

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 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 9:20 a.m., Friday, August 12, 2005.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner David M. Gellatly gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to call on Beth Goble, the daughter of our former Garrison Commander for Hunter Field to come forward to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked Beth to have her sisters stand with her while she led. Chairman Liakakis said, just a little brief history that some might not know, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Goble was the Garrison Commander for Hunter Field, and he worked hard not only in the military area, but supported many things in our county and our cities here, and, of course, he's going overseas, and these are his daughters and his wife here. They want us all to pray for them and to watch over them while he's overseas.

Beth Goble led everyone in the Pledge of 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
- Also present: Russell Abolt, County Manager
- Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
- Barbara B. Wright, Acting County Clerk

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**1. PRESENTATION TO CHATHAM COUNTY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARD FROM THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION (GFOA) FOR THE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004. THIS IS THE 21ST CONSECUTIVE YEAR THE GFOA HAS AWARDED CHATHAM COUNTY THIS AWARD.**

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a presentation this morning to Chatham County, a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting award from the Government Finance Office Association of Georgia for the county's fiscal year ended June the 30th, 2004. This is the 21st consecutive year that Georgia Finance Officers Association has awarded Chatham County this award and these, our employees with our Finance Department, of course, Linda Cramer, our Finance Director, and we're really proud, because we can see not only this award that's been given this year, but many years in the past, and we're really proud for what they have done. I'd like to call on our County Manager now.

Mr. Abolt said, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is definitely another one, but each one is better than the previous one. We've now come of age. We've reached 21 years in a row where, in effect, this very prestigious award has been sent and awarded Chatham County. In this particular case, and on that wall, you'll see the other 20, but this recognizes that the individuals you're about ready to meet through Ms. Cramer, our Finance Director, in partnership with our External Auditor, Rick Tindol, have reached recognition, really second to none. I know of no other government around that has done this for 21 years in a row. This is the reason, really, why we always display in front of you all to your right, to my left, on that wall, this series of awards. This is nothing short of outstanding.

Ms. Cramer said, good morning. It's always good to be here to bring good news in front of the Commission and, again, I'm very proud of our audit team here. The group of folks that's with me today works very hard to put our CAFR together every year and, as a matter of fact, they're working very hard right now and they have a deadline Monday, so I know they're anxious to get back upstairs and get back to work. A lot of them have told me they'll be here all weekend working on different entries. And you know Rick Tindol with Karp, Ronning & Tindol. He's our partner in charge of our audit. He really helps us a lot as far as giving us some good pointers every year about what to improve, what we can work on for the next year. I just wanted to mention, looking back at the 2002 audit, we had 15 comments on our CAFR and on the performance of the Finance Department. All of those comments, except one, were pointed directly at the Department. In 2004, there were eight comments in the CAFR, but only three of those were intended for Finance, so, as you can see, this group of folks right here is working hard every year to make things better, smoother, quicker, get that information out to you in a more timely manner, and that's what we're trying to do.

I did want to introduce everybody. This is Cheryl Deariso, Assistant Finance Director; Sheri Cadman, she is our Payroll Administrator, she's a very important person here in Chatham County; Julia Rogers is our Senior Accountant, she's been with us about a year and she came from Rick's firm; Lesha Lanier, she's our Financial Services Manager, and this year Lesha is going to put the CAFR together for us, so she's stepping out into new areas; Lynn Stennett, who's our Investment Officer, Lynn also does a lot of work on our grants; Melva Sharpe, Water and Sewer Billing Operations, and she has a lot of interaction with our water and sewer customers every day; Nancy Curry, Nancy does, oh, about five or six different

things at one time up there for us every day; Connie Bright, Connie works hard on the audit, she does a lot of work with us on our journal entries, and she is the one who, when it comes down to a deadline, she's the one getting pushed at the end, so we appreciate that; Joyce Prescott, she's one of our accounting staff up there and she works a lot with our cash management, and then Tom Drane, our Chief Accountant, works with our auditors on our field work side. So I want to thank them for all their hard work. Also Serena Mitchell, with our Purchasing Department here, works on our fixed assets, and she's not here today.

Mr. Tindol said, if I could just say a word or two, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to offer my congratulations to the entire County and especially to the Finance Department and Linda Cramer for the great job that's been done and continues to be done to improve the operations in the financial area of the County. Accountability is really the keystone of good government and without this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, I think you only go halfway there as far as accountability. What this report does, it demonstrates through the statistical section and other sections of the report things that are not required normally for a government that we do as a county government to show our citizens that we have nothing to hide, that here are the facts and figures. We welcome, you know, any comments towards those as far as improvement is concerned. It indeed is a national award. It's one that's not given just automatically every year. You have to requalify, and I know from working on it how difficult it is and what an achievement it is to have this for 21 consecutive years. What are the real benefits of this? Well, it's hard to select the top one, because I think that the esprit de corps and just the camaraderie and the striving for excellence and the educational component alone speaks for itself in terms of bringing this group together, but from a financial standpoint, the bond rating agencies look very, very favorably at this Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, so it's something that you ought to continue to strive to do and, again, I applaud everyone's effort, you know, for the 21st consecutive year.

Chairman Liakakis said, Rick, we do appreciate you and your firm, your outside auditing firm, because that's really important. It's the checks and balances for the citizens of Chatham County to have an outside auditor to make sure that we have that accountability. We have our own internal auditors, also, who do an excellent job, but to have an outside auditor, too, we have that additional checks and balances, so that \$372 million budget like we have for this year, you know, that it's accountable and it's done in the proper manner. And to Linda Cramer, for you and all of your great staff right there, we really appreciate the dedication and loyalty of all of your employees for the great job, and I know what happens because a lot of times on my desk, with purchase orders and contracts and all that I go through, I mean, it's incredible the paper work that they do up there. But I thank each and every one of you very much, and, of course, you, Mr. County Manager, for your overseeing the Department, also.

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2. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT FROM YOUTH FUTURES AUTHORITY (JULIAN PAFFORD, YFA BOARD CHAIR; CARLTON BROWN, YFA BOARD VICE CHAIR; AND JACQUELINE ELMORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR).

Chairman Liakakis said, we have Julian Pafford here, who is the Chairman of the Youth Futures Authority, and the Vice Chairman, and Jacqueline Elmore, who is the Executive Director, will give us a brief report on Youth Futures, which is an important part of this program for our entire county.

Mr. Pafford said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, thank you for putting us on the agenda today. We actually are responsible to report to you each year on the condition of children, and our report today will do that. I'll make some opening comments and then I'll pass it along to our Executive Director, who will sum things up. Dr. Skelton is here today, Charlie Bremer from DFACS, Bernie Polite, our Past Chair, Peter Doliber from Memorial Health, Dr. Bix Rathburn from Savannah Tech. These are all Board members, and a small number of them, because we have a very good, strong Board, so they're here today and we can answer any questions you have. What I said earlier, we're here today to report to you regarding children's issues. We are coming to you as an appointed board, and we also go to the Savannah City Council, Board of Education, the local legislative delegation, and certain state agencies who are charged with children's welfare and well-being. Your current appointments to our Board are John Finney from the EOA, Dr. Bix Rathburn, who's here today, Don Stubbs, who's a Vice President with St. Joseph's/Candler, and you currently have one vacancy.

Mr. Pafford said, our role at Youth Futures Authority is to be the key planning and advocacy authority for children and family issues in Chatham County. When you think about local land planning issues, you think of the Chatham Metropolitan Planning Commission. When you need clear strategy for children's issues or the latest data, we want you to think of Youth Futures Authority. Over the last two to three years, our authority has made a serious deliberate journey of fiscal restoration. Our recent financial audit proves we mean what we say, and Jacqueline will talk about that in a few minutes. We've also made the deliberate decision recently to go back to our roots and to refocus on planning and advocacy as two of our highest priorities, and to pull back from running of programs. Our reinvigorated commitment to you today is to be a strong partner, an excellent communicator to you, and a sensitive diplomat in exploring how to solve issues involving children. We commit to build and, if necessary, rebuild the critical relationships that YFA needs to do its mission. We will work diligently to build your trust and seek you out as a key partner. As I said earlier, we currently have a strong Board, one of the best in the community, and we have a good succession plan. At the end of this year, we have our annual meeting and we expect Dr. Carlton Brown to be named the new Chairman and Dr. Bix Rathburn to be the Vice Chairman, so people following up Julian have – the IQ will be raised very high in the Chairman and Vice Chairman. One of the issues we want to talk to you about in the future, and not today, Mr. Chairman, is the reinstatement of the original compact between YFA, the School Board, the City Council, and the County Commission, that worked so well for over 10 years. Right now, City Council is the one remaining compact member that's funding our organization, and as we move out of running programs and into planning and advocacy, we need your help to revisit funding issues, so we'll be back at a later time. I want to thank the Commissioners today for use of the Trade Center during our Annual Summit. You've approved it again. This will be the third straight year. That is a significant resource. We appreciate that. I also want to thank Chairman Liakakis for attending the recent Mental Health Forum with Director Skinner. That was a very good meeting, and I'm sure he may have some comments later about that. We appreciate what you do. We are reinvigorated and focused on our children. We have some problems here in Chatham County that we need to address and with your help, we'll move forward. And now let me turn it over to Jacqueline, who'll make some comments, and then I'll thank you at the end.

Mrs. Elmore said, good morning, Chairman Liakakis and Members of the Commission. I am Jacqueline Elmore and, as Julian said, I am staff, so it is my responsibility to bring to you a summary of what we've done for the past year and speak just a little about what our priorities will be next year. First and foremost, the Chatham County Commission, not only being an appointing body, is an important partner with the Youth Futures Authority. In addition to having members who represent you on this collaborative,

this consensus building group, we work constantly with the Staff of Chatham County, as Julian alluded to, in getting space for our Community Summit, as well as other PR issues. And when we have guests who are looking at the Youth Futures Authority as a Chatham County body, the Staff at Chatham County is always very supportive in helping us to have them see what happens in our community, entertain, host, and educate those who come in to look at this model collaborative. The Annual Report that you have in front of you talks about 2004. There are one or two significant things that I would like to call to your attention, one being we are sound as far as managing our finances are concerned. This is a new climate, and we're certainly seeking additional revenue, but the limited resources and the shrinking resources that we have are managed responsibly. We have just completed our audit. It is clean. There are no material findings, so we're very pleased that with the small funding that we do have, we are very attentive to managing your support as well as other members of this community.

The second item that I would call to your attention is that the Authority is working very diligently on creating a community-wide continuum of development for children. When this document is complete, it will be a guidepost for anyone trying to identify what needs to happen for children until they become adults. It will be shared with the community. It will be maintained on our web site, and it will be updated as providers, those who are responsible, services, and decisions are changed. This is a critical resource that has been lacking in the community for quite some time, and it is the Authority's intent to release it at this year's Community Summit. The Community Summit will be held on October 27th and 28th at the International Trade Center, courtesy of the Chatham County Commission. We certainly will be hoping that members of the Commission will join us during that two-day session as much as possible. Commission Chair Liakakis has agreed, as has Mayor Johnson, to serve as Honorary Co-Chairs. They have assisted us in getting Attorney General Thurbert Baker as one of our keynote speakers, and the likelihood of Superintendent of Education, Kathy Cox. Our interest in having her come to our community is to undergird the priorities for the Authority for 2005 and 2006, and that is supporting the Board of Education and helping to bring consensus in this community and the need for us to look at education of our children as a county-wide concern, so that will be our focus. It follows up on the work that we've done for behavioral health, juvenile justice, which will not be stopped, but the priority, the new priority, will become education. So we appreciate Chairman Liakakis' support in helping us to attract the Superintendent of Education for Georgia.

Mrs. Elmore said, the data that is released in the Annual Report is the summary of 2004. There's good news and bad news. And, of course, we presented that to you, we presented the profile. But today, we bring to you data that is trend data over the life of the Authority that we have collected, numerous indicators, data on numerous indicators for the well-being of children. It is evidence that there's a long way to go in Chatham County in getting for children the kind of environment that will make them healthy and become self-sufficient adults. The Authority boasts one of the best data warehouses in this community, and I'll say one of the best, because I can't see behind me. But the Authority is very pleased that we're able to provide for the Metropolitan Planning Commission, the City of Savannah, the Board of Education, numerous community groups, and other entities that are a long list of persons who come to us for the data on children. That is our responsibility. Another responsibility is ensuring that you, as an appointing body, are aware of what we're doing. You see our report from last year and you are aware of what our priority will be for next year. With that, I would ask if there are any questions of Chairman Pafford and certainly have other members of the Board assist us in answering, if necessary.

Commissioner Shay said, I want to thank you for the good work that you do. We had the opportunity as freshman Commissioners to get a good briefing. Dr. Elmore and the Board were kind enough to bring us up to speed on the great things that you all are accomplishing. I wanted to point out that Commissioner Holmes and I, with the leadership of Chairman Liakakis, initiated at the beginning of our term earlier this year a dialog with the Juvenile Court Judges that also involved Dr. Rathburn, the members from the School Board, including then Acting Superintendent Colonel Bowen, so that we could explore the possibilities of linkages between vocational education and juvenile justice. We made some initial progress and, due to some of the things that the School Board was going through, we lost a little momentum. If you could please help us to regain some focus on that, we're going to be reinitiating those discussions. I know that vocational education, from the presentation that you gave us, is something that is a high priority for you, but we have lots and lots of young people – I'm preaching to the choir here, okay – we have lots and lots of young people in Chatham County who, for whatever reason, don't feel that they are plugged into and understanding the relevance of the education they're getting in the public schools, because they can't connect it to vocations. And if we were doing a better job as a community of plugging these young people into that, I have no doubt in my mind that we would be having less of a problem with our juvenile crime problems. There are also some other programs that we heard about earlier this morning, and Dr. Thomas is showing some leadership here on the truancy problem. But we're with you and we need your help in these areas, because as Commissioners, we inherit the sort of downstream consequences of failure from this perspective.

Mrs. Elmore said, Commissioner Shay, the choir needs a good sermon every now and then, so we enjoy it when you say the things that we are certainly very committed to correcting. When Dr. Lockamy came in on last week and hosted his first Board meeting, his first guests were members of the Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Authority. That was deliberate and intentional. We want to partner with him. We want him to recognize us as a resource, with the membership including Dr. Rathburn, who would like to make some comments, of individuals who are looking at what needs to happen in a very holistic strategy for children in Chatham County. We have a very good relationship with the three Juvenile Court Judges. In fact, they sit on our ongoing Juvenile Justice Task Force. So yes, you're preaching to the choir but, believe me, we become more harmonious when we hear your sermon. Dr. Rathburn.

Dr. Rathburn said, just a quick comment – and again, I'd like to also express my appreciation to Commissioner Shay for helping to energize that effort last Spring. Just to let you know, sir, that I did receive a call from your office yesterday, we've got a meeting set up, I believe it's next week, at 10:30 this morning, I'll be back on campus with George Bowen. Dr. Lockamy is back in town today. He's moving his family in. We're meeting on Tuesday, and so we will have something to present to that meeting. We did lose a little momentum because of the changes in leadership structure down there, but we're ready to put that in place, and we share your vision of giving kids an opportunity to see a brighter future, to have some impact in their education. We'd much rather see those youth involved in technical education and involved in developing their career, rather than just biding their time in the juvenile justice system, so we're committed to making that happen this Fall. Thank you for your leadership, and Chairman Liakakis, in making that happen.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yes. I've gone through your statistical report that has data on our youth and social conditions that have impacted negatively or positively on them since 1992. This is a fantastic

report, and overall, it's shown a lot of tremendous progress. It's a very positive report. It ought to be positive to the community, and this is really something that I'd like to be able to sit down on a Sunday morning and read it featured in the Savannah newspaper. I would hope that possibly you might want to share this with them. It'd make a really nice feature, because a lot of times, you get a lot of gloom and doom. This is fantastic information and I congratulate you on your outstanding performance. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to thank you, also, because this Youth Futures Authority has made a difference in our community. You know, we have some pitfalls and all, but we need more support because our high drop-out rate in our school system, 40% of the students that drop out of school commit crime. That's a terrible figure. And, of course, Dr. Rathburn, you know, what he has done with Savannah Technical College, brought it up to one of the top technical colleges in the entire country, one of the fastest growing. We can see what's happening out there, and with his support and the school support out there to come on board to help the Chatham County School Board, it's very important, because with this technical training and all, maybe that will be the incentive to keep the students in school so we don't have this high drop-out rate, and that they will have the skills when they get out of school, to be able to go into the job market, and that's really important, because on many occasions we have too many students that graduate, many of them leave town, they look around and they have no skills, and so, of course, they don't get a lot of good jobs in our community, so I really appreciate all the work that you all have done in the past. Dr. Rathburn said, thank you. Chairman Liakakis said, I wish you more success, and whatever we can do to help out in that area, and we thank all the Board members, because they put a lot of time in this effort, to make sure that our community rises to a higher level. Thank you.

Mr. Pafford said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and our focus, number one goal for next year is education. Dr. Brown's going to be leading a task force. We will be more in the media expressing our issues and working with the School Board and working with you to try to focus on that, so we look forward to that, and thank you for today.

Chairman Liakakis said, another thing, too, you mentioned about Commissioner Skinner was here from the State of Georgia talking about the mental health situation, where they have closed down our Georgia Regional Adolescent & Children's section out there, which I thought was bad, and a lot of people who are in the mental health field feel that, also, but if you all will help us, too, especially in that children area, to put some kind of bench mark so that we can make sure that the State is doing the right job, because if they are not, we need to get hold of the Legislators to make sure that those resources are put in there, because when you have to transport the children or somebody that has a mental problem all the way to Milledgeville, Georgia, you know, and they can't have the family support because the families cannot go that distance. And another thing, too, they're talking about group homes. Now, we'll see if that group home thing works, but a group home cannot give the serious kind of mental health programs that's needed for children and adolescents that have serious mental problems. That's my own take from listening to many people in that field.

Mrs. Elmore said, thank you, Chairman Liakakis. We invited Dr. Skinner to come down and speak to us, because we have concerns, as well, and having her explain to us what the motivation was behind making those decisions. We did enter into an agreement that one year from now, the Authority will express to her what Chatham County believes as far as the effectiveness or whether it was the right

decision in making those moves, so she is working with the Authority in ensuring that our voice is heard in those decision making processes. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

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3. RECOGNITION OF CHATHAM COUNTY JUNIOR GIRLS FAST PITCH 14 AND UNDER ALLSTAR SOFTBALL TEAM (CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS).

Chairman Liakakis said the team represented Chatham County in the Georgia Recreation and Park Association State Class "A" tournament held in Augusta, Georgia, the week of July the 14th through the 16th this year. The young ladies were very successful in winning all four games by an average of 13 points to capture the State Championship. The names of the young ladies and their coaches are as follows: Alaina Avera, Victoria Futrell, Sarah Harrell, Chandler Smoak, Alexis Burke, Beth Goble, Brittany Petrea, Joana Watkins, Whitney Earhart, Jaime Guinup, and Rachel Reynolds. And the coaches are Randy Harrell, Jeff Goble, Amanda Futrell, and Vic Reynolds. You know, we hear a lot – we had an article from the news media here recently talking about Savannah was not a really true sports town. But just like your team has achieved and won that championship, we have many sports heroes and people that have won a lot of tournaments in the state and national wise. I really appreciate each and every one of you, because what you did, you came and showed the rest of the State of Georgia how good you were, and that we've got great sports people here in Savannah, and athletes like you are, and I'd like to call on Al Lipsey, who is our director for recreation in Chatham County to speak.

Mr. Lipsey said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks for giving us the opportunity to recognize these young ladies. You're looking at the next Olympic Champions here. Please remember their names. I'd like for Coach Harrell to say a few words.

Mr. Harrell said, I'd just like to thank Chatham County, the Commissioners, the Department of Parks & Recreation, for giving us the opportunity to represent Chatham County in the state tournament. I'd also like to thank Vicky Blumberg and Anthony Russell. They did a great job this year with maintaining the fields and contracting the umpires. We were fortunate this year on this team to have a combination of athletic ability, team chemistry, and a great work ethic that took us all the way. I'd like to point out that this is not a group of ringers we brought in to win this tournament. These girls grew up in the county recreation program, playing, some of them, from the time they were eight years old. A lot of the other counties may have better facilities, but this year, we had the best team on the field. I do have concerns, though, about the future of the recreation program. It seems like every year, the participation in the softball program seems to be heading downhill, and there's a need for better promotion of the program, and hopefully, our success will encourage girls to participate more, and if we could do a better job of promoting the program, we could fill up the fields in the Spring. I'd like Alaina Avera to say a few words. Alaina had the highest batting average in the tournament at 545. She also had an in-the-park home run and two triples.

Ms. Avery said, just to add on to what Coach Randy said, we would like to thank the County for sending us to State Championship. We really appreciate you guys' support. And I think that we really represented Chatham County well, both on and off the field, so we'd just like to thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, we thank each and every one of you for your participation in showing what great athletes you are in winning this tournament. That's really important. We've got great athletes all around our community. Coach Harrell, you mentioned something about promoting to have more softball participation. One of the problems that we've had in this county is because 11 employees were taken away from the Recreation Department and it was unfunded. The priorities in that area had been unfunded for a number of years. And what occurred is, instead of spending a few hundred thousand dollars for our recreation, for different recreation fields, whether it was tennis, whether it was softball, whether it happened to be soccer, whatever it is, that money was not there. And unfortunately, what it's costing the Chatham County taxpayers now is over \$4 million to correct that. Instead of spending, being fiscally responsible in the earlier years and putting that money in there, now that is created. Thankfully, what we've done is, and, of course, people are commenting about the .67, which is a small amount in increase in our millage rate, but what has occurred with that, we're able to put in a half-million dollars into our Recreation Department, hiring additional employees, and putting to the forefront to remedy the problems that we have in our Recreation Department here in Chatham County. So I think this, with all of the Commissioners working together as we are now, that we're going to see a big difference and have a better recreation program for our community, and with Al Lipsey, the Recreation Department Director, that we're going to see that this is on fast track now so that we can correct that situation with the monies that we have. To each and every one of you, we thank you very much. You're all heroes for Chatham County and for the rest of the State of Georgia. Congratulations, and may you have many happy returns and a great future. Thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, just before you take your seats, I, too, would like to say congratulations. We are always very, very proud, especially when our young people are doing wonderful things, because we all know about the bad things. It lets us know that you not only have excelled on the field, but as your group leader indicated, that she felt you had represented the county very well off the field, and that's very important, as well. So I want to say to you, continue to move in that direction and, to the coach, continue to coach them, and I hope I live long enough to see you as Olympians.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'd also like to wish you a special congratulations. My wife is a faculty member, as many of you may know, at Calvary, and we're very, very proud of your accomplishment and would like for you all to know that you've made a special achievement and elevated yourselves to leaders in your school and your community, and to handle yourself in such a way as to continue to be looked up to by your peers. Congratulations.

Coach Harrell said, I'd like to make one more point. These girls are now in the high school season, and we have players that are on five different high school teams, so I encourage all of you all to get out to watch a game this year.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to congratulate all of you, also. I think it's an awesome job. Coach, I'd like to see you coordinate somehow with Pete Nichols, our public relations director, to somehow do a commercial, in a sense, with all the girls, you know, showing that you're State champs and the girls saying join softball in Chatham County, you know, we're number one in the State of

Georgia, something to that extent, and let you know that we are on your side. Back on the last SPLOST vote, we spent, I don't even know the number, to completely renovate and redo the fields out on the island, and, you know, this group here has a definite commitment to move forward and continue, you know, continue to improve the recreation, so we appreciate you all and with this group's approval, I'd love to see you all do some type of commercial on that government channel.

Chairman Liakakis said, thanks again. As information, our number one person for public relations and all, I know he's watching this in the back, so, Pete, you heard the comment from Commissioner Kicklighter, so if you will work on that particular program, we appreciate it. Thank you. And Mr. —, County Manager, you can also talk to Pete Nichols concerning that. Mr. Abolt said, I'll be glad to, sir.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION ON THE SCOURGE OF METHAMPHETAMINES (COMMISSIONERS THOMAS, HOLMES AND FARRELL).

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll call on Commissioners Thomas, Holmes, and Farrell. These three Commissioners, when they went to Hawaii and, you know, there was a lot of negatives about them going there, but they learned a lot there. They brought back quite a bit of information so that the County Commissioners and our citizens will, you know, be able to have some good results with the information they brought back. With that, I'd like to call on Commissioner Thomas to start off talking about this meth problem that we are experiencing to some degree here in Chatham County, but could grow to even a greater extent. Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, Ladies and Gentlemen, we placed this on the agenda because we wanted to do a follow-up from our participation in the town hall meeting that was held in Hawaii during the National Association of Counties conference. One of the seminars was on counties focused on the methamphetamine crisis that is just really taking over America. It has now moved its way into Chatham County and other surrounding areas. We brought back much information from the conference. We brought back videotapes, we brought back some information that I cannot divulge to you at this time, but we have related that information to the law enforcement. As a result of that, I'm very happy to see Commander Williams in the audience today. We held a news conference, I believe two days ago, to bring to the attention of our citizens what has been taking place across America and what's happening in Savannah. I'm very pleased to say that our law enforcement officers, along with the Methamphetamine Strike Force, have taken a proactive stance under the leadership of Commander Williams and others, and what we would like to do is to do the same thing, to do a proactive stance in support of our law enforcement officers. What we want to do is to educate our citizens as to what this methamphetamine thing is all about, so we would like to have an

educational forum or town hall meeting within the next month or so under the guidance of Commander Williams and others, along with the Board of Commissioners, so that we can educate our citizens as to this crisis, what to look for, and that type of thing, so we need your blessings for us to move forward with this, so we can get a time, date, and place certain to have it, and I'd like to turn this over now to Commissioner Farrell and Commissioner Holmes for further comments.

Commissioner Holmes said, I have with me a survey that was done by NACo, and this survey now is being used by our Congress to educate our country about meth, and I'm going to go over a couple of things in here that was, I would say, devastating, and after Commissioner Farrell and Commissioner Thomas and I sat down after a break, we all came to our senses, that we have to educate Chatham County to what we're facing here in Hawaii. And they found in this survey, the county and meth abuse caused legal, medical, environmental, social problems, and we need not say that we don't need anymore problems in our county. We have enough problem to probably combat now. If we don't get a handle on this, some other type problems with crime will be surfacing to the top to give you people another headache at night, to what we are doing to combat it. The meth epidemic is a complete problem that is not easily solved. To better understand the extent of the problem, the National Association of Counties recently conducted a survey in order to determine the impact of meth in this country. This was done with 500 different counties to see how they've been affected by this dangerous drug, the criminal effects of meth in the communities. Meth is a growing problem that is now national in scope. Meth is the leading drug-related local law enforcement problem in the country. Meth-related arrests represent a high proportion of crime requiring incarceration.

Commissioner Holmes said other crimes are increasing as a result of meth. 40% of all child welfare officials report an increase of out-of-home placement. During the past five years, 71% of the responding counties in California reported an increase in out-of-home placement because of meth. 70% of Colorado counties reported an increase. More than 69% of counties in Minnesota reported growth in out-of-home placement. Meth hurts children, families, over long terms. So, Ladies and Gentlemen, we're not being behind the 8-ball on this; we're stepping up to the plate and want to become proactive. As we all say, we live in Chatham County, and I've lived here all my life, and sometime we become – we see handwriting on the walls, we see footprints in the sand, and we turn our eyes, and we take for granted that it's not going to exist. But any handwriting that we see on the wall now, let's erase it, any footprints we see in the sand, let's stop it. And together, collectively, we can do this and we want to educate the public in our town hall meeting that we have. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, what was so alarming to me in participating in these nation-wide discussions was that meth has a potential to become quite an epidemic. It's not pandemic yet in our community, and we would like to do something to educate everyone to be fully aware of what's coming. What worries me the most is that this product is cheap, you can make it at home, you don't have to import it from Columbia. It's highly addictive. The high lasts 24-36 hours, not minutes, and the by-product is children that can become poisoned and burned when the homemade cooks go astray. This drug crosses all social and economic lines. It's not a certain segment of this society or this community's problem. It can become everyone's problem, students, professionals, workmen, children. It crosses all economic and social lines, so please pay attention to this forum that's coming up, become educated to be able to

recognize the problem so that we can help law enforcement to stomp it out here, and that we can protect our children, who are the most vulnerable to this drug. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly. Commissioner Thomas said, may I say something, please? Commissioner Gellatly said, yes, please.

Commissioner Thomas said, there is a resolution that was a draft resolution that was adopted by the 500 counties at NACo and they would like for each county to tie in on that resolution. I did not bring that copy today, but I would like to have permission to present it to the Chatham County Manager and Staff to get it ready for us so that we can look at it and approve it, and we can forward it to the proper sources, to let them know that Chatham County is on board.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yes, I'd like to just throw out a word of caution when we have our public forum. A lot of times, whether it's this issue or any other issue when we have a forum and we tell everyone we've got a problem, if we're not careful, it's almost like an advertisement to those that might use an illegal drug, and we fall sometimes awfully close as to what – in other words, if they're the ears of a 50-year old person listening to this or they're the ears of a 14-year old person listening to this, it has a huge different impact on them, so I would like to – when we point out what it costs and what the impacts are and what-have-you, this might actually, if we're not careful, encourage young people to try it, that there may be some good parts of it. On the other hand, if we can, in our forum, be able to point out the negative impacts and how it would negatively impact that 14-year old personally – and I remember seeing, for instance on meth, that if you're using meth, you don't look too pretty after four years. And, in fact, there were some pictures of that on television, how people change physically in the face in four years. If we could get hold of those pictures and make sure that those are available to those in our society that are most likely to use or experiment with that particular drug, but I've found in my career certainly that sometimes when we have those forums, if we're not careful, it becomes an advertisement to those that might be thinking about whether they should use it or not, and we should be very careful of that and make sure that we point out the negative impact on them personally as a potential user. Thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, Commissioner Gellatly, may I respond to that? That's exactly what we intend to do. We have pictures, and that's what I stated earlier, and Commander Williams can point that out. Am I correct? If you could please step up to the mike. We do have those pictures, just as you explained.

Commander Williams said, good morning. We've had our staff meeting and we pointed that out a few months ago when we had our staff meeting here with everybody here, and what we had was an 18-minute video that was outlining a lot of the situations that we've had right here in Chatham County, and this video is produced by GBI, and for the last two months now, it has been on our public channel to let everybody know exactly what's going on. We're very proud that you're jumping on board with us, because we also looked at this problem three years ago by forming the Methamphetamine Strike Force, and this allowed us to know that we needed somebody out here that could respond to these meth labs after we had one to blow up out on 204 and 95 in one of the bathrooms there in one of our motels, and

we immediately jumped on board as far as educating the public, doing a media blitz and whatnot, and this is an ongoing thing right now.

Commander Williams said, we haven't seen anything as far as being epidemic proportions as far as methamphetamine here in Chatham County, but we are prepared now to have trained staff, because it's very dangerous when we, being the first responders to go to a meth lab location, it's very dangerous. Anything can blow up. And it's also sometimes booby-trapped in these areas and whatnot, so I really commend the people that have dedicated themselves to go out here and to be prepared for those kind of things, because if that was a requirement for your drug commander right now, I don't think I'd be standing here, because I don't want to go in those kind of places like that because of the dangers that do exist with this type of volatile type of substance that we're dealing with. We've done a number of things, as far as getting pamphlets that are being printed up. It doesn't cost us anything. We have other sources to get the information out to everybody, so it's very much – very freely available to everybody, and it's just that we want to be ahead of the game right now in letting everybody know that we've been proactive here, and that your joining us will also, along with us, let's everybody know that we're still being proactive. Now, my job to you right now is to make sure that I can find out if we have anybody that's addicted to the drug right here in Chatham County, where they can find medical treatment right now, so that's what I'm trying to do now, is trying to find out what list of facilities that we do have that can probably treat anybody that has any methamphetamine addiction.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I'm just very glad that NACo had this offered at this conference and that you all were in attendance, and that you're bringing this here, and maybe we can get somewhat of an early start on this. What is the date of the forum? Is it set? Commissioner Thomas said, we wanted to get permission to do it today and then we will move forward with Commander Williams and others.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the important things, too, Commander Williams, as you know, Kroger's, a number of the large supermarkets and drug stores and other large type of department stores have pulled off certain types of items that are used in this production of meth, but there could be some other establishments in our community, so I think it'd be really good that those particular places that might have them out on the shelves, that we contact those places, because if they see law enforcement is doing that, I think that will give them a little bit more encouragement as opposed to, you know, putting a little blip in the newspaper and ask them to be cooperative, too, because once we get those items that can be used in the production off of the shelves, that'll make it harder for those in this area to secure those particular chemicals.

Commander Williams said, Chairman Liakakis, we have made strides in that area in going around. We have some auto stores that sell auto parts and this type of thing, because there are some other additives that can be sold over the counter. We're looking at Drano, all of those kind of items and different things of that nature, and we have made contact, and everybody's been very cooperative in responding to us and making sure that they look for those things, and they've been training their employees, also, to look for those kind of things that people come in and buy them in large bulk items and whatnot. If you buy drain cleaner, you're going to buy just one can, but when you come in and you order a case, that makes the eyebrows go up, and then we're notified.

Chairman Liakakis said, very good, because a lot of people, I think that when we do have this town hall, the main thing is to educate the public, you know, because not only being highly addictive, but they might learn something about the smell, report it to the law enforcement people, and also, you know, how explosive these items are, and the hazard that these chemicals are left there when these meth labs operators move on and leave those particular items there.

Commander Williams said, in our last expanded staff meeting, a number of the department heads have borrowed the video that we've had and they've also shown it to their employees also, because in making this meth, sometimes they'll leave it in containers that have liquids in them and whatnot. If this is something that's left outside at a home or in a secluded area and somebody out there that's working comes up on these things, they could explode, or they can inhale the fumes and it can be dangerous to them. So a lot of the department heads have borrowed the video, a lot of them are seeing it on the public channel, and this is going to be an ongoing thing, so the information is going to be available.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, are our first responders and the local fire department, the Savannah Fire Department and the Southside Fire Department, are they being briefed on this? Commander Williams said, they have the apparatus and a lot of things that they – I think they are aware of those kind of things, because a lot of the equipment that they have, we also contact with them to find out how to do these kind of things, also, when they're dealing with hazardous materials, and that's what it's listed as at that particular time, so sometimes they'll come on the scene and they'll also clear the area for us in order for us to get DEA to come in and have their hazardous material management team to come in and clean up the area.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Thomas and Commissioner Holmes and Commissioner Farrell for the leadership that they showed and the sacrifice that they made in traveling halfway around the world to get this information. I was too selfish to make that trip, but I very much appreciate the fact that you bring this information back so that as a Commissioner, I can be better informed, and I pledge to you my support in whatever we need to do in order to address this problem as quickly as we can.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. One last thing, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure whether you have as part of this program now, but as a funding program, it's called the Justice Assistance Grant Program, better known as JAG, and it provides money, and I'm going to give this to you now, so if you're not a part of it, it will tell you exactly how to get money to help you with it.

Chairman Liakakis said, come to the microphone and identify yourself, please.

Viola Bell said, good morning. I would like to request that when you get ready to have these forums, that you not forget us on the far west, because we are a part of Chatham County. Most of these forums are held in the City of Savannah and most of our people who needs to hear it doesn't have a way to get here, so when you have your – when you make your plans, please plan one for the far west, because we have Bloomingdale, Pooler, and all those areas, and if you put one in one of those cities, then those of us,

including me, who need to hear it, can have access to come to the meeting, because when you get behind the people in the City of Savannah, they run out in our area, so we all need to be educated, so I'm just requesting that you stand true.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you, Ms. Bell. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to instruct the County Manager to – you heard Ms. Bell – to see how we can set up, you know, on the west side, as well as another town hall meeting, to see about doing that in a short period of time, put that together, and also for the agenda at the next meeting, to put on there the resolution. They have a draft resolution that we can look at and see if we want to add anything to it, so it'll be on the agenda for the meth problem at the next meeting also.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The County Manager was instructed to schedule town hall meetings and to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting for consideration of a resolution relating to methamphetamine.

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2. ~~BAMBOO FARM SIGN (COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).~~

This item was taken from the agenda.

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3. REFERRAL TO MPC TO RENAME QUACCO ROAD TO INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, Quacco Road right now connects into the Pooler Parkway, which the Pooler Parkway connects into the International Airport, and Quacco Road will eventually connect into Veterans Parkway out near Abercorn and 204. Quacco Road today is not the Quacco Road of yesterday, and with the parkway tie-ins and all, I believe that we can better promote the area and the new growth with a name change. What I would ask today is to refer to the MPC to rename Quacco Road to International Boulevard. And it's clear that this entire area will one day be very similar to Abercorn, if not even more traveled than Abercorn, once everything is complete there. I would also ask the MPC to contact the Airport Commission, as well as the City of Pooler, about the possibility of, at the same time, actually changing the name of both the Airport Drive, as well as the Pooler Parkway and Quacco Road into International Boulevard, and see what they, you know, think about that. I have not at this point made contact with the City of Pooler. I hear that they're possibly going to change the portion of Quacco Road that was actually cut off, you know, with the new parkway there, that they're going to change the name there, because there's several, I guess, safety issues. There's actually three segments right now called Quacco Road because of the new parkway. This will definitely help in the future as far as safety, and it would also, in the future, when we tie in all of the parkways and have all of that amazing growth out in that area, it'll be, I believe, a great promotion for the area. So I would just ask the MPC at this time to explore the possibility of changing the name of Quacco Road to

International Boulevard and to also make contact with the Airport Commission, as well as the City of Pooler, about possibly renaming their adjoining roads, and I'll put that in the form of a motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, one question. Was Quacco Road what we might – if you want to consider this, also, to look into and see if that Quacco might have been a family name for somebody on the west side? Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's why I want to refer it to the MPC, to make sure this is not a colonel that – you know, or something. I have no idea where the name actually came from, so that's why I'd like to refer it to the MPC for them to do the research and come back to us. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, do we have a second on that motion? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, it's been seconded, everybody go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The motion made by Commissioner Kicklighter for referral to MPC to rename Quacco Road to International Boulevard and seconded by Commissioner Thomas passed unanimously. [Commissioner Odell was not present for the vote.]

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4. CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION'S ANTI-TRUANCY POSTER PROJECT (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, this will be very brief. Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Chatham County Youth Commission and the Savannah Youth Council, the Chatham County Student Attendance Protocol Committee, chairperson, Judge Leroy Burke serves as chair, they are sponsoring an anti-truancy program, and what they're doing is going and asking businesses to allow them to put these posters in their businesses so that especially during school hours between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, we want to deter these young people who are skipping school. There's a hot line number here, and if anyone shows up in those places, they will be calling this number so that they can be picked up and taken, I guess, somewhere for further processing. But the stop signs tell our young people that they're not welcome in these stores during school hours. They need to be in school and, you know, time wasted means mind wasted, so we want to encourage our young people to stay in school. We would like to have your support with this, as well. I've had, I think, one person in the audience who has asked me for some copies of this to place in their community to help the Youth Commission spread the word, and I want to thank you, and I'll make sure you get copies of this. I think it's Montie? Thank you very much. And we'll get some extra copies so that you can have them placed in the various communities. The Youth Commission, as I think you have seen them on TV, I believe last night, they have approached over a hundred businesses in and around the schools where truants are known, you know, to go during school hours, so we're asking the County Commissioners and everybody else to join forces and let's see if we can help keep our children in school, as I said, so that they can get educated.

Chairman Liakakis said, I see we've got the Deputy Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department here, Willie Lovett, and from what I understand, you have a program set up now to help in this truancy problem, and there are specific numbers set up so that people can call there. Is that correct? Assistant Chief Lovett said, that's correct. As a matter of fact, the reason that the Chief himself is not here is that they had a press conference this morning to go over the program and to do a press conference with the

Board of Education and several other people who are involved, to go over exactly what she was talking about. They will announce the telephone numbers, which are working, by the way. I know some people called and said it wasn't working, but now that's been corrected. The number is working, it's manned. And there are a few other small things that have to be done, and that's being taken care of. As a matter of fact, it should be completed by now.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, we appreciate that. Commissioner Gellatly?

Commissioner Gellatly said, I just want to make a correction. This gentleman is the Assistant Chief of the Metro Police Department. A Deputy Chief is a Major, and this man is the Assistant Chief of Police. He's the number two man on that unit and certainly well qualified for that position. Thank you. Chairman Liakakis said, that's what I meant. That's why I recognized him. Commissioner Gellatly said, he gets angry if you get it wrong, and you notice, he's a big guy.

Commissioner Thomas said, finally, Mr. Chairman, the Youth Commission and the Savannah Youth Council, the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, the Truancy Protocol Committee, E-93 and Z-102 will be sponsoring the Back-to-School rally. It will be held at the Savannah Civic Center on Saturday. It starts at 10:00 in the morning and until one, and then from one to five, they will move to Forsyth Park for the grand finale. At that time, they will have forums and they will also issue school supplies and they will start off as a Walk for Positive Parenthood. We'd like for the Commissioners and anyone else who can come, particularly between one and five at Forsyth Park, and give the young people words of wisdom. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

None.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: (1) ADOPTION OF A FY2006 MULTIPLE GRANT FUND BUDGET TO RECOGNIZE A) ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$45,000 FROM A HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR A VEHICLE, B) RENEWAL OF THE CJCC GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$396,000 FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT K-9 UNIT, C) AWARD OF A \$78,404 BYRNE MEMORIAL GRANT, D) RENEWAL OF THE DRUG COURT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$205,000, AND E) CONTINUATION OF THIRTEEN GRANTS FROM FY2005 FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,561,209; (2)**

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FY2006 SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SSD) FUND BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE \$455,000 FROM UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE TO TRANSFER OUT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FUND TO REPLACE VEHICLES FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT; (3) AN AMENDMENT TO THE CIP FUND BUDGET FOR FY2006 TO RECOGNIZE THE TRANSFER IN FROM THE SSD FUND; (4) AN AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SSD) FY2005 BUDGET TO RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL HOTEL/MOTEL REVENUE OF \$140,000; AND (5) A TRANSFER OF \$35,000 IN THE CONFISCATED ASSETS FUND FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENCY FOR SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT.

Chairman Liakakis said, do we have a motion on the floor for that?

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Motion for approval was made by Commissioner Odell, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Farrell, and the motion passed unanimously. [Commissioners Holmes and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: August 12, 2005

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

ISSUE:

To request approval of the following: (1) Adoption of a FY2006 Multiple Grant Fund budget to recognize a) additional revenue of \$45,000 from a Homeland Security grant to the Health department for a vehicle, b) renewal of the CJCC grant in the amount of \$396,000 for the Sheriff's department K-9 unit, c) award of a \$78,404 Byrne Memorial Grant, d) renewal of the Drug Court grant in the amount of \$205,000, and e) continuation of thirteen grants from FY2005 for a total of \$1,561,209; (2) an amendment to the FY2006 Special Service District (SSD) Fund budget to appropriate \$455,000 from unreserved fund balance to transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund to replace vehicles for the Metropolitan Police Department; (3) an amendment to the CIP fund budget for FY2006 to recognize the transfer in from the SSD Fund; (4) an amendment to the Special Service District (SSD) FY2005 budget to recognize additional Hotel/Motel revenue of \$140,000; and (5) a transfer of \$35,000 in the Confiscated Assets Fund from Police Department contingency for surveillance equipment.

BACKGROUND:

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) The Health Department has received a \$120,000 grant from the Office of Homeland Security. County staff will assist in the purchase of a vehicle. An amendment to the FY2006 Multiple Grant Fund budget for the cost of the vehicle (\$45,000) is needed. A copy of the grant award is attached.
- (2) The CJCC grant for the Sheriff's department K-9 unit has been renewed. Chatham County will receive \$396,000 in FY2006. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- (3) Chatham County has been approved to receive \$78,404 in federal funds by the Crime Control and System Improvement Committee (CCSI) from the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grants (JAG) Formula Grant program. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- (4) The CJCC Drug Court Grant has also been renewed. The amount to be budgeted in FY2006 is \$205,000. The grant awards are shown in the attached resolution.
- (5) Chatham County has thirteen grants that are continuing from FY2005 into FY2006. The total amount is \$1,561,209. These grants are listed on the attached schedule, and are included in the grant fund resolution.
- (6) The intergovernmental agreement for the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police department requires the replacement of vehicles. An amendment to the FY2006 Special Service District (SSD) Fund budget to appropriate \$455,000 from unreserved fund balance to transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund for FY 2006 is needed. An amendment to the CIP fund for FY 2006 to recognize the transfer in from the SSD Fund is needed. The resolution is attached.
- (7) The Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to the Hotel/Motel fund at the July 22, 2004 meeting. This action also effects the Special Service District (SSD) fund. An amendment to the Special Service District (SSD) FY2005 budget to recognize additional Hotel/Motel revenue of \$140,000 is necessary. A resolution is attached.
- (8) The Chief of Police has submitted a request to utilize confiscated funds to upgrade surveillance equipment. A transfer of \$35,000 in the Confiscated Assets Fund from Police Department contingency for the surveillance equipment is in order. A copy of correspondence is attached.

FUNDING:

The budget resolutions will establish funding in the Multiple Grant fund and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Funds are available in the SSD unrestricted fund balance for the replacement vehicles.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) That the Board approve the following:

MULTIPLE GRANT FUND

adoption of a FY2006 budget to recognize:

- a) additional revenue of \$45,000 from a Homeland Security grant to the Health department for a vehicle,
- b) renewal of the CJCC grant in the amount of \$396,000 for the Sheriff's department K-9 unit,
- c) award of a \$78,404 Byrne Memorial Grant,
- d) renewal of the Drug Court grant in the amount of \$205,000,
- e) continuation of thirteen grants from FY2005 for a total of \$1,561,209.

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND

- a) an amendment to the FY2006 budget to appropriate \$ 455,000 from unreserved fund balance to transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund to replace vehicles for the Metropolitan Police Department
- b) an amendment to FY2005 budget to recognize additional Hotel/Motel revenue of \$140,000.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) FUND

a budget amendment to recognize the transfer in of \$455,000 from the SSD Fund for vehicle replacement.

CONFISCATED ASSETS FUND

a transfer of \$35,000 from Police Department contingency for surveillance equipment.

- 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. VERBAL BRIEFING ON WHAT'S INVOLVED IN A BEACH ADVISORY (W. DOUGLAS SKELTON, M.D., DISTRICT HEALTH DIRECTOR).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Dr. Skelton, the District Director for the Health Department.

Dr. Skelton said, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, I know you've had a full agenda so far and you've got a full agenda to go, so I'm going to try to be brief, but what I'm trying to do is give you a heads-up on something I think over time is going to become more and more important to Chatham County and the rest of Georgia, particularly Coastal Georgia, so a few comments about beach advisories. [Slides were utilized by Dr. Skelton.] Here's what it's all about, protecting young people like this and protecting other people who are Chatham County residents and citizens and visitors who come to our beaches, and being sure that they're safe while they're there. Why do we test? I want to be sure that you understand the "we" is a collective we. The Department of Natural Resources does the testing through their Coastal Resources Division, and their test results then prescribe what the Health Department does. But we test to monitor the safety of the water for swimmers. We monitor for a bacterium called aerococcus (phonetic). It does not cause disease, but if it's in the water in certain concentrations, then the research since the 1980s has shown that the higher risk of gastrointestinal illness or other illnesses in the people who are in that water increases. The Environmental Protection Agency sets the limits on acceptable amounts of this bacteria in the water.

Here's when we test, April through November. Tybee Beach is tested weekly. Three other areas are tested monthly. We test at Polk Street, Tybee North, Tybee Middle, Tybee Strand, and Tybee South. Where do we test? We also test at the Skidaway Narrows and Butterbean Beach, Ossabaw Island, Kings Ferry. Again, the testing is done by the Coastal Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. I'm going to move fast through those; you know where these areas are. If the levels of bacteria are high, then the Chatham County Health Department issues an advisory, and the City of Tybee changes posted signs to reflect the advisory. These are the signs that are up showing it would be okay to swim. "Beach water quality monitoring for swimmer health, this beach water is tested weekly, bacteria level is acceptable." If there's a problem, the sign goes this way, "Beach water quality monitoring, attention, swimming in this area is not recommended. Beach water testing indicates a high level of bacteria that increases risk of illness. Please try another beach access." It doesn't say go away, just go somewhere else, the bacterial level is high. My communications officer has left, so she won't get onto me when I say when I talk to the public groups about this. They say, "Have you closed the beach?" I say, "No, we don't close the beaches; we just put up signs that say to you, if you're stupid enough to go in here, be our guest." I know I'll get in trouble with Ginger when this gets back to her.

Dr. Skelton said, when our bacteria levels are sometimes too high, often, we can't say sewage overflow has contributed to the problem, storm water runoff is the problem, sewage treatment malfunctions have occurred, boating waste, waste from wild animals. The Kings Ferry area basically has a permanent closure, and we do DNA testing, and the DNA testing indicates it's animal waste that causes the closure, so there's not much you can do about that issue. I put the Savannah River Watershed up here, because part of what I want to ask of you, as the distinguished people who represent this county in the ACCG and with NACo, is that we're in this together with our partners. Part of any problem that we have here can be contributed to any place along that watershed, and we've had very few problems here so far. Very few problems. That is not the case when you move toward the central of Georgia and think about the Altamaha River Watershed that pulls water from a lot bigger area onto the beaches at St. Simons and

Sea Island and that part of the coast, and we have had trouble there. Jekyll Island, for example, has had some difficulty. So we're in this together, and if there are waste management system failures in Cochran or Macon or whatever, I've seen them along the Altamaha Watershed, those failures contribute to our problem here, so it's important when you're in the state meetings that you do what we're trying to do in public health, and have every health director in all the 18 districts in Georgia try to be sure what's happening in their waste management systems in their system, and that they're not having spillages into the water system.

Commissioner Odell said, if they do, are there consequences for those spillages? Dr. Skelton said, I believe through DNR's system there are fines and there are probably county and city ordinances about fines for failures, but there have been some large spillages in areas along the Altamaha River Basin that are of concern. I want to close with this one. This one came out in the Brunswick News a couple days ago. What happened there, the Department of Natural Resources has a fine researcher from the University of Georgia, Dr. Peter Martel (phonetic). He and his team of young ladies, not young men, are testing the water around St. Simons for bacteria levels and trying to find out where it's coming from. Dr. Martel was interviewed by the media and pretty loosely talked about sewage waste system failures and county systems failing and all that without any real data, but it did get the paper concerned, and the editorial basically says this is a problem that deserves a considerable amount of attention. As I said, we've had few beaches closed here. We've had a lot of beach closures in St. Simons, and while we're concerned about the safety of the people, this has an economic impact on our state, and we need to be careful about it, so this is why I wanted to bring it to your attention. Please listen out at the ACCG and see if you can do things there that can help the entire state clean up the problem, because it's important to all of us. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Doctor. Doctor, one of the things we want the general public to know, if there's a serious contamination and all, the appropriate steps would be taken by the Health Department and by you, that if it was necessary to close the beach, the procedure would go through, if there were some serious contamination, correct? Instead of just the warning signs? Dr. Skelton said, absolutely. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Dr. Douglas Skelton explained how and why beach advisories are taken.

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3. WHERE WE STAND WITH NOVALIS AND CONTRACT PERFORMANCE. POSSIBLE NEED TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL OPTIONS.

Chairman Liakakis said the recess into Executive Session might not take place right now, and I understand there's a Gary Waters here from NovaLIS. Would you come to the microphone? And just prior to you speaking, Gary, if you would come up here, I'd like our County Manager to give a report on our two departments, because there is a concern what has happened, that a time element has gone by. We have had problems in the two. It's a very large contract, that we are obligating with the citizens well over \$800,000, to make sure that this contract is completed and done in the right manner.

Mr. Abolt said, I really have nothing more to say. That was excellent. Essentially what you have, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, is an issue brought to your attention by Commissioner Shay three weeks ago, when there was that sense of urgency, which was well-founded. This is a project that you in such an excellent fashion described is most needed. This county, for better than a year and a half now, has been looking forward to the innovation this technology and software will yield. It's a partnership between the Board of Assessors, Ms. Snider, Mr. Anderson in Building Safety & Regulatory Services, Mr. Leonard, ICS Director, and Mr. Bungard. This truly has so much potential and in reality is long-awaited. As you know from your last meeting, you instructed the County Attorney, and prior to that, to send letters to our contractor saying, what has happened here, there's been undue and unexplained delays. That letter has since been responded to and is in your packet this week. Mr. Waters is with us today and I certainly have had more than one conversation with him. I would say because of the importance of this, which we all share, your questions and inquiries as to specific status, but more importantly, when the project will be delivered as contracted for are very appropriate at this time, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you. You heard that, Gary, so if you would come up, identify yourself, please, and give us a report.

Mr. Waters said, yes, my name is Gary Waters. I'm the President and CEO of NovaLIS Technologies. I did respond to the letter, which I understand from Mr. Abolt is in the package. I don't know if you've had a chance to read it. We likewise share the excitement about the possibilities of the technology and the integration between business units that we're seeing here in Chatham County and are doing everything in our power to make sure that this contract comes to a very successful conclusion. To give you a little bit of a background, just in recent – the past couple of months, we had one of the subcontractors that was working on the project with us pull out and not be able to complete the project. That has caused delay on the assessment side which has now affected the permitting and inspections project because of the inter-relation between the two systems. Just as a side note, and I guess to repeat a little bit of what Mr. Abolt just shared, it is very innovative. It's very nice to see government agencies work together and set forth a vision to share the kind of information and the business processes that will be accomplished here in Chatham County. I have the opportunity to travel to hundreds of local governments every year, and we don't necessarily see a lot of that kind of cooperation and interaction, so I congratulate the folks that we've worked with in the past in setting forth on that vision and look forward to bringing the contract to a successful conclusion. We do have our project team down here on-site next week. We have secured actually a business partner of ours that has been the longest standing business partner and has done upwards of ten or twelve of these types of implementations with the assessment side and will be doing the final planning to get everything laid out for exactly when this project will be finished. There are some unknowns at this point in time. I cannot give you a date right here as I stand in front of you, simply because we are still doing some of the transition between those two teams, and once we get all of that information pulled over, the meetings next week will go a long way in being able to establish a final date for delivery and successful of the contract.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, Gary, as you know, I mean, from having information from our department people, of course, our county staff and all, who are real concerned about the delays and all, and we understand the reason why, you know, that your company is a good company and that's why the contract was awarded, going through the different bidding process and all, but we need to make sure, because this is very important for our two agencies that will be operating this particular system, because it makes a difference. I mean, it puts things on the tax rolls. Not only that, but it's information so that the

departments can follow through and they can do it in an efficient manner, because a lot of times, time is of the essence, and we really need to have this thing completed, and the way that we've had some response in the past hasn't been as it should be in a professional manner, but we're glad that you have come today. Commissioner Shay?

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Waters, I know that we have a lot of cooperation between the various agencies and that is a commendable thing, but just remind the Board, who is NovaLIS' contract with? What entity have you contracted with? Mr. Waters said, we have a contract with the Building & Safety Department and the – with the County. I'm sorry. With the County. Commissioner Shay said, with the County. Mr. Waters said, yes. Commissioner Shay said, okay, I just wanted to make sure you understood that. When was the work product of this contract originally to be delivered? Under the terms of the contract that you have with this county, when was the product that we were looking forward to, to be delivered? Mr. Waters said, I believe it was about four months ago. Commissioner Shay said, so it was about four months ago. And when did your subcontractor stop work? Mr. Waters said, the subcontractor on the assessment side stopped work about three – about three months ago. Commissioner Shay said, three months ago, so you were supposed to be done four months ago and three months ago, your subcontractor stopped work for whatever reason. Mr. Waters said, yes. Commissioner Shay said, which, of course, is your responsibility, even though it's a subcontractor. Mr. Waters said, absolutely. Commissioner Shay said, you have the contractual obligation to make sure that the work is performed. When will work resume? Mr. Waters said, work has resumed as of about a month and a half ago, and next week – actually, it was two months ago. It was about a month it took us to get figured out what was going on with the subcontractor that was basically leaving the contract. It took us about a month to secure and get another very highly qualified group of individuals who can satisfy the contractual needs. They have been working to set up the technical environments to make sure that the two project teams work together and have the appropriate access to the data bases and servers that they can to make the systems work together, and they are down here next week on-site to finalize what needs to be done on the assessment office side so that we can bring that project up live, because that actually is what's holding the building and safety portions from completion.

Commissioner Shay said, a lot of words. I got lost in them. Mr. Waters said, sorry. Commissioner Shay said, the group that's going to actually perform the work that's needed to complete on your behalf and the subcontractor, they've already been working here for the last two months? Mr. Waters said, no, they have not been on-site. Next week is the first time those people will be here on-site. There was a lot of transition that had to occur from the group that was doing the work to this new group, and that is what has been going on over the last two months. Commissioner Shay said, then that transitioning, which is your responsibility, has been going on, but the work that we contracted for hasn't started yet. Mr. Waters said no, there was not much progress made in furthering the commitments we had made to you on the contract. It was to get to a point where we could begin furthering and moving closer to completion of the project. Commissioner Shay said, given that you were already behind schedule when your subcontractor stopped working, and that your new subcontractor is going to get started here soon, you must be able to give us some idea on when this contract is going to be completed. Mr. Waters said, I believe we were scheduled – Sheryl, I believe we were scheduled to have your project live by September. Is that what we were shooting for? Ms. Snider said, we were actually looking to go live July 1st, with a 30-day test period, to see that everything worked the way we wanted it to, and then we would [Ms. Snider was in the gallery.] Mr. Abolt said, we need to get this on the microphone, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself, please, Sheryl.

Ms. Snider said, I'm Sheryl Snider with the Chatham County Board of Assessors, Chief Appraiser. We were scheduled to turn the system on in the office so that everybody had access to it for testing and if everything went the way we expected it to, we would turn off Assessments – I'm sorry – A Plus and we would be solely dependent on Assessment Office by August 1st. Commissioner Shay said, July 1st or August 1st? Ms. Snider said, no, we were going to start using it in-house July 1st and test. Commissioner Shay said, I see. Ms. Snider said, and then if everything worked the way we expected it to, we would turn A Plus off and be totally dependent on AO August 1st. Commissioner Shay said, well, Mr. Waters, that thing that they expected to have happen on July 1, when is that going to happen now? Mr. Waters said, we are going to finalize that next week, but it shouldn't be more than six to eight weeks to get that finalized. Commissioner Shay said, so six to eight weeks to get to the point where the assessors had hoped to be on July 1. Is that what I'm hearing? Mr. Waters said, yes. Commissioner Shay said, and then they'll need about another month and then it'll go live, I guess is the description that she used, around a month after that? Mr. Waters said, yes.

Commissioner Shay said, does that complete the work of this contract or do you have other work that has to be done after that? Mr. Waters said, no, that completes the work as defined in this contract. Commissioner Shay said, so all the other departments are already satisfied, the Building Inspections Department, the Engineering Department, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, all of those already have the interface software that they need right now? Mr. Waters said, no, they do not. They are dependent upon the software for the Board of Assessors to be live because of the inter-dependencies between the groups, so the creation of a parcel, for instance, is very important to Building & Safety, and that starts on this side and needs to supply them information. Commissioner Shay said, in the six to eight weeks, are all of the pieces of this puzzle going to be in place, or are we just another milestone along the way? Mr. Waters said, no, that is the goal, to finish. When their project is finished, we're hoping that everything for Building & Safety is also finished. Commissioner Shay said, we're hoping? We are, or we're hoping? Mr. Waters said, that is the goal. We are going to get everything finished if that six to week period is indeed what happens but, again, that is not going to be finalized until next week when we can get through all of the details and make sure that everything is still as we believe it to be.

Commissioner Shay said, so at the end of next week, you're going to be able to furnish somebody with a definitive that says, come heck or high water, we're going to be done by such and such a date? Mr. Waters said, I believe they had actually asked for it to be a week from – so next week, they'll be doing all of the collecting of information, they'll go back, create a report, a project time line, and I believe it will be the Friday after that. Commissioner Shay said, so two weeks from now. Mr. Waters said, two weeks from now. Commissioner Shay said, which I believe is the County Commission meeting, we could have an update from you saying, we know now everything that we need to know, and this project will be completed without doubt in – at that point will hopefully be four to six weeks time? Because two weeks will have elapsed from the six to eight weeks you said now. Mr. Waters said, no, I believe it's six to eight weeks of work once the project plan is put into place. Commissioner Shay said, so you want to amend what you said earlier. You think it's going to be eight to ten weeks? Mr. Waters said, that's correct. Commissioner Shay said, I'm just trying to get a feel for this, because we've been disappointed, is the pleasantest way that I can say it, with the performance of your company up to now, and we had even considered legal action, and if we're moving the finish line, we need to know where that finish line is. We don't need to be here again in six to eight weeks saying, well, it was harder than we thought and it's

going to be another blah-blah-blah, so in two weeks, you're going to be able to come back here and tell us when exactly we're going to be finished. Mr. Waters said, yes. Commissioner Shay said, and that's going to include all the interfaces and all the pieces of the puzzle so that we can launch this system. Mr. Waters said, that's correct. I know from talking to the project team that they would have the definitive plan finished. Commissioner Shay said, we look forward to it. Mr. Waters said, I do, too.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We appreciate you coming, because this is important. Chairman Liakakis recognized Larry Lower. Stand by there, if you will, Gary, just a minute.

Mr. Lower said, I'm Larry Lower, Chairman of the Board of Assessors. I wanted to say something in behalf of NovaLIS. We looked far and wide to have a computer system put in for this Assessor's Office that would address all the needs that we had to have in the County to do our assessment job. One of the major problems that they faced, which they didn't realize when they came in here, that we were on an antique system, the COBALT system. They first had to develop a language to speak to the system. That took time. They've done a very good job. Now, they had a problem with their vendor leaving, but we've had great cooperation from this gentleman. Any time we had a problem, we'd call him and we had attention to it, so we've not had a problem. I talked to Mr. Anderson today. That's the first time I understand his problem that he's had with the system, and I wish we would have probably communicated a little bit better and we could have probably solved this problem and we wouldn't be here today. This has a far-reaching effect. We're asking other communities to come in and join us, and we don't need to start questioning the operation of this system. These communities out there have got to understand that we feel comfortable with it. It's going to create – we're going to lessen a ton of man hours if we can get other communities to join us on this system once we get it up and running, and I think we need to really listen and give Mr. Waters the time it's going to take for us to finish this up. And understanding that Inspections is having a problem, and now Mr. Waters is more clear of that problem, and I'm sure he's going to address it in a quick manner.

Commissioner Stone said, I don't know, I mean, I just – I didn't know if there was anyone else from any other departments. This is now sort of falling into place as to what's been going on, but I didn't know if we needed to hear from any of the other departments.

Chairman Liakakis said, I don't think there's any. Mr. Abolt said, no, sir. I wanted to make sure and to verify, you are instructing Mr. Waters to be back in front of you two weeks from today.

Commissioner Shay said, with a definitive deadline. We all share in the great expectations that you have for a remarkable system that other people are going to be proud to want to use as a model for their system, but when this contract was being bid, everybody had the opportunity to come in and see exactly what the work environment was that was in place. Mr. Lower said, absolutely right. Commissioner Shay said, there was no mystery about what the system was, and we're spending \$800,000 approximately to make sure that we get exactly what we wanted, so we're on the same team. You know, we just want our work product. Mr. Lower said, and we're pushing for it as much as you are, and we're hoping to be able to give you a model system for the State of Georgia when we're done with it. Commissioner Shay said, and I hope you'll work very hard to make sure that they don't have some excuse in the future, well, we thought we were going to be done but, you know, okay? Mr. Lower said, I think we've got a good understanding, sir. Commissioner Shay said, good, thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We really appreciate you coming in and taking the helm right now to get this thing completed because it's very important, and we can look at this, Mr. County Manager, that we have a little bit more communications, too, so that what was just mentioned just now, that it's a little bit more understanding. Thank you, sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Mr. Gary Waters of NovaLIS explained their position on the holdup of a contract with the County and stated the problem would be concluded in two weeks at which time they will report to the Commission.

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4. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY ON NOISE ORDINANCE COMPARISONS.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Attorney Hart.

Mr. Hart said, at the last County Commission meeting, Commissioner Gellatly indicated that he would like us to review the noise ordinance and see how compatible it was with the City of Savannah's. Obviously, that's always a very good idea, given the fact that we now have a unified police force. It's always nice for police officers to be able to enforce a single ordinance rather than having to shift back and forth, depending on what jurisdiction they're in. For the most part, the County ordinance and the City of Savannah ordinances were very similar, and they were adopted from the model ordinance put out by one of the Institutes. Essentially, it relies on a decibel system and calibrated decibel meters, and it measures noise from the point source at certain levels in residential areas, commercial areas, moving vehicles or what. The problem with noise ordinance is the question of how loud is too loud. Scientifically, the way those are measured is in decibels, so to have an ascertainable and enforceable standard, generally speaking, you're going to have to rely on something along those lines. The hitch comes in, it's just like a radar system. You're going to have to have a calibrated decibel meter with a properly certified operator to run it. Now, we're not going to be able, I would think, from a financial standpoint to run out and pick up 600 of these things, but they certainly could be implemented into the police force and certainly, on a situation in which there are repeat complaints, repeat violations, it could be a very effective ordinance.

The major difference between the City of Savannah's ordinance and the County's ordinance varies in hours of the day. That's due to the urban nature of the City versus the more dispersed area of unincorporated Chatham County. There are some decibel level differences, some lower in the City and some higher in the City than the County's ordinance. Those variances are about 5 DBS, which apparently is not very significant. The only provision that the City of Savannah's ordinance does have that the County ordinance does not have deals with noise coming from animals, and the City of Savannah kept the provision in that was suggested by the model ordinance. Apparently at the time of passage by the County, that provision was just deleted from the County ordinance. Interestingly enough, the ordinance passed by the City of Savannah basically says that no animal, fowl, shall howl or emit audible sounds in unreasonably loud and disturbing character for an intensity in duration to breach the quiet and peace of the neighborhood, and they define barking dog as one that howls incessantly for ten minutes or barks intermittently for a half-hour, regardless of the time of day. That's typical of what you're seeing in animal ordinances. The trick is the enforcement and who goes out there and listens to the dog

for thirty minutes. Do you need the police officer there or do you take the word of the next door neighbor? I have yet – throughout the dog ordinance, we looked at about as many articles as you could find on that, and I really have not been able to find something that's letter perfect there. You could pass an ordinance that said that noise emitted from the property line, standing at the person's property line, if a dog exceeds whatever decibel level is appropriate to set, could be conclusive proof of a nuisance. Other than that, the ordinances are pretty close to each other. They appear to be more up-to-date than the ordinances we looked at from other municipalities and other counties in the state.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, Jon, the City – I remember when I used to work for a living that we made a lot of cases that went through Recorder's Court for loud radios. Did we have another ordinance violation? Mr. Hart said, no, this noise ordinance also incorporates that and – Commissioner Gellatly said, but I don't recall police officers running around with meters or what-have-you. It was in their judgment. Mr. Hart said, there's two ways to do automobiles. One is to shoot them with the db meter, which is called for in the City of Savannah ordinance, and also the Chatham County ordinance. There's some mileage differences on moving cars, but practically, the approach is the same way. The other distance – the other thing that you could do to avoid the db meter is to write an ordinance that said if you can hear the audible sounds of a radio within an automobile from a distance of 100 feet, 150 feet, 200 feet, whatever the standard is set at, then you'll be deemed to be playing that radio or stereo too loud. Some municipalities have gone to that, which they will basically have the police officer stand at a location from the center of the roadway and when people come by and they're too loud and they can hear it, then they will attempt to do a citation there. Commissioner Gellatly said, it was my recollection, and I very well could be wrong, that any police officer that – if the car next to him was causing his patrol car to shake because of the bass, he didn't need a decibel meter to make an ordinance violation and, as I recall – and the Assistant Chief might have a better recall – but as I recall, we made literally hundreds of arrests based on that, and I thought it was a judgment call, but I could be wrong. Mr. Hart said, how you could do that is not necessarily under the noise ordinance. You could charge them for disturbing the peace, just a general disturbing of the peace type thing. Commissioner Gellatly said, is that what we did? Okay, that's what he says we did.

Mr. Hart said, I mean, there's a couple different ways of approaching it. I was specifically asked about the noise ordinance. Most of these noise ordinances are put in effect where you have a continuing problem in a particular neighborhood where you can go out there after – it's complaint driven – and measure it. Commissioner Gellatly said, do we have a county ordinance right now? The City's making it on a disturbing of the peace. Do we have a similar ordinance in the County, too? Mr. Hart said, I don't know that we have the vibrating car ordinance, but we could certainly look into that. Commissioner Gellatly said, all I was asking for is the – you're not going to put one of those meters in every squad car. Mr. Hart said, oh, absolutely. I understand. Commissioner Gellatly said, and have an officer go fumbling through the trunk, trying to pull it out. You know, there obviously has to be some judgment call there, and my point in asking us to take a look at the two ordinances, I was under the impression that the officers had a judgment call on that noise ordinance. Apparently they don't. If they can make it on a judgment call for disturbing the peace in the City, can they do the same thing in the County? If they can't, then we need to adjust our ordinance so they can. That's all I'm asking.

Mr. Hart said, okay, we'll go back and look at that, but I think what we're seeing is a lot of those under breach of the peace, and I think – Commissioner Gellatly said, but is the City ordinance different from the County ordinance? Mr. Hart said, I don't know. I didn't look at the separate provision. Under the noise ordinance, we're almost parallel. Language is remarkably similar. Commissioner Gellatly said, okay, if we could do that. And then also, the other thing would be that if the police are going to be enforcing forms of ordinances or what-have-you, I think it's totally unfair to make a Metro officer have to see what jurisdiction he is and pull out the ordinance book for here and the ordinance book for here and find that there are huge differences in them. I would hope that we would work with the City and that we get them as uniform as possible. Mr. Hart said, we're very conscious of that, and anything that we've done ever since the merger, we have absolutely done that, and then when we have the occasion and opportunity to go back and look at some of the others, we're slowly but surely getting those together. Commissioner Gellatly said, I appreciate it. Mr. Hart said, sure, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Jon, in that we have a metropolitan police department, my concern is, as David's is, I think the policies or the ordinances should be parallel. I represent a lot of police officers and, you know, to see where you cross the line, it's the law in the City of Savannah, from now on, you're in the County. Too complicated. And I don't think we need to have the decibel meters in all police vehicles. If you're playing loud enough and whatever the yardage used by the City, and I can hear your music and it's disturbing, then that becomes an officer's decision whether or not to charge you on disorderly conduct, and I think that our ordinance should look similar to the City of Savannah, and we need to speak to the City of Savannah, in that we have a metropolitan police, that we work more as a unit so that we do parallel the ordinance to eliminate unnecessary complication and challenges. And for those people that do not know, if an ordinance is decided in Recorder's Court, it is more difficult to appeal from Recorder's Court to the Superior Court than it is to appeal from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court of Georgia. Mr. Hart said, correct. Commissioner Odell said, last check, there were no successful appeals out of Recorder's Court in a ten year period. I mean, my point being is that it's an opinion that the officer should be able to make. We should have parallel ordinances in that we have a combined police department to eliminate confusion, and if we talk to the City Attorney, if they were working on an ordinance, what-have-you, that may impact the Metropolitan Police, they should be so kind as to provide us with a copy of that, so that we can concurrently review our ordinance. Mr. Hart said, we will certainly follow up on that.

Chairman Liakakis said okay, so what to do then, Mr. County Attorney, if you will, you know, bring this back to us, and Mr. County Manager, you know, we don't need all those decibel meters, but there are some because under certain circumstances, not with automobiles, unfortunately we've had people in our community driving up and down in some neighborhoods with these loud speaker radio systems that they have and really disturbing the public, and even doing that at four or five o'clock in the morning, six a.m. in the morning, those kind of things. Our former Chief Gellatly was mentioning hundreds and hundreds of citations were issued by the police department because of that. But if you can, you know, we do need some decibel instruments so they can have it, you know, whether it's a supervisor or whoever to address this particular problem, so if you would work with the County Attorney on that and bring it back to us. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The County Manager was instructed to work with the County Attorney regarding amendments to the County's noise ordinance and that it be brought back to the Commission.

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5. PRESENTATION OF AN ACTION PLAN BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARK SERVICES ON NEW RECREATION RESOURCES.

Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this agenda item really gives the occasion to staff to talk about not only this item on the agenda, but others that pay testimony and tribute to what this Board has done in seven months, just seven months, when it comes to recreation. I wanted to just highlight this for you, because I think it's very important for everybody to understand. With your leadership in that short period of time, and the response of Mr. Drury, you kind of paralleled what I would refer to as the Biblical parable of talents. You've given us talents, which you might remember in your studies of that parable, were synonymous with dollars, resources. We have not buried those talents. Let me summarize what you've done. First of all, on this agenda, you've got the next step in the Charlie Brooks Park. You've moved that along. There were some problems up front and this Board understood the problems and those problems are now being solved by Mr. Drury and his staff. That's on the agenda today.

Mr. Abolt said, the second item that's on the agenda today is something you all started back within a month of your first term, repairs to the Skidaway Narrows or Butterbean boat ramp. You went to the Recreation Authority. The resources were transferred out. You have on your agenda today confirmation of work that's already underway on that boat ramp. In a matter of a week or two, we'll have a major report to you —, and Commissioner Gellatly unfortunately just left —, on the Kings Ferry boat ramp. This Board did that. The next thing you did, the third item, came out of your budget workshop, actually back in February at the Bamboo Farm. You said, staff, do something about utilizing to a higher extent court workers. Mr. Drury has on the purchasing report today the purchase of a van. The fourth thing you've done, Commissioner Stone in particular wanted to do something for recreation equipment, particularly in Gray's Subdivision, shift the money out of CIP. A few dollars were found. You're awarding the contract today to put that equipment in. Finally, and this, I think, is probably the jewel so far in your seven months tenure, you have given the talents, not only \$500,000 to Mr. Drury and Mr. Lipsey, and now Mr. Drury is going to introduce RAP.

Mr. Drury said, good afternoon and thank you very much. The County Manager eloquently introduced the plan. At the budget workshop – or actually at the budget adoption July the 8th, you cautiously and very graciously allocated \$500,000 toward the Parks & Recreation budget, and you asked us to develop a plan to spend that. Well, I'm here before you now to present that plan to you. I'm going to briefly outline what's in the staff report of the plan itself, but the first thing I want to do is tell you our commitment. Staff's commitment on this plan is an overall commitment to improve the visibility of our recreational facilities and the quality of our recreational programs for the citizens of this community. So how did we develop this plan? We had to look at several things. Obviously, we looked at our Capital Improvement Program. You know, we've identified as the Chairman has mentioned well over \$4 million in capital improvements in the Recreation Department. We had to assess those improvements and look at those that would have the most direct impact to the most citizens of the community. We met with

coaches. We met with parents. Several of you Commissioners did attend that meeting and we got a lot of good notes out of that, that also was part of this recreation action plan, or RAP, as I refer to it. We also wanted to distribute that allocation as much as possible to personnel, to capital repairs, and to recreational program improvements. As I mentioned before, this is a three-phase plan, personnel, repairs, and recreational program. You've seen a lot of this before when we introduced a decision package for the improvements to the parks. [Mr. Drury utilized slides in his presentation.]

The first thing we're going to do is personnel. I want to briefly highlight personnel changes that we're going to make. We wanted to go ahead and start hiring three positions that'll act as a carpentry crew that'll do nothing but go from park to park making repairs. These are repairs you see every day. These are repairs that I see every day that, for the most part, have really not been able to be addressed, and you've given us the resource to address those repairs, so I'll have a crew specifically identified and designated to do that. We've got a huge list of park repairs, everything from repairing benches to repairing walls, straightening signs, bars, you can almost name it. The first thing we'll do is hire some personnel. We're looking at three personnel this year and as resources come along, eventually we'd like to see 16 additional personnel. Park repairs, park facility repairs, we're going to implement a capital repair program and the first thing on that program is Lake Mayer and the pavilion at Lake Mayer. That roof on the pavilion is, I daresay, probably 25 to 30 years old. It has some significant leaks and some rot, so the first thing we want to do is replace that roof at the Lake Mayer pavilion.

Also at Lake Mayer, we're going to address the bathrooms, the restrooms. We're going to upgrade the restrooms in that facility. You've seen these pictures before. They're not pretty, and they certainly do need some attention. AMBUCS, basically the same thing. We're going to focus in on the restrooms, renovating those restrooms. They are very high maintenance. There's a lot of wood in those restrooms, a lot of rot, things of that sort, and when you put wood in restrooms, obviously you're going to get that, and so we're going to focus on lower maintenance restrooms. I'll show you that in a minute. Water on the field is another high priority. We want to reestablish the baseball fields at AMBUCS. When it rains, the kids don't play, and you have to look at those 14-year old girls in the face and say, you're not going to be playing today, maybe not tomorrow. We want to reestablish those fields, get a proper grade on those fields. We want to bring in an infield mix very similar to what the pros use, a 60/40 mix of sand/clay with a soil conditioner. That would help on the drainage, so when we do get these rain events, we can get them out on the field a lot sooner. Broken sidewalks. Another one of the repairs that we want to address at AMBUCS, and I mentioned to you about the fences in our decision package, rusted fences. You see the wooden dugout, we want to convert that wooden dugout, again, get rid of the wood rot and put in some nice chain-link shaded dugouts for the children.

L. Scott Stell Community Park, basically the same things. The restrooms, we're going to address the restrooms at Scott Stell Park, or the Jim Golden Complex, and the infields, same problem out there. We want to get the kids out there playing earlier. This is what it looks like to be a lower maintenance restroom. I wanted to throw that slide in there to show you, this is Triplett Park. That restroom's about a year old. You see a lot of stainless steel, a year of use, you see it's still a pretty good facility. Well, that's what we're going to aim for. No, it's not no maintenance. There's going to be maintenance. That doesn't come in very well, but that's what we refer to as a no maintenance facility, just put bars in front of the doors and let them see the restroom. They're going to get used and there's going to be some wear and tear on them, so our idea is to let them use it, but put in some facilities that do have lower maintenance. The score clocks at AMBUCS and Scott Stell Park, we also want to put in some score

clocks. That's also on our capital repairs. To wrap up the facility repairs, I think you've got a pretty good picture of what kind of improvements we want to do with part of this first \$500,000 allocation. It's an aggressive goal and, to be quite frank with you, I'm excited about it because it does get some visibility out there, and I know the public is going to enjoy it. I've already heard the comments from several coaches already, when they heard that I was going to be presenting this.

Also, Part 3 of the plan, or the RAP, is improving recreational programs. I'm going to highlight a couple of those. After meeting with the coaches and parents, they did identify some recreational issues that's not bricks and mortar stuff, but these are recreational issues. So the first thing we're going to want to do is, as part of this RAP, is define a sports panel. I heard somebody almost want to call it a sports authority, but it's a sports panel, made up of select coaches and parents and staff, and they're going to focus in on a couple of things, just the basic recreational issues that come up after every game, almost. That panel also is going to recruit sponsorships for our facilities. That's something that I think we need to identify a little bit more of, and having a sports panel do that, we can go into the private sector and look at sponsorships. They'll also recruit more coaches, and we're going to focus in on unincorporated neighborhoods. One of the comments that came up in the coaches' meeting was, we have unincorporated area children out there that are left out of the sports program. That hit me kinda hard, because my son is very involved in sports programs and I don't want to see that happen to him. So we want to go into the unincorporated neighborhoods to recruit coaches, to make sure those kids are not left out. Again, that's something we're looking at the sports panel to do. We're going to revise our baseball/softball programs and look at an open league, to basically divide the skills and abilities of those young kids. There are some very highly skilled young kids out there and there are some less skilled kids out there, and we don't really want to mix the two. It'll deflate the young kids who maybe are just being introduced to baseball, so we're looking at dividing up those kinds of programs. Finally, part of the recreational programs is, we do want to look at the school facilities. For example, Wilmington Island, this came up again in a meeting, of maybe taking advantage of some of the gymnasiums that the school has on Wilmington Island. So that's all part of this RAP.

I am very excited about it and I think you do see a lot of progress coming, you will see it coming, and as the County Manager mentioned, we have a lot going on in recreation. The CIP projects, he mentioned the Skidaway Narrows boat ramp. They're almost done with the Skidaway Narrows boat ramp. I don't know if you had a chance to get out there, but we've got, for the most part, cosmetic work to do and let the concrete cure, and we'll be done. We're looking at opening up that other ramp as early as the week of the 24th, 26th, something like that. Commissioner Farrell said, I went by there yesterday, and my kudos and congratulations to the construction team. They've done an excellent job so far. I'm very pleased with the workmanship. Mr. Drury said, thank you very much. I agree. Commissioner Farrell said, and the quick turn-around time. Commissioner Stone said, and I concur with that as well. I went by there. Mr. Drury said, thank you. Bell's Landing will be the next one. We're going to focus in on Bell's Landing next. SPLOST projects, Charlie Brooks Park is still moving very quickly. We've got Runaway Point Park, we've got Triplett Park. We are, if not today, out to bid for the next phase of the Triplett Park. That's a \$1.3 million project, if I'm not mistaken. Paving parking lots at some of these boat ramp facilities, that's also coming, so there's a lot of things happening in recreation that I think you'll be able to pat yourselves on the back for, and I appreciate that very much, and on behalf of the Staff and the RAP, if you don't have any questions –

Commissioner Thomas said, I have a question. The projects that you are undertaking will be very inclusive, right, all across, in terms of recreation? Mr. Drury said, yes, ma'am. Commissioner Thomas said, and I know you probably had it in there, but I did not hear, L. Scott Stell Park. Mr. Drury said, yes, ma'am. Commissioner Thomas said, and other parks. We want to make sure, because that's the reason why we gave that amount of money that we gave, because we do not want to leave any facility out. We want to make sure that every facility gets a share of something to update those facilities, so, you know, they will be able to feel good about it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, every picture you all showed before the budget of the bad facilities, we want all those fixed.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me comment on that. We only had \$500,000, because it went unfunded, taking eleven employees away from the Recreation Department and unfunded that, that our recreation facilities deteriorated, and instead of costing a few hundred thousand dollars – I'm going to say it again – costing the taxpayers over \$4 million to correct that. Fortunately, we were able to, out of this budget process, to put a half-million dollars in there so that we can start on that and correct that as soon as possible. Commissioner Shay?

Commissioner Shay said, I listened carefully to what you were saying and I think I might have made the motion to fund this thing, because it was about half an hour motion, if I remember correctly, but in that, I very specifically made reference to the soccer complex, the condition of the fields, the nets and the goals and so forth, and in your RAP presentation, I didn't hear that. Maybe I missed it. Mr. Drury said, it's not specifically identified but we are looking at it. I know you've asked us to look at sponsorships out there at the soccer complex, some sort of a joint with the – Commissioner Shay said, but I also think I was pretty clear in my resolution that I wanted to see the employees hired that were listed in the budget decision packet that were necessary to make sure that those fields were fully maintained. I mean, we have a facility there and we have other soccer fields and other ball fields in the county also this would apply to, but when that facility was built, it was pretty clear everybody that I talked to, even though it would be a controversial project and a controversial objective, once it was open, that we had the finest regional soccer complex in the State of Georgia, and we're no longer in that position right now. I just wanted to restate for the record that I would love for us to see that returned because right now – I know when you made your presentation to us during the budget hearings, you didn't have enough people to be able to really get out there and do all the things that you needed to do, so I would dearly love for you to tell me right now that we're going to have that field. Mr. Drury said, you'll see that effect. What'll happen is because of the personnel additions for the repairs, that'll take the burden off of the crew that does repairs or maintenance at the soccer complex. Instead of having to pull off the repairs and the mowing to go repair a bench at AMBUCS or something like that, they'll be out at the soccer complex, so it'll indirectly affect that immediately. Commissioner Shay said, since we're heading into the Fall, we've got a lot of different ball seasons that are coming up, soccer, football, and a lot of seasonal things, you know, that really rely on well-maintained fields. I'm expecting big things of you and would love to see it. Mr. Drury said, I hope we don't let you down. Commissioner Shay said, I hope not, either.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, Robert, what's going to be the function of that group that you put together? Mr. Drury said, it's multi-function. They're going to look at basic recreational issues. You know, most

of those issues you've heard after ball games, coaches' problems, parents' problems, umpire problems. Those kind of issues will come up almost routinely. They're going to look at those. They're also going to, as I mentioned, work together to try to look at some private sponsorships and tap those resources. They're also going to look at recruiting more volunteers, particularly coaches. I also mentioned part of that would be going into some of the unincorporated neighborhoods and looking for coaches and volunteers in those areas, too. Commissioner Holmes said, that first initial meeting, I'd like to sit in on it, please. Mr. Drury said, gladly. Commissioner Holmes said, the recruitment of coaches, that would come under this group? Mr. Drury said, yes, sir. Commissioner Holmes said, okay, there are two leagues that compete against each other, City and County, and I witnessed small kids playing in both leagues. Now, my knowledge of recreation coaches, we should never ever abuse our youth mind and body participating in two leagues. It is not safe and it's not good. I've seen youth leave playing one football game from one site and go and participate the same day in a football game. This should not be allowed, if we are in the well-being of the development of youth, so I have some ideas that when you recruit these citizens sitting on this board, I would definitely like to sit in on it and give you some insight on it. Mr. Drury said, appreciate it.

Chairman Liakakis said, Robert, we'd like to thank you and Al Lipsey for this recreation. I know we didn't have all the money that's needed, but, you know, for these important ones, to get them done as much as possible, and, of course, going out into the private sector and getting them, you know, to put their name up where they'll get – like on the soccer fields, they'll get tremendous amount of advertising there and that will help us, you know, in these different recreational areas, where you can put those things up, that we can get those private funds to help finance these additional monies that we need, because that's very, very important for us, because some people just take it for granted that recreation isn't important, but it's important for a city or county for the citizens, because we have a lot of senior citizens that go to the fishing areas, they go to the swimming areas. We have other adults that participate in softball and baseball and whatever the particular recreation programs might have out there. And, of course, it puts a lot of emphasis in the youth area, too, so when the youth are involved in recreation, a lot of them aren't out there, unfortunately getting into negative things, whether it's crime or whatever, so we know how important this recreation program is and we want to support it and to make sure that we move forward in a rapid stage.

Mr. Lipsey said, Mr. Chairman, we have two commitments for goals out at the soccer field. One is from SCAD and one is from the Soccer Association. The City has also agreed to furnish some goals. A set of goals average anywhere from 3,000 to 3500 dollars, so you can imagine that would take – we have eight fields – that will take a big bite out of that 500,000 if we did that by ourselves. But we do have those two commitments – or three commitments, and we were able to buy a set of goals from last year's budget. Commissioner Shay, I invite you out. You should see those fields now. Commissioner Shay said, good, I'll go. Mr. Lipsey said, we made a commitment early in the year to set up a fertilizing program. Commissioner Shay said, great. Mr. Lipsey said, and you should see them now. We've gotten several comments about them. We have them in the back of our mind. We're not going to let them go down. Commissioner Shay said, thank you, sir. Mr. Lipsey said, Commissioner Holmes, please join us, because it's a problem about playing in two leagues. It's a problem, and that was one of the things that the coaches complained about. When we insist that they forfeit our game because they want to play in the City, they don't particularly like that, but it is a problem.

Mr. Drury said, again, I want to thank you for the resources and the allocation, and if there are anymore questions, I just want you to remember, it's a RAP. Okay? Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, I appreciate it, Robert.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Mr. Robert Drury gave a presentation of an action plan for new recreation resources.

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6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NEED TO REFER TO THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION REZONING AND REVISION TO THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE AT BULL RIVER.

Chairman Liakakis said, Item Number 6 has been withdrawn by the developer. It's going directly to the MPC, then it'll come back to this Board for consideration.

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7. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS CONCERNING THE COUNTY'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CONTRACT.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Mr. Abolt. Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, you'll recall in my budget message, we identified for your benefit different options you had as far as either saving money or continuing programs. In this case, the issue is the subsidy – actually the contract that we now have that will expire in the Fall. You're given the opportunity at this point, if you would like to take a series of steps either to continue that contract or at least look at whether or not you would value the savings over the benefit from the service now provided. It's our recommendation you refer this matter to the EMS Advisory Committee and that, in effect, would have to bring back to you in a relatively short period of time a recommendation as to whether or not the County should continue to provide a subsidy or not. And certainly, if you did not provide the subsidy, there are some dollars involved, but the Chairman and I have discussed it along with others, and you would want to do the necessary steps to preserve what amounts to an entre back into the market of providing ambulance service in the event there are problems in the future. So the recommendation is to refer this matter to the EMS Advisory Council, with the request that they be coming back forthwith, with a recommendation.

Chairman Liakakis said, any comments from the Board?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to get some clarification. Basically, this is a four-year period that will be up in November? Mr. Abolt said, yes, sir, in the Fall of the year. Yes, sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so let's open it up to make sure that it's competitive in case anybody is thinking of going up or whatever. Mr. Abolt said, you have all your choices. The first choice is to issue another RFB. Your second choice would be to get out of the business and completely save the money. You could say this is reoccurring revenue now. You could save annually almost a million dollars. Or you could have kind of a subset of it, get out of the subsidy business but somehow keep enough resources

so if necessary you could reenter as an ambulance provider in the area. But I'm not advocating any one choice at this time. What I'm advocating is referral to the appropriate committee, which is the EMS Advisory Council, with the request that they be coming back quickly with their recommendation and that you put yourself in the best position to make an informed decision prior to November. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, if I can just add to that, I, along with, I guess Frank Murray at the time was the rep of the Islands, we were really, I guess, upset and worried that it wouldn't work out and, you know, people would – the residents in both areas were really worried that, you know, the ambulance service would be, I guess, diminished somewhat, but thank goodness, I was wrong and everything turned out good. You know, overall, I'm sure you've heard a complaint here or there, but they've overall done a very good job as far as response, what I've heard from citizens, as well as the people on the islands, so, you know, if they can keep theirs in line coming up and, you know, I personally have no problem with them remaining in place. But going back to us providing it would be a major expense. Mr. Abolt said, I hear you saying something different. I want to make sure. You're not making a decision today – Commissioner Kicklighter said no – as far as continuing a contract. All you're saying is you're at a crossroads and you want some advice before you take the next step. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, do we have a motion on the floor to refer this to the EMS Advisory Committee, to bring their information back to us in a fast manner so that we can make a decision on that? Do we have a motion on the floor? Commissioner Farrell said, so move. Chairman Liakakis said, do we have a second? Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis said, now for discussion. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I have been reminded time and time again from residents on Skidaway Island that we need to take a serious look at having an ambulance parked on Skidaway Island. Currently, there's roughly 9,000 residents out there and I would venture to say that an ambulance makes a trip out there at least once a day, and leaving Montgomery Crossroads, it's approximately ten miles. If we can park a vehicle on Skidaway Island, we can eliminate that ten mile trip to get to the person in need, and that could, under certain circumstances, could be the difference between life and death, so I would like for the Commission and the Advisory Committee to take a serious look at where these ambulances are parked, as we have growing communities that have higher needs, that we look into parking one on Skidaway Island.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. County Manager, would you look into that and see if anything can be done in the interim time, with the way it's allocated now? Mr. Abolt said, if I may, sir, Commissioner Farrell's motion was right on, you want to make that specific referral to your Advisory Committee. We understand, but now is the time to do it. There are service issues involved and probably the most informed and in the best position to provide an action plan is the EMS Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and may I, for a bit of history? Commissioner Shay may have been on the Board back then. Commissioner Thomas, I know, was on the Board. Some years back, each city had their own ambulance service, and basically volunteer – you know, volunteers, but they responded on the equipment and everything and the training, and the County came along at some point and said, hey, we're going to – you know, we'll do this for you, and I remember the uproar back then because everybody was scared of that changing. But anyway, the cities all got rid of their ambulances and said, all right, the County wants to do it, we'll let them do it. So then years ago, this proposal came up to save money and, again, that worried everybody, and like I said earlier, thank goodness it paid off. It did well.

I'm not opposed at all to adding an ambulance out on another area, but I want the financial issues when that comes up to be, I guess, noted with everyone, of something that was promised in the past to one area and actually, they gave up to actually – versus increasing now, you know, other areas, so please keep it in your minds separate when the cost comes back in.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Everybody go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A motion was made by Commissioner Farrell to refer the options concerning the County's Emergency Medical Services contract to the EMS Advisory Committee. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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8. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY WRAPPING UP ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE DIRECTION.

Mr. Hart said, I'll be very brief. As you know, at the last meeting, there was much discussion. There were a lot of alternatives and a lot of choices. This Commission took a lot of public input and made some very difficult choices, because there's a wide variety of views on some of these issues. I think we have about as good an ordinance as you possibly can. I've already been contacted by other communities about sharing our ordinance with them. This is just basically, I'd like to have one short, quick motion affirming the ordinance. I took all of the comments that were made when it was passed, reincorporated it back in, but since we had so many different provisions that were modified, I don't want anybody to come up and say we didn't properly adopt the ordinance. So this will be a third second reading. Commissioner Gellatly said, I make the motion. Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to state for the record, I received a phone call. I had planned a vacation to take my children to Disney World and someone within the community thought that I purposely avoided this topic. You know, that's not me, my nature. There's a couple areas that I definitely disagree with that was passed from here. I don't personally see a problem with a dog being on a vibe harness if it was on a running leash. I think that would help underprivileged people to be able to have a dog if they want one. And if someone wants to put their dog in the back of their truck, I don't see a problem with it. Having said that, that's all I've got to say.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second for this ordinance. Go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly made a motion to approve the amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis, Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Holmes, Commissioner Shay, Commissioner Farrell, Commissioner Gellatly and Commissioner Thomas

voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

CHAPTER 22

ANIMAL CONTROL

22-101	Definitions
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- 22-141 Animal Confinement and Left Unattended in Parked Car
- 22-142 Limitation on Cats
- 22-143 Stray Dog and Cat

STATE OF GEORGIA)
)
 COUNTY OF CHATHAM)

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

The Board of Commissioners of Chatham County do hereby repeal Sections 22-101 through 22-117 of the Animal Control Ordinance in its entirety and substitutes in lieu thereof the following provisions of said ordinance set forth more particularly as follows:

§22-101 Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

Animals - "Animals" shall mean any non-human living vertebrate creature, including but not limited to, all horses, ponies, mules, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons, and similar fowl.

Housing - "Housing" shall mean any building, shed, cage, pen or similar structure used for the keeping of animals and fowl.

Enclosure - "Enclosure" shall mean any uncovered, enclosed parcel of land where animals or fowl are kept.

Nuisance - "Nuisance" shall mean whatever is dangerous or detrimental to human life or health and whatever renders or tends to render soil, air, water, or food impure or unwholesome.

Person - "Person" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, association or agency.

Health Officer - "Health Officer" shall mean the commissioner of health of the County of Chatham or his authorized representative.

§22-102 Livestock and Fowl Not to Run at Large or be Kept in a Public Place.

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any livestock or domestic fowl to permit the same to run at large within the corporate limits of the county or to keep the same in any manner in any street or public place.

§22-103 Provisions.

The provisions of the Animal Control Ordinance within the unincorporated boundaries of Chatham County shall apply to the following any non-human living vertebrate creature, including, but not limited to, dogs, cats, horses, cows, goats, swine, guineas, rabbits, fowl, chickens, peacocks, geese and ducks.

§22-104 Wildlife.

All complaints and matters concerning animals not of a domestic nature and complaints involving game animals or protected species and/or hunting shall be forwarded to the State Department of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division or the U.S. Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Division for the proper disposition compliance, apprehension and controlling enforcement as may be necessary and provided by State law or Federal regulations.

§22-105 Keeping of Animals: Sanitation.

Any housing or enclosure used for the keeping of animals or fowl shall be well drained, free from accumulation of animal excrement and objectionable odors and otherwise clean and sanitary. Animal excrement shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Chatham County Health Department. All animals which are housed or enclosed shall be provided with a source of potable water.

§22-106 Distance of Animal Enclosures from Building.

(a) Any housing or enclosure used for the keeping of animals or fowl shall be kept at the following minimum distances, except at property with a State of Georgia kennel license, from any occupied building except a dwelling unit of the owner, unless the permission of the occupant of the adjacent building and the Chatham County Health Department officer has given permission for a lesser distance.

- (1) One or more mules, cattle, sheep, goats or similar animals - 100 feet.
- (2) Four or more dogs over ninety days old - 100 feet.
- (3) Five or more guinea pigs, hamsters or similar animals - 100 feet.
- (4) Five or more fowl - 100 feet.

(b) A stray or unclaimed dog kept on a temporary basis while engaged in looking for a lawful owner or home, will not be included in the limitation until it has been kept on the premises for fourteen (14) days.

(c) Horse stables (not enclosed) shall be a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from any occupied building except the dwelling unit of the owner unless the owner of the adjacent building grants approval and the Chatham County Health Department officer gives permission for a lesser distance. Horse stables built and located on property prior to September, 2005, shall be at least fifty (50) feet from any occupied building, except the dwelling unit of the owner, unless the owner of the building grants approval.

(d) Animals and fowl not specifically mentioned in this chapter shall be kept at a minimal distance deemed reasonable and necessary by the Chatham County Health Department officer.

(e) In case of a bona fide licensed pet shop or veterinary hospital, the Chatham County Health Department officer may modify these requirements where undue hardship would result from their strict enforcement.

§22-107 Nuisances.

(a) The owner or person that is the custodian of animals and fowl shall be responsible for correcting and abating any nuisance that may arise from the keeping of said animals.

(b) No person shall allow any animal or fowl which howls, barks or emits audible sounds that are unreasonably loud or disturbing and which are of such character, intensity and duration as to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. For the purposes of this article, "barking dog" shall mean a dog that barks, bays, cries, howls intermittently for one-half hour or more at any time of day or night regardless of whether the dog is physically situated on or upon private property; provided, however, that a dog shall not be deemed a "barking dog" for purposes of this regulation, if, at the time the dog is barking or making any other noise, a person is trespassing or threatening to trespass upon private property in or upon which the dog is situated or for any other legitimate cause which teased or provoked the dog.

§22-108 Penalty.

Any person violating any provisions of this chapter upon conviction before the Chatham County Recorder's Court of the State Court of Chatham County or such other court of competent jurisdiction, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 or in excess of \$1,000 for each count and violation of this ordinance.

§22-109 Dead Animals.

(a) No person shall intentionally abandon a dead animal on any private property belonging to another unless the person so doing shall have first obtained permission from the owner of the property on which the dog is left.

(b) No person shall abandon a dead animal on any public property or rights of way, unless the place in which the dog is left, is a public dump or other facility designed for receiving such and designated by Chatham County as public facility for receiving trash or refuse.

(c) Chatham County Public Works Department is authorized to remove dead animals from public property including public schools, parks and roadways.

(d) All dead livestock including horses, cattle and other large animals will be disposed of by the animal owner or the property owner in accordance with State and local regulations.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person to throw or put onto the streets, lanes, squares or other common public property of Chatham County any dead animal.

§22-110 Vaccination and Registration of Dogs and Cats.

(a) The following definitions shall apply in the interpretations and enforcement of this chapter:

Cat - The word "cat" shall mean domestic cats only (*felix catus*) whether vaccinated or not vaccinated against rabies

Dog - The word "dog" shall mean only domesticated dogs (*canis familiaris*) whether vaccinated against rabies or not vaccinated.

Exotic Animal - The word "exotic animal" shall mean any vertebrate animal ordinarily confined to a zoo, or one that would normally be found in the wild. This includes, but is not limited to, all carnivorous wildlife, monkeys, raccoons, squirrels, ocelots, hybrids of wild felines, wolves, hybrid wolves, and mammals and non-venomous reptiles weighting over 50 pounds.

Rabies Certificate - The word "rabies certificate" shall mean a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian bearing a license number, ownership, name, address, breed, color and sex and spay or neuter status of dog or cat, which certificate shall be issued for each dog or cat vaccinated. The date of last vaccination of such dog or cat shall be clearly stated on such certificate, and a copy of such certificate shall be sent by the veterinarian to the Chatham County Animal Control.

Vaccination and License Tag - The word "vaccination and license tag" shall mean a metal tag issued by authority of Chatham County and also a license or serial

number to show that such dog or cat has been vaccinated as required by this article.

Vaccinate or Inoculate - The word "vaccinate" or "innoculate" shall mean the injection into the body of a dog or cat of an approved anti-rabies vaccine prescribed by the State of Georgia, such vaccine having a U.S. government license number approval stamped on the label of the vaccine container and which vaccine has been approved by the health department. Vaccine used for vaccination of dogs or cats against rabies shall have been refrigerated and kept under proper conditions showing no signs of spoilage or otherwise being unfit for producing immunity against rabies.

Veterinarian - The word "veterinarian" shall mean any person who has received a doctor's degree in veterinary medicine from a school of veterinary medicine and holds a license to practice in the profession of veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia; the number of the aforesaid veterinary license shall be the same as that recorded by the Georgia State Board of Veterinary Examiners.

(b) Vaccination and Licensing Required. It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, maintain or harbor any dog or dogs or cat or cats three months of age or older without first having the dog or dogs or cat or cats vaccinated against rabies and obtaining from Chatham County Animal Control for each dog or cat the vaccination and license tag and the rabies certificate described in subsection (a) above. Such license tag is to be obtained either in person or by mail for each dog or cat from the Chatham County Animal Control within thirty (30) days of such animal's annual inoculation.

(1) Any person owning a dog or cat and does not comply with this shall be in violation of this ordinance, provided that a person shall register his or her dog or cat within thirty (30) days of the rabies vaccination, or thirty (30) days after becoming a resident of Chatham County. Non-compliance and the issuance of an ordinance citation shall result in a set fine of \$50.00.

(c) When Vaccination Required; Term of License. All dogs and cats which have become three months of age shall be vaccinated and all dogs and cats over one year of age shall be vaccinated and annually thereafter against rabies and their owner shall obtain a license for such dogs or cats every 12 months following the original annual vaccination and licensing of dogs or cats.

(d) Tag to be Attached; Number of Rabies Certificate; Term.

(1) Every dog or cat which has received a rabies vaccination as set forth in subsection (a) above shall have attached to a collar around its neck a vaccination and license tag described in subsection (a) above.

(2) The rabies certificate shall bear a license number identified with that of the tag attached to the collar of the dog or cat. Both certificate and tag will expire one year from date of issue.

(e) Fees. The veterinarian's fees for vaccination of a dog or cat shall be set by each individual licensed veterinarian or the State of Georgia. A license tag will be issued in exchange for a fee as set forth in the following paragraph, which will be collected by the Chatham County Inspections Department Animal Control Division from the owner of each dog or cat who has received the anti-rabies vaccine and rabies certificate.

Unneutered male dog	\$35
Unneutered male cat	\$35
Unspayed female dog	\$35
Unspayed female cat	\$35
Neutered male dog	\$5
Neutered male cat	\$5
Spayed female dog	\$5
Spayed female cat	\$5

All fees raised by this licensing procedure shall be designated and used for Animal Control activities.

(f) Re-vaccination. Where a license has been issued following a vaccination, the owner of the dog or dogs or cat or cats shall be exempt from paying a late fee provided the re-vaccination and license are acquired on or before the expiration date on the certificate for animal rabies vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian.

(g) Only Licensed Veterinarians to Vaccinate; Inferior Vaccinations.

(1) No person shall be allowed to vaccinate dogs or cats against rabies who is not licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Georgia.

(2) A veterinarian or any person having vaccinated dogs or cats against rabies with inferior vaccines or any drugs, biologic, chemical or material, which is not specified in this chapter or that has not been approved by the Health Department, or who violates any provision of this chapter in whole or in part shall not be permitted to vaccinate dogs or cats against rabies.

(h) Exemptions. Dogs or cats entering unincorporated Chatham County from outside the County only for the purpose of performing or temporary stay not exceeding fourteen (14) days and kept under direct control of their owners or handlers are exempt from the license tag requirements of this article.

(i) Time Limitation on Obtaining License. Except as provided by subsection (b) above, it shall be the duty of all persons owning or having possession of a dog or cat

brought into unincorporated Chatham County to have the dog or cat vaccinated and to obtain the vaccination tag and the rabies certificate required by this article within a period of thirty (30) days from the date of such entry.

(j) Impoundment of Unlicensed, Unvaccinated Dogs or Cats. Any dog or cat found within unincorporated Chatham County not wearing or displaying a valid, current vaccination tag and not confined within a fence on the premises of the owner/custodian with all gates and openings closed shall be immediately impounded, quarantined or otherwise disposed of as required by this article. Any dog or cat found within unincorporated Chatham County not vaccinated as required by this chapter within the previous twelve (12) months shall be impounded, quarantined or otherwise disposed of as required by this chapter.

(k) Rabies Cases to be Reported.

(1) All animals, such as dogs, cats, horses, cattle, mules, goats, foxes, swine, raccoons, and other animals of like species, showing symptoms of or having rabies within unincorporated Chatham County shall be immediately reported to the Chatham County Health Department, the Animal Control center, or Chatham County Humane Shelter by the owner of the person having custody or any citizen having knowledge of these facts. It shall be the duty of every person having this knowledge to make immediately his/her report.

(2) Dogs, cats or any animal being held under quarantine by the owner or by a veterinary hospital, boarding or breeding kennel, or any other person at any other place shall immediately upon discovery of the existence of rabies or its symptoms be reported to the Chatham County Health Department, Animal Control or Chatham County Humane shelter with a history of the case and information regarding the name and address of the owner. It shall be the duty of every person having knowledge of the facts to see that the report required by this subparagraph is made.

(l) Quarantine.

(1) For any dog, cat or animal that bite or inflict injury upon a human, said dog, cat or animal shall be quarantined for ten (10) days as such place as designated by the Chatham County Health Department or Chatham County Animal Control for purposes of observing the health condition and temperament of said dog, cat or animal. The Health Department may increase or diminish the period as, in its sole discretion, the public safety and health may require.

(2) Where rabies has been found to exist in any warm-blooded animal or where its existence is suspected, the health department may designate an area within which quarantine shall be maintained as provided by the terms

of this chapter. Every such animal shall thereupon be immediately confined to the premises designated by the Health Department, whether or not the animal has been vaccinated against rabies.

(3) No animal shall be removed from a quarantined area and no animal shall be brought into a quarantined area without written permission of the Health Department. The application for such permission shall be in writing, filed with the Health Department detailing the reason for movement and the location at which the animal will be confined after movement.

(4) When an animal has been suspected of having rabies or has rabies symptoms, the area or premises where such animals are kept shall be posted by the Health Department with signs to read as follows: "Rabies Suspected" or "Rabies, Keep Away From Animals." Such signs shall be conspicuously displayed on the premises, printed with type that is easily legible, and shall remain on the premises for the duration of the quarantine.

(5) Persons living within a quarantine area having in their possession an animal subject to rabies or to the terms of this chapter shall be given written notice of the quarantine, the animals subject thereto and an order to confine their animals so subject to the premises of the owner, together with any other information the Health

Department deems advisable. Such notice shall be signed by a duly authorized agent of the health department.

(6) The violation by any person of any quarantine order issued by the health officer shall be a violation of this chapter, and the person so violating shall be subject to all the penalties prescribed by law for a violation.

(m) Examination of Heads. The heads of all domestic animals and of all wild animals suspected of having rabies before their death or having rabies at time of death shall be submitted to the State laboratory for examination. Either human or animal exposure to these animals shall constitute sufficient reason for laboratory examination.

§22-111 Commercial Pet/Animal License.

(a) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this article, and the following words shall have the following meanings:

(1) Commercial Pet Animal Facility - The word "commercial pet animal facility" shall mean any premises, operation or business used for the commercial boarding, breeding, buying, selling, trading, training or rearing

of animals, including guard dogs, except for animal hospitals or grooming facilities unconnected with such activities.

(2) Commercial Pet Animal Facility License - Any person who maintains within Chatham County a premises operation or business used as a commercial pet facility shall obtain a commercial pet animal facility license prior to the start of business operations. Any individual that shall sell more than one litter per year or the sale of three adult animals per year, shall deem to be operating a commercial pet animal facility and must comply with all provisions of pet animal license provisions.

(b) The applicant for a commercial pet animal license shall submit the following, in person, to the Chatham County Animal Control:

(1) A copy of a current license from the Georgia Department of Agriculture permitting such operations.

(2) A completed commercial pet animal license application.

(3) A copy of a business license specifically authorizing commercial pet animal activities.

(4) Proof of current rabies vaccination by a veterinarian for each dog and/or cat over 3 months of age on the premises including dog(s) or cat(s) on consignment.

(5) Proof of satisfactory inspection by the Department of Agriculture.

(6) A signed statement as described herein, agreeing to comply with all provisions of this chapter.

(7) Payment of a \$100 fee.

As part of the application process, it shall be the responsibility of the Chatham County Animal Control to review the application and make such necessary inspections and inquiries to confirm compliance with these provisions and all other provisions of this ordinance.

(c) The commercial pet animal license shall be valid for one year from date of purchase. The license shall be prominently displayed on the license premises.

(d) License Revocation and Refusal.

(1) Chatham County Animal Control shall revoke any commercial pet animal license in the event any licensee is found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services shall not issue a commercial pet animal license to any person, group, organization or business which has been convicted of violation of any provision of this chapter, or which keeps, maintains, or harbors any dog(s) designated dangerous or potentially dangerous, except for guard dogs.

(3) No commercial pet animal license shall be issued to an applicant who has failed two separate consecutive inspections by Chatham County Animal Control for the balance of the year in which such inspections were failed, but said applicant may reapply for a license in the following calendar year. At the time of re-application, the applicant shall show proof of rehabilitation, and said application may be refused for the failure of any requirements of the inspection.

(4) Any person that acquires a commercial pet license within unincorporated Chatham County pursuant to this provision, shall hereby grant, unto the Chatham County Animal Control officers, the right to inspect said commercial pet/animal facility, kennel or premises at any time as part of assurance of compliance with the provisions of State law and local laws pertaining to such businesses holding said license.

(5) Loss of license with the Department of Agriculture which allows activities to be conducted by the applicants operation.

§22-112 Restrictions on Dogs Running at Large.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any dog to be on the streets, lanes, highways, roads or squares of unincorporated Chatham County or loose on vacant lots or unenclosed lots, so that it may freely have access to the streets, lanes, highways or squares of unincorporated Chatham County unless such dog is held firmly on a leash, by a person capable of maintaining control. It shall be the duty of any owner or possessor or any person who harbors or keeps any dog to confine securely by means of fence, kennel, leash or other device so as to ensure confinement within the limits of their own premise, the same within the limits of his own premises and not to permit such dog to run or have access to run the streets, lanes, highways, roads or squares or parks of unincorporated Chatham County except as above set forth or for hunting, field trials and the working of said dogs.

(b) Puppies and kittens are not to run at large. Dogs or cats less than three months of age shall be confined to their owner's premises and not allowed to run at large.

(c) Where any animal, dog or cat, whose owner or custodian is found to be in violation of any provision of this ordinance, the Animal Control officer shall have a duty and authority to issue a citation and a subpoena to owner or custodian for the violation of said article.

§22-113 Impoundment of Dogs.

Any dog found upon the streets, lanes, highways, roads or squares of unincorporated Chatham County, without the corporate limits of any municipality therein, in violation of this article, shall be caught by the Animal Control officer or his assistant and impounded. The Animal Control officer or his assistant shall have the specific right to enter upon any unenclosed private property to secure capture of any dog in violation of this article. To effect the impounding of such a dog, if necessary, the Animal Control Officer shall have the right to muzzle or employ such other methods as may be reasonably necessary to impound such animal.

§22-114 Duty of Animal Control Officer.

The Animal Control officer, upon finding an animal which appears to be abandoned shall provide written notice of complaint to the owner or custodian, if known, or at the place of residence where the animal was found. The Animal Control officer shall respond back to the residence within twenty-four (24) hours where notice of complaint was provided to owner or custodian of animal for the purpose of establishing ownership or determination of the status of the animal's health and safety. If the owner or custodian of the animal is not located, the Animal Control officer shall go upon the premises and take custody of said animal.

§22-115 Dogs Kept Five Days.

Any dog impounded under the provisions of this article shall be kept for a minimum of five (5) days in some convenient place, to be known as the Animal Control shelter.

§22-116 Payment of Fees.

Within five (5) days after a dog and/or cat is impounded, the owner or possessor shall come forward and pay the annual license fee, if he has not paid the same, and an impoundment fee, and a boarding fee. Impoundment and boarding shall be paid before an impounded animal shall be released to the owner or possessor.

(a) The impoundment fee shall be \$35.00.

(b) The boarding fee shall be \$10.00 per day.

§22-117 Dogs Put to Death. Any dog impounded under this article whose owner, possessor or representative shall not come forward within five (5) days after the impoundment and pay the license tax and the fees specified in this article shall be put to death in some manner approved by the American Veterinary Medicine Association or said animal shall be adopted through licensed rescue and placement agencies.

§22-118 Delegation of Shelter of Dogs.

The shelter and impounding of dogs and cats found, impounded or trapped within Chatham County, to include all municipalities therein, in violation of this article may be

delegated to and performed by such organization as shall be selected by the Board of County Commissioners.

§22-119 Disposal of Dog Excrement.

It shall be unlawful for any person who possesses, harbors or is in charge of any dog not to immediately remove excrement deposited by any dog upon the common thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, trees, lawns, playground areas, parks, squares, and upon other public premises and the failure to remove said excrement shall be deemed a public nuisance and is prohibited.

§22-120 Equipment for Removal of Dog Excrement.

It shall be the duty of any person having custody of any dog on public property to have in such person's possession a device or equipment for the picking up and removal of dog excrement. An acceptable device shall include any plastic or metal mechanized or non-mechanized device constructed for scooping pet excrement; a hand shovel or trowel; a plastic or paper bag; a styrofoam, plastic or paper cup; or any similar device that can contain and remove the excrement. The use of sheet paper, newspaper, paper napkins, or handkerchief is deemed unacceptable and unsanitary for removing excrement and shall not be used. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a dog aiding the handicapped (i.e., guide dog) or to a dog when in police or rescue activities.

Failure of the person having custody of the dog to remove the dog excrement by acceptable device shall constitute a violation of this ordinance and be subject to a fine of not less than fifty (\$50.00) or greater than two-hundred (\$200.00) dollars.

§22-121 Dangerous/Potentially Dangerous Dogs.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this article, and the following words shall have the following meanings:

Dangerous dog - Means any dog that, according to the records of an appropriate authority:

- (a) Inflicts a severe injury on a human being without provocation on public or private property; or
- (b) Aggressively bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of humans or animals without provocation after the dog has been classified as a potentially dangerous dog and after the owner has been notified of such classification.

Owner - Means any person or any legal entity, including, but not limited to, a corporation, partnership, firm, or trust owning, possessing, harboring, keeping, or having custody or control of a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog within this state.

Potentially dangerous dog - Means any dog, according to the records of an appropriate authority, that:

- (a) Without provocation, bites a human being on public or private property; or
- (b) Without provocation, repeatedly chases any human being upon the street, sidewalk or any public or private property.

Proper enclosure - Means an enclosure for keeping a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog while on the owner's property securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen, fence, or structure suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to prevent the dog from escaping. Any such structure shall have secure sides and a secure top, and, if the dog is enclosed within a fence, all sides of the fence shall be of sufficient height and the bottom of the fence shall be constructed or secured in such a manner as to prevent the dog's escape either from over or from under the fence. Any such enclosure shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog.

Records of an appropriate authority - Means records of any state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency; records of any county or municipal animal control agency; records of any county board of health; records of any federal, state, or local court; or records of a dog control officer provided for in this article.

Severe injury - Means any physical injury that results in broken bones or disfiguring lacerations requiring multiple sutures or cosmetic surgery or a physical injury that results in death.

Substantial chain or leash - Means a device used to restrain a dog that cannot be broken by the dog under its own power.

§22-122 Exemptions; Investigation of Reports.

(a) A dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by a law enforcement officer to carry out the law enforcement officer's official duties shall not be a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog within the meaning of this article. A dog shall not be a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog within the meaning of this article if the injury inflicted by the dog was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing a willful trespass or other tort, or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog, or had in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.

(b) Upon receiving a report of a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog within the unincorporated Chatham County from a law enforcement agency, animal control

agency, rabies control officer, or county board of health, an Animal Control officer shall make such investigations and inquiries with regard to such report as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this article.

§22-123 Notice Generally.

When an Animal Control officer classifies a dog as a dangerous dog or reclassifies a potentially dangerous dog as a dangerous dog, the Animal Control officer shall notify the dog's owner in writing by certified mail to the owner's last known address of such classification or reclassification. Such notice shall be complete upon its mailing. In the alternative, at the sole discretion of the Animal Control officer, a personal service may be made.

§22-124 Scope of Procedures.

As applied to the owners of potentially dangerous dogs, the procedures provided for in this article shall be carried out as a necessary condition for the enforcement of the provisions of this article against such owners. As applied to the owners of dangerous dogs, the procedures provided for in this article shall not be an essential element of any crime provided for in this article.

§22-125 Notice to Owner of Classification.

When a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog is classified as such, the Animal Control officer shall notify the dog's owner of such classification.

§22-126 Requirements of Notice to Owner.

The notice to the owner shall meet the following requirements:

(a) The notice shall be in writing and mailed by certified mail to the owner's last known address or hand delivered;

(b) The notice shall include a summary of the Animal Control officer's findings that formed the basis for the dog's classification as a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog;

(c) The notice shall be dated and shall state that the owner, within fifteen (15) days after the date shown on the notice, has a right to request a hearing on the Animal Control officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog;

(d) The notice shall state that the hearing, if requested, shall be before the Health Department;

(e) The notice shall state that if a hearing is not requested, the Animal Control officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog shall become effective for all purposes under this article on a date specified in the notice, which shall be after the last day on which the owner has a right to request a hearing; and

(f) The notice shall include a form to request a hearing before the Health Department and shall provide specific instructions on mailing or delivering such request to the agency.

§22-127 Hearing.

When the Health Department receives a request for a hearing as provided in this article, it shall schedule such hearing within thirty (30) days after receiving the request. The Health Department shall notify the dog owner in writing by certified mail of the date, time, and place of the hearing, and such notice shall be sent by certified mail or personal service to the dog owner at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. At the hearing, the owner of the dog shall be given the opportunity to testify and present evidence, and in addition thereto the Health Department shall receive such other evidence and hear such other testimony as the health department may find reasonably necessary to make a determination either to sustain, modify, or overrule the Animal Control officer's classification of the dog.

§22-128 Notice of Determination After Hearing.

Within ten (10) days after the date of the hearing, the Health Department shall notify the dog owner in writing by certified mail of its determination on the matter. If such determination is that the dog is a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog, the effective date will be 15 days from the date of the hearing.

§22-129 Certificate of Registration.

It is unlawful for an owner to have or possess within this state a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog without a certificate of registration issued in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) The owner shall provide a proper enclosure to confine the dangerous or potentially dangerous dog.

(b) Any dog classified as dangerous or potentially dangerous shall be required to be micro chipped for permanent identification by a licensed veterinarian at the owner's expense.

(c) Any animal found to be a potentially dangerous dog or dangerous dog shall be spayed or neutered within fifteen (15) days of the Health Department's determination that said dog is a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog.

(d) The owner shall be required to post the premises where the animal is located with a clearly visible sign, issued by the animal control agency, containing a symbol designed to warn all citizens, including children, that there is a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog on the property; the number of signs will be determined by the Animal Control officer.

(e) It shall be unlawful to display the above dangerous dog sign at locations or on premises where no such dangerous or potentially dangerous dog exists or is located.

(f) The registration fee shall be \$150.00 for a potentially dangerous dog annually and \$250.00 for a dangerous dog annually. It shall be a requirement that one warning sign shall be included in this fee and additional signs as may be required shall cost an extra \$35.00 per sign.

(g) In addition to the requirements above, the owner of a dangerous dog shall present to the Animal Control officer evidence that the dog has been spayed or neutered, and evidence of:

(1) A policy of insurance in the amount of at least \$25,000.00 or more issued by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state insuring the owner of the dangerous dog against liability for any personal injuries inflicted by the dangerous dog; or

(2) A surety bond in the amount of \$25,000.00 or more issued by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state payable to any person or persons injured by the dangerous dog.

(h) The owner of a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog shall notify the Animal Control officer as soon as possible, but in no case less than twenty-four (24) hours if the dog is on the loose, is unconfined, has attacked a human, has died, or has been sold or donated. If the dog has been sold or donated, the owner shall also provide the animal control officer with the name, address, and telephone number of the new owner of the dog.

(i) The owner of a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog shall notify the Animal Control officer if the owner is moving from the dog control officer's jurisdiction. The owner of a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog who is a new resident of the State of Georgia shall register the dog as required in this Code section within thirty (30) days after becoming a resident. The owner of a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog who moves from one jurisdiction to another within the State of Georgia shall register the dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog in the new jurisdiction within ten (10) days after becoming a resident.

(j) Issuance of a certificate of registration or the renewal of certificate of registration by Chatham County Animal Control shall not warrant or guarantee that the requirements specified are maintained by the owner of a dangerous dog or potentially

dangerous dog on a continuous basis following the date of the issuance of the initial certificate of registration or following the date of any annual renewal of such certificate.

(k) An Animal Control officer shall be authorized to make whatever inquiry is deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this section. Law enforcement agencies of local governments and the sheriffs of counties shall cooperate with Animal Control officers in enforcing the provisions of this section.

§22-130 Restraint of Dangerous Dog.

It shall be unlawful for an owner of a dangerous dog to permit the dog to be outside a proper enclosure unless the dog is muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash and is under the physical restraint of a responsible person. The muzzle shall be made in a manner that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its vision or respiration but shall prevent it from biting any person.

§22-131 Restraint of Potentially Dangerous Dog.

It shall be unlawful for the owner of a potentially dangerous dog to permit the dog to be outside a proper enclosure unless the dog is restrained by a substantial chain or leash and is under the restraint of a responsible person.

§22-132 Confiscation of Dangerous Dog.

A dangerous dog shall be immediately confiscated by the Animal Control officer or by a law enforcement officer or by another person authorized by the Animal Control officer if the:

- (a) Owner of the dog does not secure the liability insurance or bond required in this article;
- (b) Dog is not validly registered as required;
- (c) Dog is not maintained in a proper enclosure; or
- (d) Dog is outside a proper enclosure without specified restraints.

(e) Should the owner fail to provide the documents outlined in §22-130 of this ordinance or the provisions of this subsection, the dangerous dog shall be impounded. The dangerous dog shall be held for ten (10) days during which time the owner may demonstrate compliance with §22-130 and subsections (a) through (d) above. Should the owner fail to comply with any provision of the aforementioned section and subsections, then the dog shall be subject to euthanasia.

§22-133 Confiscation of Potentially Dangerous Dog.

A potentially dangerous dog shall be confiscated in the same manner as a dangerous dog if the dog is:

- (a) Not validly registered as required;
- (b) Not maintained in a proper enclosure; or
- (c) Outside a proper enclosure without specified restraints.

§22-134 Return After Confiscation.

Any dog that has been confiscated under the provisions of this article shall be returned to its owner upon the owner's compliance with the provisions of this article and upon the payment of reasonable confiscation costs. In the event the owner has not complied with the provisions of this article within ten (10) days of the date the dog was confiscated, said dog shall be put to death in accordance with an approved AVMA method of euthanasia administered by a certified technician.

§22-135 Liability.

The owner of a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog shall be solely liable for any injury to or death of a person caused by such dog. Under no circumstances shall a local government or any employee or official of a local government which enforces or fails to enforce the provisions of this article be held liable for any damages to any person who suffers an injury inflicted by a dog that has been identified as being a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog or by a dog that has been reported to the proper authorities as being a dangerous or potentially dangerous dog or by a dog that a local government has failed to identify as a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog or by a dog which has been identified as being a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog but has not been kept or restrained in the prescribed manner or by a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog whose [of which its] owner has not maintained insurance coverage or surety bond as required.

§22-136 Dogfighting.

Dogfighting shall be enforced under the provisions of State law.

§22-137 Animal Neglect.

A person that is the owner or custodian of any animal may be found to be guilty of animal neglect by a finding that any one or more of the following conditions were allowed to exist:

- (a) Lack of immediately available proper drinking water or inadequate supply of drinkable water.

(b) Lack of wholesome, palatable, free from contamination food or sustenance to be provided in sufficient quantity.

(c) Failure to provide an animal sufficient space to stand to full height, turn around, lay down and make normal postural adjustments for comfort.

(d) The lack of providing a stationary shelter from weather such as sun, rain, wind or inclement weather or to maintain said shelter in a clean, sanitary condition free of excrement and unreasonable objectionable odors.

(e) To have an animal in possession that is known to or suspected to have an injury, accidental or deliberate, or to exhibit any signs of disease, shock, temperature fluctuations, tremors, swelling, open wounds, inability to eat, blistering or abnormal bleeding, partial paralysis, discharging blood or mucus. Failure to make arrangements for veterinary care.

§22-138 Animal Cruelty.

A person commits an act of animal cruelty when such person causes the death or unjustified physical pain and suffering of an animal or maliciously causes the death, physical harm to the animal rendering parts of the animal useless or seriously disfigured or with knowledge or intent commits any of the acts set forth in Section 22-137. This provision shall not apply to any person euthanizing an animal due to a disease or action taken to avoid pain and suffering.

Any person convicted of said act shall pay a fine of not less than \$1,000 and be imprisoned for a period of not less than six (6) months or more than one year.

§22-139 Tethering.

It shall be prohibited in unincorporated Chatham County to retain or confine to property of dogs or cats in a manner achieved by stationary or non-stationary dog houses, barrels or other stationary object as such means of confinement within the property.

§22-140 Animal Transported by Vehicles.

No animals shall be transported on a public road in an open vehicle including an open top vehicle or open truck bed unless housed in a secured container designed for that purpose and having a provision for adequate ventilation, food and water. Said container shall have an open grille on one end, a solid top and bottom and a minimum of 15% total accumulated side areas incorporated into an open grille for air circulation provisions. Chatham County Animal Control officers shall be entitled to impound and cite the owner or custodian of any animal being transported in violation of the term of this article.

§22-141 Animal Confinement and Left Unattended in Parked Car.

It shall be unlawful to leave an animal unattended in a parked vehicle without proper ventilation to prevent the animal from suffering physical distress from dangerous temperatures, lack of food or lack of water. Chatham County Animal Control or any other law enforcement shall take such action as is necessary including entry of the vehicle by any means to remove an animal from such jeopardy and may impound said animal and secure medical treatment for said animal as needed at the owner's expense. Chatham County Animal Control officers may take possession of any deceased animal found in any parked vehicle for purposes of determining the cause of death in question pursuant to animal neglect or cruelty of this code.

§22-142 Limitation on Cats.

No person who is the owner or custodian of any single family residence shall have greater than eight (8) cats, unless all animals are permanently confined to the actual living space of the family residence. The owner or custodian in violation must also be in compliance with Chatham County provisions as stated in this chapter. This prohibition shall not include any cat that has a litter less than four months of age which will be confined to the actual living space of the family residence.

§22-143 Stray Dog and Cat.

Any person who intends to provide care and sustenance for any dog or cat shall be deemed to be the custodian of said dog or cat unless a true and rightful owner is located. No person shall feed or provide sustenance to any animal, dog or cat upon the public property or private property of others, except with the express permission of the owner of said animal or property owner upon which said food or sustenance is being provided.

All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are repealed.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this ____ day of _____, 2005.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

Sybil Tillman, Clerk
Chatham County Commission

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[SEAL]

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 next is the Action Calendar. Do we have any request to pull out anything on that Action Calendar at this point? Commissioner Kicklighter said yes, sir, Number 4, please. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Number 4. Number 5, also, I think it was mentioned, that's one that we'll discuss. Any other items? One of the other items is K under the individual items where the money is being spent for specific items, pull that one out.

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A motion was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Gellatly for approval. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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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 JULY 22, 2005, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 22, 2005. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gellatly and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 14 THROUGH AUGUST 3, 2005.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period July 14, 2005, through August 3, 2005, in the amount of \$9,628,252. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gellatly and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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3. **REQUEST FROM SOUTHEAST ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, REGAL BUILDERS, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR GEORGETOWN PLACE TOWNHOMES, LOT 5.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the request from Southeast Engineering and Environmental, engineer for the developer, Regal Builders, to record the subdivision plat for Georgetown Place Townhomes, Lot 5. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gellatly and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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4. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE STAFF TO REQUEST A COUNTY CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSTRUCT A NEW INTERSECTION ON STATE ROUTE 21 FOR A SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY/GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY ENGINEER AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO SIGN ALL THE FORMS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES THE GDOT FORM 532, A UTILITY AGREEMENT, THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CERTIFICATION, AND THE COUNTY CONTRACT.**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We now have an opportunity to support SEDA, both the Georgia Ports Authority, and to also support and promote responsible growth that will also protect the quality of life for the citizens who live near the Georgia Ports Authority. This request from SEDA and the Georgia Ports Authority is very important for the future growth of the Georgia Ports. However, there are citizens living in our county that have registered a serious request from the Georgia Ports Authority of their own. It's very important to their neighborhood and their quality of life. The Georgia Ports Authority recently met with the citizens of Garden City at a public hearing and Dr. Thomas and I, we both have about half of Garden City each within our districts. We attended the public hearing, along with the Chairman. Residents stood up and spoke, Commissioners stood up and spoke, the Chairman spoke, a Senator spoke, State Representatives spoke, the Mayor and Council of Garden City spoke. Basically, we all asked the Georgia Ports Authority to stop one of their expansion plans. The Georgia Ports currently has a truck credentialing center on the residential side, which would be the south side of Georgia Highway 25, and they're planning on buying the neighboring property to build a parking lot and for the trucks to be able to pull into. If this happens, trucks will literally, I mean literally, be parked in the back yards as well as side yards of some of the residents there. Garden City has a lot more than what I'm about to mention, but there's basically two huge neighborhoods in that city, and would make up, I would say, the majority of the residents throughout the entire area. The proposed site sits right in one of the two largest neighborhoods.

Now, the Ports, they definitely have many options available. They really don't have to do this. They've recently acquired acre upon acre upon acre of land on the other side, on the north side of 25, and they could easily utilize that land to build a facility. Or, for that matter, I don't know if you've been out there lately, they recently built a chain link fence basically around the entire City Hall in Garden City, and, you know, it's not nice at all. It's horrible looking, in fact. And Garden City has been in pursuit of trying to get the Georgia Ports Authority to buy them out, where they can move it and have a City Hall that's nice and something the residents deserve out there. They deserve a nice City Hall. That particular location would be perfect for them to move across the street. It's a huge building, has a huge parking lot. They could credential the trucks, which is a very important part of our safety, you know, in the country, but they have that option. But, you know, they really at this point, I don't think they want to give Garden City nearly what they should, because Garden City never asked to be completely surrounded by industrial chain link fences. But they also, with this request, originally – and I don't know if Al Bungard is in here – but originally, this road request possibly could have hindered or altered our drainage plan that we passed with the last SPLOST. But thank goodness to Al Bungard and Staff and Russ and all of them working, I believe we ironed out all the drainage issues that they were going to kinda bring to a halt and were on the way. But basically, I guess, we have the opportunity right now to show by example how to promote and support the Georgia Ports Authority and at the same time, encourage smart responsible growth for them, that will ensure the future quality of life for the neighboring residents.

On behalf of Dr. Thomas and myself, I will now make a motion that the County Attorney write a letter addressed to the Georgia Ports Authority Board of Directors and copied to the local State Delegation, the Governor of Georgia, the City of Garden City, the City of Port Wentworth, and the City of Savannah. This letter would ask the Georgia Ports Authority Board of Directors to put in writing that they will not acquire the land next to the current credentialing facility and that they commit to moving the entire credentialing facility to the north side of Highway 25 by August the 12th, 2006. In the letter, please state that we look forward to a balanced relationship with them that both supports their growth, but also protects the neighboring residents, and that we will wait for their decision before moving forward on this road request. This motion also includes giving the Chairman the right to sign on behalf of the entire County Commission. And I put that in the form of a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, second it.

Chairman Liakakis said okay, do we have any discussion now? I mean, has everybody read that? Does everybody understand what's being requested in that – you know, from SEDA and the Georgia Ports Authority concerning this new intersection? What he's asking, now, does everybody understand what he's asking is, before we approve this, that they make arrangements for that credential center to be moved from where it is to the north side, from where it is right now in that residential area, to move it over there. For point of information, let everybody know, when I had our regular City/County Coalition meeting, where we have all the cities and the county together, that's on Tuesday, I spoke to Garden City Mayor Andy Quinney, and I discussed with him, and they were supposed to have a meeting this week with Garden City, the Georgia Ports Authority, to talk, because Senator Eric Johnson has discussed it with Robert Marsh, who is a staff member for the Georgia Ports Authority, to come up with, you know, some other kind of contract to conclude what's been going on out there, whether the State can find another location for them on State property to move that, and also to purchase the Garden City City Hall. Now, I just wanted to bring you all up to date on that, and Mayor Quinney said to me that he'll keep me appraised on the meeting so that we can continue with that, because I have talked to the Executive Director, Doug Marsh, with the Georgia Ports Authority concerning this matter, also about the meeting where you said everybody was concerned about that credential center. Any discussion?

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, question. Dean, you said they have some other options? Have you discussed that with them? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, sir. They're well aware of the options but basically at this point, Georgia Ports Authority has been very good at having meetings with no actions. They took a step in the right direction when they committed and finally built the berm, the buffer area, between the ports and the residential area, but in doing so, they took two steps back. They at that point said, well, now we can't park the trucks on the road, so we're going to buy right here in the neighborhood and park them all there. And they have so many options available it's unbelievable. And it's not putting their foot in the fire right now, because we're giving them a year. All they have to do is verbally commit, and then they have a year to move. And the building itself is not large. I mean, you know, they could move that in a heartbeat, build something that big; it's just mainly the parking area to do the credentialing.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. County Attorney, I want to ask you, any comments from you if we do this specific – Mr. Hart said, no, sir. This is purely a policy issue. I would ask Commissioner Kicklighter to keep his notes so that I may have them to help write that letter afterwards, but if you all instruct us to do that, we'll do it.

Commissioner Holmes said, all of the stakeholders, all of the names that you gave him to forward that letter to, do they have to go through all them? Commissioner Kicklighter said, it would be good to let them be informed about it. Mr. Abolt said, what you all might want to do because of the copies, the Governor and that, I know the Attorney will do a wonderful job of drafting, I would just suggest that possibly the Chairman sign that letter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's what I – yeah.

Chairman Liakakis said, now, one thing we want to be careful, too, is that, you know, what we're saying in there – and I know how important it is. I've been working with the Mayor, the Ports Authority, and all out in that area, to get that resolved as soon as possible, but let's be careful, too, how it's worded, because I don't want them to feel that we are intimidating the State, you know, in this endeavor. That's just something I'm just throwing out at this point. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's not meant to intimidate or whatever; it's just simply basically in a nice tone, we support and appreciate the growth and promote it, but, you know, we would like to see an effort from them to protect ourselves, with responsible growth in the future.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, then if you will get along with the County Attorney and put that together so that we can send that communication out. Mr. Hart said, just for clarification, is the motion that the County Attorney send the letter or the Chairman? I don't mind sending it and I don't mind drafting it and asking for approval for him to sign it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you draft it and the Chairman has the authority to sign on behalf of the entire Commission. Mr. Hart said, sure, either way.

The motion was made by Commissioner Kicklighter The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have the motion on the floor, it's been seconded, go on the board. The motion passed unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the County Attorney write a letter addressed to the Georgia Ports Authority Board of Directors, with copies to the local State Delegation, the Governor of Georgia, the City of Garden City, the City of Port Wentworth, and the City of Savannah, asking that they put in writing that they will not acquire the land next to the current credentialing facility, that they commit to moving the entire credentialing facility to the north side of Highway 25 by August 12, 2006, and state that we look forward to a balanced relationship with them that both supports their growth, but also protects the neighboring residents, and that we will wait for their decision before moving forward on this road request, and that Chairman Liakakis be authorized to sign on behalf of the County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD DESIGNATE THE SEAWRIGHT DRIVE EXTENSION (AN ACCESS ROAD UNDER DEVELOPMENT) TO THE CITIZENS SERVICE CENTER AS "GENERAL GEORGE LYNCH DRIVE."

Chairman Liakakis said as you know, this was a long time servant and employee of Chatham County, plus the many things that he did for our citizens and served his country in the Military. Do we have a motion on the floor? Commissioner Stone said, I make a motion, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, any discussion? Go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to designate the Seawright Drive Extension to the Citizens Service Center as "General George Lynch Drive." Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to designate the Seawright Drive Extension to the Citizens Service Center as "General George Lynch Drive." Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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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. Purchase and installation of playground equipment for the Gray's Subdivision Neighborhood Park	Parks and Recreation	GameTime	\$22,147	CIP - Parks and Recreation
B. Declare as obsolete and un-serviceable for further County use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and approve a donation for the apparatus (less tanks) to the Daisy Fire Department	Sheriff	N/A	N/A	N/A
C. Annual price agreement for the purchase on an "as needed" basis police pursuit sedans	Fleet Operations	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$20,410	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CIP - Vehicle Replacement •General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various •Various Funds •SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement
D. Confirmation of emergency purchase for parts and labor to repair bulldozer	Public Works and Park Services	Yancy Brothers Caterpillar (sole source)	Not to Exceed \$50,000	SSD - Public Works and Park Services

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
E. Confirmation of emergency repairs to the southernmost boat ramp at Skidaway Narrows	Parks and Recreation	Coastline Concrete Services	\$25,578	CIP - Parks and Recreation
F. Confirmation of the emergency purchase of 148 cubic yards of concrete for the boat ramp at Skidaway Narrows	Parks and Recreation	Coastal Concrete	\$11,692	CIP - Parks and Recreation
G. Annual software support contract	Tax Commissioner	Manatron/VisiCraft (Sole Source)	\$32,025	General Fund/M & O - Tax Commissioner
H. One (1) crew cab long bed pickup truck	Health Department	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$29,972	100% Homeland Security grant (pending budget amendment)
I. Reject bids received and purchase off City of Savannah solicitation the purchase of a backhoe/loader	Public Works and Park Services	Low Country Machinery	\$78,278	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement
J. One (1) large size sport utility vehicle	CEMA	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$28,755	100% Homeland Security grant (pending budget amendment)
K. One (1) 15-passenger van	Public Works and Park Services	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$17,650	SSD - Public Works

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
L. Reject bids received for the addition to the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum	SPLOST	N/A	N/A	No funding required at this time
M. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for the Charlie Brooks Park for additional engineering services	SPLOST	Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble	\$69,770	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SPLOST (1993-1998) - Charlie Brooks Park Renovation (\$45,839) •Solid Waste Fund (\$23,931)
N. Change Order No. 6 to the contract for the Whitfield Avenue/Diamond Causeway project for additional engineering services	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$34,900	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Whitfield Avenue/Diamond Causeway
O. Change Order No. 4 to the contract for the Pipemakers Canal Widening project to extend the time for completion	SPLOST	Phoenix Construction Services, Inc.	N/A	No funding required
P. Transfer of a Ford Expedition to the Department of Public Safety	Sheriff K-9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Q. TaxSpeak Interactive Voice Response software	Tax Commissioner	WebSpeak, LLC	\$64,500	General Fund/M & O - Tax Commissioner

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Items 6-A through 6-Q, with the exception of Item 6-K. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried the motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Chairman Liakakis said, so that everybody has this information, what that van will be used for is that the Public Works Department will get – we're having community workers from the different court systems, that we will be using them out on our right-of-ways, so that they can help clean that up, for one thing. That will save the county taxpayers money, plus the people that have been assigned to do that by the different court systems, that they will be serving their community time, and it will be very advantageous for us, because we have a number of our areas that need to be addressed and this will help address that, as opposed to when has occurred in the past, and hopefully, once we see this successful, and I'll be talking to some of the Judges and Administrators, that what we will do is get additional ones. All right, Item K, do we have a motion on the floor to approve that? Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Chairman Liakakis said, another item that was in there, there's a Change Order Number 6 to the contract for the Whitfield Avenue/Diamond Causeway project for additional engineering services, and let's talk about that. That's for \$34,900 to Thomas & Hutton Engineering, and this was in the SPLOST funding for 93-98, Whitfield Avenue/Diamond Causeway. One of the things that has been discussed at length now is the protection of the people on Skidaway Island. We know that in the past, that that bridge has broken down. We've got well over 9,000, close to 10,000 people, on Skidaway Island right now, if that bridge was to break down. What this will do with this particular contract, put this on a fast track so that what we can do is acquire additional land for Thomas & Hutton to do their engineering plans and all of that, and that will show the people on Skidaway Island, too, that we are concerned about their safety in case an emergency was to happen, and we're doing something immediately to assist in this program. Do we have a motion – well, it's already been approved, but I'm just explaining that to everybody.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Items 6-A through 6-Q with the exception of Item 6-K. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
2. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Item 6-K. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

On first reading, presentation by MPC staff and discussion only by Commissioners will be heard.

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

1. VARIOUS ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS ELIMINATING JAIL TIME SANCTIONS.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have all of that and we discussed them before at the meeting. Does anybody want to read anything into those specific ordinances? In other words, what this is going to do is to help us save money by not having to have Public Defenders for minor infractions, to appoint an attorney for them. That will save us money by doing this, because we won't have that jail sanction on there, also. This is specifically for the County. Any comments on that? Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Liakakis read this item into the record as the First Reading.

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2. AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY CODE, CHAPTER 13: SPECIAL DISTRICT FOR TRANSIT SERVICE TO INCLUDE A PORTION OF THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH IN THE CAT DISTRICT.

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 ITEMS

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Status report was attached for review.

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2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999.

None for this meeting.

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Roads
DATE: August 12, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

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

BACKGROUND: The schedules for construction are dictated by the GDOT allocations of funds among the Congressional districts and the balancing of funds in the Chatham Urban Transportation Study (CUTS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A new TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) were approved by the CUTS Policy Committee on June 22, 2005. Most projects are delayed due to reductions in federal funds. Key milestone events are summarized in the attached table.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway.

a. Phase 4. Under construction. Ribbon cutting is being planned for mid-September. Date has not been determined subject to coordination with the GDOT and the contractor.

b. Phase 5. Right of way plans were approved on June 30, 2005. The acquisition process has started and will take approximately 18 months (26

parcels acquired by early acquisition; 65 parcels to acquire). Design is underway.

2. US 17, Ogeechee River to SR 204: Under construction. GDOT resolved the design issues and the contractor resumed work in May on the south end of the project. Traffic southbound from near Canebrake Road has been shifted to the new roadway for reconstruction of the old bridge. A new contract completion date has not been established. GDOT is working on the change order for the outfall ditch work and has to assess how much additional time will be allowed for this.

3. Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road Widening. Under construction. Power lines, telephones and water/sewer facilities are being relocated along the three mile length of the project.

4. Stephenson Avenue. Substantially complete as of April 1, 2005. Liquidated damages totaling \$54,450 were assessed from December 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. GDOT, in company with the County, City of Savannah and APAC performed the final inspection on June 14, 2005. A final punch list (129 items) was compiled by GDOT with input from the County and the City of Savannah. This was given to APAC on June 21, 2005. Some clean up of debris has been done.

5. Whitfield Avenue Widening. The FHWA approved the EA on February 13, 2004, which authorized the County to proceed with preliminary design (completed in June, 2004). Staff was advised in January, 2005, however, that the widening of the median for landscaping and the proposed reduction in speed limit would require amending the previously approved Concept Report and Environmental Assessment. The wider raised median causes at least four additional residential displacements and increases the GDOT's right of way acquisition costs. Revised Concept Report was submitted to GDOT on July 6, 2005.

6. Diamond Causeway Widening. The Draft EA was approved by the FHWA on February 25, 2005, for advancement to public hearing. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) was held on August 12. GDOT staff is relooking design criteria (width of median and design speed of high span bridge) in the Draft EA. Also, County has offered to do improvements on Skidaway Island by County Contract. Guidance and decision by the GDOT is pending.

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

Stage Study. The revised Conceptual Stage Study was delivered to the GDOT on May 12, 2005. An updated Relocation Study was submitted on July 12, 2005. Resubmission of the EA to FHWA by the GDOT is pending.

8. Skidaway Widening: The Final EA was approved by the FHWA on December 30, 2004. The County's consultant submitted a proposal (over \$750,000) which staff will need to evaluate for an amendment to the engineering services contract or a new contract to incorporate all new GDOT requirements known to date to complete the design. In accordance with the LGPA, the County is responsible for acquiring the necessary right of way. The GDOT has agreed to fund, award and manage the construction project. Due to reductions in state and federal highway funds, staff will look at the feasibility of requesting that GDOT break this project into several construction contracts.

9. White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Road. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) was held on August 12, 2004. Approximately 200 attended. GDOT is still reviewing letters to respondents of the public meeting. The Need and Purpose is being revised to essentially create a 3-lane section from Willow Road to Cedar Grove (near entrance to Country Day School) and improve the two lanes (i.e. widen pavement to 12 feet wide travel lanes) from Cedar Grove to Rose Dhu Road. The project will include either sidewalks on both sides or a multi-purpose trail on one side.

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

11. Abercorn Widening from Largo Drive to Rio Road. The Concept Report was revised to reflect the changed terminus from Deerfield Road to Largo Drive and sent to GDOT on June 28, 2004. This project is affected by other projects currently under design (intersection improvements at Largo, and Truman Parkway, Phase 5).

12. Bay Street Widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct. The Concept Report was approved by the GDOT on February 9, 2005. The Draft EA was sent to the GDOT for review and approval on May 20, 2005.

13. Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement. LPA Group (consultant) is under contract with County to develop the Concept Report. A Public Information Open House was held on May 26, 2005, presenting three alternatives to construct high span bridges. Approximately 75 attended. The

consultant has prepared responses to the comments received. They are being reviewed by GDOT for approval.

14. US 80/SR26

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

b. Bull River to Lazaretto Creek. GDOT is working on the EA. The GDOT has scheduled a PIOH for August 25, 2005, at the Tybee Island City Hall.

15. Local Roads

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

(1) Fountain Road. Final plans and ROW plats have been sent to Moreland/Altobelli for right-of-way acquisition which is underway. Due to the new alignment of the road, the USACE has determined that wetlands are impacted. Permit received July 12, 2005. GDOT executed the County Contract and gave notice to proceed on February 9, 2005. The contract, however, was apparently lost in the mail and was only recently received after staff inquired about it. Staff expects the solicitations for bids for a construction contract to be out by the end of August.

(2) Bond Avenue, Heather Street, Betran Avenue, Shore Road, Mobley Street, Yucca Place, Perkins Place, Stone Street. Final plans were provided to GDOT on Mobley, Yucca and Perkins Place. They sent the preliminary estimate for the County Contract to Atlanta for these three streets on June 29, 2005. GDOT has authorized a County Contract for Bond, Heather, Betran and Shore. The County Contract documents have been executed by the County and have been returned to the GDOT for final execution.

b. Andrews Street. On February 4, 2005, the Board directed staff to put the road to the bottom of the paving list and to meet with the property owners to discuss the possibility of the County quit claiming the right of way. Staff sent letters to every property owner on Andrews Street. The meeting was held on March 21, 2005. Four property owners attended. Staff explained the process and implications of a quit claim of the County's interests. The County may have to retain a drainage easement. By State law, a public hearing is required to abandon a public roadway. One of property owners that staff believes wants to keep the road public did not attend. The property owners that did attend believe that they can convince the one opposing the action (Ms. Doris Love) to change her mind. They have since written a letter to the County requesting the action be taken to quit claim the roadway to them. Staff followed up with a letter to the property

owners on April 5, 2005, explaining the actions the County must take before placing the issue before the County Commission. On April 29, 2005, Ms. Doris Love called the County Manager to voice her strong objection to any effort that would make Andrews a private road. In the meantime, the project remains at the bottom of the list and no action is being taken to pave the road.

c. Dulany Road, Cramer Street, Palm Drive and Old Pine Barren Road. On May 27, 2005, the Board of Commissioners authorized entering into contract with the consulting firm of McGee Partners to survey and design to pave these roads. The kick-off coordination meeting was held on June 23. The schedule calls for a construction contract to be ready for bidding on Old Pine Barren Road in December 2005, on Dulany Road in January 2006, and on Cramer Street and Palm Drive in June 2006.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

SUMMARY OF ROAD PROJECT STATUS
August 2005

PROJECT	ELEMENT	MILESTONE FOR COMPLETION	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	NOTES
Truman Parkway, Ph 4	Construction	Sep 2005	GDOT	
Truman Parkway, Ph 5	Environmental ROW	Complete Dec 2006	County County/GDOT	EIS approved 8/12/99 Acquisition underway as of 7/1/05.
	Final Design Construction	Feb 2007 TBD	County/GDOT GDOT	COMMISSIONER STONE LR
US 17: Ogeechee Riv/SR204	Construction	Jan 2006	GDOT	Will be extended.
Middleground/Montgomery Cross Road Widening	Construction	May 2006	GDOT	Will be extended.
Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy, Ph 2	Environmental ROW Construction	Unknown	County County GDOT	COMMISSIONER STONE LR

Whitfield Avenue Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Feb 2004	County County County/GDOT GDOT	EA/FONSI signed Feb 13 Preliminary plans on hold. ROW funded FY2005/06 COMMISSIONER STONE FY2007
Diamond Causeway Widening and two bridges	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Unknown	County County GDOT GDOT	Draft EA signed Feb 25. ROW FY 2007 COMMISSIONER STONE LR
Skidaway Road Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Complete	County County County GDOT	Final EA signed 12.30.04 Change order or new contract needed for design to continue.
Bay Street from I-516 to Viaduct	Environmental ROW Final Design Construction	Dec 2005 Feb 2007 Apr 2007 TBD	County County County GDOT	Draft EA pending approval by GDOT. COMMISSIONER STONE LR
US 80 Widening - Bull River to Lazaretto Ck - I-516 to Victory Drive	Environmental Environmental	Unknown Unknown	GDOT GDOT	COMMISSIONER STONE LR COMMISSIONER STONE FY 2007
White Bluff/Coffee Bluff	Environmental	Unknown	County	COMMISSIONER STONE LR
Eisenhower (Abercorn to Truman Parkway)	Environmental		County	Concept Report approved June 22, 2004.
Abercorn (Largo Drive to Rio Road)	Environmental		County	Concept Report pending approval.

NOTES: COMMISSIONER STONE = FY in which the projects are programmed for construction in the CUTS 2006-2008 TIP.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Drainage
DATE: August 12, 2005

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: W. C. Uhl, P.E., County Drainage Engineer

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

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

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Pipemakers Canal

- a. Phase 1 (From the outfall at Savannah River to SR 21). Double channel size, replace bridges, replace tidegate, and provide maintenance access.
 - i. Construction is underway. Approximately 85 percent of the channel widening is complete and the new sluice gates are being manually operated by the Contractor.
 - ii. The date for substantial completion is August 2005.
- b. Phase 2 (From SR 21 to I-95). Double channel size and provide maintenance access.
 - i. ROW acquisition is underway.
 - ii. The permit application package for this project has been returned to the consultant for corrections.
- c. Golf Course (section of Phase 2 on Airport property). Widening of this section of canal completed in 2000.
- d. Kahn Mitigation Site. The final mitigation package for Phase 2, which includes the Kahn Site, is being designed concurrently with Phase 2 design.
- e. Phase 1a (isolated areas within GPA up to SR21). A project to provide canal improvements that were not included in the Phase 1 Contract. This work was delayed until relocation of the water pipeline can be accomplished by the City.
- f. Bridge Removal and Sheet Pile Wall Modifications. A project to remove the existing bridge (with the tidegates) restricting the flow of drainage from Pipemakers Canal into the Savannah River. Design is underway.

2. Hardin Canal
 - a. Phase 1 (From SR 307 to I-16). Widen channel and replace bridge crossings.
 - i. Efforts to acquire necessary permits from the USACE are ongoing. Staff expects revisions to the design will be necessary in order to acquire the USACE permit as a result of negotiations with reviewing agencies.
 - ii. Crossings at SR307. Enlarging the crossings under Dean Forest Road (SR307) will be accomplished as a separate construction project. Design work is in progress.
 - b. Phase 2 (From I-16 to Pine Barren Road). Widen channel and construct a detention pond. No target construction date.
3. Westlake/Springfield Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Crossing and channel improvements from Perimeter Road on Hunter Army Airfield downstream toward the Forest River. Completed January 2002.
 - b. Phase 2. Acquire flood-prone properties and convert the acquired land into a storm water retention facility to provide greater protection to remaining properties in the area.
 - i. The County has received the final construction drawings and specifications for final review.
 - ii. The USACE permit has been issued for the project.
 - iii. Work continues on obtaining title to the final two properties.
 - iv. The County has been reimbursed \$538,650.56 from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency for property acquisition. Staff expects an additional \$125,000 to be reimbursed.
 - c. The railroad undercrossing Final Design Report has been approved. Construction drawings are being reviewed by Staff. Plans were submitted to the railroad for review in June.
4. Placentia Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Tidegate at Bonaventure Road. Completed February 1999.
 - b. Phase 2. Crossing and channel widening from Bonaventure Road to Shell Road in Thunderbolt. Completed October, 2002.
 - c. Placentia Beautification Project: Correction of a drainage problem along Tennessee Ave. and to improve the appearance of the canal near the Bonaventure Bridge. Negotiations for the necessary rights of way and easements are pending.
5. Conaway Branch Canal (tributary of Pipemakers Canal) Widen channel with road crossing improvements and a maintenance road.
 - a. Phase 1 includes channel improvements and crossing upgrades north of Main Street to Pipemakers Canal.
 - i. Preliminary construction and right of way plans have been returned to the Consultant for corrections. Coordination with GDOT for the crossing at Highway 80 is ongoing. The estimated construction

- cost exceeds the current available budget. Staff is considering options to address this issue. Consultant is working on the submittal to the USACE for verification of the wetland delineation.
- ii. Staff has approved recommended improvements of additional area requested by City of Bloomingdale. Consultant is working on preliminary construction drawings. Construction of these improvements to be funded by the City of Bloomingdale.
- b. Phase 2 includes improvements to system south of Main Street to Hardin Canal. The plan to improve drainage south of Main Street will require an Intergovernmental Agreement with Bloomingdale.
6. Little Hurst Canal Improve undercrossings at SR 21 and railroad, and widen channel downstream of SR21. Revised hydraulic analysis and recommendations were completed in 2004. The impacts of proposed land development projects by GPA and a private development in the City of Port Wentworth are being investigated by Staff.
 7. Wilmington Park Canal
 - a. Phase 1. (Construction of tide gate) Completed September 2002.
 - b. Phase 2. Widen channel and improve culvert crossings under Wilmington Island Road.
 - i. Received permit from USACE on July 5, 2002. Project is under design, incorporating changes to reduce cost while still attaining storm water goals. Surveying for alternative route is complete. Review of preliminary report and recommendations is underway.
 - ii. Staff has directed the consultant to proceed with survey and design of a project to provide slope stabilization at Wilmington Island Road. Review of preliminary recommendations is underway.
 8. Kings Way Canal Widen channel and enlarge culverts east of Whitfield Avenue to Vernon River.
 - a. Improvements to crossing of the canal under Whitfield are being constructed as part of GDOT's Truman Parkway, Phase 4 project.
 - b. Preliminary design and rights of way drawings are under review by Staff.
 9. Romney Place Drainage
 - a. Phase 1. Improve drainage along Central Avenue. Completed October 2001.
 - b. Phase 2. Improve storm drains and road crossings on Romney Place and along Parkersburg Road. Design is underway.
 10. Village Green Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Upgrade culvert under Cambridge Drive. Completed October 1999.

- b. Phase 2. Staff has accepted the consultant's recommendations for improvements. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE. Compilation of citizen drainage survey to help establish project need and purpose for permitting is complete.
11. Port Industrial Park Increase the capacity of the crossing under State Route 307 and improve the channel downstream to Pipemakers Canal.
- a. The crossing under SR 307 is being coordinated with the GDOT SR 307 widening project from R. B. Miller Road to SR21. Design of the project to improve the canal downstream from SR307 to Pipemakers Canal is complete. The wetlands permit has been signed by the County Engineer and was approved by USACE District Engineer on September 24, 2002.
 - b. Conditions of revised Intergovernmental Agreement with GDOT to construct crossing under SR 307 as a County contract are not acceptable. The Agreement has been rejected. Staff is evaluating options. Staff is coordinating with Garden City on right of way issues to be worked out with developer of the impacted parcels.
 - c. GDOT has approved new curb cuts at SR 307 to improve access to the canal for maintenance.
 - d. Consultant has applied to the USACE for an extension of the Wetland permit.
12. Louis Mills Canal Widen channel from Veterans Parkway downstream to outfall at Westlake Canal and improve crossing under Marshall Avenue. Design is complete. Acquisition of Easements and ROW is underway.
13. Redgate/Rahn Dairy A project to provide larger underdrains at several road crossings, canal widening and provisions for maintenance access.
- a. This project will reduce stormwater flows in the Louis Mills system as well as provide improve drainage in the existing canal.
 - b. Preliminary design and Easement/ROW drawings are under review by Staff. Acquisition of Easements and ROW will begin upon completion of the review.
14. Diggs Avenue Drainage (part of Louis Mills) This drainage improvement project involves improving drainage at the east end of Diggs Avenue. Acquisition of ROW is in underway.
15. Ogeechee Farms
- a. Phase 1. Improve internal collector system south of Vidalia Road. The project is substantially complete. The issue regarding sections of installed pipe determined by Staff to be unacceptable has been resolved. The Contractor's repairs to the pipe have been accepted. Completion of final punch list is underway.

- b. Phase 2.
 - i. The County has received the Section 404 wetlands permit from USACE. Final paperwork utilizing the County's new banking instrument for mitigation is complete.
 - ii. The design is being revised to incorporate changes including an additional road undercrossing in the project and installation of box culvert sections instead of multiple pipes.

- 16. Fawcett Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Widen channel and improve crossings from Georgetown downstream to crossing under Grove Point Road, and replace tide gate. Construction completed in August 2002. Other work to improve the function and appearance of the lagoons completed in May 2005.
 - b. Phase 2. Provide increased storm water drainage capacity in areas affecting Red Fox Drive and White Hawthorne Drive. Acquisition of easements from the City of Savannah is complete. Design work is currently underway.

- 17. Quacco Canal Drainage Improvements East of US17 (Formerly the Ecosystem Restoration Project) Improve Quacco Canal and associated road undercrossing capacities from US 17 to marsh, including removal of a private tidegate structure. The work is expected to reduce the 50-year flood level by about 2 feet at US17 and at the same time restore a salt marsh ecosystem to its original condition.
 - a. Efforts to acquire the permit from the USACE continues. Additional information is required to alleviate issues brought by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). A permit from USACE is expected after SHPO agrees with the project.
 - b. Access agreements to the private property and acquisition of easements is underway.

- 18. Quacco/Regency Park Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. Revisions to the Design Study Report are expected to be complete by August 2005.

- 19. Halcyon Bluff Subdivision Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. A construction contract was approved by the Board on December 17, 2004. Construction is underway.

- 20. Golden Isles Subdivision Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community.
 - a. Phase 1. Outfall improvements completed 1997.
 - b. Phase 2. Improvements to collector system. Approval by Health Department to proceed with acquisition has been obtained. Preliminary title searches of affected properties are underway. Right

of way acquisition has commenced. Closing has been completed on 18 23 of 26 parcels.

21. Henderson Channel and crossing improvements to alleviate flooding in the subdivision.
 - a. Canal 1 (henceforth referred to as Brown Thrush Canal): Crossing and channel improvements on the canal parallel to Brown Thrush Road, from Al Henderson Blvd. to Little Neck Road. Survey and analysis are complete. Staff's review of consultant's final report is complete. Staff is reviewing Consultant's fee proposal for design of recommendations.
 - b. Canal 2 (henceforth referred to as Henderson Canal): Provide maintenance road for canal from Gateway Blvd. to Little Neck Road through wetlands. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE.
22. North Rice Mill Right of way acquisition services to provide for drainage improvements to a local drainage system tributary to the Georgetown Canal. Property acquisitions required for construction and maintenance of the recommended improvements is underway. Adversity to easement acquisitions required by the project is being encountered from some affected property owners.
23. Georgetown Canal Upgrading roadway undercrossings to improve drainage capacity at St. Ives Way. Construction is underway.
24. Walthour Canal at Off Shore A small project to improve the undersized culverts under the entrance road to the Off Shore Subdivision. Final construction documents have been received. Permitting is underway.
25. Wilmington Outfall A project to correct storm sewer drainage pipes between Wilmington Road and the Wilmington River. The final design report is under review by Staff. A fee to prepare final design and Construction Documents will be requested from the consultant upon approval of the design report.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All
by W.C. Uhl, P.E.

Prepared

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4. INFORMATION REGARDING THE 2005 YOUTH COMMISSION “BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY” ON AUGUST 13, 2005

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas. Mr. Abolt said, she’s already mentioned that. Chairman Liakakis said, yes, she mentioned that earlier when we were talking about that information, so everybody is invited to come to the one at the Civic Center and, of course, from one to five at Forsyth Park for this “Back to School Rally.”

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-4
AGENDA DATE: August 12, 2005

TO : Board of Commissioners

THRU : R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM : Michael A. Kaigler, Human Resources and Services Director
Van R. Johnson, II, Employee Services and Training Manager

ISSUE:

To inform the Board about the 2005 Youth Commission “Back To School Rally” on August 13, 2005.

BACKGROUND:

The Chatham County Youth Commission will be sponsoring a “Back To School Rally” on August 13, 2005 at Forsyth Park. This Rally was developed as a means to bring youth together to enjoy music, food and promote a safe and successful school year. In addition, as the Chairman and various members of the Chatham County Commission expressed an interest in truancy, reduction, this year’s rally has a Truancy theme.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Rally will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Forsyth Park.
2. Rally Co-Sponsors include the Savannah Youth Council, Truancy Protocol Committee, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program, The Summer Bonanza Partnership, Inc., the ELC Collaborative and Cumulus Broadcasting.
3. The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, Chatham County Sheriff’s Department and the Savannah-Chatham Campus Police have been asked to be present during this event.

- 4. Rally events include a local youth entertainment, and school supply give-a-ways. Other activities include, a helicopter from Mosquito Control, a K-9 demonstration, a Blood Drive and a karate demonstration.
- 5. Funding for this Rally will come from the Youth Commission budget and corporate donations.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

As the Chatham County Youth Commission has become a national model as well as a source of pride and goodwill for the Chatham County Commission, activities such as this provide an opportunity for diverse, productive, county-wide fellowship for the youth of Chatham County.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information Only.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Shay and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board recessed at 1:15 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 2:30 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. RESOLUTION HONORING TOM THOMSON, MPC DIRECTOR.

Commissioner Shay said, I'd like to make a motion, Mr. Chairman, that we resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, Tom Thomson was selected as the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission after a rigorous nationwide search among highly qualified candidates; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thomson was served this community well in his capacity as MPC director.

NOW THEREFORE, the Chatham County Commission does hereby resolve to demonstrate their continued support for Mr. Thompson and does hereby encourage him to continue to work with our citizens to work with us to plan a successful future.

Chairman Liakakis said, do we have a second on that? Commissioners Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis asked, all in favor? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Mr. Thomson said, thank you very much. I'm honored. Commissioner Shay said, we're with you, we just want you to know that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to adopt a resolution honoring Mr. Tom Thomson as Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved that the Chairman be authorized to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2005

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

BARBARA B. WRIGHT, ACTING CLERK
FOR SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION