but I'm just saying that I don't want anybody to talk about it, because if you look at my history, I've been fiscally responsible for all of my, you know, time in government, whether city or county government right now, and Dean Kicklighter is a good guy. He has done a lot of things, but I believe in, you know, small government and being conservative, also, and Dean and Dave and all of these Commissioners -- Commissioner Gellatly said, don't put me in this mix. [NOTE: Several speaking over each other, making it unintelligible.] Commissioner Gellatly said, normally, I'm a real nice guy. I can be a real SOB. Move on.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, go ahead, Diane. Ms. McNabb said, I think my emphasis would be, whether it's small government or something else, you work from the expenditures side, and if you don't want to -- saving taxes does not mean that you have made government smaller. Commissioner Odell said, or better. Ms. McNabb said, or better, exactly. For example, you're going to enjoy a nice increase in your property taxes this year. You know, it may not ever happen again, but \$5 million of that was spent last year, so that's \$5 million that would have been available for this Commission, but it was used in the prior year. And I'm a real revenue-matching expenditures type of person, you know, going back to the fundamental balancing of the budget. Let me just double-check.

Commissioner Odell said, when you say that five million was used last year, that is based upon the draw-down from the fund balance in order to cover that shortfall. Is that true? Ms. McNabb said, no, \$5 million in additional expenditures were budgeted, that we had no -- that had no basis in an increase, so that this year, just like Mr. Kicklighter was saying, you have \$3 million of additional revenue that you have to -- that you didn't have last year. You only have three million; you don't have eight, because five -- it'll look like eight, but five of it was spent last year. So you can't justify increasing recurring expenditures by eight million. You can only increase recurring expenditures, like Mr. Kicklighter said, by three million, even though the tax increase -- I mean, the increase in assessed value has generated eight.

Chairman Liakakis said, on this particular budget, if we had an increase, where we had 10.78% increase in the tax digest, that brought that additional revenue in, and since we got that, but looking at the budget, what each department has, you know, recommended, in addition to the decision package, that's separate in there, would the budget be balanced if we did not take the recommendation of the finance staff? Ms. McNabb said, well, I guess it would depend on what you did instead of the recommendation, but I would say that you take -- you've got to go back to the recurring expenditures that you've got to cover and identify the recurring revenue and -- Commissioner Kicklighter said, could we all just go home if we took all Staff's recommendations? I mean, that's why we were elected, to make the hard choices. Ms. McNabb said, I wasn't stating anything in that regard, but I think that -- I guess what I'm suggesting is, there may be other expenditures that were in last year's budget that were also covered by one-time revenues, and it would be nice to have ongoing revenues identified to cover all those expenses. But this would be a very good first step. You can only take one step at a time.

Commissioner Odell said, what is this? You said this would be a very good first step. What is the this? Ms. McNabb said, for example, recognizing that you've got three million to spend and not eight.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, and the reason is that we had budgeted a digest growth of 4%. We, in essence, had a digest growth of 10.78%. The difference is the growth that you speak of. Just from an accounting -- and I'm not an accountant -- if we drew down on the fund balance by \$4 million and we take the balance of approximately \$5 million, the difference between the 4% and the 10.78%, which would leave about five million, we would place the four million we took from fund balance, I'm coming with close to a million dollars. Ms. McNabb said, right, and that's simply -- I'm sorry.

Commissioner Odell said, and my concern is that our health insurance increase has been \$1.7 million. I mean, the health insurance that we changed to will impact us by \$1.7 million. That, combined with a million dollars to balance out our pension plan, so that our employees who've worked here, who have retired, won't get a IOU, we can give them real money, we're going to have to fund it a million dollars. Ms. McNabb said, you're exactly right. My calculations did not -- I assumed that -- and hopefully it's true -- that you would break even for FY 05, that hopefully, you'll have enough budgeted expenditures that didn't get made, or a little bit of extra revenue so that hopefully that gap is closed, but you're absolutely right. If we go by strictly what's budgeted, then, yes, you've got to replenish fund balance by five million and then the other factors just like you said.

Commissioner Odell said, right, like storm water permitting, which the Federal Government said that we now must do, which we did not have, is going to cost us an additional \$200,000 a year. That money has to come from somewhere. The Public Defender is going to cost us approximately \$1.3 million. The mental health closing, if you look at the ramification and how that ripples through our system, it's going to cost us over a million dollars. Bamboo Farm, which the State used to fund, I can see how they balance their budget, they don't pay their bills. We're going to have to spend \$200,000. We have a growth in crime, in juvenile crime. We have a growth in juvenile crime. At the same time we have a growth, we have a decline in funding from the State. We are blessed in having three excellent juvenile judges, and I'll say I don't do enough juvenile work to have to suck up to these folks, so I'm giving you my opinion, not I need their opinion. They've come up with a plan. It's an excellent plan. But that plan is going to cost us over \$300,000 of new expenditures. The District Attorney -- you know, my mom lived alone until she moved here with me and my wife, and it always worried me that she lived alone. We had hideous cases in which people have done atrocious things to the elder. The D.A. wants to set up an Assistant District Attorney to handle those kinds of cases. I think it's an excellent idea. I think we've got to fund that. That's new. We add a new judge over here in State Court. Well, we have to add new ancillary people to that, too. New. Fuel costs, the increase in fuel costs alone is going to be close to \$400,000. The merged police, another \$340,000. Ms. McNabb said, I think that's -- to me, I always like to have little checks and balances in my own mind, and to accumulate the recurring expenditures, the new recurring expenditures here, then, you're absolutely right. There ought to be some process of identifying what those recurring revenues are going to be.

Commissioner Odell said, and I think we've attempted to do that. There's going to be some disagreement, and I urge my fellow Commissioners, we can disagree without being disagreeable, and blame does not resolve -- we have a problem, and we've had a continuing problem. Contrary to some's belief, I make no money on any tax increase. They act like I get a percentage of the increase. This is just the continuation of ignorance that ... news to spread. We have a sworn obligation to the citizens of this community, and here's the sworn obligation. The sworn obligation, if we have a problem with juvenile crime, if you support being ... in a crime, then the people who know are the juvenile judges, and

they've told us what it's going to cost. That's what they've told us. If you think it's okay for a young crack addict to break in a retired school teacher's house to beat her up, try to cut her finger off to steal her ring, if you think the D.A. does not need to have people who specialize in those areas, then, yeah, that's your decision. If you think we can buy gas for the same price we bought it a year or so ago, then keep that to yourself and give me the number. I've got a market for that. No, you can't. It's going to cost us more. Health care alone, \$1.7 million, and I defy anyone to tell me that the health care cost will not be an additional \$1.7 million, that the pension plan will not be an additional \$2 million. I take no joy, and there's no benefit for me to have to make a difficult decision. It's a very difficult decision. I have the second poorest district of all of the Commissioners, second or third, so I have talked to as many of my constituents as I can, and I've gone through our problem. Our problems are that we have unfunded mandates of close to \$12 million. How can the State not pay us the \$5 million for prisoners that are state prisoners? How can they do that? Ms. McNabb said, they make the law.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, and my concern is that I don't want us to assume that just because we had a 4% digest growth budgeted and we did a 10.78, that that's eight million new dollars. It's not. We had already mortgaged the farm. We're just paying some of it off. Well, we've got all these other things. I don't think that we can not do the storm water prevention. Can we tell, Mr. Abolt, the Federal Government, you all passed that, you fund it? No, we're not going to do it. We have to do it, obviously. It's there. Rhetorical question. What are we going to do when they close the juvenile section? What are we going to do? I mean, if they close it and a juvenile commits a crime, and our Sheriff has to transport it and that's new expenditures, what do we do? Do we not just do it? I don't know, when I got elected -- and I never saw myself as being a politician, and I have no political aspiration, this is not something I wake up and say, yes, this is how I want to live my life. No, no, no. But while I am here, my commitment is to logic and reason. There's no way this county can afford a \$12 unfunded mandate from the State and Federal Government and have all of the requests that the other constitutional officers so need. We're not the keepers of the flame. I mean, if the Superior Court Judges say they need X number of new dollars, I tend to believe them. If the Sheriff says he needs X number new dollars, I tend to believe him. They are constitutional officers, elected as we did. If you put the numbers together, the requests that you'll have in a few seconds will certainly give us a stream of money to handle those requests. Diane, it's always a please. Ms. McNabb said, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, I've finished my questions.

Chairman Liakakis said, any questions for Diane? Commissioner Thomas said, Diane, thank you. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Diane, I'm sorry for getting excited about everything. Ms. McNabb said, that's okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, but Harris Odell, the reason I just think the world of him, he explained it very well. He pointed out that should taxes have to go up, he pointed out really well why that decision would have to be made, and that's the only thing. I sit here and when I feel like I'm being attacked, I attack back. I apologize for that, but the point was made that it's not the financial disaster we're in from previous Commissions. It's the unfunded mandates that's put us in a bad position of providing the services we're supposed to. Ms. McNabb said, and the County's financial position has definitely improved over what it was a few years ago, and I think that my point is that you need to -- I'm recommending that you very consciously keep that financial position in place. You've got some really good policies. We discussed those policies with Moody's, and I think that those policies could ultimately result in an upgrade, but we've got to prove to Moody's that you're going to adhere to those policies, so I'm looking forward to going to them with that upgrade request, when those policies have been --

Chairman Liakakis said, Diane, thank you very much. We appreciate your presentation. If you'll just have a seat out there and wait, there might be some other question that one of the Commissioners would like to ask you, please. Thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The information was received and no action was required.

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3. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT A RESOLUTION THAT AUTHORIZES A 2005 BOND ISSUE TO RESTRUCTURE LONG-TERM DEBT AS A \$600,000 SAVINGS IN THE FY 06 GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET, PROVIDE \$3 MILLION FOR HEALTH FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS (SABHC, HEALTH DEPARTMENT) AND PROVIDE \$3.5 MILLION FOR THE AQUATIC CENTER, AND TO PROVIDE OPTIONS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION OF ADDING OTHER ELIGIBLE PROJECTS FROM THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Chairman Liakakis said, now, this goes into, tells you about that, but we have an alternative, a couple of alternatives, as you know, that the County Staff has given us, and one of those is that in this bond issue, where we will save a substantial amount of money. If we continue and say, if we spend money there for another five years. Now, there is in their contract also, that they increase the rate, so it could go up. It costs us \$90,000 a year. The Public Defender is approximately \$140,000 a year now in rent, so if we put the fifth floor on the jail house, on the old jail which is next to the new courthouse over there, we'll be saving \$140,000 a year that we're paying for that at this point. Also in this proposal is an animal shelter, and as most of you know, that animal shelter is in, you know, horrendous condition. Those animals suffer out there. You know, some of them belong to the public, that their pet got away and they were picked up by Animal Control and taken to that shelter and hopefully, you know, people will retrieve their pet. And if you look at those conditions, I mean, a lot of those -- that equipment in there is worn out. You take the hot water heater. It's rusted out completely in the bottom of it, and it's having a problem of furnishing the real hot water that's needed for, you know, sterilization. The Health Department now, what we're talking about is renovating the Health Department facility, their main facility on Eisenhower Drive that is needed, and also that we put in the fifth floor of the jail house. Now, that jail house fifth floor, that will solve a lot of problems. Our staff has worked real hard, and also with all of the different departments over there, and if we go by a previous plan, what will occur is just a band-aid and we won't be able to provide the space that's needed, whether it's for the Public Defender, whether it's for, you know, a number of the other departments, whether it's the court system, where we have to build another court or two, so all of this together, I'm going to ask the County Manager to state some things in this, because if we do this on that one bond issue, that we will be saving money. You know, it'll help pay for it, because we won't be paying that CNT monies, we won't be paying that Public Defender money out, and, of course, we'll have an animal shelter that's vitally needed out there, and helping the Health Department, because they really need renovation. If you've been out there at the main one, or the midtown Health Department on Drayton Street, you can see what's vitally needed there to perform the services for any citizen that goes into that Health Department. Mr. Manager?

Mr. Abolt said, I can't top that; you've done it all. For the purpose of understanding, if you choose to make your motion, all I would ask for clarity -- and we've got the different options outlined -- possibly it'll be easier if you indicated the projects you chose to fund in the refinancing, just to make it simpler to compute, but essentially, we do give you the build-all alternative and then we go back to your ntl decision, which was just to refinance the courthouse and the jail debt. And oh, by the way, there was already a commitment to SABHC and the Health Department. But I think for the purpose of bringing this to closure for a vote, you might want to maybe look at the build-all proposal first, and if that passes, we understand. Then, if not, we would subtract.

Commissioner Odell said, point of clarification. If we do float the bond in one of the various options, can at some point, on the next SPLOST referendum, we list these items and retire the debt if the citizens agree, from this SPLOST referendum? Mr. Abolt said, I will give you an answer. It will be complex and I apologize up front. Commissioner Odell said, I can do complex. Mr. Abolt said okay, Ms. McNabb will tell you about the costs one pays for early call. We can accomplish what you want to accomplish by creating an escrow account, so come 2008, if the Board decides to say yes, let's refund this debt -- let's eliminate this debt, we would create an escrow account to pick it off until the call date; otherwise, those who wanted to make an investment here in 2005, knowing the bonds might be called in 2008, that's not much of an investment. That's a lot of Wall Street-ese. The answer is yes, you can do it, and the refinancing would occur. Would it occur on terms that would be agreeable to the County -- Mr. Hart said, it's called advance refunding. Mr. Abolt said, thank you, Jon, advance refunding.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, do we have a motion on the floor for the five things we've mentioned, and then we can go, if you want to subtract any specific ones? Do we have a motion on the floor for refinancing of the bonds that will save us money in the future and, hopefully, we can get it in the SPLOST funding to retire this as has been mentioned, that we did for the Eighth Air Force obligation bond and also the Henderson Golf Course?

Commissioner Stone said, I make a motion to do that, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Odell said, which option? Commissioner Stone said all five. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Now for discussion, please.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I support most of this in here. I would appreciate it if we could remove the Aquatic Center from this particular vote, and I understand I'll be the only one to vote against it, probably, but this is 3.5 million more for the Aquatic Center's roof. Previously, we've spent \$100,000 on a door on the Capital Improvement. The year before that, we spent, I don't even remember how much for another air conditioner unit. We lose \$500,000 a year in operational expenses on top of that, and this is three and a half more million dollars down the drain, and I would appreciate moving that. And I have one question about the two million for the SABHC behavioral health center. Is this the one that was approved in the last -- Mr. Abolt said, yes, you all committed to this. You really, in effect, the SABHC and then the Health Department, which is coming from revenue within the Health Department, there's been a standing commitment on that, both. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd just like to remove the one, and I do understand and I'm not going to sit here and debate it to death. I'll just vote no and everybody else can support it if you'd like.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you, Dean. Let me ask you something. The Aquatic Center, I didn't mention that for the roof on there. Would you add that to yours? Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, since that was not mentioned, I would say this, and it's probably going to fall on deaf ears, I still think for three and a half million dollars, somebody needs to go back to the contractor or the architect to find out why, in the short time that this building has been in existence, that we -- it's up to us now to pay three and a half million dollars to replace a roof. I said that earlier. I'm sorry I made the motion. I forgot that this was in here. When I looked at Commissioner Kicklighter, I knew right then and there that I had forgotten that this was in there, and I apologize, but it is something that concerns me, that why this burden of three and a half million dollars is falling on us at this time. And I would like to delete that and I'm sorry, so if I need to restate my motion, I don't know how the second feels about that, but I apologize.

Chairman Liakakis said, James, do you accept that as second? Commissioner Holmes said, yes. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we're still talking about this. Any other comments now? Let me just say something about the Aquatic Center. As we know, that roof over there, what is causing a lot of problems over there, in fact, the chlorine up there, you know, is hurting the atmosphere. They had to go over there and fix the roof, and it's vitally important that we do something. You might have to close that Aquatic Center down, which will be, you know, a negative. A lot of people use that Aquatic Center. It's good for the health of our community and all, and I agree with you that those people that put it up there -- I think one of the considerations at the time was if they put that dome that used air pressure to keep it up, that that was going to be less expensive to build that. I think that was one of the things that they considered, but the problem is, of course, it wasn't coated. And you're absolutely right, because if it had been coated properly, what would have happened is that it wouldn't have -- you know, collapse and we had to spend all that money. Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I'm not advocating closing the Aquatic Center, I'm not advocating the citizens not having it. I'm just saying that if I had someone replace -- I mean, someone build a roof on my house and this amount of time this is where it is, I would be going back to them, and I don't think that this should fall on the taxpayers and I don't think it should be the burden of this Commission to have to cough up three and a half million dollars. That's my only comment.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, let me see if I can make sure I understand the motion as it stands now. It would basically be to rescind what we did two weeks ago, or a month ago, when we voted to refinance and include the Aquatic Center roof in this project. So what we would basically be doing is rescinding an earlier decision of this Commission. Is that correct? Chairman Liakakis said, no, I think -- no, didn't we vote on that -- Commissioner Shay said, I'm just trying to understand the motion. Chairman Liakakis continued, -- on that roof in the last thing, Pat? Mr. Monahan said, at the May 13th meeting, -- Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Mr. Monahan continued, the Board gave conceptual approval to allow Staff to proceed with developing the resolution which is attached, and the Board must adopt a resolution today, but we've provided enough latitude that if the Board wants to add other projects, it may do so, so as soon as the Board makes a decision here, I've got to call bond counsel and get those -- I've already gotten all the descriptions written, it's just a matter of which ones he's going to include and the dollar amounts. I give the dollar amounts to Diane and I give the legal description to -- excuse me. The financial advisor gets the dollar amounts and bond counsel gets the description, so at this point, everything that you did on the 13th was just conceptual.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I just want to make some observations. Everyone knows that Dean Kicklighter and I are very good friends; however, this is one item that I don't agree with. You know, I keep on hearing that we need to close it, it's excessive spending and things of this nature. I want to point out, number one, it's my recollection that that roof wasn't sealed when it was supposed to be. It would have added another five to ten years. And we may have made that decision not to seal it, because it saved a little bit of money. It might not be the contractor. We need to research that. Number two, that is a water park. We have other parks in the county, and I would point out that the other parks in the county produce zero revenue. At least this water park produces three and four hundred thousand dollars. I'd like to point that out, unlike Triplett Park, which produces no money. I'd also like to point out on a serious note, that this is a very valuable resource to this community. Number one, we have national meets at this particular facility, and I'm only sorry that we don't have someone here now, but as I recall, they can show that because of that Aquatic Center, that there's over \$127 million a year that come into this community in terms of hotel expenses and other expenses that are paid here. I also point out, the Aquatic Center is a major source of our military, namely, our Rangers, our other Army folks, and particularly our helicopter pilots, where they do critical training. There's no other place, there's no place at Fort Riley -- I mean, Fort Stewart and at Hunter for them to do any type of major training. Also, the Marine base sometimes uses that facility. It's a major resource for our senior citizens to go in there and do aquatic exercises that they can't do in a gym anymore. It's a major resource for our athletes at any level, at any school, that go in there. They have knee injuries or other type of injuries. The best way for them to rehabilitate is in water, because it doesn't have the impact on the joints. So at any rate, I could go on. Actually, I've prepared several pages, but I'm not going to bore you, but it is a very valuable asset, and I would tell you right up front for the media, that I swim in that particular place five days a week. I'm in that pool at quarter past five and I'm there for an hour and a half Monday through Friday, and I'm saying that. Number one, I have a personal interest in it, obviously, but also, I observe all these other things. It's a good park. It's a park, just like Triplett Park, just like any other park, except it does produce revenue.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas is next.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I have two questions. Number one, the \$3.5 million that is being proposed here, is that to repair the present roof or replace the roof? Chairman Liakakis said, replace it. Commissioner Thomas said, not with the same thing. Chairman Liakakis said, no, it'll be a structure, you know, with -- it'll be a permanent structure, and not something that is kept up by pressure. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, because, you know, if we're talking about doing the same thing, then we're just spinning our wheels, because the effect is going to be the same. I just want to make sure that we're not talking about the dome as it is now. Chairman Liakakis said, no. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, the other question I have for Pat, has anyone ever gone back to the company who, you know, put the dome up? Mr. Monahan said, let me start with the first point that you made, just to assure the Commission of the expectations of what this three and a half million dollars will buy. It will buy a dome similar to the dome that's there, but it will be a structure dome, meaning that there will be support under the dome so that we don't have to rely upon the pressurized system now. The pressurized system has a couple problems. One, because of the constant utility cost of maintaining the pressurized system and, two, it doesn't provide for any venting within it, so all that chlorine gas that comes from the pool stays

within the building, so that will be vented out, which we think will have some maintenance savings, the corrosion that's being caused, we're having problems with the scoreboard right now because of the corrosion. To answer your second question, I think the County Attorney did rather exhaustive research and I think passed along to the prior Board about 30 plus pages of his examination of responsibility for the problems at the pool, and he might want to discuss that with you in Executive Session, but I basically think what he said is, yes, there were some problems with the pool. We've got most of those resolved with some of the improvements made through the doors, getting the Dektron system, which provides the heating and cooling system now, getting that back on line and hooked up to the computer so that the computer can do the proper analysis. I think we've made those sorts of improvements already. But just to let you know, it's basically -- it will be a dome, but it will be a structure dome. To use as an example -- and you can go to the web site to the University of Florida, the O'Connell Center, which is 200,000 square feet, so it's much larger than the 40,000 square that we have under dome, did the same thing a number of years ago. It went from a pressurized dome to a structure dome and it's been quite successful, I understand.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, does that mean we won't have to have a \$100,000 door again? Mr. Monahan said, the pressurized door will not be necessary. You're absolutely right. The other thing that helps us in fire escape. As you know, we had a faulty fire alarm during a meet maybe three months ago, and it was -- I was not there, but it was a scary situation, because you can only evacuate in certain sequences to allow so that the dome doesn't collapse, which means not everyone can leave at the same time. I think if you're a swimmer and, you know, it's women and children first, and you're sitting there waiting until your turn -- fortunately, it was just a faulty alarm system and not a fire, but that will also be removed, too. All the doors can be opened at one time. If we had enough money, we could look at a retractable dome and, that way, you could get the best of both worlds. Commissioner Kicklighter said, may as well. Mr. Monahan said, but the three and a half million dollars is the economical way of taking a look at -- Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's a good idea, because the chief would like to tan in some ways out there. But I just want to clarify, if I could, one thing. I'm not recommending closing it. I recommended a few years back selling it to a nonprofit to take over and not exclude the public, and you can imagine how shocked I was when I opened my agenda and I saw, knowing how the chief feels about parks, that his name was under the item to sell my golf park. Commissioner Gellatly said, let me withdraw my name. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you know, the Henderson golf community, it's actually producing 50 to \$100,000 a year in revenues, making money. The Aquatic park is losing -- Triplett Park makes no money, but the Aquatic Center actually, in revenues, the chief was correct, the Commissioner Chief here was correct, it brings in 3 to 400,000 a year in revenues, but it also loses 800,000, is the cost to operate, so we're losing 3 to 400,000 or 4 to 500,000 a year. Again, it was kind of a surprise, and I did not mind entertaining it. Commissioner Odell stopped by and spoke with me earlier, and if it would make the county \$4 million to sell the golf course at Henderson and we could assure the public that they would get to utilize it just like they do today with us owning it, let's make the money, if it financially made sense. Looking at the Aquatic Center, if you can turn it to someone and guarantee that the public gets to utilize it like they do today, you know, I don't see the difference, other than I was volunteering to look at giving something out of my district that's paid for and makes money versus something that's draining the taxpayers of the county every day. That's my point. If we, sitting here, can look at my revenue-producing golf course in my district and entertain the thought of getting rid of it, I'm amazed that you won't even entertain the idea of getting rid of something that costs half a million dollars a year.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I just need a clarification, and the clarification is the motion that's currently on the floor, is that motion to exclude -- the Clerk said, it's to exclude the Aquatic Center. Commissioner Stone said, and my reasoning is, I still -- and maybe because I'm new, I don't have all the information -- is that I'm just not convinced that the burden of this repair needs to be on us. Commissioner Odell said, I don't think we have an option, and I have the floor. Mr. Hart said, Mr. Chairman, the last Commission charged me with the responsibility of going back and revisiting the Aquatic Center, which is quite a task, because I wasn't around at the time that center was constructed. Fortunately, I had Harry McDonald, our special consultant here, who has done quite a bit of construction work and, together, we pieced the whole project back together and we delivered this Commission, which we'll be glad to share with everybody, a 30-some page memorandum discussing in detail every one of the design concepts and how it got to be the way it got to be. This is probably one of the few projects in Chatham County that's been to referendum to the voters twice, in which they voted for this. Is it a perfect facility? No. Were compromises made in design because of cost limitations? Most definitely, yes. And the biggest design compromise by history was that roof. You could have put a hard top roof on it for \$3 million that you did not have.

Commissioner Odell said, Jon, my position is that the options -- we don't have any other options. We cannot pull it out of the general fund. We built this thing through SPLOST, so we cannot dump it or sell it. We cannot give Dave in the morning an umbrella to swim with this. We've got to replace the top. I mean, that's not an option. We have to do it. As to your -- Commissioner Stone said, and I understand that. Commissioner Odell continued -- legal question which you will verify, even if we replaced the roof and found that someone else, through contractual obligation, had violated some duty or care and ultimately were found to be liable, we can be reimbursed for that through indemnification if we were to find that we are not the authors of our own misfortune, which I think we are. I think we made a decision to be cheap and do it the cheap way and now, it's coming in. We've got to replace the roof. Her motion does not include --

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Commissioner Stone said, well, wait a minute, actually -- Chairman Liakakis said, I thought that she did include it at the end. Commissioner Odell said, she did not. The Clerk said, she withdrew it at the end. Commissioner Stone said, I withdrew it only, and now that I have additional information, I mean, now I'm back at, I guess, square one. I mean, obviously, I know it needs to be replaced. I had not heard from the County Attorney until just a few moments ago that perhaps this information was provided to the previous Commission that I was not aware of. I am in no way, shape, or form against the Aquatic Center and it existing and us doing what we need to do to keep it existing. If privatizing it down the road is a good option for the Commission and for the community, fine. That's not what we're talking about today. My only comment was the same comment that I made a few weeks ago when we talked about allocating the money for this roof, and that was, is the responsibility based -- should the responsibility be put on this Commission to spend three and a half million dollars to replace the roof, without addressing the contractor or architect, and I believe now that question has been answered. So in light of that information, I understand that obviously, there is no recourse, that perhaps the existing Commission played a role in the decisions and I understand it now. In light of all of that, then I guess I will go back to my original motion, which was to approve all of these, and I apologize for my confusion, which was lack of knowledge of how we got to the point where this roof

was.

Chairman Liakakis said, she's changing her motion. James, do you accept that? Commissioner Holmes said, once again, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, for the record, if it has to be voted on in one, that's fine. I just want the other places to know that I do support that, but I'll be voting no.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to adopt a resolution that authorizes a 2005 bond issue to restructure long-term debt as a \$600,000 savings in the FY2006 General Fund M&O Budget, provide \$3 million for health facilities improvements (SABHC, Health Department) and provide \$3.5 million for the Aquatic Center, and to provide options for Board consideration of adding other eligible projects from the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried. Commissioners Kicklighter and Shay voted no.

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH G. E. CAPITAL PUBLIC FINANCE, INC., FOR THE FUNDING OF A BALLFIELD LIGHTING SYSTEM AT CHARLIE BROOKS PARK, THEREBY AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT.

Commissioner Odell said, what district is that? Mr. Abolt said 4th. Chairman Liakakis said, it's in Pat Farrell's district.

Commissioner Farrell said, so move. Commissioner Stone said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to see if we can see that -- no, I'm just kidding.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion having been made by Commissioner Farrell and seconded by Commissioner Stone, the motion carried unanimously.

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5. SET THREE (3) PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING COUNTY MILLAGE RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2005

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. County Manager, what dates do you recommend? Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is a date for your decision on this. The three public hearings would occur, based on Staff recommendation, two on the 28th of June, which is a Tuesday, one being at 9:30 in the morning, the other at six p.m., and then the third would occur the same date as you are now scheduled to adopt the overall millage, which would be Friday, the 8th of July. And I was also reminded if you set these, if those dates are convenient to you, the condition dealing with the county's millage rates, M&O and SSD, we

also have in your staff report on Page 2, it would also address the CAT millage.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, now, we need also a motion on the floor to put a cap on any millage increase that we might consider. We're not voting on any millage at this time, other than to set a cap, which is required by law. Mr. Abolt said, it's very important to underscore what you just said. Yes, you're just setting the stage for your hearing and, again, based on your recent meeting at the Bamboo Farm and what Ms. Cramer and Staff said, the ceiling on the M&O, which includes just not those projects that those in attendance said you were in agreement on, but also the revisits. If you consider all those, then the ceiling would be one mil in M&O. There will be a disclaimer on the ad saying you get to make up your mind on that. In the Special Service, the same qualifiers, the ceiling would be .45 mil increase. It would also assume from your previous discussion on CAT Board that you would not be rolling back the millage, so you'd have your millage essentially remain the same.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have that, we have to set that, that's required by law, and the information is that we are not voting on any millage increase today. The only thing is to set that in case the Board wants to do that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, do you want to wait until Priscilla gets back? Chairman Liakakis said, yes, let's wait until Priscilla gets back. See if she's in the Green Room. Just a minute, Mr. Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I'll take that opportunity just to discuss -- I'm voting in favor of the motion that I think is going to be made here in a minute. I didn't have a chance to attend the workshop, and I apologize to the other Commissioners for not being there when these priorities were discussed. It just wasn't possible for me to be there on Wednesday. I'm going to vote in favor of the motion, but I would not want that to be misinterpreted by anyone, and I think that's the reason you gave that preface, that that I would necessarily be in support of the full amount of this in terms of a millage rate increase. I think we've got some work left to do on deciding priorities before we actually determine whether or not there will be a millage rate increase and, if so, how much. Chairman Liakakis said, can you see if she's back there?

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'm not sure how to ask this question. Is it possible to have two votes here? Is it possible to vote that we want to have the meetings on the digest, that we want these to occur, and the cap, can that be a separate vote? You know, I'm all for the digest and everything, but I'm not going to vote in any way, shape, or form, anything that could possibly end up in a tax increase, but I certainly understand the meetings and would be in favor of taking the tax digest. Mr. Hart said, there's not any legal prohibition against that. The point is, you've got to -- if you intend to leave that door open, you've got to set the meetings and set the max, but if you want to separate them out -- Commissioner Gellatly said, how would you word that, Jon, where you could have two votes? Mr. Hart said, well, you just go ahead and make a motion to adopt the times specified in the motion for purposes of setting the meetings necessary to consider an increase in the millage rate, would be your first motion, and then your second motion would be to state that you have an intention of setting a cap on the millage rate not to exceed whatever the number needs to be.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, I'll entertain a motion to set three public hearings regarding county millage rate for tax year 2005. Commissioner Stone said, so move. Chairman Liakakis said, there's no commit there other than you vote yes or no for that. Any discussions on that? Commissioner Kicklighter said

for the dates? Chairman Liakakis said, yes, for the dates. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion having been made by Commissioner Stone and seconded by Commissioner Gellatly, the motion passed unanimously.

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Chairman Liakakis said, okay, now let's have a motion on the floor that we set a cap that is required by law, not saying that we're raising anything at this time. Do we have a motion on the floor for that, to set the cap for the millage rate? Commissioner Odell said, I'll make that motion. I'll move to set the millage rate 1 mil cap, not to suggest that that's what will be done, but that's the maximum that can be considered for the M&O budget, and for the SSD, .45. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, does he need to include the other one, the CAT, on staying the same? Does he need to say that? Mr. Abolt said yes. Commissioner Odell said, so amend. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor to set that millage, and everybody understands it's not where we're voting on it. We're just setting a cap in case we see that to balance the budget, we need this thing.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion having been made by Commissioner Odell and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the motion passed 5 to 4, with Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Gellatly, and Kicklighter voting no.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you all are working like a gang of five there. No, I'm just kidding. Commissioner Thomas said, don't even go there.

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After Item IX.7 was handled, Mr. Hart said, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to the millage rate issue, just for the purpose of making sure the record is perfectly clear. We're not saying we're setting the millage rate at 1 mil. We're talking about a maximum increase. Chairman Liakakis said, that's what I said, the cap. Oh, yeah. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's the cap, not the rate. Mr. Hart said, yes.

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6. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE COURTHOUSE MASTER PLAN THAT WOULD ALTER USE AND ALLOCATION OF SPACE IN THE SOUTH ANNEX (FORMER JAIL).

Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this may be anti-climactic, because you've already got your funding in place. We have it all on one agenda. We're assuming, based on your funding chart, you want to add the fifth floor. Unless Mr. Monahan wants to add more to that, we think you've already made their

decision. Mr. Monahan said, yes, you have.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, do we have a motion on the floor to approve that? Commissioner Farrell said so move, Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Mr. Abolt said, technically, you're approving Alternate 4. Commissioner Odell said right.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve an amendment to the Courthouse Master Plan that would alter use and allocation of space in the South Annex (former jail). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD EMPOWER THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH TO ACT AS THE COUNTY'S AGENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kicklighter and seconded by Commissioner Gellatly. Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute, this is another one. Commissioner Odell said, that's Number 7. They moved for approval. Chairman Liakakis said, any discussion?

Commissioner Odell said, just a brief comment. The Health Department did not come to the County for the indigent care to administer. We went to them. There is no conflict between them providing primary care services to the indigent. I just needed to state that for the record.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I know it's been a long day, but I've got a couple of questions that I need to have answered for the record's sake. This does not change the fact that in order for monies to be obligated, that would be voted on by this Board. The final contract, whatever it is, will be voted on by this Board. Mr. Abolt said, that's correct, and the Chairman signs the contract. Commissioner Shay said, and the policy of how the money is going to be spent, in terms of the distribution of services, is still the decision of this Board. We're not delegating some authority here to the Health Department; what we're doing is asking them to assist us by looking over our shoulder at the proposal. Is that right? Mr. Abolt said, yes, sir. You're moving from a non M.D. managing the RFP, Mr. White, to an M.D., Dr. Skelton. Commissioner Shay said, I just wanted to make sure.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve an agreement that would empower the Chatham County Board of Health to act as the County's agent in the administration of the Indigent Health Care Program. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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8. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MRS. WANDA DUCLOS REGARDING CHANGE OF ASSESSMENT.

Mr. Abolt said, I'll defer to the County Attorney and then Ms. Quillian. Chairman Liakakis said, Jonathan, are you going to -- who's going to? Mr. Hart said, Ms. Quillian is the attorney for the Board of Assessors, and probably has more background knowledge on this than I do. Ms. Quillian said, actually, Ms. Snider can give you the historical on this. Chairman Liakakis said, who's going to discuss it? Mr. Hart said, I can do it very quickly. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, identify yourself, please. Ms. Quillian said, sure. My name is Abercorn Quillian, assistant with the County Attorney's office, representing the Board of Assessors. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, would you go through this?

Ms. Quillian said, sure. Factually, this taxpayer brought to our attention that she was in a similar situation to approximately 400 individuals whose taxes came before the Board to be forgiven or abated earlier. I'm sure you guys remember that action. She brought that to the attention of the Board of Assessors. The Board of Assessors took a vote and requested that the matter be brought before you so that this taxpayer could be treated in a similar manner as others who have been brought before you. Mr. Hart said, this arose out of the time period in which Stephens-Day was kicking in and this lady had a partially complete house, and the house was valued at the time of partial completion. Then the house was completed. And we sent her a notice of reval when the house was completed, but at that time, we did not send, as we should, a notice of reval with an appeal right, so the appeal rights on it ran. So now, she's locked in at a different value than perhaps she should have been if she had the right to appeal, and that was something very similar to what we had happen, I don't know, last year sometime, that was topically much discussion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, can you word in a motion what corrects this situation, if it was our fault? Mr. Hart a motion to correct would be to forgive \$2,106.75 of taxes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to grant the request of Mrs. Wanda Duclos regarding a change of assessment. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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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, Action Calendar, is there any item that you'd like to pull out of that? Any discussion? Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay. Commissioner Shay said, I'd like to remove Item P. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have Items 1-6 and then individual items under that Action Calendar. We're withdrawing the engineering and design contract for courthouse renovation and addition, holding back on that one, and then we'll discuss that

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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[NOTE: ACTION OF THE BOARD IS SHOWN ON EACH ITEM AS THOUGH AN INDIVIDUAL MOTION WAS MADE THEREON.]

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- 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE PRE-MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING OF may 27, 2005, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 2. CLAIMS VISITATION. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 19 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2005.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN LIBERTY COUNTY AND CHATHAM COUNTY AS SPONSOR OF THE COASTAL GEORGIA GREENWAY MULTI-USE TRAILS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAILHEAD FACILITIES AT RICEBORO CREEK. [ALL DISTRICTS.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A RETIREMENT HEALTH SAVINGS PLAN (RHSP) AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION–RETIREMENT CORPORATION (ICMA/RECOGNIZE) APPROPRIATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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5. **REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2005. PETITIONER: ROBERT MCLAURIN BURCH, D/B/A DIAMOND GIRL, LLC (DIAMOND GIRL) EXCURSION VESSEL, TO BE LOCATED AT 8010 TYBEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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6. **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. Control switches	ICS	Interface Electronics, Inc.	\$20,436	CIP - NetPlan 2000
B. Equipment, software and services to provide a wireless data network	ICS	Motorola, Inc. (sole source)	\$78,500	General Fund/M&O - Communications
C. Three (3) replacement prisoner vans	Detention Center	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$62,493.32	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
D. Contract for the purchase and installation of two electronic security gates	Mosquito Control	Palmetto Southern, Inc.	\$40,389	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
E. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the St. Ives Culvert replacement project to extend the contract time	SPLOST	Sandhill ALS Construction, Inc. (MBE)	N/A	N/A
F. Construction contract for the installation of the sports lighting for the Charlie Brooks Recreational Complex	SPLOST	M. Gay Constructors	\$115,900	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Charlie Brooks Park Project
G. Contract for ventilation air upgrade for the Old County Courthouse	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Boaen Mechanical Contractor, Inc.	\$73,360	CIP, M&O Projects
H. Hauling 1000 loads of fill dirt from Brampton Road to Wilmington Landfill	Solid Waste	B & N Trucking, Inc.	\$68,000	Solid Waste Management Fund
I. Change Order No. 6 to the annual contract for pest control services to provide monthly service at the Park and Recreation Administrative building	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Ideal Pest Control, Inc.	\$35 month	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
J. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for two additional one year terms to provide chemical herbicide products for use in the canal drainage program	Public Works	Helena Chemical	Varies by item	SSD - Public Works

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
K. Annual agreement with automatic renewal options for two additional one year terms for environmental emergency response services	Mosquito Control	Moran Environmental Recovery, LLC	Varies by item	No funding required for approval. If services are required a contingency transfer will be requested
L. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one year terms to provide rental of uniforms for various County departments	Various	UniFirst Corporation, Inc.	\$32,455.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various •Water and Sewer •Solid Waste Management
M. One (1) 4x4 pick up truck	Mosquito Control	O.C. Welch Ford	\$25,967	CIP - Mosquito Control
N. One (1) storm sewer cleaner	SPLOST	Adams Equipment Co., Inc.	\$257,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Storm Drainage
O. Purchase and installation of video conference equipment	Sheriff	Remote Technology (sole source)	\$39,600.45	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
P. Engineering and design contract for Courthouse Renovations and Additions - Phase I	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung in conjunction with Duckett Design Group	\$602,922	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Renovations and Additions - Phase I
Q. Annual price agreement for the "as needed" purchase of mosquito control chemicals	Mosquito Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adapco •Univar •Clark Mosquito Control Products 	Varies by item	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control

Items 6-A through 6-Q, with the exception of Item 6-P:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Items 6-A through 6-Q, with the exception of Item 6-P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Item 6-P:

Engineering and design contract for Courthouse Renovations and Additions - Phase 1; SPLOST; Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung in conjunction with Duckett Design Group, \$602,922; SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Renovations and Additions - Phase 1.

Chairman Liakakis read Item P and recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, the fee that's here, does that include the fact that we just added a story to that building? Mr. Monahan said, no, sir, that does not. Just as clarification, that does not include that. This is only for the first phase, which that includes the most complicated part, will be the construction of the dual tunnels that'll connect the parking garage to the courthouse, renovation of the basement area of the courthouse for the Sheriff's Department, and then the creation of a new sallyport within the new parking garage. Commissioner Shay said, if it's not too much, I'd like to leave you in the strongest negotiating position possible, not that anyone would ever take advantage of the fact that we've already given them a change-order before we even agreed to the contract, that you go back and negotiate with this firm, since they were the best by the process that we went through, to get that added in before we vote on the whole contract. Is that a problem? Mr. Monahan said, you're actually about two weeks ahead of me. As I was thinking when the Board voted to add the fifth floor to the jail, I'm thinking of the schedule, because the money savings only works if we can slide the Public Defender in January 1st of 2007, because at that point, we start paying on those -- that would be the principal and interest payments on the bonds, so if we can slide those two in and they're concurrent actions, we actually save that money. But as you well know, in order to design and construct that within roughly a 20-month period might be difficult, so by allowing us to proceed with, I don't want to say a change-order, but at least an addition to the contract, it might expedite that a bit, but yes, we will proceed with that. Thank you. Commissioner Shay said, I make a motion that we approve this contract subject to successful negotiation of the change-order for the additional work that we just approved earlier in the meeting today. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Items 6-A through 6-Q, with the exception of Item P. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
2. Commissioner Shay moved to approve Item P. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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XI. FIRST READINGS

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

1. **THE PETITIONER MAX COOPER, AGENT (FOR TED COY AND JIM KLUTZ, OWNERS) IS REQUESTING TO RE-ZONE 7840 U.S. HIGHWAY 80 EAST FROM A T-B/EO (TOURIST BUSINESS/ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) CLASSIFICATION TO A P-I-P/EO (PLANNED INSTITUTIONAL PROFESSIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) CLASSIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF A CHANGE OF THE ISLANDS FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM COMMERCIAL RETAIL TO COMMERCIAL OFFICE.
MPC FILE NO. Z-050422-56959-1
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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2. **THE PETITIONER TRENT LONG, AGENT (FOR SMITH-MACKEY FAMILY, OWNER AND PETITIONER) IS REQUESTING RE-ZONING 163 RED GATE FARMS FROM A R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A PD-R-S-M (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-RECLAMATION-SURFACE MINING) ZONING CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL IN CONJUNCTION WITH A GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4-6-8.
MPC FILE NO. Z-050323-36479-1
[DISTRICT 8.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2
DATE: June 10, 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>
30 full version WordPerfect Office 12 media software, licenses and one year maintenance	Tax Commissioner	Software House International, Inc.	\$3,000	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Various office furniture	Voter Registration	VIP Office Furniture and Supply (WBE)	\$6,680	General Fund/M&O - Voter Registration
Three (3) touch screen voting machines	Elections Board	Diebold Election Systems, Inc. (State Contract)	\$8,705	General Fund/M&O - Elections Board
Annual maintenance agreement on four (4) servers	ICS	Red Hat, Inc. (sole source)	\$3,360	General Fund/M&O - ICS
Purchase and installation of self contained air conditioning unit in the communications room and lab	Mosquito Control	Air Services and Refrigeration	\$5,350	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Barracuda Spam Firewall software and maintenance	ICS	Interdev, LLC	\$4,857	General Fund/M&O - Communications
12 Mitel telephones	ICS	Integrated Network Solutions, Inc. (sole source)	\$2,954	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Installation of signs and stripe lines for handicap accessible parking at 23 County locations	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Brantley's Sealcoating	\$4,933	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Six (6) Xerox printers	Juvenile Court	Dell Marketing	\$7,014	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Annual maintenance on the parking garage access control and revenue computer system	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Carolina Time Equipment (sole source)	\$4,490	Parking Garage

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUN T</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
75 full version WordPerfect Office 12 media software, licenses and one year maintenance	Detention Center	Software House International, Inc.	\$7,500	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
One (1) Printronix high speed impact printer	Detention Center	CDW Government, Inc.	\$6,650	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
50 full version WordPerfect Office 12 media software licenses and one year maintenance	Sheriff	Software House International, Inc.	\$5,000	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
Prepare permitting documents for replacing two 48" diameter flap gated culverts	SPLOST	Collins Engineers, Inc.	\$2,949	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Walthour Road
Demolition of County owned properties at 1916 Blue Jay Avenue and 1923 Westlake Avenue	SPLOST	D S, Inc. (MBE)	\$6,500	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Westlake project
Demolition of County owned properties at 1907 and 1913 Blue Jay Avenue	SPLOST	D S, Inc. (MBE)	\$6,562	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Westlake project
Traffic analysis for the intersections of Johnny Mercer/Quarterman and Johnny Mercer/Walthour -	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$9,980	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Intersection Improvement

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Gellatly seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 2:07 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 2:38 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 Thomas moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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APPOINTMENTS

- 1. LIVE OAK REGIONAL LIBRARY**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to appoint Monifa Johnson to replace Richard Riley, which term will expire 06/30/07, and Laura Lane Smith to replace Jocelyn Schilling, which term will expire 6/30/08.

Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Holmes moved to appoint Ben Farmer to the Metropolitan Planning Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Patricia McIntosh, which term will expire December 30, 2005. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Liakakis declared the meeting adjourned at 2:40 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