

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., Monday, June 12, 2006.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Dean Kicklighter introduced Bishop Matthew Odum, Pastor of Temple of Glory Community Church, who gave the Invocation. Bishop Odum is the father of Youth Commissioner Brittanie Odum.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Patrick Shay led the assembly 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
- Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Liakakis welcomed the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Katherine Blackburn, Chairperson Elect, a Senior at Savannah Country Day School, and granddaughter of Savannah City Attorney J. B. Blackburn; Danielle Cummings, Vice Chairperson Elect, a Senior at Jenkins High School; and Helen Farmakis, Secretary Elect, a Junior at Calvary Day School.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. RECOGNITION OF LT. JONI GAIL YORK IN THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT, WHO WAS DESIGNATED THE TOP ACCREDITATION MANAGER IN THE NATION.

Commissioner Farrell read the following proclamation into the record:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Detention Center has been continually accredited by the American Correctional Association, which is a national accrediting commission for correctional agencies, and for the past two accreditation audits, Lieutenant Joni Gail York has successfully managed the accreditation process; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Detention Center is a resource facility and is constantly called upon by other jail facilities state-wide and nationally for information and guidance on operational, logistical, and administrative matters that affect jail operations; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant York is considered one of the most knowledgeable persons across the nation in the area of correctional facility accreditation and for this reason, she has served as a resource person for several jails; and

WHEREAS, during the 19th annual Correctional Accreditation Managers Association Conference held May 12 - 16, 2006 in Indianapolis, Indiana, Lieutenant York was selected the “Accreditation Manager of the Year” for 2006; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Joni Gail York, is deserving of this award and the members of the Chatham County Sheriff’s Department are extremely proud to have her as part of their management team.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute:

LIEUTENANT JONI GAIL YORK

for having this prestigious title bestowed upon her and express appreciation for the outstanding work she does at the Chatham County Detention Center and the manner in which she represents it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 12th day of June 2006.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Lt. York said, good morning. County Commissioners, thank you. I want to also thank the Sheriff and the Colonel for their support and belief in what I do and the job that I do for them. We are extremely proud of our detention facility and the accreditation that it holds to provide a better quality of life and living and safety for the inmates, our visitors, and the general public and our State. Again, thank you.

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, I just want to say it is quite an honor because there's only one accreditation manager nationally named each year, and so we're very proud of Joni. She's a 22-year veteran. She's done everything in that jail there is to do. She's involved in administration right now, but she's been on the line as a Watch Commander and everything else so we're very proud of her accomplishing what she has. And I might just mention the fact that when she went to Indianapolis her expenses were paid by the Accreditation Manager's Association, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I would like to also talk a little bit about that. What are there, 159 counties in Georgia and everyone of them has a County jail and there's only one that's accredited, and accreditation is no easy —. Are you going to correct me? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yeah, I believe there's three now. At one time you were correct in that we were the only jail in Georgia accredited. Commissioner Gellatly said, close enough. Basically, the only one in the State of Georgia and certainly have been for a good number of years and not you haven't just come here lately. Accreditation, for those of you who might not be aware, measures all the known standards to operate a county jail to include operational procedures, hiring procedures, promotional

procedures, disciplinary procedures, quality of food, quality of prisoner care, and it usually ends up being a couple of hundred or more standards, all the known ways that can be graded as to how to run a jail. They have to go through very specifically, and accreditation is in my opinion something very important. It's the ultimate. Anyone can say that they have a professional jail, but the proof is usually when the sheriff of other counties, most other counties say I have a professional jail, you would then ask him, well, then you must be accredited and all of them just about would have to say, no, we're not. So that would be their opinion. In our County the Sheriff would say that he has a professional jail and he has a hard-to-get certificate to back that up and for that I congratulate the Sheriff and all of his personnel and certainly the Lieutenant. I know that being the Accreditation Manager is not an easy task and you probably during that period got lots of hate mail, internally and externally, and what have you and no one likes the Accreditation Manager, I know. But after that, the entire Sheriff's office would have to be extremely proud of the fact that they happen to be an accredited agency and I'm certainly proud of it.

Col. McArthur Holmes said, Commissioners, I'd just like to say that we're very proud of Lt. York here. Just to give you some stats, I've always been taught that it's a poor frog that won't praise his own pond and being the Administrator lets you know some of these stats. There are some 421 standards that have to be met. The Detention Center met 100% of the mandatory and 98% of the remaining, so we are in the top percentile across the nation. So Chatham County can be proud of that operation. Commissioner Thomas said, very good.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'd just like to share a brief story of how I met Ms. York. Approximately two years ago I was out in the hot Savannah sun knocking on doors asking folks for the privilege to sit in this seat, and I ran into Ms. York as she was tending her yard at her house and she proceeded to offer me a cold drink and I was kind of tired and felt like sitting down for a little while, and she took the opportunity to interview me, to drill me and to educate me on a lot of things going on in Chatham County and especially the jail, and I appreciate that and I appreciate everything that she does. This is just a very good situation and we thank you for everything.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I would like to reiterate everything that's been said and congratulate Lt. York. I was fortunate enough to spend during my campaign about three hours out at the jail, and you all run an incredible ship out there. It's clean, it's neat, the people are polite, you know where to go, and you all have done an amazing job despite the overcrowded conditions and all the problems that you've had to work with, and it's just — we're very fortunate in this County to have such a well-run jail, and I congratulate you, Lt. York.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Lt. York. We can see the results of the fine work that you've been doing over the years and all and, of course, we can see why we've got the top sheriff in the entire State of Georgia and probably one of the top in the entire country really, and him and his — Sheriff St. Lawrence said, probably one of the most frustrated this morning. My count was 1664. Chairman Liakakis said, wow! Well, we're working on that and we're going to

look at this SPLOST funding and, of course, Col. McArthur Holmes, who is your Executive Director for the jail right there, has been doing an outstanding job, and we appreciate all of you, you and your staff and all the deputies for the great work they do for the citizens of Chatham County. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if we could, I want the Sheriff to expand on what you just said because the public needs to understand because we do have SPLOST coming up. You're at 1664 people in the jail. The jail was built for how many? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it was built for 1224 beds, but about 1150 is the capacity because of classification. You've got mental health people, you've got females, you've got disciplinary problems, et cetera, and it is at 1664. This morning it was 1648 and Friday. It's been up to 1667. We are overwhelmed. We're trying to solve our problem now. You'll be hearing something about it, some temporary housing within the alarmed fence and so forth, just to try to take some of the pressure off because when people come out there they get bonds now. For instance, Commissioner Odell would know, when people come out there they get bonds now, sometimes three or four hours. We've got people housed in booking and every place that we can house them. It takes time, you know, to get these people together and the paperwork together to get them out. It just —, we're just overwhelmed.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to take the opportunity because the public will be voting soon. I personally don't want to see people let out on the streets because we don't have the room, so I encourage you, listen to the Sheriff, let's build more jails. That's the point of doing the SPLOST, coming up early, and outstanding job from all of you. And I want to clarify one thing. It sounded as if, you know, about all the great things about the jail, it is — the way it's ran. It's wonderful, but to the public I walked through with one of the Sheriff's big huge majors through one of the pods with the inmates. It's not pleasant for them. And they're fed, they're up to specs and everything like they're supposed to be, but it's no cake walk for them. Top notch job and just thank y'all. Appreciate it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd also like to — you're talking about the overcrowding. You know, the public hears the jail's overcrowded and they may or may not be concerned about it or they don't understand the significance of it. I'd like to point out, and if I'm wrong, Sheriff, you correct me, but I can remember people telling me —, to begin with, when a facility is designed for practical purpose 1150 people and you throw an extra four or five hundred people into that, that has a direct and negative impact on the employees' safety, it has a direct and negative impact on the safety of prisoners. When you crowd people together in small spaces, they tend to — their level of violence increases. The kitchen was designed to serve 1150 people and not four or five hundred people more than that, and right now it's important to note, too, that that building's air conditioning system was designed to handle 1150 people. You put another four or five hundred people in there, that air conditioning system is taxed sometimes beyond capacity and people say, well, you know, in our own homes we're uncomfortable when our air conditioning is not working right or when it doesn't work. Well, we have an option to go somewhere else where it's cooler or

open a window, and last time I checked the Sheriff's not going to let them go to a more comfortable location and there are no windows to open. So you're talking about basically where the system that's being overtaxed, it can't be cooler properly. If that system were ever to fail because of it's overuse, and that can happen, you would have absolutely an intolerable situation. You would have temperatures, I'm sure, up around 110 to 120 degrees in that jail plus the humidity. So I just want to bring that to everybody's attention, too. Am I wrong by saying that? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no, you're right. Commissioner Gellatly said, see there.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say to the Sheriff and others that Commissioner Stone are serving on the Policy Committee — Courts and Safety Committee and we met in Atlanta just a few days ago and we certainly are going to really do as much as we possibly can because they told us that there were supposed to be some compensation coming down to assist with the jail overcrowding, and I think we're getting some conflicting reports so we're going to follow through on those things, and maybe Commissioner Stone would like to comment a little further on it.

Commissioner Stone said, I was just —. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Stone said, I was just going to piggy-back on what you said. We were told, Sheriff, that — by Brian Owens of the Department of Corrections that you should be seeing relief at this time, and that was a presentation given last Monday. Obviously, you're not seeing any relief. As a matter of fact, in our budget today we're looking at allocating another \$798,000, and I think that we need to follow up with this, if this is the message that they're sending out that the Governor's budget did include additional jail space and that you should be seeing relief, but you're not seeing relief, something's wrong. So we need to follow up on that. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, let me just say that the State is doing a much better job in the last few months as he's been doing. Commissioner Stone said, okay. So you're saying —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, my calendar is not near as high as State inmates. It's just that, you know, you get everything going on with Metro PD and other agencies, and they're bringing people in there as fast as we can book them, so to speak. It's not — the problem right now is not really with the State itself except for we have to — we have to keep these technical violators on probation and parole, and that's something I've asked — dealt with the Manager on and, you know, hope to get an opinion on that somewhat soon, but the State is doing a better job than they were. I'm glad they appropriated \$48,000,000 to try to open up. They've got one facility that's never been opened because they don't have the people to open it, but hopefully that's going to help some. Those under 30 and the numbers that we have over 30 days, but the State is not the problem they were. Commissioner Stone said, okay. Well, thank you. That's good to know. At least it's a step in the right direction.

Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence], just a point of clarification. We have how many people who are State inmates that we, the Chatham County citizens, are paying for? About 300? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, if you count the technical violators and probation parole, there are probably over 300, yeah. Commissioner Odell said, and that costs us about what, \$9,000? Chairman Liakakis said, I figured it up. For the State prisoners alone —. Commissioner Farrell said, just the probationers. Chairman Liakakis said, — the probationers alone —, well, if you just

take what the State — 181 on that, 181, it's \$9,000 a day that the citizens are paying extra, you know, for those ones that the State are not picking up, that are probationers. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I have a clear understanding of the law. I understand probationer violators are additional charges, that's a pretrial facility and we've got to change that. The ones that really cause us the problems is the technical violators and probation and parole. Again, we're working on that right now. You know, we're doing the best that we can do. We're just overwhelmed.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Sheriff, thank you very much. I appreciate it. Thank you, Lt. York.

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2. YOUTH COMMISSION GRADUATION.

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do first is to thank Commissioner Priscilla Thomas, who came up with this idea many years ago to put together the Chatham County Youth Commission, which is being copied all over the country now and even —, not only counties but cities are doing it, and we can see that many of the graduates from the Youth Commission have attained a lot of higher things since they have graduated. Many of them — some of them have gone on to college, a number of them have — are in successful businesses and professions, and we really appreciate that. And now I'd like Van Johnson, who is the Director for the Youth Commission, to go through the graduation.

Mr. Van Johnson said, thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, gentlemen. On January 19th of this year, 34,000,000 Americans tuned in to the first episode of season five of the American Idols. We watched as people from across the country gathered and gave the very best that they had. We secretly even laughed at those who did not realize that singing in the shower is not the same thing as singing on stage. We watched the [inaudible] develop. We felt as if we knew them, we rejoiced them and we cried with them, and ultimately 63.4 million votes determined the American Idol. To be honest with you, I was not horribly impressed because Taylor Hicks has never done anything for us and if he was to come here, we would have to pay him handsomely. But let me share with you what did impress me.

Mr. Johnson said, two to three years ago 15 or so 10th and 11th graders walked into the door of this building wanting and desiring to make this community better. They came from all over Chatham County. They came some from a poor family and some from families that were just struggling to make it. Some went to private schools and some went to public schools, but they volunteered hundreds of hours of service to this County. They gave up their weekends and their week ends for Youth Commission events. They had to live their lives under a microscope and under the scrutiny of their parents, administrators, teachers, fellow students and, of course, Dr. Thomas and their Youth Commission leadership team. They watched as some of their colleges were dropped from the program for not doing what they were supposed to do. We rejoiced with them and we cried with them and we watched them grow, and today we are pleased to present to you Chatham County's Idols. What a year it has been! I am pleased to report to you at the end

of this month I will be traveling to Prince George County, Maryland, to speak at the inauguration ceremony at the Prince George County, Maryland, Youth Commission. They came here, they met with our Chairman, Dr. Thomas, our County Manager, and they were so impressed with our program, they are starting their program with \$100,000 seed money.

This Youth Commission worked with the Truancy Task Force to encourage over 50 local businesses to call the Truancy Hotline to report truant students. This Youth Commission has teamed up with the City of Savannah to mentor members of the Savannah Youth Council and identify qualify activities in this community for youth. The Youth Commission is currently working with Chatham Area Transit to address unmet transportation needs for youth in this community. We met County Commissioners from all Georgia, as you know, during the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Conference here in April. We gave a presentation before African-American Public Administrators from all over the country during their annual convention in Fort Worth, Texas, and we have been invited to make a presentation at the National League of Cities Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada, in December.

Chatham County, as you well know, is now the epicenter for youth empowerment and your colleagues from all over the country are interested and impressed by what you're doing right here with youth based on Dr. Thomas' vision and your support. We, as you know, held a youth power home meeting in October with over 500 high school juniors and seniors. This year we raised over \$3,500 for local nonprofits. We held a back-to-school rally and held our ninth annual youth rally in April, and who can forget our five-day journey to the annual legislative conference at the National Association of Counties. Our two-hour meeting with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas that Commissioners Stone and Farrell attended with us and participation in the 2006 Savannah Day in Atlanta event. Thank you and thank you and thank you for supporting this continuing experiment in youth leadership and development. We thank Dr. Thomas for her vision and her constant contributions to the fruition of her vision. We thank our most able County Manager and our number one fan, Mr. Abolt, our Human Resources and Services Director, Mike Kaigler, and our wonderful County departments, our Public Information Director, Pete Nichols, and especially to my staff, Ms. Debra Allen, Ms. Sandra Smalls, who donate endless time and energy to this program, and we also welcome Ms. Takiyah Martin, who's recently joined our team. We also thank the school administration, the teachers, who recognize the Youth Commission as a viable program instrumental to the educational development of our youth. And last, but certainly not least, we thank the parents of our graduates who serve as our partners in progress over the last couple of years. Their support was invaluable and absolutely necessary. These parents are more than transportation and ATM machines. They have invested all that they have and they are the reason that we celebrate today. They were very happy to hear that their loved ones were graduating and they were smiling, but then they found out that most of them are staying right here in Chatham County and their smiles slowly went away. Will the parents and the family members of our graduates please stand and be recognized. [Applause.]

Mr. Johnson said, I'll ask Chairman Liakakis and Dr. Thomas to join me here for the presentation of our graduates.

The following graduates were recognized:

CHAIR	SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION	TERM	COLLEGE
Ms. Chantel Flowers	Beach High School	3rd	Savannah State
VICE CHAIR:			
Mr. Akeem Mitchell	Jenkins High School	2nd	Georgia State
SECRETARY:			
Ms. Katie Watters	Savannah Christian	2nd	Univ of SC - Columbia
Ms. Courtney Andrews	Summer Bonanza (Groves)	3rd	Armstrong Atlantic
Ms. Jhamia Allen	Jenkins High School	3rd	Armstrong Atlantic
Ms. Kevina Bland	Savannah High School	2nd	Tennessee State
Ms. Logan Bryan	St. Vincent's Academy	2nd	Clark Atlanta
Ms. Tahira Davis	St. Vincent's Academy	2nd	Florida A&M University
Ms. Lissy Isaacson	Jewish Educational Alliance (SCD)	3rd	Spend the year in Israel
Mr. William Jackson	Groves High School	3rd	Morehouse
Ms. Brittanie Odum	Groves High School	1st	Savannah State
Ms. Cheree Shipman	Beach High School	2nd	LaGrange College
Mr. Antwan Smalls	Groves High School	2nd	Savannah State
Mr. Stephen Watson	Riley Learning Center	2nd	Savannah Tech
Ms. Darshea Young	St. Paul Academy for Girls	1st	Georgia Southern

Mr. Johnson said, ladies and gentlemen, the Chatham County Idols, the Class of 2006. [Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, to all the family members and your friends, we congratulate each of you and we know how proud you are for your family members here, all of the Youth Commission who are graduating because we see great things for them in the future, and we thank you for what you've done to help them also.

Mr. Johnson said, while you're shaking their hands, we have those who will remain that will carry us forward and I'll ask for those to stand. [Applause.] We would like to give you just a moment to hear from some of our graduates. These are young people who's lives you've forever impacted through your support of this program. These are the lives that you have supported through this program. Our Chairperson, or should I say our former Chairperson — she hates when I say that — you know very well. She has distinguished herself as the leader of this organization for the past year and she was also selected by her peers to serve as Miss Beach High School, and that is Chantel Flowers.

Ms. Flowers said, good morning. Life is a blue sky of infinite possibilities. There's no limit to the goals you can obtain and the success you can achieve. The possibilities are endless and so is your dreams. The Chatham County Youth Commission allowed all my goals to be developed in order for me to reach them. Over the past three years I realized we know not what we are but we know what we want to be. I've been involved in many different organizations, but this organization gave me hope, success and happiness. The first time I knew that this would benefit me was my first year during my second meeting. I was interviewed by the *Savannah Morning News* and I realized that this was the best way to navigate the rules and regulations of our community. I have

been granted and I have earned many gifts through dedication and commitment. I believe that I have proven that I can take a task and stay with it until my goals are met. Being Chair was great, but I almost let this opportunity pass me by. I love to laugh and joke, but when it came time for elections everyone nominated me, but I didn't know why. But I accepted. All my ways remained the same, but my pride held strong with faith. I thought maybe I am not the person for the job but if they believe in me, then I'll do it. Now I'm closing a chapter of one part of life and beginning a new one. If you can reach options such as patience, time, effort and impart, look at other actions without judging and seeing not with your eyes but with your heart, then this position is for you. If you can take resources that surround you and use them in a way you feel is good and successful, and all of those around you will be richer from your leadership. As we embark upon our new life, you have created a world of limitless horizons. The light will guide us to a journey that will serve us on the most face value. Even when obstacles stood in our way, you kept us strong and gave us faith. Words really can't begin to express the joy felt for this organization. Through the long and sometimes difficult process I was taught the major life issues, such as don't see things as they are and ask why, see things as they could be and ask why not. Beauty is how you feel inside and it reflects through your eyes. And, finally, if you can perceive it, then believe in it, and you will achieve it. Power is something that people in Chatham County strive for, but I never realized how much the Youth Commission has until one day Mr. Johnson and I were sitting around talking about how can we get the youth to come out and express their concerns. I knew the Chatham County Youth Commission had power when we had our first Youth Hall Town Meeting for the youth. They showed me all things are possible. My fellow peers, my encouragement to you is to remember that the road to success is not straight. There's a curve called failure and a loop called confusion, speed bumps called friends, red lights called grace, caution lights called family, and you will have flats called jobs. But if you have a space, a spare called determination, and an envy called perseverance, insurance called faith, and a [inaudible] called — entitled as yourself, you will make it to a place called success. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson said, our second graduate is undoubtedly one of your biggest success stories. He was our first student to serve from Riley Learning Center. He was also our first student to be on active juvenile probation while in the Youth Commission, and we gave him a very, very, very hard. I'm pleased to state that at the beginning of this month Stephen Watson returned to his home school, Windsor Forest, and walked across the stage and received his high school diploma. Stephen Watson.

Mr. Watson said, well, I didn't write a big speech. Bear with me please. Good morning to Dr. Thomas and Mr. Van Johnson, the County Commissioners, graduating Youth Commissioners, staying Youth Commissioners, families and friends. I'm standing here today to stay thank you to a few special people in my life and to the Youth Commission for the best two years in my life. To Mr. Van Johnson for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime to be on the Youth Commission. I really thank you a lot. To Dr. Thomas for allowing me to join this great organization that you and Mr. Johnson put together. I loved it. And to the very special in my life, my parents. Thank you for never letting me become a follower and forcing me to become a leader, even through the rough times in my life. For that I could never ask for any better parents than the two wonderful parents I have standing my side every day of my life. I love them.

Mr. Johnson said, we're almost finished. Our final graduate, when I met him I had a head full of hair and it was all black. If I had a last nerve, he worked it. And William "Curly" Jackson has earned his graduation from Groves High School, but he has also earned our respect.

Mr. Jackson said, first I honor God, who's the head of my life. To Dr. Thomas, Alderman Johnson, and all the City and County officials. My name is William Jackson and I am a graduate of Groves High School and I have served on this wonderful Commission for three years. When I think of what the Chatham County Youth Commission really is, it is a family and a team of motivated young adults who are not afraid to say what needs to be said and express themselves in a dignified manner. It is an organization of young adults from different cultures, races, backgrounds and situations who have overcome society and opposition. What has happened in my case, many of you know of my mother, Ms. Katherine Jackson. How could you not? What many of you don't know is that she's not my biological mother. She and her husband — my dad, Elijah Jackson — adopted me. My mother was murdered when I was four and I have never seen my biological father. My dad, Elijah Jackson, died when I was six. Ms. Jackson has been my everything since I can remember and I will not have it any other way. I tell you this not for sympathy, but to draw you a picture that will show you how weak we are. No matter how different we are, we all have the same purpose, and that is to make sure that the youth who are not as blessed as us are being given a chance to succeed. The Chatham County Youth Commission helped build a foundation on which we, the graduates, will now start to pave our road to success. Dr. Thomas, your vision has made our opportunity to be heard a reality. For this, Dr. Thomas, we thank you. To Chatham County, we thank you for believing in Dr. Thomas and allowing her dream to come through. We also thank you for your continuing support and money. To my mother and all the other parents, thank you. Thank you because without you and your teachings, none of this would be possible. I know sometimes my mother sees me on the news and hears me always talking, she's very proud of me. That makes it all worthwhile. Now, Mr. Johnson, you have always taken my expressive and ambitious will and put them to good use. Even if it was in front of few or a few hundred, you have always had confidence in my ability to perform even when I did not. For this I thank you. I don't think you know how much of an impact you have had on my life and the lives of every other child in the Youth Commission. You're not only my mentor, but my friend. You have helped me show Savannah — not only Savannah, but the United States that not all of our young Black people are on the streets or locked up. Last, but not least, to all my fellow graduates, this is not the end for us, but only the beginning. It is now time for us to start building on our foundation for the road to success. It will not be easy or always fun. My mother always tells me when I complain to her about my progress: You haven't see anything yet, but remember that God will never put any more on you than you can bear. So when life tells you it can not be done, you stare life down and ask boldly, why not."

Mr. Jackson said, Dr. Thomas, would you come forward please. Now on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, we know that we cannot repay you any amount of money [inaudible], but what we do have is a small token of our love and our appreciation for your vision and your continuous hard work. [NOTE: A gift was presented to Commissioner Thomas.]

Mr. Johnson said, just a couple of more presentations and we'll be finished. The Beverly M. Whitehead Award will be presented at this time.

Ms. Monica R. Whitehead said, my first time giving this award was in 2004, so this will make my third year in having the honor of giving my mother's award. The Beverly M. Whitehead Award was first given in 1999 in honor of my mother, who served as Chatham County's Human Resources Director from 1988 until 1998. But sadly after ten years of dedicated work, on August 20th she passed of 1998. This award recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist the youth of Chatham County. Previous recipients include Dr. Priscilla Thomas, County Manager Russ Abolt, Pete Nichols, Savannah BluePrint, Rody's Music, Excursions Unlimited, WTOC, Kim Gusby, and others. The first recipient is a friend of everyone, including the youth. He has proved to be a great supporter of and an ambassador for the Chatham County Youth Commission. It gives me pleasure to present the 2006 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to the Chairman of the Chatham County Commission, the Honorable Pete Liakakis.

Chairman Liakakis said, this is a big surprise but I thank you very much. And it says on this plaque, "And a child shall led them," and we have seen, you know, what these children have done and we've got a great County Commission and our Chatham County Youth Commission have done wonderful things in our community and many of them have, you know, gone to greater things. We thank them very much, but, you know, some people say, "Why do you want to spend all this time, you know, to have a graduation and all," but it's important because what we're doing today, we're recognizing these graduates here, the youth in our community, and their families and all of their friends, and if we had more of this and programs like this, we wouldn't have the crime in our community, we wouldn't have the other problems. So I thank each and every one of you. I thank you very much for this award, and may God bless you all.

Mr. Akeem Mitchell said, good morning. My name is Akeem Mitchell and I served as the Vice Chairman for the Chatham County Youth Commission for this past year. If you look around Chatham County over the next few months, you will see the results and the efforts of our second recipient. You will see the Chatham County Youth Commission billboards all around the County that promote safe teen driving. Although relatively new to the insurance business, this individual thought enough of the Chatham County Youth Commission to assist us in receiving a \$5,000 grant to provide a safe teen driving program for Chatham County Youth that will result in a discount in our parent's insurance rate. How about a hand of applause for that? [Applause.] So I am pleased to present the 2006 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to State Farm Insurance Agent, Ms. Verdell Jones.

Ms. Verdell Jones said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and to thank you all for the great job that you do. One of my clients, Mr. Anumolu, was in my office one day and his dad brought him in and we were just talking about safe teen drivers and, as a result of our conversation, he introduced me to Mr. Van Johnson, and we thought this was a worthy cause to solicit State Farm for a grant. So, again, it was my pleasure to help you and I look forward to helping you again in the future.

Ms. Katie Watters said, hi. I'm Katie Watters. I was Secretary last year. Our final recipients are friends of ours. We are both working to make this community a better place to live. This organization goes out in the streets to locate and become friends with young people who have

run away from home. Whenever the Youth Commission has a function, this group is right there to assist us. I'm happy to present the 2006 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to the Savannah Runaway Homes Street Outreach Program.

Ms. Serviah Urchison said, my name is Serviah Urchison and on behalf of the Street Outreach Program, I would like to say thank you. Ms. Whitney Bing said, hello. My name is Whitney Bing and on behalf of the Street Outreach Program, I would also like to thank you for recognizing all of our efforts.

Mr. Johnson said, and finally, thank you so much again for your patience, but we really think this is important and we appreciate that you believe so as well. The Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the Year Award is named after Brandon Brown, a 2000 graduate of the Youth Commission who was killed suddenly in January 2004. This award recognizes a Youth Commissioner that is selected by his or her peers for demonstrating the most leadership and citizenship over the past year. To present the Brandon Brown Youth Commission of the Year Award is Brandon's mother, Ms. Sadie Brown.

Ms. Sadie Brown said, good morning. Before I present this award, I'd like to say from the bottom of my heart that this organization is the epitome of what our youth are. Not what they could be, what they are now, and the fact that they will bring so much to other youth. As someone said up here that, you know, we have those that are incarcerated, but for one of these by them touching one child, that child will touch another, and these 15 or 30 or 40 young people you have up here will touch our city in an enormous way, including your staff. I have students here who's children are here. You see how that generation goes on and one. You have one graduating, I taught her mother. You have another working for you, I taught her. I salute these young people and I say to the parents: congratulate, hug and remember your children or they may be gone and you will not be able to do this again. After saying that, I would like to present this award to Katherine Blackburn. [Applause.] Ms. Brown said, continue on to be the exemplary person that you are for you do not know how many people you have touched just by being here. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Thomas said, we know that we have spent a lot of time, but before we bring this to a close I would like to personally thank the Chatham County Commissioners for your support. I would also like to thank the former Commissioners because it was the Commissioners at that time who bought into this project. So I want to thank all of the past Commissioners as well. I would be remiss if I did not say that Mr. Van Johnson has not only been the director. He's been a father, he's been a mentor, he's been everything, and this man works hard. He gives up his time. He just works so hard with these young people and I have to give all the credit to him. I'm behind the scenes a lot, but I'm there with him, but he puts out 150%. So today let's show some love for Alderman Van Johnson. [Applause.] It's an everyday commitment with him. Everyday — seven days a week, believe it or not, and we want to say to you thank you so very much. Continue to work with these young people because I'm not going to always be here and I want — he doesn't like to hear that — because I tell him that all the time. But I'm hoping — we never know —, but I'm hoping and praying that this Commission will continue on through anybody's lifetime. I'd like to say to the graduating students, graduation today is a day to celebrate. It's a

day that you will explore a new world and it's also a day that you will look into the adventures of the future. Congratulations.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. ADDITION TO AGENDA FOR JUNE 12TH MEETING. (PENDING)

Chairman Liakakis said, we have no addition to the agenda that was pending. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, we did. Chairman Liakakis asked, you have that item now because it wasn't on this.

County Manager Abolt said, no sir, it was in your packet, sir. This has to do with an item you want to put on your Action Calendar, if you choose. Mr. Monahan was about finding rental space that will help in working around the Courthouse on Montgomery Street. I would just ask that you take that staff report and, if you don't have on in front of you we'll get another one, and put it on your Action Calendar. I'll give my copy to the Clerk.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Would you want — do we have —, let me explain. Go ahead, Pat [Shay]. Commissioner Shay said, I'd like to make a motion that we add this item that the Manager has recommended to our Action Calendar for later in this meeting. Commissioner Farrell said, I'll second it. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second on that? Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Now what we'll have to do because the board is malfunctioning, I'll ask for a vote and we have to do that by a show of hands today?

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, which item is this? County Manager Abolt said, it was distributed to you earlier —, well, actually the latter part of last week. It has to do with the rental or lease of property at 410 West Broughton Street. This would allow for overflowing use from the Montgomery Street Courthouse. The rate is \$3,500 a month or \$15 a square foot, which is very reasonable, as you know.

Chairman Liakakis said, in fact, that was the cheapest that they could get, the lowest amount, and it's really advantageous for the County to take that position because now the renovation is going to full stream ahead in the County Courthouse. That way they'll be able to put those people that are working in that area. County Manager Abolt said, excuse me. It provides 2700 square feet of space to house the District Court Administrator, some of the Sheriff's office operations and Board of Assessors staffing, and it runs from the 1st of July of this year until December of the following year, 2007.

Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor of this motion please signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present when this vote was taken.]

Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. It was unanimous except for Priscilla [Thomas], who is outside with the [Youth] Commission.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to add as Item X-15-Q, an item regarding the lease of 410 West Broughton Street to provide 2,700 square feet of space to house the District Court Administrator, some Sheriff's Office operations and Board of Assessors' staffing. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present when this vote was taken.]

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. BRIEFING ON RESTAURANT INSPECTION BY DR. SKELTON (COMMISSIONER SHAY). *Request delay until the 23rd of June.*

Chairman Liakakis said, there has been a request to delay that until the 23rd of June.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was delayed and will be placed on the agenda for June 23, 2006.

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2. PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO PROPERTY OWNERS AFFECTED BY STREET PAVING (COMMISSIONER STONE).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I requested that this be on the agenda as the result of a current road paving that's going on in my district, and there were some issues that the residents felt like their input would be beneficial and they were not aware that this was in the works. And I was wondering what the possibility of notification either by a sign being posted on the streets that are about to be paved or either notification by mail so that the residents are aware. And, again in this case, there's a lot of piping that needs to be placed on the side of the road, silt fencing and these kind of things, and I think that if residents had a heads-up, it might be beneficial

for the minor inconvenience that occurs as well as any additional input as this is going to affect the front of their homes.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, a very good suggestion. No excuses ever, but the situation presented itself because we have not had experience over all these years in building these roads where we've not had to acquire right-of-way, and here's a situation, very unique, where that was not necessary. So we were about just building the road with the assumption that people would like it. We've learned our lesson and we're going to make some adjustments. We've sent you correspondence on that from Mr. Bungard. We're going to make, in effect, modifications to allow some of this drainage, covering, piping, as Commissioner Stone refers to, but it's an extremely good suggestions and when we run in those situations where we are not working with neighbors, we'll make sure they know in advance what we're going to do.

Commissioner Stone asked, does that need a vote, Mr. County Manager? County Manager Abolt said, it does not. We've learned the hard way. Commissioner Stone said, okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

No action was required by the Commissioners.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Upon motion made by Commissioner Farrell, seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and unanimously approved, the Board recessed as the County Commission at 10:40 a.m., and convened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present when this vote was taken.]

Following motion made by Commissioner Kicklighter, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved, the Board reconvened at 12:15 p.m., as the County Commission. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

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REQUEST COUNTY COMMISSION ADOPT RESOLUTION FOR EXTENSION OF OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY.

Chairman Liakakis said, I would like a motion on the floor to adopt a resolution for extension of the Operating Agreement with the Chatham Area Transit Authority. As you remember, we talked about, you know, the amount, that what we will do is extend it until December 31st. Commissioner

Shay said, until September 30th. This is the contract with CAT not with CAT’s management and we said we would extend the operating agreement until the end of September or until they presented us with a budget. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Is that correct, Jonathan [Hart]? County Attorney Hart said, I don’t know. I wasn’t in there.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a —, we’ll need a motion on the floor to adopt the resolution for extension of Operating Agreement with the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I’ll move that we approve the extension of the Operating Agreement with the Chatham Area Transit Authority until the end of September or until they bring us a budget, whichever comes first. Commissioner Farrell said, I’ll second. Do we have any discussion? All in favor signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

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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 (*).

1. ITEM C FROM PURCHASING REPORT WAS TABLED AT THE MAY 26, 2006, MEETING.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUN T</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
C. Purchase and installation of an Evidence Presentation System	Juvenile Court	Remote Technologies (Sole Source)	\$25,840	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court

Chairman Liakakis said, I’d like a motion to bring that back up, to take it off the table. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, for those people in the audience to understand, our Board is not operational and that’s why we’re having to raise our hands right now. It’s malfunctioning for those that weren’t in the previous meeting.

Chairman Liakakis said, this particular item now that we just voted to take off the table is the purchase and installation of an Evidence Presentation System for Juvenile Court and that Remote Technology, which is the sole source, for \$25,840. We had discussion at the last meeting. There was — asked that that be tabled, but if you remember in the budget now, looking back into it in the past, that it was approved in the budget previously for these two particular units. Of course, they want a third unit, and I see Brian Hart is in the back. Brian [Hart], would you come to the well please and explain this?

Mr. Brian Hart said, Brian Hart, Court Administrator, Juvenile Court. You're correct. This is just the second of a three-part, I guess, plan if you will to purchase an Evidence Presentation System. The decision to do this predates me, but what I understand from talking to folks is that rather than try to purchase all three of them at one time, we would [inaudible] do the installation all at one time, is that we would purchase them over a three-budget period. So this is the second one and in our decision package for next year is the third one which will come to you, I guess, in July. What we hope to do is install this one and the one that would come to you in July at the same time so we will recognize some efficiency that way and maybe save us some us [inaudible].

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I have a great idea. I think we can save it all. I've looked at this. I practice law. I don't do much in Juvenile Court. We don't have this system in Recorder's Court, Magistrate Court or Probate Court. While I think it's good that some of the Superior Court Judges have it, it's not in all of the State Court Judges — the State Court courtrooms, we've got some substantial problems that we need to resolve in Juvenile Court. This is to me not at the top of that list, although it's only \$25,000. I don't see the necessity as a practitioner. The judges are not going to use this at the Elmo System. The attorneys who practice in that court are. Mr. Hart said, and I think that probably to make a comparison between this, this is just from an observation on my side, is that if you, from a delinquency standpoint where you have [inaudible], which is a crime as far as Superior Court, we have presented evidence to the jurors such as that, that you have the sole trier of fact, which is the judge in this case, and probably while I've seen it used and it has its advantages on the delinquent side, where I think you'll see more of the advantage is on the deprivation side, in my opinion, where they've got groups of people in there from your panel reviews and that sort of thing that are sitting in there to see these, whether it's pictures or documents that need to be presented, where you've got a group of people like you would with a jury trial where you can see the — really, I think you're going to see more of this on the deprivation side. A lot of people really don't feel that —.

Commissioner Odell said, deprivation hearings are not held only every day. I want us to get away from the policy that every judge should have every one of these and are not sharing it. There's nothing that says that we can't do a better job in scheduling so if we're going to use it in a deprivation hearing, use Courtroom A, that's where you do deprivation, you can slap it on and show pictures all day. But it is in my opinion a waste of taxpayer's money to have three when you it's questionable whether you we even need one, when one could do it. And I — I practice law. I'm not trying to offend any judge. My obligation is not to represent the judges, but to represent

little old ladies, who've retired who have to pay taxes, and this is money that we can better spend elsewhere. And that is my humble opinion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, based on the fact that an attorney that stands before these judges feels strongly that this is not needed, I trust in his opinion so much that I will relieve the burden and I will make a motion to not approve this request. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me say this to you Brian [Hart] so you can take it back. We know how important the Juvenile Court is to our community. The judges are working hard over there and all, but many comments have come to me in my office concerning this. Some people from the courthouse even have discussed this with me and all, and we have to look at the whole picture. But I want you to know that, as he mentioned, that if specific hearings that you have, you know, just have it in that particular court since you have an Elmo System in there to use it like that as opposed to spend almost \$51,000 for two more of those systems, one more now and another one that's coming up in a budget situation.

Mr. Hart said, and like I say, I'm kind of at a disadvantage here because I wasn't there at the planning stages, but I can just deliver to you what the plan was at this point. But what I would ask is that maybe, and I maybe should go back and talk with the judges about it and get them to get in contact with —, could we get in contact with your office maybe, and if you want to come out there and take a look at it to see the consideration of that suggestion there, you might should do that. It's certainly something that you could look at and through planning maybe try to do.

Commissioner Odell said, Brian [Hart], my major concern is that we are having to tighten our belts. I want to share that responsibility all over. I am concerned that you don't need three out there, and we really need where the rubber hits the road now so that everyone knows, just because Judge A has this particular equipment, doesn't justify Judge B having it if there's no need, and there's going to be a greater sharing. Mr. Hart said, and I would think what you —. Commissioner Odell said, we going to act like this is our only little purview that we're going to share and have to tighten our belts like everyone else. Mr. Hart said, the only thing that I would say to that, just thinking off the top of my head and thinking about the process, I can see where all three would use at the same time and whether or not you can schedule around that. If that was all you had I guess you'd have to figure out maybe a way to do it, and I'm not saying you can't do it —. Commissioner Odell said, let me respond to that. Mr. Hart said, — maybe some of those, especially that might would take place.

Commissioner Odell said, your statement assumes that it is a necessity for each judge to have one. Let me just finish. They're doing it now without it. How do we struggle through now without it? You know, it's — we're getting through and we don't have it. There's not been any major injustice. Federal Court isn't intervening and saying if we don't give those people Elmos, we're going to close you down. This is a luxury, it's a high-end luxury. We need to treat it as that. Whether you're in Juvenile Court or whether you're in Public Works, we'll look at this as one organization and we're going to meet the dramatic needs first. This is not a dramatic need, and I'll call the judges and tell them about it.

Mr. Hart said, and that's what I was going to add. I don't much worry how you're go about doing this, but with this being in this budget, is there a way to, and I'm thinking this may be more of Finance question, I don't know, to accrue it and then the third one that we would come back in July to ask what I was talking about and that we would not come back for that and did not make the purchase, if it's not necessary, and then get — so we can have further discussion about this. I just don't — we budgeted for it in this year's budget. I don't want to lose the opportunity to make that purchase and then be delayed another year. Like I say, they've being doing — making presentations in court without it. They could do warrants and that sort of stuff and the petitions and all that without a computer if they had a typewriter, but a computer is more efficient, which I think is the example that Judge Beam used in his letter to them. So that we can have further discussion and lose the opportunity. That's all I'm looking for, just how we might could go about doing that.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm willing for y'all to lose the opportunity. Okay?

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm going to give another analogy there, to put it a little better in layman's language. This is where we fuss for high-speed internet instead of regular internet. Overhead projectors, they work really good and I don't know the cost, but probably a couple or few hundred dollars for an overhead projector. It will take a second longer to lay that transparency on there or position it, but the \$25,000 difference keeping in mind, and I now understand why they hired you. You did a great job lobbying for what they're requesting, but, you know, in looking at the big picture, if they need it in every courtroom, logically State Court does and Superior Court does and before you know it we've gotten millions of dollars worth of these fancy projectors. The MPC has one, we don't utilize one here. Sure, it would be nice to have things thrown up on a nice fancy screen, but, you know, at the expense of our duty to represent all aspects, taxes, taxpayers, judicial systems as far as getting the job done. You know, I personally can live with a defense attorney defending criminals having to take the transparency and lay it overhead. I see no problem with that and I call for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, the question has been called for so there's no further discussion. As everybody knows, everybody in favor signify by raising your hand. County Attorney Hart asked, in favor of —? Commissioner Odell said, in favor of the motion that —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, the motion is to not approve the request. Commissioner Shay said, a motion to deny. Chairman Liakakis said, in other words —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, to deny the request. Chairman Liakakis said, the request that came in from the court is to purchase a \$25,840 Elmo System to show evidence.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, voting yes is voting against them being able to purchase this. That's my motion. Commissioner Gellatly said, we understand.

Chairman Liakakis asked, everybody in favor of denying the purchase of this unit, please signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Mr. Hart asked, so do we need to remove the third one —, I guess would be to move the third one from the decision packet? Chairman Liakakis said, well, since this one was denied. Mr. Hart said, I'm just trying to make sure —. Chairman Liakakis said, you might talk to the —. County Manager Abolt said, if it's in the decision package, it's not funded. This is not being purchased and right now the decision package does not call —. Mr. Hart said, [inaudible]. I was thinking [inaudible.]

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you, Brian [Hart]. Appreciate you coming.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for discussion. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was not present when this vote was taken.]

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to deny the request of Juvenile Court to purchase and install an Evidence Presentation System from Remote Technologies at the cost of \$25,840. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present when this vote was taken.]

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING: (1) AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET TO (A) RECOGNIZE \$30,000 IN REVENUE FROM THE RECREATION AUTHORITY, (B) RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL INTANGIBLE REVENUE OF \$200,000, (C) RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX OF \$100,000, (D) RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX OF \$229,000, (E) RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF GEORGIA OF \$149,000, (F) RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL INTEREST REVENUE OF \$120,000, (G) APPROPRIATE \$30,000 TO THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND (H) APPROPRIATE \$798,000 TO THE DETENTION CENTER, (2) AN AMENDMENT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) BUDGET TO RECOGNIZE \$28,000 IN REVENUE FROM THE RECREATION AUTHORITY AND APPROPRIATE \$28,000 TO THE CIP RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROJECT, (3) TRANSFERS WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND**

M&O OF (A) \$6,653 IN THE COUNTY MANAGER'S BUDGET FROM VARIOUS LINE ITEMS TO OVERTIME, (B) \$23,024 FROM INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES TO MOTOROLA RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE DEBT SERVICE, (C) \$182,920 FROM FUEL CONTINGENCY TO UTILITIES, (4) A TRANSFER OF \$5,735 FROM INTEREST ON TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES TO MOTOROLA RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE DEBT SERVICE IN THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SSD) FUND, AND (6) TRANSFERS BETWEEN DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN CIP OF (A) \$2,811 FROM PIPEMAKER TO WESTLAKE AND (B) \$513 FROM TALMADGE TO KINGS WAY.

Chairman Liakakis said, do we have a motion on the floor for those items. Commissioner Farrell said, so moved. Chairman Liakakis asked, do you second? Commissioner Stone said, I'll second, but I want to discuss —. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Discussion?

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gellatly made a very good suggestion in our pre-meeting this morning, which when we elaborated on the \$798,000 to the Detention Center and, Commissioner Gellatly, I'll defer to you exactly how you phrased this, but a report about the inmate population.

Commissioner Gellatly said, well, I'm sorry. Chairman Liakakis said, in other words, she wants you to —. Commissioner Gellatly said, I heard the part that it was brilliant, but —. Chairman Liakakis said, she wants you to repeat —. Commissioner Stone said, I don't think I said brilliant. Chairman Liakakis said, she wants the suggestion about the software, you know, to keep the information for the prisoners and all. Commissioner Stone said, to categorize what the offenses of our prisoners at the inmate facilities. Chairman Liakakis said, time elements and all of that.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yeah. I think it's important that we develop a computer software program that would identify who's at —, number one, who's in the jail from the very worst person that needs to be there, if not under the jail, as opposed to a person that doesn't need to be there at all. Also, to determine the standards of, for instance, if the judge revokes probation, how many days are likely to be in that jail before the judge is going to see them again and that we have standards throughout the system so that we can pull up any time of the day or night, pull up a system to determine who's in there, who's the worst person in there, who's the least worse person, who in the system — be it a judge or anyone else — is responsible for having people in that jail maybe unnecessarily. You know, in other words, if we have a judge that continues a case for whatever reason and are not going to look at them again for another six months, why we need to —, there may be a really good reason for that, but it needs to be a document that could be shared by everybody. And that's a computer system that has to be developed that everyone has to sign off on. There has to be —, it controls the numbers, you develop standards for everybody that's in the system and you can see whether those standards are being met or they're not being met.

Commissioner Stone said, I mean, and all of those in response to — to be for the \$798,000 that we're now having to contribute because our inmate population is, according to our Sheriff, 1664 inmates.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, not to lose the moment and not to take exception with the characterization of brilliance, but you might want to, without having to have Commissioner Gellatly repeat it, have a motion that in effect you would approve to have it go to Mr. Lawton, who is the Chairman of the Jail Population Management Committee, which meets next week. I would think it would be very beneficial to the moment for you to put into words which would amount to a motion what Commissioner Gellatly just said, with the direction that it be given to Mr. Lawton, Chair of the Jail Population Committee.

Commissioner Odell said, may I also add that I'd like to see the various probation departments to be included in this and —. Commissioner Gellatly said, oh, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, — and the reason, and I'm not certain if they are a part of this —. They are? County Manager Abolt said, they are. Commissioner Odell said, — all of the —. County Manager Abolt said, it's universal. Commissioner Odell said, — in that report. County Manager Abolt said, in all the [inaudible] over many, many years, probation was always there.

Chairman Liakakis said, what I would like to see is everyone that puts people into that jail and everyone that keeps people in that jail, that we know who they are and we develop some standards on it where we don't just leave people in for an indefinite period of time, the computer programs should trigger that we've got a problem and it should be —. I would venture a guess that if we looked around the country that we wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel on this. I'm sure that there are other places that have similar type software that we could borrow some.

County Manager Abolt said, my experience has been that from the standpoint of data processing they have the raw data. They don't have the standards. The standards are due to interpretation from the participants in the jail population.

Commissioner Gellatly said, and I wouldn't venture a guess what those standards ought to be except that they ought to be established where everybody knows what they are.

Commissioner Odell said, I think his point goes beyond that. What David [Gellatly] has said, we don't — and ___ can correct that —, we don't have a system which you can easily go to and make a determination based upon the multiple breakdown on our fingers to go from 34 convicted murderers —, don't convicted but waiting trial — charged with murder, ain't too much question that those people need to be in jail. But a \$8 shoplifting for a first offense, if that person can't make bond in whatever amount, then the citizens are in fact ultimately punished. I think the system — and David [Gellatly] will make the motion that Russ [Abolt] is looking.

Commissioner Gellatly said, that's what I said in the form of a motion. Commissioner Odell said, ditto.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Colonel McArthur Holmes.

Col. Holmes said, just a comment. We do have a Jail Information Manage System that will tell me who's in the jail and how long they've been there. It will not tell me all of the particulars as to why they have been there 1200 days and have not been to court yet. Each one of those cases has to be individually looked at too, and I think that's what we're looking into now.

Commissioner Gellatly said, this is what I'm saying, there ought to be standards for that. Anyone that contributes to putting people into the jail, there ought to be standards. You know, if it's a judge or if it's someone — a probation parole officer that puts someone in there, they should not have the option of just leaving them in there for an indefinite period of time. In other words, if it's five days, when it hits six days that computer ought to spit that out and someone ought to be taking a look at that and, hey, we've got a problem here.

Col. Holmes said, there's a report that periodically send to the judges letting them know who we've got in jail and how many days and how many days they —.

Commissioner Gellatly said, Colonel, I don't think that onus ought to be on the jail administration. I think that Spencer Lawton and everyone in the system ought to agree to it that these are our standards and we're going to comply with these standards. And, you know, right now it would be very difficult for us to determine whether someone on a minor probation sitting in there for a violation has been in there for two weeks, 30 days, 60 days, and that shouldn't happen. There shouldn't be someone just sitting there on minor offenses at \$45 and \$50 a day and someone that's no danger to the community, we need to have a system that all the players, and the jail is just one player, everyone that contributes to that jail population, you have to have standards.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, let me just ask a question.

Chairman Liakakis asked, what Commissioner Gellatly is talking about it, does that particular software that you have right now, does it have to have the ability to put all of this other information in there? Col. Holmes said, I think you're going to have something with the individuals from the County Information System to come in and look at what the potentials might be, but again what you're going to have to do is you're going to get the participation from everybody within the criminal justice community to input the information that we're talking about or it won't work. Everybody's got to be part of one system.

Commissioner Odell said, and that the system cannot be automatic. I mean, the reporting needs to be automatic — weekly.

Col. Holmes said, yes. If you look historically, 12 years ago or 14 years ago we were booking anywhere from 16,000 to 17,000 inmates a year. We had an average daily population of about 750 or 800. Today we are booking about 18,000, which is just a few hundred more than what we were doing at that period and the County's 1664. Something is wrong somewhere in the system, and I think this will be a step toward at least identifying some of those issues.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, part of that what's happening is clearly — and I addressed this before. The cities used to share in the jail expenses at a much higher rate than the currently do so the cities used to monitor whether or not someone that took a 15¢ lollipop was sitting in jail for 20 days, they would make sure that the punishment fit the crime. Now that the County assumed a large portion, and I know that we all went back and negotiated and the City started paying some again to help, but the monitoring there is definitely, and I'll just say it like it is, that's a big part of the reason. Col. Holmes said, after 28 days it's ours. Commissioner Kicklighter said, exactly. What I think, to just kind of expand of what Commissioner Gellatly proposed here, I think there needs to be certain thresholds in there with the specific crimes and once you cross that threshold what Commissioner Odell said basically, an automatic e-mail to every party involved whether it be the City, the District Attorney, all involved asking, you know, have you taken a look at this person that this committed this crime. Apparently it's gone past the average date or whatever and where are we as far as the, you know, trial and then at that point I think the program could be created in a way, because there's people out there that can do it, that if the parties do not reply, automatically the program's going to kick it back to y'all that there was no reply, and if it does, you'll get your reply which if they do what they should do and —.

Col. Holmes said, I think there may be some information systems out there that we don't have to reinvent the wheel. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, exactly.

Chairman Liakakis said, Jon [Hart], some of the points that Commissioner Kicklighter brought up, I don't think that we can do that. Isn't that up to the court system? County Attorney Hart said, well, you can try to set a set of guidelines or standards about how you'd like to see cases run if they run on a regular tract or if there's nothing unusual. But as far as the ability to tell a court, you know, you will do this or you will do that —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm not saying to tell the court anything. You misunderstand me. County Attorney Hart said, you can certainly have a measuring stick —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you're from a representative of the taxpayers simply asking an easy question of why is this person sitting in jail costing the taxpayers \$55 a day when they took a 15¢ lollipop. You know, I mean, that's the question. There's no telling the judge what to do.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just wanted to say, and it may have been said, but I just wanted to say that I'm sure that as far as the software and other stuff that needs to go with all of what we're talking about, that we would utilize our information system's office to help us with that. We do have some of them back here 10 days have some of them back there today that, you know, that are listening.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I was just going to make the comment that it sounds like some of these people might be being held too long and, for instance, the conversation I had in the hall with the

Sheriff about the technical violators, and they're taking up space and this could be a problem, and it would certainly be beneficial if they could be identified as such, is what I'm —.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, okay. One of the advantages that I see to this, and we can put them together, you know, any time that the crime rate goes up in Chatham County, the first thing everyone does is zero in of what is the Police Department doing or they're not doing, you know? Nobody ever looks at the court system because if you call a judge, he's not going to return your phone call, and there's no standards that they're established at all. With this type of a system, with agreed upon standards and we, as elected officials, not involved in this, this is also a public document. So the next time they want to see that we've got standards and we've got a five-day standard here and we've consistently in one particular courtroom have someone sitting there for 30 to 60 days or what have you, why now you have an interesting news article, you know, and this is a good thing. The public needs to know this, you know, and again I say in a jail population with 1600 people there's someone that really, really needs to be in jail. At the other end of that 1600 there's someone that has no business to be in that jail, and at the very least if they were released it would have no impact on the community, and you have to realize that you have a segment in that jail that likes to be in jail. You know, anyone in this room the worst thing that could happen to them is to be booked in the County jail, but there are people in society that at least if you're in jail you've got a roof over your head, you've got excellent medical coverage and you get three meals a day, you know. So you have some people that are not participating in their own defense to get out of jail because they like it right where they are at, you know. So these are — you've got to have a system, you've got to have a computer system that all the players sign off on and then there should be a public document at least something that we can all evaluate to see who's gumming up the system. We can't do that now because we don't have a clue.

Commissioner Odell said, I tend to think that the users would want this too. Commissioner Gellatly said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, and the reason is that it would provide some consistency and continuity. We have several different courts in this jurisdiction and some of them have concurrent jurisdictions so they'd be handling the same types of offense. It would be interesting to note if there's a substantial variance just for consistency, and I think that there can be no responsibility unless you have accountability. Our system [inaudible] and it's not. The people say, well, they act like the police are going out causing the crime. It's a lot deeper and we need to be able to analyze it and David's [Gellatly] idea, I think, is just excellent. I'd like to put a time limit on when this comes back to the Commission, and the reason is that I've seen good ideas, because some people don't like them — and Russ [Abolt] is never one of those people — that down the vine, and I don't want to see this idea down the vine because not only is it costing us money, we're not certain if the City is internally equitable, consistent or rational. This will make that determination. It will ensure accountability at all levels. Commissioner Thomas said, well said.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah, I just wanted to bring to the Commission's attention a piece of information. About a week ago I met with the Clerk of Superior Court Dan Massey, and the purpose of that meeting was to discuss how you go about creating a memorandum of understanding as between the Superior Court, State Court, the DA's office and the Sheriff's office in regards to how they plan to handle their future information systems. And the concept of that meeting was to try to hammer out a method by which eventually they'll have a communication system that's inter-operative so that, you know, you don't have to have the same data being re-entered when it goes from the Superior Court to the Sheriff's office. It's just automatically transferred, and there seems to be a pretty good bit of support and enthusiasm for that. So I expect very shortly we'll probably going to be seeing back from at least the Superior Court Clerk a real valiant effort to try to get everybody on board.

Commissioner Odell said, I know. He spoke to Pete [Liakakis] and myself about one-stop shopping. You've got people, I see them everyday wandering around the courthouse because they now have to go there and he's speaking of a central location to handle some of the central problems that the vast majority of the people come into our courthouse.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, sir, why don't you include in your motion a time in which you want the Jail Population Committee Meeting to report back to you. First of August, 15th of August, something like that? Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we'll get to that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, after sitting here I truly believe that the idea is genius and brilliant. I said it before, I think the major impact on crime that we can have is somehow holding judges, DA's office, accountable. The police officers will tell you on the street every day they arrest people in the morning to watch them walk down the street and taunt them at night. And it's disturbing for the police officers. They work their butts off and people will — and I'm taking nationwide, not just Chatham County, everywhere — and they let them out on the streets when they have the ability to sentence them to tougher laws. The laws are out there and I think that this program, if done right, would track — it needs to track actually the cases that are actually settled. We need to expand it. How many cases are settled in comparison for the different categories, average time that they were settled in that specific category. In other words, murder. If you're going to settle a murder case, how much time did you give that murderer to settle? We need a comparison on the national average and on all these categories. We need to see it on any type settlements if they're going to settle, and I think you can look with this program tracking every judge around, murders, what the law allowed them to sentence this person to, what they were actually sentenced to. Every single category I think we can show what the law allows and the judge's track record. It's a shame that we live in a society where the computer programs are out there to take tell you how many times a baseball player spit on second base when he ran to third. They can track the stupidest stats in sports, but we can't as voters even be educated to know whether or not a judge deserves to sit in that seat. And really when you've been a victim of some kind of major crime, that's the point that you realize the world sits and the power sits on that judge, and we need a way to track these judges, their sentencing, and then all of the hard work and efforts from our police can actually go — be utilized. And this is actually a brilliant suggestion,

and I'll take it a step forward. I think we need to include in this somehow laws proposed on a State level and how our local it effects this system as far as crime. We've had in the past votes come up on the State level that will show, and again this probably wouldn't be in this program and it may be bigger than us, but it could be something that we could utilize through all of the counties if we can get our county organization, the State county organization, to possibly track our State leaders, their voting records on each issue as far as bills out there that effects crime. And I think it being opened to the public, I think you'll see people over all doing what the people wants them to do, and but right now we have no way to hold anyone accountable with those powerful positions. We sit up here running our mouths on television, so, you know, we can be booted out from just watching live TV, but the people that we chartered to protect us, to keep the murderers off the streets, to keep the rapists behind bars, you can see it nationwide. You've got sex offenders out there that shouldn't be on the streets. We can follow these people and we can put a bad judge out of office if we know that they're not doing a good job.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, we're covering a lot of territory we could not possibly afford with the type of computer system that we —, but what I did, I just want to reiterate, we need to have something that determines the number of people that are in there, why they're in there, have standards for all the players that contribute to putting people in that jail, and I don't want anyone to be confused to think that I'm trying to come up with a program to just get people out. This program will also document where really bad people may have gotten out too quick for some reason or another, and that will document that also with these standards. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, and will document who let them out? Commissioner Gellatly said, yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's make the motion of whatever I said. Dave [Gellatly], do you want to make the motion? Commissioner Gellatly said, I make the motion of what I've already said. Commissioner Stone said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Hold it.

County Attorney Hart said, the first thing is to adopt these budget changes and then if you want to direct to this committee, you can certainly do that. The Clerk said, we have a motion on the floor.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor to adopt that. All in favor to adopt Item 1, raise your hand. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, the next item is the —, go ahead. Do you have that, Sybil [Tillman], what was requested? Commissioner Gellatly asked, kind of? The Clerk said, yes. Commissioner Gellatly said, let Russ [Abolt] help you put all that was said into a intelligent statement, and that's what the motion is. County Manager Abolt asked, two months, sir? Two months? Commissioner Gellatly said, 60 days, yes. County Manager Abolt said, from the Jail Population Committee? Commissioner Gellatly said, yes. Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor and it's been seconded. Do you want to state it. Commissioner Stone said, no, I just want to second it. It's a brilliant idea. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor of the motion, signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion carried unanimously. Thank you, Col. Holmes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved that the Board approve the following: (1) an amendment to the General Fund M&O budget to (a) recognize \$30,000 in revenue from the Recreation Authority, (b) recognize additional Intangible Revenue of \$200,000, (c) recognize additional Real Estate Transfer Tax of \$100,000, (d) recognize additional Local Option Sales Tax of \$229,000, (e) recognize additional revenue from the Judicial Council of Georgia of \$149,000, (f) recognize additional Interest Revenue of \$120,000, (g) appropriate \$30,000 to the Recreation Department, and (h) appropriate \$798,000 to the Detention Center, (2) an amendment to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget to recognize \$28,000 in revenue from the Recreation Authority and appropriate \$28,000 to the CIP Recreation Department project, (3) transfers within the General Fund M&O of (a) \$6,653 in the County Manager's budget from various line items to overtime, (b) \$23,024 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes to Motorola Radio System Upgrade Debt Service, (c) \$182,920 from Fuel Contingency to Utilities, (4) a transfer of \$5,735 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes to Motorola Radio System Upgrade Debt Service in the Special Service District (SSD) Fund, and (6) transfers between drainage projects in CIP of (a) \$2,811 from Pipemaker to Westlake and (b) \$513 from Talmadge to Kings Way. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present when this vote was taken.]

Commissioner Gellatly moved that the Board's discussion regarding inmate population and development of a computer software program be referred to the Jail Population Committee chaired by District Attorney Spencer Lawton for a report back to the Commission within sixty (60) days. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE: To request approval of the following: (1) an amendment to the General Fund M&O budget to (a) recognize \$30,000 in revenue from the Recreation Authority, (b) recognize additional Intangible Revenue of \$200,000, (c) recognize additional Real Estate Transfer Tax of \$100,000, (d) recognize additional Local Option Sales Tax of \$229,000, (e) recognize revenue from the Judicial Council of

Georgia of \$149,000, (f) recognize additional Interest Revenue of \$120,000, (g) appropriate \$30,000 to the Recreation Department, and (h) appropriate \$798,000 to the Detention Center; (2) an amendment to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget to recognize \$28,000 in revenue from the Recreation Authority and appropriate \$28,000 to the CIP Recreation Department project; (3) transfers within the General Fund M&O of (a) \$6,653 in the County Manager's budget from various line items to overtime, (b) \$23,024 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes to Motorola Radio System Upgrade Debt Service, and (c) \$182,920 from Fuel Contingency to Utilities; (4) a transfer of \$5,735 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes to Motorola Radio System Upgrade Debt Service in the Special Service District (SSD) Fund; and (6) transfers between drainage projects in CIP of (a) \$2,811 from Pipemaker to Westlake and (b) \$513 from Talmadge to King's Way.

BACKGROUND:

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1) The Chatham County Recreation Authority approved funds totaling \$58,000 for Public Works and Parks Services at their March 12, 2006 meeting. In order to properly transfer and account for the funds, amendments to the General Fund M&O and Capital Improvement budgets are necessary. A copy of correspondence explaining the use of the funds is attached.
- 2) A review of the Detention Center budget indicates a potential shortfall of \$798,000. A budget amendment to address the funding shortfall is recommended. Correspondingly, revenue account activity was analyzed. Recommended increases to revenue budget line items are based on both actual and estimated collections for fiscal 2006.
- 3) A transfer within the County Manager's budget of \$6,653 from various line items to overtime has been requested.
- 4) The FY2007 budget for the Motorola Radio System Upgrade Debt Service requires a transfer of \$23,024 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes in the General Fund M&O, and a transfer of \$5,735 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes in the Special Service District (SSD) Fund in order to make the final payment for the current fiscal year.
- 5) A review of the county wide Utilities expenditure account indicates the need for additional funding. Approval of a transfer of \$182,920 from Fuel Contingency is requested.
- 6) Adjustments to the expenditures between drainage projects in the Capital Improvement Program have made it necessary to transfer funds between

projects. The amounts are:\$2,811 from Pipemaker to Westlake and \$513 from Talmadge to King’s Way.

FUNDING:

The budget amendments resolutions will set up funding in the General Fund M&O and the Capital Improvement Fund. Funds are available in the General Fund M&O departments, the Special Service District Fund departments, and the CIP Fund projects for the transfers.

ALTERNATIVES:

(1) That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- a) an amendment to (a) recognize \$30,000 in revenue from the Recreation Authority, (b) recognize Additional Intangible Revenue of \$200,000, (c) recognize additional Real Estate Transfer Tax of \$100,000, (d) recognize additional Local Option Sales Tax of \$229,000, (e) recognize revenue from the Judicial Council of Georgia of \$149,000, (f) recognize additional Interest Revenue of \$120,000, (g) appropriate \$30,000 to the Recreation Department, and (h) appropriate \$798,000 to the Detention Center.
- b) a transfer within the County Manager’s budget of \$6,653 from various line items to overtime.
- c) a transfer of \$23,024 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes to Motorola Radio System Upgrade Debt Service.
- d) a transfer of \$182,920 from Fuel Contingency to Utilities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND

- a) an amendment to recognize \$28,000 in revenue from the Recreation Authority and appropriate \$28,000 to the CIP Recreation Department project.
- b) transfers between drainage projects of (a) \$2,811 from Pipemaker to Westlake and (b) \$513 from Talmadge to King’s Way.

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND

a transfer of \$5,735 from Interest on Tax Anticipation Notes to Motorola Radio System Upgrade Debt Service.

2) Amend or deny the request.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law grants the Board authority to amend 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. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this hearing is being held in compliance with State law relative to Chatham County's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget. We will be discussing the budget with the different various funds. Information packets showing the proposed budget for all funds are available at the front entrance. A list is being passed around asking for the names and addresses of those present. The purpose of this is to document that public input was solicited for future or audit purposes. We will start at the right side of the room and go row by row. If you wish to speak, please come to the podium, state your name, address and the name of the group or organization you represent. We have staff available to help pass out any written material to the Commissioners. We would ask that you be brief and concise in your remarks since we have a number of people that may want to speak and we want everyone to have an equal chance to be heard. So we'll start right now on the right side of the room, row two. Is there anybody there that would like to speak out for their organization concerning our budget proposal to put in the budget? Would you come to the microphone and identify yourself and give your address and the name of the organization that you are representing. Pull those down [microphones] so we can hear you. Thank you, ma'am.

Ms. Kisha [phonetic] Gibson Carter said, thank you. Good morning. My name is Kisha Gibson Carter. I'm the Director of Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our mailing address is PO Box 163 — 16323, Savannah, Georgia 31416. That's 16323. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Ms. Carter said, okay. I first want to thank you, Mr. Liakakis, and Mr. Abolt for your early attention to our project last year in terms of our capital campaign to build a new facility for a day center for homeless families with children here in Chatham County, and I would also like to extend thanks to the Commissioners, who allowed myself and some committee members to talk to you about our project. In the meantime, I want to introduce to you Interfaith Hospitality Network. It's a local nonprofit organization here in Savannah that works that works to alleviate homelessness among families of children. And these are individuals that are resourceful, they're working people. They are not what we would classify as a traditional homeless; however, nonetheless they are individuals without a place to stay right here in our County and City.

Ms. Carter said, Interfaith Hospitality Network is a national organization with over 125 networks in the United States. We have four currently existing in Georgia. Ours here in the Savannah area has been in existence for about 10 years. I've been the Director of Interfaith here for the last six years. In that time and prior to my time, we became a certified member agency of the local Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. As such, I say that to say that we are not a duplication of any service that exists currently and we actually compliment several of the services here in Savannah. Since its inception in Savannah we have served hundreds of families who we have enabled to attain self-reliance and move on and become self-sustaining adults and individuals in this City. We have helped these individuals with housing needs, employment and childcare, which is often the biggest barrier to obtaining employment. Annually our organization boasts a success rate of over 70%, which is almost nonexistent in shelter programs. We're able to help those families exceed their expectations when they have reached that ultimate low.

Our organization is supported by a network of over 20 local congregations. These congregations combine to serve our families. These are congregations of various denominations and various races that come together for a common cause, which ultimately is the common good for our families. Of these 20 congregations in the City from Downtown to Skidaway Island, we have over 500 volunteers who provide services to our families by way of meals and shelter beds in the evening right from their own parishes, while during the day at our facility, which we call a day center, we're able to help families link to resources where they are able to move on. These resources again include housing contacts, employment contacts and childcare. We're able to do this with a very minimal operating budget.

Our annual budget covers over — about \$126,000 a year. That includes all of our administrative costs. In addition to that, it includes the expenses that we're able to provide directly to our families to attain houses by way of rental deposits, utility deposits, and household items that they are in need of. These families —, this budget amount is minimum in comparison to a traditional shelter setting, which budgets exceed ours three and four times. Homelessness among families of children make up more than 40% of the homeless population here in Savannah. These families with children are actually the fastest growing specter of the homeless population, and there are fewer and fewer shelter beds in this City for families with children. Many times we found ourselves turning away families because we did not have adequate space to serve them, and some of the other agencies who refer to us, they are without space to serve these families as well.

Over the last three years our agency has been working tirelessly to respond to this issue and respond to this need. We have organized a capital campaign committee to build a new facility that will enable us to provide our services in a more efficient manner. Right now our capacity is to serve three families up to 14 individuals in a small Victorian house on 41st Street, whose facilities are inadequate for our current services and it also disallows us to serve additional people as well. In this time we kicked off our capital campaign in October of 2005 and I stand before you proud to say that we have been very successful in our efforts. Our total project goal is about \$900,000 and we have exceeded over 61% in obtaining those funds. Our initial seed money came from a national grant through the united bank offering of the Episcopal Church in the amount of \$40,000, \$25,000 from the City of Savannah, \$90,000 was raised from my precious

local Board of Directors of 12 unassuming individuals, and I get really emotional about that because that shows that those people who are on my Board of Directors are very committed to this organization. So they themselves pledged and have paid cash towards a \$90,000 pledge, and also a local foundation — a local private foundation here in Savannah have given us \$100,000. So with that stated, I stand before you today requesting \$75,000 to go toward our goal of building this new facility that's located out Chatham Parkway — out Highway 17 just before Liberty Parkway in the Horizon Industrial Park. And just to put a face to what we do, I've asked some of our former guests and a couple of them have had to leave this morning because they had to get back to work. One young lady is actually working as an administrative assistant with the City of Savannah Public Bureau Department, and Ms. Chalmers is here just as a face of — an example of what we do. She's currently in our program, but unfortunately on Wednesday she'll be leaving our program for independence.

Chairman Liakakis said, come up to the microphone so that we can hear you and just give us your name.

Ms. Chalmers said, I'm Lasheka [phonetic] Chalmers. I am in the program. I feel that me and my girls have benefitted from it greatly. I lost my job and we went downhill from there. I was actually living out of my car when I was referred to Interfaith. As she stated, I have been able to — I was working but was not able to continue to pay my bills. [Inaudible] my option of moving into my car. But through the assistance of Interfaith, I was able to find my own place, which I will be moving in on Wednesday, and at the same time have been able to save funds to lean back on.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much. Any question? Thank you very much. We appreciate that.

Commissioner Odell asked, is this SPLOST funding? County Manager Abolt said, it's operational.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, let me ask a question, if I could. Do we still have a policy in place that we created back about five years ago, has it been voted out that we do not donate money to nonprofit organizations off of our operating budget? Has that been voted —? County Manager Abolt said, the answer is yes, with the understanding you could never donate. Any time you participated with nonprofits in the past it was always a contract for service, but you did discontinue that a few years back. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, because it's — the only reason I bring that up because they are very worth and I told her that on the phone, but the organizations out there, nonprofits like the Rape Crisis Center, the organizations for the blind, all of the nonprofits have very, very, very worthy causes, and if the door's opened again to one person, one group, the door's opened, and at that point I think every worthy nonprofit around needs to come in and they need to get the money. But then at that point we may cause additional homelessness because people are being taxed out of their homes as we speak, and nonprofits usually receive money on the Federal level some way, a lot of times the State level, and then donations. And I'll state it in here, when we as the County government give tax dollars to nonprofits, I think we're telling the citizens that we think that we're smarter than them, that we know how to spend their money better than them. We take their tax dollars, donate it out to a nonprofit, when we took the opportunity from that individual tax payer to be able to retain their own money and donate it to the

nonprofit organization of their choice and receive a tax deduction from doing so. We've gouged them in a couple of different ways there and, again, they're all worthy, but I'll return back to the day when I stepped in here and Commissioner Gellatly stepped in office and we were \$13,000,000 in the hole and we did some — made some hard choices. We stood here and we listened to every worthy nonprofit tell why they needed money, and every worthy nonprofit needs money, and we had to look at them and tell them that we no longer could afford to do that, and we cut it and it wasn't a good feeling. So my warning is, and I do believe this, if you open the door for one, you'd better pay for every single one of them because they're all worthy, and then in doing so, you're going to drive taxes absolutely through the roof. So that's my only comment on that.

Chairman Liakakis asked, on row three, anybody from any organization on row three that would like to come forth.? Row four? Row five? Jason [Buelterman], identify yourself for the record.

Mayor Buelterman said, Jason Buelterman, the Mayor of the City of Tybee Island. Can you all hear me? Commissioner Shay said, yes. Mayor Buelterman said, I'm here — I was here last year at the same time asking for funding for the beach renourishment and you, I think, wisely came together and contributed the same amount the City contributes — the City of Tybee — \$150,000 every year toward the effort. The total cost is \$10,000,000. Our next renourishment is in 2007. I spent about ten minutes in front of you last year. I'm not going to rehash all those arguments. The basic argument is that it's a County resource. About 80% of the folks who come out there are day-trippers from Chatham County. If you didn't have a beach on Tybee, property values on Tybee would be diminished. On Wilmington Island, and all over, I think, Savannah would be diminished because it's such a resource for Chatham County, and those funds go to the County's coffers obviously. And our City pays for the dune crossovers, which are expensive, the lifeguards, the clean-up of the beach, the safety of the folks who are on the beach, the police protection for the people who oftentimes don't behalf so well on the beach, and we pay for that, our citizens pay for that, and all we ask is that the County contribute proportionately a small amount of money to help offset the cost of the beach renourishment. Again, the total cost is \$10,000,000. We were very lucky and thankful for our State Legislative Delegation who came together this year and the Governor signed the budget bill giving Tybee \$2.93 million for our next renourishment. And, again, we're just asking that this be inserted into the budget again as it was last year. Last year was the first time y'all came together and did that. We appreciate it. We'd like to see that happen again.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any questions for Jason [Buelterman]? Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, Jason [Buelterman], some time ago I think CAT refused to come out to Tybee. Are you familiar with that? Mayor Buelterman asked, that CAT refused to come out? Commissioner Holmes said, the transportation of CAT. Mayor Buelterman said, I thought — the last I heard that they were interested in coming out. Commissioner Holmes said, okay, because a couple of months ago that came back up, and I think it's going to come back to the table. I'll just ask you, what's your concern on that? Mayor Buelterman asked, what's the concern? I don't really have a position on that really. I think that's really up to our City Council. I know in the past there's been a concern about the taxes our residents would have to pay, but a lot of our

businesses would like something like that. You know, that's been an ongoing debate whether or not the CAT should service Tybee or not. I know it does — the people at Spanish Hammock actually do pay the CAT tax, but I don't know that they receive the benefit from it. So —. That's just up to our City Council.

Chairman Liakakis asked, what is the total amount that has been accumulated so far, Jason [Buelterman]? Mayor Buelterman said, the total amount — the City — is roughly added — your contribution from last year, the City's contributions over the last three years, the SPLOST, and the State were up to a little — about four and a half million dollars roughly. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any questions? All right. Thank you, Jason [Buelterman]. Appreciate you coming up. Mayor Buelterman said, thank you for your time. Chairman Liakakis said, and don't forget to get as many council people and all to come for that SPLOST funding tomorrow afternoon because — at six o'clock because that's a very important. Mayor Buelterman said, sure. Chairman Liakakis said, we need everybody to be, you know, well versed on what's going on. Mayor Buelterman said, appreciate it. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis asked, all right, anybody else on row five? Row six? Anybody on row six that would like to come forth? All right, we'll start on the lefthand side. Anybody on row two?

Ms. Paula Reynolds said, good afternoon everyone. Chairman Liakakis said, good afternoon. Ms. Reynolds said, I'm Paula Reynolds, the Executive Director of SABHC, Savannah Area Behavioral Health Collaborative. Since 2003 SABHC has provided adults most in need in Chatham County with behavioral health care and related services through the collaboration of our managed partners, who are Union Mission, Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless, Recovery Place and Memorial Health. Thanks to all of you SABHC will soon have a state-of-the-art home where all of our services will be accessible in a single integrated campus on Fahm Street. Earlier this year each of you received a SABHC annual report. In fiscal year '05 SABHC heard from 3,983 Chatham County citizens approximately 70% of some of the chronic mental illness and 30% for substance abuse. Since then SABHC has continued to treat 1,000 to 100 individuals per month at our community mental health clinic and we enrolled an average of 120 new participants each month in two substance abuse treatments. We received 71% of our revenue from the State of Georgia and 22% through Medicaid billings, 6% from co-pays from consumers. By the end of this month we'll have the exact figures from the State as to the number of individuals SABHC will be funded to serve, the number of increments and the type of services that we can provide to them, and the total amount of revenue that we will get from the State in fiscal year '07. We don't have those figures yet. At this time, however, further funding cuts are not anticipated over what we experienced in fiscal year '06. Even so, State funding and Medicaid reimbursement do not cover ever behavioral health need in Chatham County, so I want to talk to you about two of those needs today.

Ms. Reynolds said, the first is the lack of an adequate community support team to work with law enforcement, particularly the CIT officers, the jail and the courts. A community support team is an intensive individualized mobile 24/7 program, which serves as a bridge to community behavioral health, both mental health and substance abuse, and the related services such as housing. They can even teach life schools, they can spend the night with people who are in their

own homes for the first time, and it plays a vital role in diverting mentally ill citizens from incarceration at the time of arrest and also in transitioning the mentally ill out of jail once they've been released into the community.

According to the results reported in U.S. communities with integrated programs involving behavioral health, law enforcement, courts and corrections, ongoing interaction with the behavioral health team such as this help individuals cope within the community, stay in housing, have fewer arrests and stay out of jail. Currently, SABHC has staffing and reimbursement available only sufficient to supply about two or three hours of this type of service to one or two individuals a month. A fully staffed team could supply up to 21 hours over a period of six to ten weeks to 10 individuals a month at a cost of under \$1,700 per individual.

Ms. Reynolds said, the second challenge is our cost of providing assessments and support services not covered by the State or Medicaid. Diagnostic assessment is one of them. It's the entry point into behavioral health care and all related services. If the process during which individuals are evaluated and referred to services appropriate for their needs, sacrificial rehabilitative and peer support help individuals know to cope with mental illness, stay on their medication and make progress toward their individual goals, such as learning a skill, getting a job or living independently. So far this year in fiscal year '06 SABHC has provided all of these services to over 700 individuals without reimbursement, and next year of course we'll be compelled to eliminate some of these services if the source of revenue cannot be identified. In other words, the way it works, you'd have to bringing 12 or 13 people in in order to be paid for 10. So we have some of the people that we never get paid for.

In a letter to each of you dated March 28, 2006, SABHC submitted a request for \$400,000 for [inaudible] support for fiscal year '07. This figure does cover the revenue required to establish a community support team and to continue to provide services over and above State funding and Medicaid reimbursement levels. A full description and financial analysis of each program is contained in the booklet that I distributed to you today, and I realize that SABHC is late in submitting our request to you, and I appreciate your considering these programs in your fiscal year '07 budget at the requested level or any other level that you may agree upon. And again on behalf of SABHC and the citizens we serve, I thank you for your past and continued support of all that we do and for your attention today.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any questions? Any questions? Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Anybody else on row two?

Ms. Diane Reeder said, I'm Diane Reeder from [inaudible], Georgia, and I would just like to add my report to what Dr. Paula Reynolds has said and to thank you all for the way that you have supported the Crisis Intervention Teen Program in such a marvelous way. This area is the envy of the State in that we have our community support behind us, and I'd like to thank Chairman Liakakis. He comes to our graduations and always is very encouraging every time that he's able to come. The good news is that we've been very successful. There are over a hundred officers in this area trained now. There have been six very successful classes, but this has really

impacted our mental health system. So I would encourage you to do whatever you can to help fund the mental health system in this community.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell asked, were they all trained in Memphis? Ms. Reeder said, no sir — Chairman Liakakis said, trained here in Savannah. Ms. Reeder said, — they're trained here locally. We've had six classes here. Commissioner Odell said, okay. But it's patterned after the Memphis program, isn't it? Ms. Reeder said, it is modeled after the Memphis program and they are trained by professionals in our community. We have judges, doctors from Georgia Regional. We include the community and they volunteer their time to do this 40-hour session. Commissioner Odell said, I think it's an excellent program. Ms. Reeder said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis asked, anybody else in row two?

Ms. Erica Usher said, my name is Erica Usher and I am currently contracted with the Chatham County Courthouse and I am performing research and data gathering specific to those individuals with mental illness as a contact in — in contact with our criminal justice system. We are fully behind the creation of this committee in the development of a mental health court that they will work with us well in coordinating services to create a type of net to fill the gaps where these individuals are not getting the services that they need and ultimately are ending up in our jails and staying there. So I just came today to give our full endorsement to SABHC and that in my position we are fully behind any type of connection it would take to back her. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. All right, in row three?

Mr. Phillip Ihrig said, I'm Phillip Ihrig representing the Savannah Tree Foundation. The Tree Foundation's address is 3025 Bull Street here in Savannah, 31405. The Savannah Tree Foundation is a privately funded nonprofit organization, which has been actively for nearly 25 years in Savannah and Chatham County, advocating the preservation of the urban forest and working on various tree planting projects throughout the County. I am here today representing the Savannah Tree Foundation to encourage you to include funding for a tree maintenance program in the Department of Public Works budget for the next fiscal year. The Savannah Tree Foundation believes that a separate tree maintenance program for the unincorporated area of Chatham County is an urgent need, particularly as Chatham County continues to develop and becomes more and more an urban environment rather than a rural environment. This program, a tree maintenance program could be an active — could take an active approach, excuse me, to the maintenance of right-of-way trees and trees in public parks and other public property. I think without a funding and without a separate tree maintenance program it's likely that tree maintenance will continue to be a — would continue to be a reactive process rather than an active process and would be a second priority rather than a primary priority of a given department where it is identified as a specific program. So I'd just briefly then, we'd just like to encourage the funding of this program. It's been considered in the past and I think — we think the time has come that this type of program move forward. Thank you. Are there any questions I could answer?

Chairman Liakakis asked, what was the amount that you were requesting? Mr. Ihrig said, I think — I think — we did not request — we are not requesting an amount. Last year the amount requested in the budget was, I think, \$250,000 which included some equipment and personnel. I do not know what the amount was in this year's budget request. County Manager Abolt said, it's a decision package in Mr. Drewry's budget. Mr. Ihrig said, yeah, it's a decision part.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We appreciate it. All right, anybody else, let's see, row four?

Mr. James Osteen said, good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and the Commission. My name is James Osteen and I'm a member of the Board of Equalization out on Eisenhower Drive. I'm here to represent the board this afternoon and the co-Chairman for Administration. My purpose here today is to request funds to fund and pay for a full-time administrator for the Board of Equalization. That would be in the range of \$30,000 to \$36,000 a year. The details are being worked out now with the Department of Human Resources to determine the job's classification and the appropriate pay grades for this administrator to fit into with the rest of the County. So to fund this administrator up until now, the administrator has been a position of Assistant Administrator to the Chairman of the County Commissioners. That person has been the administrator for the Board of Equalization. The administration has been performed by seasonal temporary or permanent seasonal workers. We've got a senior clerk and three other clerks. The duties and responsibilities of the Board of Equalization you're probably aware of. It's an impartial panel appointed by the board of —, the Grand Jury and we hear tax appeals from the tax payers. We not only hear their appeals and listen to their justification for reducing the reduction of their taxes, we have equal responsibility for the County to ensure that people don't unnecessarily get their taxes reduced. The Board of Equalization was established —, we have a budget by the way and that budget this year is for \$139,640 and we're asking for the additional monies to be added to that budget.

Mr. Osteen said, the Board of Equalization was established by the Enabling Code of the State of Georgia that says the chairperson and vice chairpersons shall be vested with full administration authority in calling and conducting the business of the board. That's the reason [inaudible] and the chairperson and the vice chair have decided that they want a permanent administrator because of the work load of — the administrative work load of making sure we meet timely, lawful schedules by notifying the taxpayers of their appeals, and notifying them of the decision of their appeals. Until this time, as I said, the administrator, who did not do any administrative work who was kind of an overseer, but she had the title of administrator, and based on this letterhead did not do the administrative work. In conference with the County Attorney, it was his opinion that the board is a stand-alone board. Submitted a chart to him that showed how the board was operating and then our proposal as to how it should operate and how it should be organized. In the proposed organization we showed that the Grand Jury and the Board of Equalization is appointed by the Grand Jury with an elect new chairman and three vice chairs. Under the chairperson would be the administrator and under the administrator would be three administrative clerks. The opinion of the County Attorney is that this would be the correct organization. Also, a letter from the Superior Court Judge Brannen said that the Board of Equalization is not a part of the Superior Court or even the judicial branch of government. These are independent boards created by the

Georgia General Assembly. We want to remain — we want to become an independent board. Swearing in of each new member by the Superior Court Judge, it says the general chairman of each board is vested with full administrative authority in calling and conducting the business of the board. I pointed that out in a letter that I wrote the Chairman, I mean, Mr. Abolt — I'm sorry — back on the 31st of May. He sent me a response and I appreciate that very much to which I've sent a letter to you, Mr. Chairman, requesting that if I can answer any questions that y'all might have, but at the present time the operation of the board does not give the full undisputed appearance of being an independent entity. At the present, the way it's been functioning, it gives the appearance that the board's session is over all records, files, and everything is transferred to a County staff position that gives the distinct impression that the Board of Equalization is under the County staff supervision or under their responsibility. This is not the way the Enabling Code is written, this is not the opinion of the County Attorney, this is not the opinion of the Judge, this is not the opinion of a State Representative, Ron Stephens, with whom I spoke in order to get clarification on how this board was defined. Based on that, I'm asking y'all to give favorable consideration to fund this position on a permanent basis so that we can function as a distinct independent board for not only the County but only for the citizens of Chatham County. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. Osteen, let me go into something. Number one is yours is a stand-alone, independent board. Mr. Osteen said, yes sir. Chairman Liakakis said, we do not tell the Board of Equalization how to perform their duties, we do not tell the Board of Equalization whether they should increase or reduce anybody's amount on their property, whether it's residential or commercial. The only thing —, and that person that you said is the administrator from the County is not the administrator. Only that we have is a person on the County staff who is a liaison, and what has happened over the years —, let me just explain something to you. We have complaints from our citizens that we spend money and waste taxpayers money. Your board does not operate, you know, twelve months out of the year. You only work several months during the year, and so the way it was set up, the liaison, if there's something in there that you have to make a decision on, what occurs is that the liaison, for example, Gail Gordon will give y'all that information. Y'all make the decision on it, but to have somebody in that office for twelve months, and I've had citizens criticize, call me on the phone, criticizing that situation not only about the Board of Equalization, but other boards in our community that do not function or some other service that is provided to citizens. There's another particular organization, and they have a couple of people in there, and it was brought to my attention. I looked into it and they don't need two people in there, but we at this particular point that one person is just a waste of time and citizens' money. We have a \$370,000,000 budget that we have to approve to operate this community. We appreciate it. We know that you have to have a Board of Equalization because that way you hear the evidence and you make a decision whether you're going to increase — I mean, not increase but to level off or decrease that person. You'll say, no, you'll keep it at the same amount that the Board of Assessors has given you or you decrease it according to the evidence and the vote that you take. We understand that, but we do not operate that. We just have a person from a liaison and, you know, I've had a Commissioner say, "Why should we pay for twelve months out of the year when y'all don't operate twelve months out of the year?" And, for example, phone calls. We did a little survey on what the phone calls were coming in. Did you know there were very few phone calls after everything closed down that we took that, so it didn't

even really need, you know, a full-time person to answer the phone calls, and I know that you've been on there and we've had a lot of people that's on that Board of Equalization and you're dedicated and you work hard over there in all those instances, but I'm just telling you that we're under pressure to operate this County under a frugal —, under as efficiency as possible and all of those kind of things. But to put somebody on a permanent basis out there when they're not operating, because if some — for example, you can't make a decision after y'all have finished listening to the hearings, you'll don't have a hearing. For example, if you close down in May — just use that as an example — and somebody brings something up in June or July, you can't have a hearing then and you know you don't have hearings, but if paperwork comes in and it comes in to the County, they distribute it back to either you or your chairman over there, so, I mean, I just had to make that statement because the pressure that we're under, and we have to look at this, and the right way for all the citizens in Chatham County as well as the Board of Equalization. Any questions?

Mr. Osteen said, one comment if I may please. Chairman Liakakis said, yes sir. Mr. Osteen since April of 2001 until the 17th of March of this year there has been a person in the Board of Equalization office on a full-time basis. They were there. They are seasonal temporary people, employees, paid at [inaudible] rate, but they have been there all year long. The scheduling that has to begin starting this month or to make sure that they're in compliance with the laws that appellants are notified of the hearings, and to coordinate the scheduled meetings of some 75 board members to make sure we have the hearings set up, and whereas there may not be a full twelve months of requirement for an individual, there's certainly a good ten months requirement. But the reason that no correspondence is responded to or after the board is closed down and that decision is made of the so-called coordinator, which according to the letterhead here the Chatham County Board of Equalization, it's signed here, a staff member as the administrator, not coordinator. It's been there. It has been the administrator and this letter is dated December 1st, 2005. Can't be an administrator and coordinator and be an independent entity. So there are some services, and even now since the board office was closed the 17th of March, there's been someone going by there designated — a temporary employee has been designated to go by there and pick up the mail and answer the phone, get the phone messages. So there is a requirement. Now to say that it's eight hours a day, twelve months out of the year, I would agree with you. That's not required, but during the period where the board is not in session and the administrator is not required to set up appointments for the appellants, mail out letters, or what have you, or coordinate with the Assessor's office, set up training. We have an annual training for everybody on the board. Eight hours. Even though you have 40 hours of training the first year, you have eight hours repetitive training. Last year someone, and I don't know who, the Department of Revenue contacted the County government to let them know the train — for the refresher train for the board members had already been on the board. We didn't get that message until three days before the training because the information was not passed down. Now with a permanent administrator we can establish that as a permanent office for the Board of Equalization and we won't have that problem; whereas during the periods where we're not in session, maybe three days a week — I mean, two days a week, you could be utilized in some other staff position supplementing the County staff so you would be utilized on a full-time basis. We have no objection to that. We're not trying to get a position out there for somebody to sit, you know, have a lot of time. We want them fully utilized as well as you do, but we still feel that based on the

reading of the code, the opinion of Judge Brannen, and the opinion of the County Attorney that the board should stand to be a stand-alone entity and not give the appearance of being under any government. Thanks for allowing me to be here and requesting these funds.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. Osteen, let me just tell you this, and this County Commission has worked together as a team and all, and there's nobody on this Commission that has tried to run the Board of Equalization, but here's what I want to show you. From March 20th until June 12th of this year, there were 22 phone calls come in; 22 phone calls in that lone period of time. Let me just tell you what some of the phone calls were that came in there because it's got the names of everybody, you know, on there and they refer the calls to you or Mr. Nagy, you know to go into that. Here it is: wanted the board —, Mr. Haggary [phonetic] called and wanted to know where the Board of Education phone number was. We had one person that asked — wanted to know who filed for a hearing. Other two phone calls they came in out of those, trying to get in touch with Mr. Nagy. Another phone call that was unidentified, using profanity. There was another call that came in after that, "needs Larry Lower's phone number," who's on the Board of Assessors, another call came in Embassy Suite, a sales call from Brunswick, Georgia, and the next call wanted information from property file referred to the Assessor's office. And then we had a call to let us and the Assessor's office that Mr. Kinstler [phonetic] is in the hospital with a broken hip, and have not received the appeal notice, another one, and another one that came in on April 13th did not receive decision sheet, and that was to come from the Assessor's office. But those are some of the things —, your board is independent. It's stand alone. What you just mentioned just now is that you could have a person in your office a few days a week and they could do other County business. Well, this person that's handling it right now is doing County business and a phone call comes in or something comes in that pertains to the Board of Equalization, they contact y'all. I just feel this. With the complaints that we have about operating things and this thing not operating twelve —, you cannot set appointments up for the Board of Equalization, you know, something in July for something that's going to happen later on after the next following year. You wouldn't — you were talking about setting up appointments, and you can't set up appointments for people that come to the Board of Equalization for something that happens next year. You don't do that that far in advance.

Mr. Osteen said, you do it on a scheduled bases because the law requires it. Once a taxpayer is notified or sends in his notice of appeal, that's 30 days we have to hear that appeal. Chairman Liakakis said, right, sure. Mr. Osteen said, and then we schedule those appeals out over a period of time. Chairman Liakakis said, but you don't —. Mr. Osteen said, we don't schedule them nine months in advance. Chairman Liakakis said, that's what I mean. Mr. Osteen said, because coordination is made with the Assessor's office and they tell us who the appeal is from through your office and then we send out a notice to the appellant notifying him of the board hearing. Chairman Liakakis said, well, like I say, you've been on there a long period of time and have done a really good job, and you've got some dedicated people on that Board of Equalization and all, but I was bringing that up because, you know, we're the steward of the people's monies, their resources and all of that, and is there any questions from any Board member?

Commissioner Odell asked, they don't know the amount of the request, is that true? Commissioner Farrell said, he said \$30,000 to \$36,000. Mr. Osteen said, not exactly. I'm working

with the Department of Human Resources now and I have a job classification established to determine at what level that position would be. You know, scheduling and administrative functions, the time spent to determine at what regulation — that tradition would be. I don't have the exact figure, I'm just estimating somewhere between \$30,000 and \$36,000. Commissioner Odell asked, is that based on what Human Resources told you? Mr. Osteen said, just casual conversation. I don't want to pin them down either. You know, of a person of that level, she supervises three administrative people and oversees the scheduling of all these [inaudible], all the appeals, she supervises and schedules the appearance of approximately 75 board members. Commissioner Odell asked, have y'all already hired this person? Mr. Osteen said, no. This is a temporary seasonal person we —. Commissioner Odell said, the only reason why I asked, because you identified her as "she." I just wondered if you had a "she" in mind already. Mr. Osteen said, it has been a she and since 2001 that individual has worked on a full --- year-round basis, and granted it has not been an eight-hour day, you know, repetitive duty type job, but it has been a requirement for someone to be there to give answers. That would be [inaudible] to the citizens of Chatham County, but it should not come through the County. Not the County Attorney —, I mean, County government or County staff member. Come through the Board of Equalization.

Commissioner Odell said, I've just got two or three follow-up questions. When you quoted Judge Brannen and Jonathan Hart, was the quote to suggest the only way to create the appearance of independence was to have a separate administrator that would be between \$32,000 and \$35,000 [sic] a year? Just guessing? Was that the purpose of the —? Mr. Osteen said, yes sir, because the organization —. Commissioner Odell said, I recall the details. Mr. Osteen said, oh, you did, okay. That would be the way that you will eliminate any appearance of being associated with any government entity. That's the reason I bring that up. Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. I suggest that you add up the money being it's been one person, add up the money that's been paid to this individual over the last few years and possibly come up with something similar to what the Board of Education does with its employees. If they worked on a full-time basis, establish the times. In other words, if you're a teacher you're paid for X-amount of months although you have the portion or Summer off or whatever there, come up with the direct — the times needed, which you know —. See, I have a problem — I have a problem paying someone a full-time position that you know, and you're standing there saying they're not needed eight hours a day. Mr. Osteen said, correct. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so the hours needed, come up with the actual hours needed on the yearly basis, whether it's at the end of the year they're going on for one hour a day, whatever that may be, and if they're compensated to that level, you know, I don't have a problem with it. I mean, but to pay someone a full-time — in other words, you have teachers out there that coordinate everything and they're paid less than \$30,000 a year. So, you know, I think you can find someone that can —. Mr. Osteen said, but they're —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I mean, you know, that's a pretty high salary for secretarial — I'm talking skills when you've got, you know, educators out there working for less than that, and I think if you look at it and break it —, I mean, you're talking scheduling things, answering the phone and scheduling things, and I think you can, you know,

I think you can find, if you break the hours up, break down what you've paid over the last few years —. Mr. Osteen said, right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — I think that's a good place to start, and — but at that point you would have to advertise, I know, the position and see what happens. But I think you could find that particular job for a lot less money because you're really talking part-time. Mr. Osteen said, well, maybe I guess I was in the private sector too long because I remember, you know, that [inaudible] been working for 19 years, I bought that in 1987 and it's worked pretty good. I appreciate that.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Thank you very much. We appreciate it, Mr. Osteen. Mr. Osteen said, it has been mentioned, Mr. Kicklighter, and there's — a suggestion has been made if I go that route.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, in other words, if we can get ride of — politics, I know, perception a lot of times is greater than reality. Mr. Osteen said, that's correct. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if we can clear the false perception — bad perception of paying the same amount with less, you know, possibly could do, but I think we'll know once you see, once you average it out. Mr. Osteen said, to be quite honest, I'm the one that grabbed that figure out of the air just thinking that someone that, you know, oversaw administration of the office, supervised three persons, made sure the legal requirements are met by the Board of Equalization, that the notices got out and the decisions were mailed, and you mentioned one of telephone calls, he hadn't received the decision. Well, somebody's got to get that decision to them because by law we're required to get it to them within five working days by certified mail after the board. Commissioner Kicklighter said, the complaint being — I hope you don't hit me for — we kind of, we talk a lot. We kind of whisper things. We both kind of thought, man, we'll take that job, going in and just answer the messages every day for, you know, a few months a year and then work the other part, that would be a pretty good job. Wouldn't it? I mean, you know, there's a lot of people out there that might quit their daily grind to go work a full-time position that's not full-time. So that's —.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I want to make sure — this is a public hearing, and what I'm concerned of, he may be taking direction from you, one member of the board. That's very dangerous. I think you have to make a budget decision of whether or not you want to make this permanent full-time. It will have to be contained in the budget. You cannot give me, as one member of the Commission direction to do something. You can ask for information. What I'm afraid of, he may be listening to what you're saying and takes that as gospel as going to do things that may not be in step with your budget.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh, I didn't think we made a decision here at all. I thought this was just a hearing. County Manager Abolt said, you don't, but I think it may be misinterpreted. Commissioner Farrell asked, so we're just hear to listen, right? County Manager Abolt said, this is a public hearing. When you adopt the budget, you will address this issue as to whether nor not you want to keep it as is or whether or not you want to make it a full-time position.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Mr. Osteen. We appreciate it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so in conclusion that was my opinion so his opinion was no, I would assume. So —. County Manager Abolt said, but again, when you adopt your budget on the 23rd, this is one of the issues you may choose to address, but you control it. It's not one of the rough type things where go out and do this and then the gentlemen thinks he's got something —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. County Manager Abolt said, — which I don't think he has. Commissioner Kicklighter said, my opinion was I would be no with the Chairman, but if you can come up with something really more structured, maybe yes. That's my opinion. Mr. Osteen said, well, like I said, that figure I pulled out of the air based on my experience in the private sector, and if that's too high, then, you know, according to accept and the Department of Human Resources certainly would give me the direct guidance, job classification and pay grade, and that's what we would be asking for. Just something equitable with other positions in the County that this is a similar job, whatever that figure turned out to be.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Thank you, Mr. Osteen. Anybody else on row four?

Dr. Rebecca Gaston-Dawson said, good afternoon. I'm Dr. Rebecca Gaston-Dawson. I'm also on the Board of Equalization. And, Dean [Kicklighter], we did not take it as gospel, but I'm glad that we can let the Commission know where we are and will be coming from. Now I just ate with Pete Liakakis and Harris Odell Saturday at Liberty City Family Day, and I was glad to see them. I did not bring any of that up, but we would like to be considered —, the person that he is talking about is a very diligent woman. Now she works hard. I agree with what Chairman Liakakis said, I think he said, at least increase the work-time to at least ten months because I went —, I didn't even know the office was closed until I went down their in April and I called and nobody answered the phone. I didn't know who else to call, but we just want you to consider us and we will take you to the idea as to what we could do to, you know, like I said, I taught in the public school system, too. I'm retire now and I'm now just getting \$30,000, so I know where you're coming from, but we could sit down and hash it out. I'm on the administration committee too because we wanted to do something to see whether we can get some help from your Board, and I thank you for your patience.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Anybody else? Row five, anybody on row five? Row six? Okay. Then I guess that's all the — that's all the people that would come testify. Now what we will so everybody that brought up their information, we will have a meeting and we will be discussing, you know, what your proposals were — made to us today, and then we'll adopt a budget from there. We thank each and every one of you, we know that y'all are working hard trying to get things accomplished in our community, and we do appreciate that very much. Thank you and now the public hearing is closed.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Public hearing received as information.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006****DATE:** June 1, 2006**TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director**ISSUE:**

To hold a Public Hearing on the Chatham County fiscal year 2007 budget as required by State Law.

BACKGROUND:

State law requires that Chatham County follow certain steps in its budget process prior to adopting an annual budget (O.C.G.A. Code Section 36-81-5). The County should provide its residents with information concerning the proposed budget and allow its citizens to be heard during a public budget hearing held at least one week prior to the adoption of a budget ordinance or resolution.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) A Public Hearing was advertised on May 22, 2006 in the *Savannah Morning News* to be held at 9:30 a.m., on Monday, June 12, 2006.
- (2) Copies of the proposed budget were made available to the public in the Finance Department as well as at local branches of the Live Oak Public Libraries on the date the budget was presented to the Board, which was May 12, 2006.
- (3) On a date at least one week before adoption, Chatham County is required to hold a public meeting. The budget adoption must be advertised at least one week in advance.
- (4) The budget adoption has been advertised on May 24, 2006 in the *Savannah Morning News* for Friday, June 23, 2006 budget adoption.
- (5) The budget for fiscal year 2007 covers the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

FUNDING:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) Proceed with the public hearing on June 12, 2006 and adopt the FY 2007 budget on June 23, 2006.
- (2) Reschedule the hearing and adoption of the FY 2007 budget and re-advertise within limits established by State Law.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State Law requires that an annual budget be adopted by the Board, after advertising the dates of a public hearing and budget adoption and allowing persons to appear and comment on the proposed budget in accordance with the Code Sections below.

Georgia Law 36-81-5.(f)

“At least one week prior to the meeting of the governing authority at which adoption of the budget ordinance or resolution will be considered, the governing authority shall conduct a public hearing, at which time any persons wishing to be heard on the budget may appear.”

Georgia Law 36-81-6.(a)

“On a date after the conclusion of the hearing required in subsection (f) of Code Section 36-81-5, the governing authority shall adopt a budget ordinance or resolution making appropriations in such sums as the governing authority may deem sufficient, whether greater or less than the sums presented in the proposed budget. The budget ordinance or resolution shall be adopted at a public meeting which shall be advertised in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (e) of Code Section 36-81-5 at least one week prior to the meeting.”

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Estelle Brown

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3. REQUEST BOARD REAFFIRM THE TIMES AND DATES OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW ON THE COUNTY’S INTENT TO CONSIDER A MILLAGE RATE LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE CALCULATED “ROLLBACK” MILLAGE RATE.

Chairman Liakakis said, those particular dates are Tuesday, June 27th, at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 27th, at 6:00 p.m., as required by law, and Friday, July 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. Do I have a motion on the floor to approve these dates?

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor to approve those dates for the public hearings. All in favor signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to schedule the following dates for public hearings as required by State law on Chatham County's intent to consider a millage rate levy in excess of the calculated "rollback" millage rate: Tuesday, June 27, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 27, 2006, at 6:00 p.m., and Friday, July 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. DIANNE MCNABB, FINANCIAL ADVISOR, TO MAKE PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD.

Chairman Liakakis said, hi, Dianne [McNabb]. Glad to have you back with us.

Ms. Dianne McNabb said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to be back. I periodically as the County's Financial Advisor review basically where the County stands and it's financial position and sort of where it's moving forward. I look specifically during the budget process and then also once the annual audit is issued, and I'll have to tell you, each update gets better. You adopted some policies — adopted a lot of very good policies. Those policies have been implemented and they're working, they're delivering results. Of course, we always want some sort of measure of improvement, and the analysts that look at the County's financial position of course have all sorts of ratios and things like that, that we look at, but for the public and for investors who try to find another type of measurement, that gives you an idea of where the County is headed. And typically we use the rating agencies, the rating that they assign to the County because they take into consideration not just the objective ratios, like your debt service coverage, but also subjective areas of management, policies and where you're headed. Accounting can have an excellent financial position, let's say especially during economic good times, but the policies and procedures in place is what insures that that financial position is maintained even during an economic downturn. A few years ago, Moody's downgraded the County's credit rating and assigned a negative outlook, which is the predictor of another downgrade. The last time we went to the rating agencies they removed that negative outlook. They gave us very positive feedback that should the County continue on this positive well-managed trend, then I think that we can see an upgrade in the not too distant future. Now specifically some of the items that I think mean a lot to analysts rating, analysts, and should mean a lot to everyone else, you've replaced your reserves, you've established reserves and kept those reserves at their required funding level, you've continued to improve as far as trend information, that trend of maintaining that reserve. You have also addressed deferred maintenance needs, and I think that's one area where analysts

look at kind of what your future needs are. I think that everyone understands probably that when you continue to defer your major repairs and maintenance that when ends up happening is you have to make a major repair or maintenance when it's — when you've got no choice, and that is typically, 99% of the time, a very inefficient use of funds because you're trying to do it when it is maybe isn't the best time or things such as that. So you have some good headway. That deferred maintenance is in your capital improvement program and you've done a good job at using funds available to further satisfy those needs, although those needs are still there, and I think one of the most important things that you've done over the last couple of years is being more conservative in your budgeting, and that type of approach — for example, just the budget, the item number one and the need to devote \$798,000 to the jail, I think is a good example of the types of needs that you can satisfy when you've used a conservative budgeting throughout the year. I would venture to say that a few years ago if you had had a \$780,000 [sic] need at this time of year, it would have been — you would have been very hard-pressed to have funded that.

Ms. McNabb said, you've seen very good growth in your assessed value, and of course that's your revenue source. You've seen good growth in that. It looks like it's going to be 14% this year. I think last year it was 10%, but the historical average has been around 6% and, of course, the reason we use averages is because some years are high and some years are low. So, I guess, as a background going into this budgetary process, I would encourage you to consider that you have an average and try to stay at that average versus being the last two years as something that's going to stick with results for the next several years. Also, to point out, of course we talk about recurring revenues and nonrecurring revenues, and fortunately the majority of the growth that we see this year is recurring revenues, but my understanding is a great deal of that increase in the assessed value relates to residential growth. Residential growth typically means a follow-on of significant expenses, not immediately but growth in the court system. You're looking at a jail expansion. I mean, obviously that jail expansion is the result of growth. So the type funding the jail expansion, for example, if you use all that recurring revenue and don't anticipate the fact that the growth that you saw last year and the growth you're seeing this year is going to result in additional expenditures, maybe not this year and maybe not next year, but the year after. So to look at this as recurring revenue and budget all of that, I think overlooks the fact that there will be huge expenditures associated with that revenue.

Commissioner Odell asked, so just because we've got, say, a 10.78, your recommendation as our Bond Counselor would not be for us to budget like 10.78 for next year? That's not a good thing? Ms. McNabb said, I think that you should look at the averages and budget based on your averages and then adjust the averages by whatever you know to be unusual, but keeping in mind that unusual things happen and they go into the averages too, so that average is a result of all those factors. Commissioner Odell asked, do you include the last five years or last —, what time period? When you say average —? Ms. McNabb said, I would say at least the last five years and I would probably look at ten years. I would probably look at five and look at ten because the typical economic cycle is ten years. When we see recessions and inflation and then economic growth. Now the last economic cycle lasted a lot longer than ten years, but I think that's a general rule of thumb. Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Ms. McNabb said, now I think with the residential growth, the positive with the residential growth is that commercial growth should follow. Naturally, when you have significant residential growth, then you have businesses that also come in after that residential growth occurs. Now that growth does not result in the same level of expenditures based on the property taxes that the commercial pays versus the expenditures that come on. So after the commercial, the associated commercial development occurs, then it will kind of even it as far as the additional revenues and expenditures. I think that the growth, of course, is going to provide you with operating flexibility and again the best example of operating flexibility was the item one on the agenda today. I think that that growth also allows you to continue to address the deferred — the major deferred maintenance needs. That occurs because when you're under budgetary constraints, the first thing that gets cut is any capital items. Then I think that this growth also will help you to fund that jail expansion. Once you expand your jail, it's naturally going to increase your operating costs pretty substantially. So to take the growth that's occurred this year and program that into recurring expenses I think could cause you to reach that additional operating need and not have the growth in one year to take care of those additional needs because I think the best way to think of it is the need for that jail expansion didn't occur in one year, so you didn't have growth in one year that suddenly caused that. It's growth over multiple years. So you really have to think in terms of that growth in operating expenses being something that's going to occur for several years of operating expenses when you get to that level.

Ms. McNabb said, I think, too, one final item that is going to help with is Other Post Employment Benefits, what us in the accounting world, or we in the accounting world have been referring to as OPEB, and that OPEB is a liability that the County has, and no government has in the past recorded what that liability is. That relates to paying — primarily it will relate to paying health insurance premiums for your retirees, and the way that the cost of retirement has been recognized is that as you work this year, you are earning a certain amount of retirement and that expense relates to your service this year. So it is recorded as an expense in this year, not once you retire. Once you retire, it's not related to the cost at that point in time. It's related to when the employee was working. Well the Other Post Employment Benefits have not been recognized that way in the past. They have been recognized simply as you pay them, and so now the Governmental Accounting Standards Board is mandating that we record those future payments as a liability associated with when the employee is working. And so that's going to be a liability. In fact, it's really all over the news right now because you've got states — I think one state, maybe Michigan, has an eight billion dollar unrecorded liability, and I know that there are counties in Georgia that I happen to work with that have several millions of dollars of liability that's going to be recorded. So I think that that's something that you could — that you'll be facing in the future and want to consider ongoing funding of that. As we all know, the thing that we hear is that the social security system is not going to work at the point at which we've got more retirees than we do workers. And the same thing is true with the Post Employment Benefits, and those benefits right now are being paid as the benefits are provided to the retiree. Well, that means that that's something that you'll have to pay in the future, and if the work force doesn't continue to grow, then I think that could be an issue.

Ms. McNabb said, but just to wrap up, things have been going — are looking great and you've really established the operating flexibility that I think good management would have present in

there administration. Also, it's been a very cohesive mission and, believe it or not, the rating agencies do look at that and look at your rate of unanimous decisions. So I think that things are going real well and it's just — I've been up here to provide updates when it wasn't so pleasant, and this one is a pleasure. And I'll take any questions.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dianne [McNabb], we want to thank you very much. You know, you've done a good job over the years as a Financial Advisor for the County, but one of the things that you first mentioned was to defer maintenance like it is that would cost you more money, and last year this Commission, you know, we worked on it and worked hard on the budget and did things maybe a little bit unpopular, but because we did those things we are helping to save taxpayers' money a lot — save taxpayers a lot of money because if they had spent a couple of hundred thousand dollars on maintenance in the Recreation Department, it wouldn't be costing the citizens of Chatham County right now over four million dollars to correct that. So there's a prime example of what you said right there about deferring that. It was, you know, it wasn't taken care of like it should, they weren't looking into that area, so consequently that's what it's costing the Chatham County taxpayers right now. But our Commission is working together, like you say, a good team and hopefully we can continue to do the things so that, you know, keep the County in the best financial shape that it's been in a long, long time. Ms. McNabb said, absolutely because the Aquatic Center is just a prime example. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any questions.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you so very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, thank you very much, Dianne [McNabb]. We appreciate it. Ms. McNabb said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Ms. Dianne McNabb, Chatham County's Financial Advisor, gave a presentation to the Board on the financial status of the County, which was received as information.

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5. STATUS OF BIDS ON ISLANDS POLICE PRECINCT. BIDS WILL BE OPENED ON THE 8TH OF JUNE. AN INTERIM REPORT WILL BE PREPARED AFTER THAT EVENT.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is just to keep you apprised. This is a priority project. The bids were taken. You'll have action before you on the 23rd. We have good bids in the context of what the engineer architect designed. Mr. Bungard is looking at coming up with an another approximate half a million dollars so that you can award this contract on the 23rd of June.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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6. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT PROPOSAL TO THE GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY FOR FUNDING UNDER THEIR WIRELESS COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do I hear a motion on that? Mr. County — Mr. Leonard, do you want to go ahead and tell us about that?

Mr. Lewis Leonard said, yes sir. The Georgia Technology Authority via the Legislature has four million dollars to grant to three or four jurisdictions in the State for wireless internet computer services. The — I have submitted information here asking you for permission to submit a grant application.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a motion on the floor to submit that grant? Commissioner Gellatly said, motion to do it. Chairman Liakakis asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the request of Information and Communication Services that the Board authorize the submission of a grant proposal to the Georgia Technology Authority for funding under the Wireless Communities Grant Program. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-6

AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Lewis L. Leonard, ICS Director

ISSUE: To authorize the submission of a grant proposal to the Georgia Technology authority for funding under their Wireless Communities Grant Program.

BACKGROUND: See Attachments # 1 & # 2.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1, The grants can be a maximum of \$1.5 million.
- 2. There is a 25% match requirement.**
3. The deadline for submission is July 7, 2006.
4. Performance of the grant obligations will likely necessitate an additional permanent employee in the ICS Department.
5. There is the possibility of controversy with the major national providers of wireless services.
6. The County does not have a grant writer on staff or under contract.
7. The establishment and growth of a community wireless computer network would have positive educational, law enforcement, government efficiency, and economic development aspects.
8. The project must be completed by the end of September 2008.

FUNDING:

The timing of this grant and the project cycle will allow most of the matching funds to be identified in the 07-08 budget cycle.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Commission has been supportive of technology grants such as, the COPS grant for interoperable public safety radio communications which is currently underway. There will be a lot of competition for these funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the submission of a Wireless Communities grant application.
2. Decline to participate in the Wireless Communities grant opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative # 1

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7. AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen. This is not good news. I know you probably had a chance to read the documentation provided by Mr. Monahan. We're

going through a design bill and the present staff and also our designer we've come to the conclusion we cannot build this and have it perform as we want it to perform. Therefore, we're taking drastic steps that begin with the very basic premise we're not going to build anything that doesn't work. Mr. Monahan?

Mr. Patrick Monahan said, rather than get into a lengthy description of the memo's content, I guess the short version is to say that the problems with the project will force the change in the project's schedule and that the November 1st date cannot be met. So as not to avoid any overly adverse conditions to the users, staff is recommending to delay the project, the construction of the project until the Summer of '07. That means that the pool will have to limp along with the wounded mechanical system until then. We are meeting with the manufacturer to see if some interim steps can be taken to at least alleviate some of the conditions within the Aquatic Center so that it can be continued in a usable state until next Summer, but that's not to say that work won't begin. The design work will actually begin probably in January or February, but there's a long lead time both for the manufacturer of not only the aluminum panels, but the steel structure that supports the panels and also the ordering the mechanical system. That in itself is a 12 or 14 week lead time.

Chairman Liakakis said, you're going to go ahead and paint it now, is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, yes.

Mr. Monahan said, yes sir. You might recall that the schedule previously, when we try to work under a very ambitious schedule and that was that from June 15th until approximately through the end of July would be painted in a six-week period. We then thought that some time after that, about the first week of August, the pool would then be turned over to the design build team, which would then implement the construction of the new roof and the mechanical system, and then that team would be finished by November 1st. In consideration that that can't be done by November 1st, rather than try to extend it and then cause a disruption to all the users who will absolutely need it in the Fall and Winter when the weather turns cooler, the best thing would be to just delay it until '07 on the construction.

Commissioner Farrell asked, but we will paint? Mr. Monahan said, the painting will continue. The pool will be closed for the next six weeks.

Chairman Liakakis asked, and you'll open up sooner than the November 1st? Mr. Monahan said, so when it opens up again August 1st, it will open up back on it's part-time schedule, on it's half-day schedule, until the weather turns cool enough so then it can be opened full-time.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I make a motion to approve staff's recommendation. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's all under this staff's recommendation the exact length of time. Commissioner Gellatly said, I make a motion that we approve staff's recommendation. Commissioner Farrell said, I'll second it. Chairman Liakakis said, all in favor signify by raising your hand. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman

Liakakis said, the motion passes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, for the record I vote opposed. Chairman Liakakis said, for the record he voted opposed.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve staff's recommendation regarding renovations to the Aquatic Center. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-7**AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006****Date:** June 9, 2006**To:** Board of Commissioners**Thru:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager**From:** Pat Monahan, Asst. County Manager
Robert W. Drewry, Director, Public Works & Parks Services**Subject:** Aquatic Center Update

Late-breaking news on the Aquatic Center renovation will affect every important aspect of the project, including schedule, budget, pool closing, its planned reopening for public use and contract. Because of the project's importance and the many issues involved, the Board should be advised prior to the June 12 meeting.

Background

At the April 21 meeting, the Board awarded a contract to a local joint venture of Turner/Barnard/Temcor/Newcomb/Saussy for design and construction of a replacement roof and mechanical system for the Aquatic Center. The conceptual design called for:

--Use of a Temcor (aluminum) roof system, which is manufactured at the company's plant in Effingham County. The aluminum panel system, which is highly-energy efficient (R-19 value), would also be able to withstand the caustic pool environment and would provide reduced maintenance costs.

--A favorable schedule with closing for only three months (August 1 and reopening November 1, 2006), since the aluminum-based roofing system also provided the advantage of faster fabrication and installation than a conventional roof.

However, during final planning and design, the contract team's mechanical engineers ran calculations which project that the Temcor panels would probably provide an adverse condition within a pool environment during winter months (i.e. moisture causing interior rain) because of Savannah's climate (previous Temcor aquatic center projects include several in Asia and Nashville but not in a coastal southern climate). The contract team acknowledges the risk of potential problems. To its credit, the contract team developed in concept four alternative designs, but none of the designs, since they are based on more conventional construction, could meet the November 1 schedule. More likely, with the known designs, the schedule would be extended to mid-December 2006 or mid-January 2007 (one option may be able for completion in mid-to-late November but without certainty and only by a new design approach). Furthermore, the County awarded a contract based on evaluation of a specific design—based on the Temcor (aluminum) panels—and only one of the new design options includes Temcor (it calls for an addition of a dropped ceiling with a collection system for moisture, which would not only be unproven and add to construction costs but also would likely increase maintenance and operating expense).

Issues/Alternatives

1. Schedule/Affect on Customers: Despite attempts at various options, no alternative would allow the contract team to begin construction August 1 and commit to re-opening November 1, as planned. Under the current schedule, it was assumed that the pool would close mid-June 2006 for pool painting (by separate contract), and then the facility would be handed to the contract team for construction (the period between May through July would be dedicated to planning, design, fabrication of aluminum panels and ordering of the new mechanical system).

–November 1 became an important goal for three reasons. First, during warmer months, customers (pool users) could seek other pools, including those outdoors, until cooler weather would require a move inside. This includes those who use the pool to train for competition. Second, an effort would be made to accommodate the Carey Hilliard's Swim Meet, which is among the largest and most-profitable events for the Aquatic Center, and usually scheduled for the last week in October. Third, a three-month closing would minimize the impact on the contract with Champion Management, which operates the pool and employs the staffing.

–Constructing from late summer through fall would delay a completion date to December 2006 or January 2007, especially without a contractually-obligated date, would adversely affect pool users, including competitive swimmers, major fall events and the management contract.

–The question then becomes scheduling to minimize impact on operations (also in recognition that the existing mechanical system cannot support comfortable use) and selecting a construction timeframe which would be least disruptive to users. Staff still believes a three-month period of closing during summer months provides the best schedule since it allows swimmers to seek other options outdoors and minimizes impact to operations and scheduled events.

2. Budget: The major expense of the project includes three main areas, which would be affected by rescheduling. First, the cost of construction material continues to rise, and this project's main materials, aluminum and steel, continue to reach record levels. Second, the cost of construction labor continues to rise, and a major part of this project's construction includes demolition of the existing mechanical system and duct work. Third, the cost of mechanical systems continue to rise, and a major part of this system includes replacement of cooling and humidity control.

–Whether the potential for a decrease in demand would offset the inflationary increase in construction and labor cannot be projected. The \$3.5 million budget would earn interest during the period of rescheduling.

3. Contract: The Board authorized execution of a contract April 21 to a local joint venture of Turner/Barnard/Temcor/Newcomb/Saussy, and staff issued a "Notice to Proceed" April 25 for the contract team to begin "preliminary engineering and design work" to meet the November 1 target date. A contract, based on a two-part execution of design-build, remains only in draft form and has not been executed.

–Two changed conditions are apparent from the basis of the Board's contract award to Turner/Barnard/Temcor/Newcomb/Saussy. First, the recommendation to award the contract was based on the evaluation of the Temcor (aluminum) panel system, which is manufactured at the company's plant in Effingham County, and offered a high insulation value (R-19), inherent quality of aluminum to withstand the caustic pool environment and potential for reduced operating and maintenance costs. Second, and which especially differentiated the contract team's proposal, the contract team provided in its proposal a schedule to meet the November 1 target date. Neither of these basis for contract award are certain.

–Another proposal from a local joint venture firm, TIC/Thomas & Hutton, teamed with Structures Unlimited, also offered an aluminum system but with translucent panels. Structures Unlimited has completed a number of projects in the South, including recent coastal location such as Charleston and Myrtle Beach. This proposal ranked equally to the awarded joint venture, except the team said it could not commit to a November 1 date (its schedule also called for a 3 ½ month pool closing but required a 3 ½ month lead time for planning, design and fabrication). Some questions also arose about the proposed mechanical system. The team has expressed an interest in the Aquatic Center contract, but only after confirmation that its estimates of construction cost remain viable.

Recommendations

1. Schedule/Affect on Customers:

1a. After completion of the pool painting in August 2006, the pool should be reopened to public use for half days (5:30 a.m. to noon) and evenings until the weather becomes cooler to enable full operating hours. According to an advisory

from the Health Department, the pool should be closed anytime the indoor temperature reaches 99 degrees.

1b. The pool would remain open for public use until May 2007. Efforts would be made to accommodate events with temporary supplementary cooling.

1c. Planning and design work would continue during this interim period until orders are placed mid-March 2007 for long-lead order times such as structural steel, aluminum system and mechanical system.

1d. The pool would close to public use in or about May 2007 to allow the start of construction and would re-open in September 2007. A committed schedule would be included in the final contract with penalty provisions for a late completion.

2. **Budget:**

2a. The \$3.5 million project budget would remain unchanged except that the bond proceeds to finance it will gain interest earnings, which would help offset increased costs.

2b. Whether the potential for a decrease in demand would offset the inflationary increase in construction and labor cannot be projected.

3. **Contract:**

3a. The Board should terminate the contract (unexecuted) with the local joint venture team of Turner/Barnard/Temcor/Newcomb/Saussy for design and construction of a replacement roof and mechanical system for the Aquatic Center. This action would be taken on the basis of two changed conditions from its proposal: Temcor-based system and the schedule. Should this joint venture team want to pursue a proposal based on a different design and schedule, it would be evaluated based on its merits.

3b. Staff would also continue to evaluate the proposal from the local joint venture firm of TIC/Thomas & Hutton, teamed with Structures Unlimited, which also offered an aluminum system but with translucent panels. Its proposal ranked equally to the awarded joint venture. This design-build team will not commit to any contract until it can confirm that its estimates of construction cost remain viable. Furthermore, staff also wants to verify on-site visits of some facilities.

3c. A committed schedule would be included in the final contract with penalty provisions for a late completion. In addition, when construction begins, the contracting firm will be required to post a payment and performance bond equal to the construction value.

Summary

In summary, though the changed conditions will require scheduling the construction until summer 2007, this returns the project on its previous schedule. The attempt to expedite the schedule to address immediate issues of the failed/failing mechanical system can be implemented without adverse consequence to pool customers and the management group—except for the inconvenience of

limited pool hours during summer months and warmer-than-ideal interior conditions. While not ideal, the new schedule will allow for an orderly approach to completing the project and without jeopardizing the long-term goal of ensuring a quality facility which can be operated economically and efficiently.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Liakakis said, Action Calendar — we've got Items 1 through 15 and A through P. Do we have any items —. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, you also have the addition at the lease at 410 West Broughton Street. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, we voted on that earlier. Y'all brought it to our attention.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make a motion to approve the Action Calendar including what the County Manager just said. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis asked, any other comments? Okay. All in favor signify by raising your hand. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the Action Calendar in its entirety, including the approval of the lease of 410 West Broughton Street, which has been added as Item 15-Q. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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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 REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 26, 2006, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commission Kicklighter moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 26, 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 18 THROUGH JUNE 1, 2006.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period May 18, 2006, through June 1, 2006, in the amount of \$3,934,160. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve an annual resolution to reaffirm the necessity of the "E-911" and wireless enhanced "E-911" charges. Commissioner Thoms seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3**AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

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

BACKGROUND:

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

FACTS & FINDINGS:

- (1) As provided for in state law, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution on November 8, 1991, to be effective 120 days thereafter on April 1, 1992, increasing E-911 rates in the unincorporated area and all municipalities with the exception of the City of Savannah from \$.16 to \$1.50. On March 12, 1999, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution reaffirming the need for the charge of \$1.50 per month per exchange access facility.
- (2) On August 13, 1999 the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution imposing a \$1.00 per month charge per wireless telecommunications connection. On April 21, 2006 the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution increasing the fee to \$1.50 per month per wireless telecommunications connection to be effective September 10, 2006.
- (3) The Official Code of Georgia section 46-5-134(d)(3) requires that Chatham County reaffirm the necessity for the "911" and wireless enhanced "911" charge beginning with the thirteenth month following the month in which the emergency "911" system service is first provided and during such month annually thereafter.
- (4) The charges provide funds to pay for the operation of the E-911 services and for purchase of equipment for such purposes. Under the intergovernmental agreement for police services between the City of Savannah and Chatham County, the County will remit E-911 fees to the City to fund the Savannah-Chatham County Metropolitan Police Department's E-911 functions.

FUNDING: Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES:

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

POLICY ANALYSIS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the amount of \$1.50 per wireless connection provided to each telephone subscriber was approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on April 21, 2006 to be effective on the tenth day of September 2006; and

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

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

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

BE IT SO FURTHER RESOLVED ON THIS 12TH DAY OF JUNE, 2006.

Attest:

Pete Liakakis, Chairman

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

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- 4. REQUEST FROM EMC, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, GREEN ISLAND ROAD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, FOR THE COUNTY TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTED IMPROVEMENTS, INITIATE THE WARRANTY PERIOD, REDUCE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECORD THE PLAT FOR MARSHVIEW LANDINGS, PHASE 3.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request from EMC, engineer for the developer, Green Island Road Development Company, for the County to approve the constructed improvements, initiate the warranty period, reduce the financial guarantee and record the plat for Marshview Landings, Phase 3. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4

DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE: To approve the constructed improvements, initiate the warranty period, reduce the financial guarantee and record the plat for Marshview Landings, Phase 3.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, EMC, for the developer, Green Island Road Development Company, requests that the County approve the constructed improvements, initiate the warranty period, reduce the financial guarantee and record the final plat for Marshview Landings, Phase 3.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. Marshview Landings, Phase 3, is a private townhome subdivision off Green Island Road on Skidaway Island. This phase of Marshview Landings consists of 20 lots on 3.76 acres. The paving and drainage will be maintained by the Marshview Landings Home Owners Association. The water and sanitary sewer is privately owned and maintained.
2. The bonded improvements were completed as part of Marshview Landings, Phase 4A. The improvements were inspected and found to be constructed in accordance with the approved plans and Chatham County Standard Specifications.
3. The developer has submitted a letter of credit issued by United Community Bank in the amount of \$86,190.00, which is 100% of the cost of all improvements. The developer requests that the County reduce the financial guarantee to \$43,095.00, which is 50% of the cost of the paving and drainage improvements.
4. An Environmental Site Assessment was completed by EMC in September 2001 in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the constructed improvements, initiate the warranty period, accept the reduced financial guarantee and approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Marshview Landings, Phase 3.

2. Do not approve the request.

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District: 4

Prepared by: Nathaniel Panther
Civil Engineer I

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**5. REQUEST FROM THOMAS & HUTTON, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, GENESIS DESIGNER HOMES, FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR STONEBRIDGE, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THIS PHASE INTO THE EXISTING STONEBRIDGE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request from Thomas & Hutton, engineer for the developer, Genesis Designer Homes, for the County to record the subdivision plat for Stonebridge, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and recombine this phase into the existing Stonebridge streetlight assessment district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5

AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE: To record the subdivision plat for Stonebridge, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and recombine this phase into the existing Stonebridge streetlight assessment district.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, Thomas & Hutton, for the developer, Genesis Designer Homes, requests that the County approve the final plat for recording, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and recombine this phase into the existing Stonebridge streetlight assessment district.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Stonebridge is a single-family residential subdivision located within the Berwick Plantation development on Highway 17. This phase of Stonebridge consists of 37 lots on 12.934 acres. Paving, drainage, and streetlight energy and maintenance costs will be maintained by the County. Water and sewer will be maintained by Consolidated Utilities, Inc.
2. Staff approved construction plans and issued a permit. Construction of the improvements is complete. Staff inspected the improvements and found them satisfactory. Staff has not received all final close-out documents and cannot recommend initiating the warranty period at this time.
3. The developer has submitted a letter of credit issued by First National Bank of Nassau County in the amount of \$130,223, which is 50% of the cost of dedicated improvements (paving and drainage). Due to the completion of all required improvements, this is an acceptable financial guarantee.
4. Streetlights are installed, as required by the Streetlight Ordinance, by Savannah Electric at the developer's expense. This phase of Stonebridge will be combined with the existing Stonebridge streetlight assessment district. The annual streetlight assessment for the Stonebridge streetlight assessment district is \$54 per lot. This phase will provide 3 additional streetlights. The estimated annual cost for the 3 lights is \$880.62.
5. An Environmental Site Assessment was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Stonebridge, Phase 4B, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee, and to recombine this phase into the existing Stonebridge streetlight assessment district.
2. Do not approve the request.

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 7

PREPARED BY: Suzanne Cooler

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FOR 100% OF THE SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED BENEFITS FOR CHATHAM COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF FROM JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve renewal of a contract with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Cooperative Extension for 100% of the salaries and associated benefits for Chatham County Extension staff from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-6

AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Jackie Ogden, Chatham County Extension Coordinator

ISSUE:

Approval of renewal of contract with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. The contract is for one-hundred percent of the salary and associated benefits for Chatham County Extension Staff from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND:

Renewal of existing contract for FY 07 – see attached Budget

FACTS:

This request is made to permit continuation of services rendered by Chatham County Extension, 124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA.

FUNDING:

County operating Fund – FY 07 budget

POLICY ANALYSIS:

This is a continuation of existing contracts to permit us to maintain our partnership with the University of Georgia and Chatham County Extension for delivery of Extension programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

We are seeking The Board of Commissioners approval.

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7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION FOR 100% OF THE SALARIES AND ASSOCIATED BENEFITS FOR CHATHAM COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF AT THE CHATHAM COUNTY BAMBOO FARM AND COASTAL GARDENS FROM JULY 1, 2006 – JUNE 30, 2007.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve renewal of a contract with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension for 100% of the salaries and associated benefits for Chatham County Extension staff at the Chatham County Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7
AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Jackie Ogden, Chatham County Extension Coordinator

ISSUE:

Approval of renewal of contract with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia on behalf of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. The contract is for one-hundred percent of the salaries and associated benefits for Chatham County Extension Staff at the Chatham County Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND:

Renewal of existing contract for FY 07 – see attached Budget

FACTS:

This request is made to permit continuation of services rendered by Chatham County Extension at the Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens.

FUNDING:

County operating Fund – FY 07 budget

POLICY ANALYSIS:

This is a continuation of existing contracts to permit us to maintain our partnership with the University of Georgia and Chatham County Extension for delivery of Extension programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

We are seeking The Board of Commissioners approval.

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8. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT BY RESOLUTION THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to adopt by resolution the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7

AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Phillip M. Webber, Director, CEMA

DATE: June 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Adoption by Resolution of the National Incident Management System

ISSUE

To request the Board adopt by resolution the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

BACKGROUND

1. Federal Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 establishes the National Incident Management System. The NIMS establishes a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management to ensure that all levels of government have the capacity to work efficiently and effectively together using a national approach to domestic incident management. Through enacting O.C.G.A.39-5-57, the State of Georgia has mandated that all local public safety and emergency response organizations, including emergency management agencies, fire departments, and emergency medical services, shall implement the standardized unified incident command system; those agencies that do not establish such systems shall not be eligible for state reimbursement for response or recovery related expenses.

FACTS & FINDINGS

1. CEMA has implemented the National Incident Management System into all affected plans, processes, and procedures of the Chatham Emergency Management Program.
2. CEMA has provided appropriate NIMS adoption guidance and ongoing training to affected agencies, departments, and divisions of county and municipal governments within Chatham County.
3. CEMA will provide continued guidance to all Emergency Management Program elements to ensure compliance with HSPD-5.

FUNDING

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

1. Adopt by resolution the National Incident Management System.
2. Do not adopt NIMS by resolution.

POLICY ANALYSIS

Adoption of NIMS is required by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 and State of Georgia code for eligibility for federal and state reimbursement for disaster response or recovery related expenses.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve alternative 1.

ENCLOSURE

NIMS Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Federal Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 5 establishes the National Incident Management System (NIMS); and

WHEREAS, NIMS establishes a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management to ensure that all levels of government across the nation have the capacity to work efficiently and effectively together using a national approach to domestic incident management; and

WHEREAS, NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state and local governments to work together to prepare for and respond to, and recover from domestic incidents regardless of the cause, size or complexity; and

WHEREAS, NIMS provides for interoperability and compatibility among federal, state and local capabilities and includes a core set of concepts, principles, terminology and technologies covering the Incident Command System, Unified Command, training, management or resources and reporting; and

WHEREAS, all Federal departments and agencies shall make adoption of the NIMS a requirement for providing federal preparedness assistance through grants, contracts or other activities to local governments; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has enacted through law (O.C.G.A. 39-3-57) that all local public safety and emergency response organizations, including emergency management agencies, fire departments and emergency medical services, shall implement the standardized unified incident command system and that those agencies that do not establish such system shall not be eligible for state reimbursement for any response or recovery related expenses;

Be it therefore resolved that the County of Chatham, State of Georgia, hereby adopts the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as established under HSPD 5 and the Unified Command System as established under O.C.G.A. 38-3-57 as its system of preparing for and responding to disaster incidents and directs all incident managers and response organizations in Chatham County to train in and use these systems in their response operations.

This the _____ day of _____, 2006.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

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9. REQUEST FOR NEW SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2006. PETITIONER: ARTHUR C. GARZA, D/B/A EL MARIACHI RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 5730 OGEECHEE ROAD, STE 180. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Arthur C. Garza, d/b/a El Mariachi Restaurant, located at 5730 Ogeechee Road, Ste. 180, for a new Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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10. REQUEST FOR NEW SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2006. PETITIONER: JAMES J. BARTA, D/B/A BARBARA JEAN’S RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 138 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of James J. Barta, d/b/a Barbara Jean’s Restaurant, located at 138 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for a new Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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11. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2006. PETITIONER: HAY THI VO, D/B/A YANAGI RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 821 KING GEORGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Hay Thi Vo, d/b/a Yanagi Restaurant, located at 821 King George Boulevard, for a new beer and wine pouring license for 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 12. REQUEST FOR NEW LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2006. PETITIONER: SCOTT W. SMITH, D/B/A COASTAL HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC., LOCATED AT 1 FORT JACKSON ROAD. [DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Scott W. Smith, d/b/a Coastal Heritage Society, Inc., located at 1 Fort Jackson Road, for a new liquor pouring license for 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 13. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2006. PETITIONER: MAGDA CASTELLANOS, D/B/A JALAPEÑOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 7405 SKIDAWAY ROAD. [DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Magda Castellanos, d/b/a Jalapeños Mexican. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 14. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2006. PETITIONER: ERICH CHRISTOPH, D/B/A BAJA CANTINA, LOCATED AT 3A SKIDAWAY VILLAGE WALK. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Erich Christoph, d/b/a Baja Cantina, located at 3A Skidaway Village Walk, for a renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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15. 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. Twenty (20) replacement computers	District Attorney	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$19,710	General Fund/M&O - District Attorney
B. Seven (7) modular workstations	C.E.M.A.	National Office Systems (State Contract)	\$27,625	CIP - C.E.M.A. Operations Center
C. One (1) protective explosive search suit	Sheriff	Med-Eng Systems, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$10,846	Homeland Security Grant - Sheriff's K-9 Unit
D. Change Order No. 4 to the contract to perform a drainage investigation/ analysis and recommend storm water improvements for additional services	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$9,800	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage - Louis Mills/ Redgate/ Rahn Dairy Canal Project
E. Construction contract for the paving of Fountain Road	SPLOST	E & D Contracting Services, Inc. (WBE)	\$389,481	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Fountain Road (pending Board approval of FY2007 budget)
F. Extend for an additional one year term for the annual contracts for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel	Various	•The Sommers Company •Barrett Oil Company	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
G. Annual contract with automatic renewals for four (4) additional one year terms to provide full service HVAC maintenance services at the Judicial Courthouse	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Erickson Associates, Inc.	\$47,000 with a 9% increase for years 2-5	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
H. One year contract for installation of fencing and gates at various SPLOST drainage improvement projects	SPLOST	R.W. Moore Fence Company, Inc.	Not to exceed \$50,000	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Various drainage projects
I. Confirmation of the purchase of 4,500gl of jet "A" aviation fuel and enter into an annual price agreement with automatic renewals for three (3) additional one year terms for the future purchase of aviation fuel	Mosquito Control	Sommers Oil Company (Sole Source)	•\$11,295 •Cost plus \$.04 on the date of shipment	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
J. Contract to provide supplemental striping of unincorporated County roads	Public Works	Thompson Pavement Markings, Inc.	\$29,000	SSD - Public Works
K. Change Order No. 6 to the contract to widen Stephenson Avenue for changes to the water and sewer lines as requested by the City of Savannah	SPLOST	APAC-Georgia, Inc.	\$20,073	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Stephenson Avenue
L. Two (2) dump trucks	Public Works and Park Services	Freightliner of Savannah	\$118,234	CIP - Fleet Replacements - SSD
M. Eight (8) five row sets bleachers	SPLOST	MASA Company	\$19,255	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Park Renovation
N. One (1) used Chevy Trailblazer	Sheriff	Fairway Lincoln Mercury	\$19,000	CIP - Fleet Replacements - M&O
O. Six (6) month contract extension for employee health insurance	Human Resources and Services	Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Georgia	No increase in administrative fees	Health Insurance Fund

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
P. Memorandum of Understanding for the coordinated expansion of recreational and sports opportunities in the area of track and field for the youth of Chatham County	Public Works and Park Services	Silver Cheetahs	N/A	Funding will come from the budget of the department of Public Works and Park Services which has received funding from the Chatham County Recreational Authority to use for facilities and equipment.
Q. Temporary lease of 410 West Broughton Street to house District Court Administrator, Sheriff's Office operations and Board of Assessors staffing	SPLOST	Cohen Properties	\$3,500 monthly or \$15/sq. ft.	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Project

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items A through Q, both inclusive. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

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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. AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE, ARTICLE U, APPEALS, REZONING, DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW FEES TO INCLUDE SECTION 7, HISTORIC REVIEW FILING FEES.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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- 2. THE PETITIONER JOEL MARTIN, AGENT (FOR FIRST COUSINS REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT LLC), IS REQUESTING THE REZONING OF A 2.37 ACRE SITE FOR R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL – 5 UNITS PER NET ACRE) ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS TO A P-R-3-6 (PLANNED RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY (RESIDENTIAL – 6 UNITS PER NET ACRE) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-060330-42309-1
[DISTRICT 8.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

**Petition of Joel Martin, Agent
MPC File No. Z-060330-42309-1**

The MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present R-1 (Single Family Residential 5 units per net acre) to a R-R-3-6 (Planned Residential Multi-Family Residential 6 units per net acre).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point located on the centerline of Garrard Avenue approximately 80 feet south of its intersection with the centerline of Brandlewood Road, thence proceeding in a westerly direction along a line North 72 degrees 17 minutes West a distance of approximately 1102 feet to a point on the centerline of Veteran’s Parkway, thence northerly along the centerline of Veteran’s Parkway a distance of approximately 245 feet to a point, thence in an easterly direction along a line South 72 degrees 02 minutes East a distance of approximately 878 feet to a point on the centerline of Garrard Avenue, thence in a southerly direction along the centerline of Garrard Avenue back to the point of beginning.

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

P.I.N. 1-0789-01-020

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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:

A status report was attached for review.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2
AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Multi-directional radar unit	Sheriff	Applied Concepts, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$2,985	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
Explosive storage magazine cabinet	Sheriff	U.S. Explosives	\$6,657	Homeland Security Grant - Sheriff's K-9 Unit
Four (4) laptop computers	ICS	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$9,886	General Fund/M&O - ICS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Cisco network infrastructure 24 port switch	ICS	Entre Solutions (MBE)	\$7,413	•General Fund/M&O - ICS - \$4,616.50 •General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court - \$2,796.50
Core and pump flowable materials to repair damage to bridge	Bridges	Chatham Concrete Construction, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$5,175	General Fund/M&O - Bridges
Six (6) HP laser jet printers	District Attorney	Disys Corporation (State Contract)	\$3,480	General Fund/M&O - District Attorney
Various herbicides	Public Works	Red River Specialties, Inc.	\$3,050	SSD - Public Works
Miscellaneous repair parts to replace worn parts on Rhino mowers	Parks and Recreation	Atlantic Coastal Equipment	\$6,070	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Permit exhibits for Corps of Engineer, Department of Natural Resources and GDOT	Engineering	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$7,300	CIP - Engineering
Establish property lines and right of way lines in areas of fence to be installed at the Placentia Canal	SPLOST	Collins Engineers, Inc.	\$2,700	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Placentia Canal
Exhibits for bench trial for damages by Triangle Construction at County mitigation bank	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$7,500	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Hardin Canal
Prepare design narrative to relocate the existing level transducer to the wharf near the Savannah River	SPLOST	Rosser International, Inc.	\$2,900	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Pipemakers Canal

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Construction plans to modify intersection at Jimmy DeLoach Parkway and Benton Blvd.	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$9,450	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Spur 21 - Phase I
Prepare special conditions specification section for the Pipemakers Canal drainage project	SPLOST	EMC Engineering	\$2,585	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Pipemakers Canal
Prepare traffic signal warrant analyses for intersections on SR 307 at US 17 and Southbridge Blvd.	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$8,250	SPLOST (1985-1993) - SR 307 at US 17
Two (2) 1.0GB computers without monitors and four (4) year next business day on site warranty	Court Administrator	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$3,875	General Fund/M&O - Court Administrator
Rental of construction equipment for clearing, grubbing and debris removal for Public Defender and District Attorney buildings adjacent to Juvenile Detention Facility	Engineering	T Clearing	Not to exceed \$9,800	Land Bank Authority

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Roads**AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006****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 GDOT allocations of funds among the Congressional districts and the balancing of funds in the Chatham Urban Transportation Study (CUTS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The current TIP and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) were approved by the CUTS Policy Committee on June 22, 2005. Key milestone events are summarized in the attached table.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. Right of way (ROW) plans were approved on June 30, 2005. The acquisition process has started and will take until mid-2007 to complete (26 parcels acquired by early acquisition; 65 parcels to acquire). Design is underway.
2. US 17, Ogeechee River to SR 204: Subsequent to ceasing work, the GDOT put the contractor on notice for non-performance. The contractor filed for bankruptcy. GDOT advises that negotiations with the bonding company and a contractor may result in the signing of a contract by June 2. A new completion date has not yet been established.
3. Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road Widening. Construction by APAC is at standstill. There has been some relocation of electrical, telephone and water/sewer facilities by utility companies. GDOT approved a change order with APAC to continue work, setting a new completion date of May 31, 2008.
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, County, City of Savannah and APAC performed the joint final inspection on June 14, 2005. A punch list was compiled (129 items) and given to APAC on June 21, 2005. Some punch list items remain to be corrected. A water valve manhole under the pavement at Forest Park Drive and Stephenson Avenue needs to be raised. A fence adjacent to the West Side Rental Company needs to be re-erected. APAC has been notified by letter that the City of Savannah wants to make a final inspection on the storm water when their subcontractor (Dixie Excavating) says all corrective work is complete. Staff is coordinating with the City

of Savannah and Dixie Excavating to do a final inspection on the new water lines. All sanitary sewer work has been accepted by the City of Savannah. APAC is now handling project close-out through their attorneys.

5. Whitfield Avenue Widening. The FHWA approved the EA on February 13, 2004. Preliminary design was 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 median with landscaping causes four additional residential displacements and increases GDOT's ROW acquisition costs. The revised Concept Report was submitted to GDOT on July 6, 2005. GDOT asked for updated ROW acquisition costs which was provided to GDOT on October 21, 2005. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) was held on February 28, 2006. The comment period for the PIOH ended March 14, 2006. As a result of a meeting with the GDOT Project Manager on May 2, 2006, the GDOT provided (by email) written guidance as to an acceptable minimum landscaped median width (not less than 40 feet) and a design speed (45 mph). The County's consultant is revising the Concept Report and Environmental Assessment accordingly.

6. Diamond Causeway Widening. The Draft EA was approved by the FHWA on February 25, 2005, for advancement to public hearing. A PIOH was held on June 9. Because of issues regarding the impact of changed design criteria (width of median and design speed of high span bridge) on approval of the EA, the GDOT has taken over design and management of the project. In the meantime, the County offered to do the improvements on Skidaway Island by County Contract or permit. The design for the portion on the Island is complete, and was submitted to GDOT for review in January. Staff is still waiting on review comments from GDOT.

7. 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 FHWA on February 1, 2006. FHWA comments were transmitted March 28, 2006. The County's consultant is addressing the FHWA comments. When the Draft EA is signed, a public hearing can be scheduled.

8. Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2 (I-16 to US 80). The FHWA approved the Final EA on March 3, 2006. Staff has requested a proposal from the County's consultant to complete the design incorporating the new requirements and changes in design criteria since the project started in 1994.

9. White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Road. A PIOH was held on August 12, 2004. The Need and Purpose Statement was 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. It was submitted to GDOT January 19, 2006. The

project will include either sidewalks on both sides or a multi-purpose trail on one side. GDOT has apparently transferred management of the project from Atlanta to the Jesup District Office and the consultants latest submittal has been misplaced.

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 ROW costs (over \$22 million -- local cost), the City of Savannah, County and consultant proposed reductions in the project. The proposal was sent to GDOT October 28, 2005. This project has also been transferred to the Jesup District office to manage. Status of the last proposal is not resolved.

11. Abercorn Widening from Largo Drive to Rio Road. The project is on hold. A letter has been sent to the consultant indicating the County intends to cancel this contract because GDOT has included the concept development and environmental permitting in their Abercorn project from U.S. 17 to Truman Parkway.

12. 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 still has 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 ROW. 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.

13. Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement. LPA Group (consultant) is under contract with County to develop the Concept Report. A PIOH was held on May 26, 2005, presenting three alternatives to construct high span bridges. Written responses to the comments are complete. Estimates of utility relocation costs from GDOT are needed to complete the Draft Concept Report.

14. US 80/SR26

a. Lynes Parkway to Victory Drive. GDOT is preparing the EA. The GDOT schedule shows a PIOH in 2006 and award of a construction contract in 2008.

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

15. Local Roads

a. Fountain Road. ROW acquisition is in process. The quit claim deed approved by the Board at the March 24, 2006, meeting to complete the Vaden property transaction has been executed. Closing on that property may be imminent. There is one other property to be acquired that is in probate court. The earliest that

it can be cleared is June 6. Board approval of the construction contract is pending on June 12. NTP will not be issued until the ROW acquisition is complete.

b. Mobley Street, Yucca Place, Perkins Place. GDOT executed the County Contract on March 1, 2006. The Board approved award of the construction contract on April 7, 2006. Work is in progress. Estimated completion data is October 22, 2006.

c. Bond Avenue, Heather Street, Betran Avenue, Shore Road. GDOT executed the County Contract and issued NTP on August 19, 2005. Right-of-way issues on all the roads required changes to the construction plans, thereby delaying the bid process. Complications in the ROW negotiations on Bond and Betran Avenues are taking much longer than originally believed. As a result, GDOT agreed to a staff request to bid Heather Street and Shore Road separately for construction. The Board authorized the award of the construction contract for Heather and Shore on April 7, 2006. The notice to proceed will be issued to the contractor when the contract is executed (the contractor has been unable to obtain bonds).

d. Dulany Road, Cramer Street, Palm Drive and Old Pine Barren Road. Requests for County Contracts with GDOT on Old Pine Barren and Dulany were approved by the Board approval on October 21, 2005. ROW and construction plans for Dulany and Old Pine Barren should be ready in June. The consultant (McGee Partners) met with staff on February 21-23 to discuss plan development on Cramer Street, Palm Drive and other projects. During this visit a second field trip to Cramer Street was made to listen to property owner concerns. The Department of Engineering received a petition from property owners in the neighborhood requesting that any design for paving take into consideration the historic sensitivity of the area and trees that may incur root damage as a result of construction activity. The petitioners had an arborist assess the trees and placed a monetary value to them (\$293,000) and seek a 10 year monitoring period.

e. Stone Street. The property owners on this street originally did not want the street paved and submitted a petition to not pave the street. After several meetings, they changed their minds and submitted another petition with 20 of 22 property owners requesting that the street be paved. The Board authorized entering into a County Contract with GDOT on February 24, 2006. The request (GDOT Form 532) was sent to GDOT on March 1, 2006. Final construction plans will be ready in June, 2006. Right-of-way acquisition is needed on 2 parcels.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

SUMMARY OF ROAD PROJECT STATUS
June 2006

PROJECT	ELEMENT	MILESTONE FOR COMPLETION	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	NOTES
Truman Parkway, Ph 5	Environmental ROW Final Design Construction	Complete Aug 2007 Feb 2007	County County/GDOT County/GDOT GDOT	EIS approved 8/12/99 Acquisition underway. COMMISSIONER STONE LR
US 17: Ogeechee Riv/SR204	Construction	Unknown	GDOT	Contractor went bankrupt.
Middleground/Montgomery Cross Road Widening	Construction	May 2008	GDOT	Change order with APAC signed May 31, 2006.
Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy, Ph 2	Environmental ROW Design Construction	Mar 2006	County County County GDOT	Final EA approved by FHWA. COMMISSIONER STONE LR
Whitfield Avenue Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Feb 2004	County County County/GDOT GDOT	EA/FONSI approved. Preliminary plans on hold. ROW funded FY2005/06 COMMISSIONER STONE FY 2007
Diamond Causeway Widening and two bridges	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Unknown	GDOT GDOT GDOT GDOT	Draft EA signed Feb 05.
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		County County County GDOT	Draft EA pending approval by FHWA. 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.
NOTES: COMMISSIONER STONE = FY in which the projects are programmed for construction in the CUTS 2006-2008 TIP.				

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Drainage
AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

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

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

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Pipemakers Canal
 - a. Phase 1 (From the outfall at Savannah River to SR 21). Double channel size, replace bridges, replace tidegate, and provide maintenance access.
 - i. Construction work is complete and the new sluice gates now function automatically. The contractor has been provided a list of items to complete under warranty. A final pay request from the contractor and a summary change order is outstanding.
 - ii. Equipment to monitor gage operation has been purchased is being installed.

- b. Phase 2 (From SR 21 to I-95). Double channel size and provide maintenance access.
 - i. The permit application documents have been submitted to the USACE for approval.
 - ii. A contract to install an access road between Phase 1 and SR21. Work is approximately 70% complete.
 - c. Kahn Mitigation Site. This site will provide the necessary wetland mitigation for the Pipemakers Canal Drainage Improvement project. Construction documents are being reviewed by the USACE.
 - d. 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 work has been temporarily suspended. Staff is discussing options with the Georgia Ports Authority.
2. Hardin Canal
- a. Phase 1 (SR307 bridges). Widen channel and replace bridge crossings. The permit application is under review by the USACE. Design work is in progress.
 - b. Phase 2 (From 307 to Pine Barren Road). Widen channel and construct a detention pond. No target construction date. Staff is working to acquire canal rights of way for the future improvements on property owned by the Georgia Ports Authority. 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. Acquisition and removal of flood-prone properties are complete. Plans to provide access and improve the outfall are being prepared.
 - c. CSX railroad undercrossing. Final Design is complete. Staff is negotiating for access onto Hunter Army Airfield property (to facilitate project construction). Required easements have been acquired from private property owners.
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. Work is underway to secure easements and prepare construction documents.
 - d. Staff is proceeding with fencing modifications to improve security to the tidegate area and provide access for the Department of Public Works.

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. Phase 1A extends from Pipemakers Canal to Conaway Road. Right of way plans have been forwarded to the consultant to begin acquisitions. Title searches are underway. Coordination with GDOT for the crossing at Highway 80 is ongoing. Wetland delineation approval and a Provisional Wetland Permit have been received from the USACE.
 - ii. Phase 1B extends from Conaway Road to Main Street. Construction of these improvements is subject to available funding.
 - iii. Phase 1C includes the area west of Maple Street. Construction costs are to be funded by the City of Bloomingdale. Recommended improvements have been provided to the City of Bloomingdale.
 - b. Phase 2 includes improvements to system south of Main Street to Hardin Canal. These improvements are the responsibility of the City of Bloomingdale.
6. Little Hurst Canal Improve undercrossings at SR 21 and railroad, and widen channel downstream of SR21. A project to acquire rights of way and easements, and to acquire the required permits is underway.
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. The permit from USACE was received 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.
8. Kings Way Canal Widen channel and enlarge culverts from Kings Way Court to the Vernon River.
 - a. Phase 1. Improvements to crossing of the canal under Whitfield and the Truman Parkway were constructed as part of the Truman Parkway, Phase 4 project.
 - b. Phase 2. Improvements to widen the canal and enlarge culverts upstream of Truman Parkway were delayed because of strong objections by a property owner and by constructability issues at road crossings. A final decision on alignment has been determined and design and acquisition of easements is preceding.
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. Final design drawings are complete. Permitting has been completed. Acquisition of rights of way and easements is underway.
10. Village Green Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Upgrade culvert under Cambridge Drive. Completed October 1999.
 - b. Phase 2. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE. Staff is working with Georgetown Community Services Association staff to develop a conceptual improvement design.
 11. Port Industrial Park Increase the capacity of the crossing under State Route 307 and improve the channel downstream to Pipemakers Canal.
 - a. Design of the project to improve the canal downstream from SR307 to Pipemakers Canal is complete. The extension to the wetland permit has been obtained from the USACE.
 - b. The parcel upon which the project resides has been acquired by a developer. Staff is working with Garden City staff to coordinate approval of the proposed development with the needs of the project.
 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. The permit from the USACE has been obtained. Acquisition of easements is underway.
 13. Redgate/Rahn Dairy A project to provide larger undercrossings at several roads, canal widening and provisions for maintenance access.
 - a. This project will reduce storm water flows in the Louis Mills system as well as improve drainage in the Rahn Dairy canal.
 - b. Preliminary design is complete. Acquisition of easements and permitting is underway.
 14. Diggs Avenue Drainage (part of Louis Mills) This drainage improvement project involves improving drainage at the east end of Diggs Avenue. The required ROW has been obtained. The County solicited bids for the work and received only one response. A negotiated agreement with the one bidder was approved by the Board of Commissioners at the May 12, 2006 meeting. Notice to proceed will be issued after the contract is finalized.
 15. Ogeechee Farms
 - a. Phase 1. Improve internal collector system south of Vidalia Road. The project is complete and was accepted by the County in December 2005.
 - b. Phase 2. Improve road crossings at various locations.

- i. The County has received the Section 404 wetlands permit from USACE. Mitigation requirements have been met.
 - ii. Due to budget constraints, project scope has been revised to include crossing improvements at various locations. Staff has requested a fee proposal from the Consultant for design of additional problem areas identified by Public Works.
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. Design is complete. Acquisition of easements from the City of Savannah is complete. Acquisition of the remaining easements is 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 required by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been provided and a release obtained by that agency. A permit from USACE is expected once agreements with the affected property owner are in place.
 - b. Acquisition of easements is underway.
18. Quacco/Regency Park Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. Design work is underway.
19. Halcyon Bluff Subdivision Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. Construction is underway. Progress has been slow.
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 the project has been obtained. Right of way acquisition is complete.

- c. Options to provide access for maintenance of the outfall are being evaluated. Staff is negotiating a fee proposal with the consultant to provide surveying services.

- 21. Georgetown Canal Upgrading roadway undercrossings to improve drainage capacity at St. Ives Way. Construction work was completed in February 2006. Minor cleanup and an inspection report for the sanitary sewer work still remaining to be completed.

- 22. Wilmington Outfall A project to correct storm sewer drainage pipes between Wilmington Road and the Wilmington River. Design work is underway. At the consultant's recommendation, a preparatory cleaning and inspection project has been completed. Staff is reviewing the inspection report and preliminary construction drawings.

- 23. Henderson Channel and crossing improvements to alleviate flooding in the subdivision.
 - a. 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 is reviewing proposals for professional services to include final design and permitting to replace the Little Neck Road culvert. A scope of work for professional services and permitting related to improvements to the canal is being prepared as a separate contract.
 - b. Henderson Canal: Provide maintenance road for canal from Gateway Blvd. to Little Neck Road through wetlands. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE. No target construction date.

- 24. Walthour Canal at Off Shore A project to improve the undersized culverts under the entrance road to the Off Shore Subdivision. Final construction documents have been received. Efforts continue to secure the necessary permits for the project.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

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

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4. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON NEW RECREATION RESOURCES (RAP).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-4
AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Robert Drewry Director, Public Works and Park Services

ISSUE: Provide Board a status update on RAP and provide Turf Maintenance and Operation plan for Charlie Brooks Sports Complex

BACKGROUND:

At the Board's request, staff has developed a Recreational Action Plan (RAP) that best utilizes the \$500,000 allocated to Parks and Recreation for FY 06. It is staff's overall commitment to improve the visibility of the recreation facilities and the quality of recreational programs for the citizens of this community.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. To provide Board with a status update on RAP
2. To address the Charlie Brooks Park Turf Management Program:
 - Extension Service staff has scheduled a Core Aerator demonstration on June 6, 2006.
 - Liquid Fertilizer is now being applied to the fields.
 - Extension Services provided a copy of the latest publication on maintaining bermuda grass sports fields, and is in the process of developing a Use Operation Plan to minimize over use of the new turf.
 - An inaugural tournament has been scheduled for Charlie Brooks Park.
3. The RAP is as Follows:

I. Personnel

Tasks:

1. Purchase equipment for Carpentry Crew:

Purchased additional carpentry tools. The crew has begun making repairs as noted further in the update.

II. Facility Repairs

Task:

1. Lake Mayer

- A. Replace roof on large pavilion.
 - Replacement of the roof bid was put on hold until after the high use period this summer.

B. Renovate restrooms

- The anticipated completion date has been pushed back until mid June due to unforeseen plumbing problems.
- Facilities Maintenance and Operations will provide assistance with electrical requirements.
- Staff to update the Chairman of the progress at Lake Mayer not to lose those that volunteered to assist with the painting of the restroom floor.

2. Ambuc Park**A. Renovate restrooms**

- Staff has secured the needed material for the restroom renovation, and will move to Ambuc from Lake Mayer.

B. The Notice to Proceed was issued on 5/2/06 to replace the back stops fencing.**D. Score clocks are in and will be installed at the completion of the baseball season in mid June.****3. L. Scott Stell Park/Jim Golden Complex****A. Renovate restrooms**

- Staff is currently securing the material cost to begin construction.

B. The handicap walks have been installed with other concrete repairs to be made during restroom renovation.**C. Because of high bids and lack of funds, replacement of the backstop fencing is placed on hold until next fiscal year.****D. Score clocks are in and will be installed at the completion of the baseball season in mid June.****4. Memorial Stadium****A. Repairs to the roofs have begun and are expected to be completed on schedule, weather permitting.****B. Inside painting of the restrooms will be addressed based on available funds at the completion of the roof repairs.****III. Recreational Programs****Task**

1. Staff will partner with WTYB 103.9 Radio Station to highlight summer recreation activities through a Community Outreach program as a weapon against drugs and crime..
2. The Sports Panel has scheduled a baseball tournament beginning June 30th to officially open Charlie Brooks Sports Complex to limited activity.

Funding:

N/A

FOR BOARD INFORMATION ONLY

Various Districts

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5. STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 3% MIXED DRINK TAX ORDINANCE.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. County Manager, that first reading on the 23rd, that will be on the mixed drink tax ordinance? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. You'll have your first reading on that. It was initially scheduled for today. We'll have it before you on the first reading on the 23rd with adoption on the 7th of July. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-5
AGENDA DATE: June 12, 2006

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THROUGH: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: LINDA CRAMER, FINANCE DIRECTOR
GREGORI'S ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY

ISSUE

Status of the Proposed Ordinance to Levy a 3% Excise Tax on Mixed Drinks.

BACKGROUND

O.C.G.A. 3-4-131 allows Counties to levy a 3% tax on distilled spirits by the drink. The tax would be levied County-wide, including Municipalities that do not already levy the tax.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The proposed amendment text has not been completed nor reviewed by the County Attorney.
2. The proposed ordinance will amend the County code and be submitted for first reading at the second County Commissioners meeting in June.

- 3. The second reading which is scheduled for the first Commission meeting in July will also include a Public Hearing. The Public Hearing will allow discussion and information from the Municipality Representatives and the general public.

POLICY ANALYSIS

Instructional workshops will be scheduled to assist the applicable establishment owners. The workshops will be used to distribute the tax forms, provide assistance in completing the tax forms and provide a submittal schedule. The Finance Department staff will be the tax receiver and information contact point.

ACTION

For Information Only

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Kicklighter and seconded by Commissioner Gellatly the board recessed at 2:22 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 3:20 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2006

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION