

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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 9:30 a.m., Friday, December 15, 2006.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Patrick Farrell gave the Invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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Chairman Liakakis said, for the Commissioners just before we get into our roll call, I want you to speak into the microphone. Our new system's in operation right now and if we back up from the microphone, if we back up from the microphone they might not be able to pick it up. Just make sure that you're close to your microphone when you do speak so that when it's recorded and it goes out on the air, people can understand what's being said.

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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: Patrick Monahan, Assistant County Manager
Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. INTRODUCTION OF JOE MARKWALTER, CHATHAM COUNTY MILITARY LIAISON.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have the introduction of Joe Markwalter, who succeeds Ken Seymour, who was our former liaison to the military. Joe [Markwalter], would you come up to the podium please, and I want each and every one of you to know, I'll just tell you a little bit about Joe. He is the Veteran of the Year. You might have seen him where he led the parade for the Veterans Day Parade back in November. He has been Chairman of the Veterans Council, he has worked on many items with the military in the past and has done an outstanding job, and he's also a member of American Legion Post 184, and Joe has high regard from veterans in our community for the many things that he has done, and he has worked with the military before. So I think that Joe is really going to represent us in a great fashion as our Military Liaison for the County. Chairman Liakakis recognized Mr. Markwalter.

Mr. Markwalter said, thank you, Chairman Liakakis. First of all, I'd like to thank you for that wonderful introduction and again for the appointment. I look forward to working with you, the County and all of the local military. I already have some appointments set up with the

commanding officers, and I consider this a tremendous honor. I will do my best to serve Chatham County. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Joe. Appreciate that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Liakakis introduced Joe Markwalter, Chatham County Military Liaison.

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2. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have quite a number of properties in Chatham County that have not been assessed. They're all over. We've got well over four hundred of those. They need additional personnel because they are falling behind in being able to assess the property. A lot of these are new properties in our community that have not been assessed and the Tax Assessor's Office has requested for additional personnel. And so under that particular item, it's the — it's \$250,000 is what the request is to put those additional personnel and that's for a half year. Is that correct? That's for the next six months so that they are able to go out in the community and assess property, especially commercial and residential property that has not been assessed at this particular time. Any comments.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, I've got just a couple. I probably will support this. My concern is, Pat [Monahan], when we look at the staffing level, what gauge do we have to compare that staffing level with other similar situated organizations? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, I think Sheryl Snider could best answer that question, but I do know that the Board of Assessors evaluates based on the number of parcels. The State of Georgia sets up a formula of parcels versus number of appraisers, and the Board of Assessors contends that Chatham County is way behind particularly because of the growth and the number of new properties by virtue of all the additional subdivisions, particularly in West Chatham County. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, the only reason — is there a direct correlation then between parcel size and so many employees, appraisers —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, according to the Department of Revenue, yes. Commissioner Odell asked, and looking from that evaluation standpoint, we made a determination — we have, not the Tax Assessors — that these positions are required based on that formula? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, the Board of Assessors would argue that this represents the minimal amount of need, not to meet the suggested State formula. Commissioner Odell said, I'm going to support this, but I just want to go on the record again. We have no way of effectively evaluating additional needs for additional staff. It's based often not upon work flow analysis by a trained analyst, but it's based upon antidotal and some mysterious industry standard which never is included in our booklet. When other organizations are confronted with these kinds of problems, they have what is known — if you were to go to International Paper, I would imagine they have management engineering who will look at, or industrial engineering who will look at work flow and determine manpower. When we add new

positions based on a sheer number, we are concluding that the current staffing level is adequate. Right now we don't have a choice because if they ask for it and there's this mistaken belief that they give us the tax money, they get paid to do their jobs, and if they were not there, other people would do it. I hope at some point we look at developing an industrial engineering or management engineering so that when we have requests for new positions, we not only can look at the need for those new positions based on workload, but we can look at the other similar positions to see if their at capacity. Just because we've done it this way for 110 years, to me doesn't mean that you do not need to evaluate whether or not you have concerns as for system engineering, work flow, manpower and a whole host of other things. That's my pet peeve for the year, but the year's — how far are we to the end? Pretty close though. I don't need a response really.

Ms. Linda Cramer said, I was just going to say when we discussed this with the Chairman, what you could do is maybe give them conceptual approval for the allocation and then they could come back to you in January with the particulars of how they would spend the money. That was what was discussed yesterday as an option.

Commissioner Odell said, without having some systems engineering, any delay would be just a delay and until we have that I don't recommend that it be delayed.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I would concur with Commissioner Odell on that. It's a concern that I share as well and I think that, yes, as Ms. Cramer said, let's go ahead and approve it and then the information could come back to us, but I concur that we need to be good stewards of the monies for these departments and where they're going and what's going on. So I think Commissioner Odell was absolutely correct.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Do we have a motion on the floor to approve these additional personnel so that they can get to their work? Commissioner Farrell said, so moved. Chairman Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve additional resources in the amount of \$250,000 for the Chatham County Board of Tax Commissioners for personnel to assess properties. Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Liakakis welcomed the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Jasmine Gusby, a Senior at Jenkins High School, and Whitley Hawthorne, a Senior at Beach High School.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. BUDGET FOR BRIDGE EXTENSION AT TOM TRIPLETT PARK (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, I'm asking for support for something here that has been in the plans forever at the park and basically we all know what happens with the SPLOST funding. It shifts here and there over time, and there was at the time \$185,000 budgeted for the bridge, which would be a major asset as far as public safety in the area, as well as it would look nice in the area, but it goes — it would actually cross over the lake there and help out if someone was in trouble on the other side. It would be easy for people on the side where everyone parks to get over there really fast. And, you know, this to me actually should possibly even be over there, under number three, where the Board's consideration to fund Turner's Creek Boat Ramp paving project as in —, and number four, this is kind of us giving back to the community. We have an abundance of money in savings and it was always my believe, even in Garden City, that, you know, it's great to have the contingency, but once we have so much in there that, you know, it's good to give it back. And I really would appreciate the support for some funding to finish this phase completely at the park. This is the last thing, and it was basically as far as I understood, it was approved a long time ago back when I was up here whining about restrooms and everything else. It was a part of all of that, but then for whatever reason funding shifted and whatever happened, but it just wasn't available to finish that phase. So I would like to ask for your support in funding the bridge over to finish that phase of the park.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Pat [Monahan]. Would you tell us the availability and what we can do on that now?

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes sir. Just as Commissioner Kicklighter referred, within the individual action there are two recommendations. One's a recommendation, one's a board consideration for additional funding for recreation, which this Board has established as a priority. There are funds available within the CIP Contingency for this. The only thing I would caution the Board is Commissioner Kicklighter mentioned \$180,000. That's probably a three or four year old number. So chances are with the cost of construction materials, that number's probably closer to maybe even as much as a quarter of a million. Commissioner Odell asked, can

we get some accurate numbers? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, well, we would when we actually bid it, but I asked Mr. Drewry to take a look at that and I think he is suggesting it might be somewhere around \$220,000-\$230,000, so — but won't know until (1) it's designed and (2) it's actually let for bid. So it would come back to the Board at that point.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but I'll be asking for permission to bid it out basically designing this. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, no, we're just — what we'll do is transfer the money and set up the budget and then we would bid it out.

Commissioner Odell said, if you don't know how much money to transfer, how do you transfer the money? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, well, that's why we will transfer \$250,000 going with the upper number. Commissioner Odell said, it maybe high or low. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, but then when we bid it out, then that money would then return back to the CIP Contingency for availability for other projects. Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, may I just follow up on a couple of questions? We need to do something on the Westside regarding the recreation situation and we really need to be a little bit more instrumental. That is a substantial growth area for us and all. I support this, but I'm a little bit concerned as to the accuracy of the number, and I guess the Chairman wanted Robert [Drewry], if Robert has a better field for it.

Mr. Robert Drewry said, good morning. Robert Drewry, Director of Public Work and Parks Services. I share your concern your concern. The accuracy of number is also my concern. The engineer that designed that bridge back when it was first proposed was Thomas & Hutton Engineering and we're working with him to try to get a tighter budget. We do have some discussions going on now and I'm just not comfortable with the budget yet either, but that's one of the, if I understand, Commissioner Kicklighter's request is let's look at the budget and bring it back for consideration.

Commissioner Odell said, just one last question. Jonathan [Hart], considering how nebulous the number is on the budget, do we approve it conceptually and our staff would —. County Attorney Hart said, you can direct staff to put it out for bid and then when the bids come in, you know, we reserve the right to accept or reject bids. So, you know, you've got a failsafe there insofar as when the thing comes back we can say, you know, that's too much, rebid it, or let's not do it or let's downscale the bridge or whatever.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's great. For me, I don't want to waste money, so that's even fine for me.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I don't have any opposition to the project or to the idea of making improvements on the Westside where we're having the amount of population growth, but I just — we don't have any contacts. I don't have a staff report or anything that tells me where we stand with the CIP fund in general. I feel like, you know, it might not be a bad thing for us to say whether or not we agree that this is a good project and then ask for staff to do a full report on it and come

back to us and say — you know, I'd just like to have something in the book that tells me when somebody says, well, we think it's going to be \$250,000 and we've got the money, where's the money coming from and how's that being allocated across the board. I just — you know, Dean [Kicklighter], I don't have opposition to the project, but I'd like to have a little bit more information so that when I vote on it I can say, yeah, I looked at that and it does fit into our overall CIP needs.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, would it fit your description if we just bid it out with the right to not take the bids and then we'll have all the information at that point, because I know the money's there. I mean, there's plenty of money there? Commissioner Shay asked, how much is plenty?

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, well, let me explain it. I guess this is the bit of the quandary with these projects being considered this late in the year, but you know staff is about revising the Capital Improvement Plan, which provides — which presents to this Board the — identifies the projects and the priorities, but these projects are actually out in front of the release of that Capital Improvement Plan, which I think will be discussed at your retreat, but this Board because of the growth in the fund balance and its adoption of a Fund Balance Policy has set aside those funds that are not necessary as a reserve for the operations into CIP. There is \$6,000,000 for M&O projects, though as Commissioner Kicklighter points out, I don't know whether \$6,000,000 is plenty of money, but just to let you know, staff in the past is — we've gone through the CIP, I don't know we've taken it that seriously because this County's not been fortunate enough to have any money to fund the projects, but now we're taking it much more seriously because \$6,000,000 is real money and those are real projects. The only reason these three are being presented to the Board now is because all three relate to recreation and, as I said, this Board has established a priority with recreation.

Commissioner Shay said, I just — when we don't see the — maybe I'm not —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, these three being this one and what?

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, this one and the two — because you presented this one it was listed under Commissioners' Items, but the other two are presented under Individual Action. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, which numbers? Number three —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, one is the paving of the boat ramp for Turner's Creek Boat Ramp and second are the tennis courts which include both projects in District 4 as well as within District 7.

Commissioner Odell asked, what number is that? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, excuse me. That's — that would be —. Commissioner Odell said, three is the boat ramp. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, and two is the tennis courts. That's the resurfacing. That's the \$460,000. Commissioner Odell asked, and this is additional money that was generated by that .067 —? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, no sir. This is the fund balance. The Board adopted a Fund Balance Policy which sets up a certain amount of reserve for operating expenses should that emergency arise, but beyond that that money gets then transferred into a capital improvement program, which is the CIP Contingency. Commissioner Odell said, I know, but where did the money come from is my question? Assistant County Manager Monahan said,

you by your Fund Balance Policy was transferred from the fund balance into the CIP Contingency. Commissioner Odell said, okay, I'm no CPA, but my question is fund balance are monies in excess of other expenditures. Is that a true statement? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, that is true. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And the excess was created by our decision to increase the millage way back when [inaudible] problem, which ultimately led to our ability to do a fund balance. Is that true? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, well, that's partially true. Commissioner Odell said, partially. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, because it could be from not only the increased revenues, but also the savings from expenditures. Commissioner Odell said, increase and expenditures. Okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think my request basically is just to — this group's done a great job of definitely looking out for the entire County and let's not return to the old days where I don't even know why mine is separate up front. It should be lumped right there with Commission Fourth District. My request is no different than the request for this boat ramp paving, and if you oppose mine we need to oppose that too because it's the same, same thing.

Commissioner Shay said, I don't have any opposition to —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, I know that. I'm just —. Commissioner Shay said, I just — when we adopt a CIP budget, if I'm — I'm sure I'm right in remembering this — that they're prioritized and we have a list of things like the CIP budget sometimes that are listed as emergency or whatever, and \$6,000,000 is a lot of money. If we have enough money to make sure that we're not doing this at the same time that we have a roof leaking somewhere or, you know, there's some emergency in a priority above this that's not being addressed, I'm going to be okay with it. I just don't have enough contacts in my staff report to be able to say that, so [inaudible].

Chairman Liakakis said, let me introduce — this is Russ Abolt, our County Manager, who is recovering from knee surgery, and that's the reason why Pat Monahan is sitting in his position today. So, we're glad to have you here today.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I came back only because I didn't see it, but I heard that certain remarks were made about me when I was in the hospital bed, so I came back more to protect myself than anything else. Thank you, it's good to be back and I appreciate everything staff has done to bring this to you. This is the same as what Commissioner Farrell brought in Turner's Creek Boat Ramp. Commissioner Kicklighter talked about it at the dedication of the new Triplett Park. All you're doing is you're saying, okay, here are projects that you as individual Commissioners wish to carry forward, like Commissioner Farrell did about a month ago on Turner's Creek. Staff then comes back with a report and says this is how much we think it's going to cost and then you proceed. We do have the \$6,000,000, which you should be very proud of. It is a function of your very solid financial policies, but you have full control on this. Recreation is your number one priority. We want to put you in the position even in advance of your retreat to talk about CIP, to look at some of these projects and say let's jumpstart them so by the Spring and early Summer you're going to have some outstanding recreation facilities. You're fully in control. There's a reason though on how we do this is staff does not want to presume just

because we talked to one Commissioner that the rest of the Board would like to see us do this. So at this particular stage Commissioner Kicklighter is about three weeks to a month behind Commissioner Farrell. We'll bring back this project, just like we're doing with Turner's Creek, and then you decide. But we just don't want to — I don't mean this in an unkind way — we don't want to sit on the money. This is the public's money. Recreation is the number one priority. We have some beautiful facilities around this County. Just to be bureaucratic and say let's consider it in a month or two, we want to give each one of you an opportunity when the options are there to say because recreation is such a high priority in your respective district you want certain things done.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I just ask Russ [Abolt] a question? I asked Patrick [Monahan], this fund balance was created because of a policy change at the Commission. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, the reason we never had funding set aside in the past, we never had that excess money. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, we were constantly from hand to month. So when I asked the question whether or not our decision to increase that one-time millage .068 if that in any way impacted on this, I'm thinking — and I'm no CPA — it had an impact. Now tell me if it did. County Manager Abolt said, it did, yes sir, because you're creating financial reoccurring revenue. Had you not done that, sir, you'd — if this was a choice before without the millage increase, you'd have to be saying well do I want to spend something that right now I'm dependent upon each year to run recreation. In this particular case, you made the right decision. You have a reserve which exceeds your one month's requirement in M&O and we're saying now you have a choice to give it back to the public. Commissioner Odell said, I'm making this comment, and the comment is that we took a draconian beating for that minuscule tax increase, and a lot of people didn't come along with us on this. I don't know what other things these are being compared with, but my position is if you're not willing to go through the battle on the increase funding, don't be the first one at the trough to take advantage of it, and I don't say that with any resentment to any of the programs. I think they're all good programs, but I am not willing to take a beating and other people who didn't take that beating to be the beneficiaries. I'm not willing to do that. My Christian heart is large, it just ain't that large.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the things that we have too, you know, when we looked at our budget unfortunately we've got Al Lipsey and, of course, Robert Drewry telling us about our recreation needs in our community. Instead, and I've said this before, but I'll just reintroduce it again, instead of in the past spending a couple of hundred thousand dollars on maintenance and things like that, the taxpayers in Chatham County had to suffer the thing that we have over \$4,000,000 that was needed to correct the recreation situation that we have in our community with buildings deteriorating, that we have potholes inside the playing fields, that no grass over there and no scoreboards, the tennis courts are in bad condition and those kinds of things. But we have to look at this realistically and see because we want to be fair to all of the citizens in the community. One of the things that we've had and this Board has gone along with is, you know, and we pushed it really hard, so that we could put a large amount of money on the Westside where we're going to have this big something similar to Lake Mayer on the Westside so that it will be in Pooler so that — and we talked to all of the elected officials in those four cities on the Westside, so that we can make sure that they have, you know, recreation facilities too, and they can be used by other people in the community. But we need to look at the overall picture right

now, how much money do we have for recreation at this particular point, and do it in such a manner that doesn't place us in some type of a burden. Now that fund balance too is very important because we want to be careful about, you know, our bond rating, our loan rating depends on our fund balance that we have and unfortunately before this Commission we didn't really have a large fund balance, and if emergencies come up we've got to be able to take care of those emergencies and to make sure that our financial picture is in really good shape with that fund balance because it makes a difference in the entire community. Now, what I'd like to do is see if somebody wants to make a motion that we can go from there and let's see how we're going to proceed on this particular matter at this time. And it's really not trying to — at this point is to, you know, take advantage of, you know, a lot of the other Commissioners and those kind of things. We just need to be fair and reasonable about how we are going to fund these things and do it in such a manner that we can have the recreation because that is part of our quality of life in our community.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make the motion as it relates to the Westside and, Dean [Kicklighter], I really believe that this is necessary for many years, and you and Priscilla [Thomas] have the Westside. That's really been a great growth area, a lot of great people out there, and this is a necessary project. So I will make the motion that we submit this item for bids, and the purpose of the motion is that the item after we know the exact cost will come back to us for approval, and at that time such nebulous concepts as a lot of money and a lot of projects, then we'll have that and can finally vote on whether or not this ranks as high as some of the other things, and I'd like to see — I agree with Dean [Kicklighter] — I'd like to see the Turner's Creek pavement and those things. Let's come back at one time. If we have the funds to do them, I think we ought to do them. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We have a motion on the floor and a second to put this out to bid. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Holmes and Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that staff submit for bids the bridge extension at Triplett Park. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Holmes and Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

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2. PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PARTICIPATION OF MBE, WBE AND LOCAL BUSINESSES IN SPLOST PROJECTS AND URGE MUNICIPALITIES TO ADOPT A SIMILAR GOAL (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think mainly at the last meeting we discussed this very thoroughly and asked staff to draft a resolution in support of this request, and today the purpose is to now try to adopt this resolution. And if there is no discussion at this point, I'd like to move that the resolution that has been prepared be adopted. Commissioner Odell said, second. Commissioner Shay said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, the resolution is in your book. You know, it covers this particular item. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to adopt a resolution to support participation of MBE, WBE and local businesses in SPLOST projects and urge municipalities to adopt a similar goal. Commissioners Shay and Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Chatham County is firmly committed to the principles of equal opportunity, fairness and inclusion whereby all citizens can share in the prosperity and economic well-being of our community; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners has proven its commitment to championing participation of women-owned, minority-owned and local-owned businesses through its Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual, Minority Business Development Program, Best Value Contracting Program, Local Preference Purchasing Policy and other policy statements; and

Whereas, Chatham County spends substantial dollars each year in the community to obtain supplies, services and construction contracts to provide services to citizens, and the latest capital development program will be the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax 2008-2014, which citizens approved September 19, 2006; and

Whereas, Chatham County voters' approval of the 2008-2014 SPLOST referendum will make some \$440 million available for public projects, including some \$206 million in contracts which Chatham County will be awarding; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County wants to demonstrate its commitment to equal opportunity, fairness and inclusion for the participation of disadvantaged businesses, specifically minority-owned and women-owned businesses, in all expenditures of SPLOST funds by reaffirming its previous established goals to ensure that public contract participation in design and

engineering services, construction and suppliers reflects the diversity of businesses within the community and to ensure local business participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County shall require the Purchasing Office to include this resolution of commitment in all bid packages and front-end contract documents related to 2008-2014 SPLOST expenditures to demonstrate Chatham County's genuine commitment to this goal and urges those wanting to conduct business with Chatham County to try earnestly to achieve this goal and accept mutual responsibility for the principles of equal opportunity, fairness and inclusion.

FURTHERMORE, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County calls upon the community's municipalities, all of which share in these SPLOST proceeds, to follow a similar level of commitment by adopting similar resolutions. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to each Mayor for action.

ADOPTED THIS 15TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2006.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

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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. TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY PERSONNEL ORDINANCE AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, POLITICAL ACTIVITY, ARTICLE III-106, TO PROHIBIT A COUNTY EMPLOYEE FROM HOLDING ELECTED OFFICE. *Tabled at meeting of November 17, 2006.***

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to speak on this and then we can retable afterwards. So I'll make a motion to remove from the table.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We have a motion on the floor to remove. Do we have a second? Do we have a second? Commissioner Farrell asked, what is it? Chairman Liakakis said, well, this is a motion to take it off. Commissioner Gellatly said, I'll second it. Commissioner Thomas said, second just for discussion.

Commissioner Odell said, before we go to the vote. There's a motion to untable. Jonathan [Hart], we can table after we untable? County Attorney Hart said, right. Commissioner Odell said, and it's my understanding that Commissioner Kicklighter wants to speak to it and then we'll move to table. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that will be great. Commissioner Gellatly said, like you said.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. We are talking now about taking it off the table. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Odell said, when Dean [Kicklighter] has his hair combed specially, you know he's coming down to talk to us.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this here today. First of all, I want to state that this proposed change is — has nothing to do with Savannah Alderman Van Johnson, it has nothing to do with Mayor Anna Marie Thomas, Thunderbolt, or Garden City Council Member Misty Bethune. It should not ever have anything to do about nasty, mudslinging politics like I recently read in the paper. I believe that the policy change is about protecting our County and protecting every city within the County. The editor in the paper today — a few things he states. Commissioner Dean Kicklighter has been pushing for the new rule because he fears conflicts of interest in the future. For example, if a County employee runs for Mayor of Savannah and wins, that person could potentially work against the County's interest when it comes to future distribution of sales tax revenue among the local governments. He goes on to say, "But the key word is could." He says, "According to the Association Commissioners of Georgia, case law and common law tend to come down on the side of a no-run rule because of concerns about conflicts of interest." Then he goes on to say, "But again the key word is could. There is no evidence any County employee has done anything underhanded." I agree with that statement. There's no evidence that they have. I think they're all fine people. The key word is could.

I just want to stand here today and ask the public especially and all of you, don't be misled by this newspaper. Don't be misled by what the word could actually means. A good leader can tell you any day that preparing for what could happen is called planning. He's turned a word into something negative that it is actually a positive. Could is called planning. If you take an action on what could happen before it happens, it's called implementing preventive measures, and again it's brought down with the word could in the paper. As citizens we do this daily. We pay for car insurance, we pay for medical insurance. We do that because we could get in a wreck or we could get sick, but it's preventive measures. You have to have it because it could happen. When we hear that a hurricane could hit the area, we go out, we buy water, we buy food and we buy batteries, candles and sometimes we even evacuate. We all leave town, get in 10-hour traffic stalls. Why? Because the hurricane could hit and it could kill us. Thank goodness we've been pretty fortunate there. But again we planned and we've implemented and we were prepared in

case the could was actually a reality. We take preventive measures all the time. We go to a checkup at the doctor. Not because we're sick, but we're checking because something could be wrong. Preventive measures.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, a while back I worried about what could happen when I was the only person that voted against the police merger. I was kind of ridiculed in the paper the same way I take this today. I worried basically — well, from WTOC's website, September 26, '03: But not everyone agrees — this says — this is after it was approved: But not everyone agrees about the police merger. Commissioner Dean Kicklighter voted against the plan. And the way this passed today all the power goes to the Mayor and to the City, and I can't imagine the constituents being happy with the way this passed today, he told us. Commissioner Kicklighter worries that when the current administration is gone, the new administration will take a different attitude about a combined department. It says, the City Manager isn't worried about that. "There's always a chance, but that is why there's a 48-page agreement as to how communications will work, said Brown." I worried about what could happen. Fast forward. The old chief's gone, a new administration in place. We've all read it in the papers. Upset the Commissioners, upset the Manager for the lack of communication over the hiring, and which I'll say I believe they hired a fine police chief. They did a great job. Had we been involved and I had some say, I probably would have voted to hire the man from what I know about him. He's a good man, but lack of communication. We wasn't involved. I worried about what could happen. I asked us to restructure, do something a little different where we could be involved in case that ever happened. I was shocked that that actually happened that quick, but again that was what could happen and it did happen. Preventive measures. Had they been structured right, we wouldn't be in this boat.

Government knew what could happen to New Orleans. They didn't act, they didn't implement a plan. Imagine the difference had they actually acted and done the preventive measures. It would be a totally different place right now. Bill Clinton knew Ben Laden was potentially devastating. So I hear, he had the chance to obtain or even kill the man. Imagine if he would have acted and put in the preventive measures and obtained before the World Trade Centers and everything else went down.

Basically today I guess I'm standing here — can't find my notes, Harris [Odell] — unorganized, but with good intentions. Commissioner Thomas said, look in your book. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll tell you what could happen with this. What we have is we have an opportunity to act before something could happen here. Van Johnson is a wonderful man. All of the other elected people, they're great people that we have working here, but their could come a day when our Manager has to walk in and look at his employee and say, "Hey, would you mind disbursing and getting more police officers over to this area in Chatham County." There could come a day when our Manager has to — needs his employee, his own employee, needs him in order to perform the duties that we hired them to do. There could come a day when we all are negotiating, which we know it's fine, it's great, where we have to distribute SPLOST and LOST funds throughout the entire County. We have to decide the project and — Dr. Thomas, would you give me some water please and I'll come up there and get it. Thank you, Pat [Monahan]. Pat's got it. — That day could come when we have to sit. Our Manager could walk in, someone could have their feet just kicked up, sitting back, and the Manager, the boss, said, "What are you

doing?” and the guy could say, “Well, I’m just thinking about how I want to disburse the money throughout Chatham County, if I want to agree to this thing or not.” You could have that type of situation where he’s just laying around, but our Manager actually needs this guy to perform his job. There could come a day when our Manager is not here and we have a Manager that’s not on the up and up, that he could pretty much devastate the cities by going in and letting them know, because their livelihood depends on it, basically using his influence over their job to persuade their particular city how to vote on a certain issue. So this is not done to protect just the County. This is done to protect every city and citizen within the County. And again sometimes you just don’t do things that’s popular.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, God only knows, I can’t figure out the editor of this paper. I really can’t. He contradicts himself constantly. One day he’s beating someone up for not planning for their future. The next day you’re getting ridiculed because you’re planning on something that could happen. At the Metropolitan Planning Commission, every city has a planning commission. Why? It’s called planning for what is coming up in the future because we don’t have a crystal ball. Again, I hate this. Whatever brought the nasty mudslinging mess in here, political crap as far as I’m concerned, to bring in the fact that we were motivated for any reason other than what we were elected to do, which is protect the best interest of every citizen in this County. You know, it was brought to my attention that this could be political because what’s your Mother’s political aspirations. Well, basically that insinuated that I’m pushing so my Mother can run for mayor and wouldn’t have to run against basically — Hell, I’ll lay it out there — wouldn’t have to run against Misty Bethune. That’s what that insinuation was, what that accusation was. So I get a letter — I have to get it from my Mother who was in the hospital — signed stating that she has no desire whatsoever to run for Mayor of Garden City to remove that. This is the type of stuff that you have to possibly deal with and it shouldn’t be the case. It’s terrible that it was brought to the politics. I respect and appreciate each one of the employees and I hope that none of them dove to that level of pure mudslinging, political mudslinging, and I’m asking you, as leaders of the County, planning sometimes gets ridiculed, but if we’re standing here in 10 years or 20 years or 30 years, sitting in the audience, and it happens, then we’ll know that we could have prevented it and could have had a better County. You know, putting the political aspiration of three people ahead of the better interest of the 250,000 people that live in this County, that’s wrong, Mr. Newspaperman, that’s wrong. I respect the three people that’s in the positions, but if they feel that’s something’s called them that much to have to go run for something else, we at times have to make decisions for the best interest of the entire County, not a few as shown by the unpopular and condemnations. Sometimes you have one homeowner that won’t see, but there’s a thousand people flooding up the block, we have to go in and that’s the worst thing I can imagine happening is taking someone’s property, but in our position we have to do what’s best for the majority of the people in the community. And, yes, I’m sorry, I think Van Johnson’s a wonderful leader, I think Misty Bethune’s a wonderful leader, I think all three of them are great leaders, but we can’t put their political aspirations over what’s best for this entire County. I ask you to do the right thing, not the newspaper politically correct thing, and approve this. Thank you. And I want to state if it’s going to be tabled again, I’ll stick by my word because, contrary to the way the newspaper likes to portray me, I’ll be glad to send a message to every city that does not have an elected official on their asking if they — their opinion, and if they don’t — if they’re not worried about it one way or another, that would be fine with me because they’re elected to represent their cities and if they

see no problem with this, then so be it. We can move forward. I have no dog in the fight, but when you brought my Mother in it —. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Do we have any other discussion right now? Any discussion? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to —.

Commissioner Thomas said, before we call the question, when we table it, we will have an opportunity at another time when we untable it for future discussion and et cetera, will we not? Or either dispose of it one way or the other? County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I don't really won't to read any more about my Mom or my family in the paper. I'd like to see it go one way or another.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, there's other considerations that's coming in to it that have been mentioned by some council people and we've got letters and all. If we table it, I mean, we still have the opportunity at the next time when we take it off the table to go one way or the other or, you know, put certain things in there that we feel is right for the County employees or whatever the situation might be. So that's the situation that we have, the ability right now that we can make a decision at a later date, you know, at a time given and go from there and get all of the information that we need to make this decision, and I don't think, number one is we've got a good Commission and people up here are working for all of the community, and they work hard and, you know, they represent this County and we're going to continue to do that because we can see a lot of progress that this Commission has made in a tremendous amount of good work that has happened all over this County because of this Commission working together as partners and also with all the other cities, the other seven cities too. We have the best relation that there has ever been between the smaller cities as well as the large cities in our County, and that's terrific and that's because we've got a good Commission working for the betterment of everybody so that nobody feels left out in our community.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Thomas said, I didn't finish, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, excuse me. I'm sorry, Priscilla [Thomas].

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. The other thing — the question I would like to ask, it has been alluded to a couple of times or more, have any of these three persons that have been mentioned, Mr. Johnson, Misty [Bethune] and the Mayor of Thunderbolt, have they indicated that they were going to be running. I mean, I keep hearing this. Mr. Johnson, you're here. Have you stated that you were running for Mayor next time? I mean, I would just like to clear the air. Mr. Johnson said, ma'am, with all due respect, I'm focused on being the best employee I can be. Today [inaudible], a representative of my constituents on my off time as I can be and that's all I can be. Certainly I have not seen any aspirations, I have no aspirations to be able to do that. Certainly I enjoy my County service, I enjoy the opportunity to serve you and to implement the things that you have done. Certainly the Chairman was very correct when he said this is a very good time in our community that we're able to really work together and have excellent relations and I'm pleased to be able to be a part of that. On the other side of it, is that we're also enjoying good success at our City and for the representative, the folks that I've been blessed to be able

to represent, so to answer you question specifically, Dr. Thomas, I have no aspirations to do that. I need to be able to eat. I like to eat, and the fact of the matter is the \$14,500 that I receive from the City of Savannah to serve as an Alderman, that's burned up in gas every year to be honest with you and I give away more to churches and civic organizations, as you all know, in the case of doing that. So I have no aspirations. Commissioner Thomas said, the reason why I asked that question was because I've heard it out in the community, you know, over and over and over about that these three people have declared, you know, that they may run, so I just wanted to make sure that that clears the air.

Commissioner Odell said, I think I said it. I said I think Van Johnson at some point would make an excellent mayor and maybe I shouldn't have said that. I was —.

Commissioner Thomas said, I mean, and that's okay because we live in a democracy. Commissioner Odell said, I'm sorry, Van [Johnson]. I was impressed. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to say that — if I could comment off of that. Commissioner Thomas said, let me get this last word and then I'm going to let you finish. We live in a democracy, we live in the United States of America, and that's one of the, you know, wonderful privileges that we have living in America that we able to do that type of thing. So with that —.

Chairman Liakakis said, hold it, Dean [Kicklighter]. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, it was relevant to the topic on Van [Johnson]. Chairman Liakakis said, well, Helen [Stone] had raised her hand first before the conversation. Go ahead.

Commissioner Stone said, I don't want to cut anybody off. If there is more information forthcoming, Mr. Chairman, then I will make a motion to put this back on the table until we've received all the necessary information in order to make an informed decision. Commissioner Farrell said, I'll second that.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have a second. Now, we can continue with the discussion. County Attorney Hart said, excuse me. Chairman Liakakis said, well, excuse me. County Attorney Hart said, if there is a second to that motion, a motion to table cuts off all discussion. Now if the person making the motion wishes to concede that to another person to make a statement, that's up to the person making the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, please for one comment, please. And it will be short. Commissioner Stone said, go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Mr. Johnson, the newspaper asked that my thing had something to do with me disliking you. Totally contrary, totally the opposite. I respect you so much. I think you're a wonderful man. I see you as the Mayor of Savannah in the future and if you're not thinking about it, I think you're making a mistake. I think you'll make an excellent mayor and if I could vote, I would very possibly give you my vote when you run and that's the threat I see, sir, is you working for Russ Abolt but you in a sense running our police department and you, as his employee, being able to disburse SPLOST funds throughout the entire County. So totally opposite of any of that mess that I heard, it's a total compliment because I believe you should run

at some point because I think you're a bright and exceptional leader, and that's the honest to God's truth. Mr. Johnson said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I think we're getting a little off base here. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and now table it. Commissioner Stone said, I think we need —, if this is going to be tabled and brought back up, let's table it and bring it back up.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but when we're doing that, we didn't let other Commissioners — we have Dean [Kicklighter], we have you and Dr. Thomas, then we had Dean [Kicklighter] again, then we had the Chairman. We live in a democracy. That's why we went over and dug Saddam Hussein out of a spider hole, and I think Patrick Shay — the first Patrick.

Commissioner Shay said, I'd just like to make a brief announcement. Commissioner Odell said, yes. Commissioner Shay said, I've decided not to run for Mayor of Savannah. I want everybody to know that, okay. Commissioner Odell said, I don't know if I can go along with this if Pat's [Shay] not running.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, listen. Jonathan [Hart], give us the ruling on this right now so that we can move on. County Attorney Hart said, if there's a motion on the floor to table being made and if it's seconded by anyone, then it needs to be voted on and it cuts off discussion.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's go on the board to table it. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

The Clerk asked, excuse me, was that motion set to a set date? Chairman Liakakis said, no, we need to. Do you want 30 days? County Attorney Hart said, it's up to the —. The Clerk said, I just was asking.

Chairman Liakakis said, hold it folks. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, you indicated that there was more information forthcoming. How long do you think it will take for that information? Chairman Liakakis said, well, no more than 30 days, no more than that. I feel that, you know, we should have the information and go one way or the other at that particular time.

Commissioner Stone said, the second on the motion will accept —. Commissioner Odell said, what is the urgency in rushing it back? I don't really want to set a definite date. It's ready when it's ready. If it ain't 30 days, it ain't 30 days, and I apologize. Commissioner Stone said, I'm tired of being interrupted. I'm trying to talk here. I made a motion. What I was going to say, if the second of my motion will accept my motion, then I will make it for 30 days if the second will accept that.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'll accept it because you asked for it but I don't feel like it's necessary because it can be untabled at the very next meeting no matter what the days are. Is that correct? County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. Well then, Mr. Chairman, then do we need to put a time frame on it. Commissioner Thomas said, no. County Attorney Hart said, you don't have to. It's up to the discretion —. Commissioner Stone said, well then, I'll —. County Attorney Hart said, well, you do have a three-meeting rule where if you don't rule on a tabled item in three meetings, it just drops off the agenda. That doesn't mean you can't put it back on the agenda either.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay so —. Commissioner Stone said, well then I will remove it. Chairman Liakakis said, you just withdraw. Okay. Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- A. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to untable this item for discussion by the Commissioners. Commissioners Gellatly and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- B. Commissioner Stone moved to table adoption of a proposed amendment to the Chatham County Personnel Ordinance and Procedures Manual, Political Activity, Article III-106, to prohibit a County employee from holding elected office. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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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. TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING: (1) A TRANSFER OF \$810 FROM CNT CONTINGENCY TO CNT EXPENDITURES IN THE CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, AND (2) AN AMENDMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND TO APPROPRIATE \$123,500 FROM RESTRICTED NET ASSETS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WILMINGTON ISLAND DROP OFF CENTER.**

Chairman Liakakis said, you've all had this. Do we have a motion on the floor to accept these items for individual action. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Shay said, no, this is Individual Action. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, these are individuals, so we'll have to go through each one. We can do that on the Action Calendar, but on this. Chairman Liakakis read the agenda item.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a motion on the floor? Commissioner Farrell said, so moved. Chairman Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to approve this. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to request approval of the following: (1) a transfer of \$810 from CNT Contingency to CNT Expenditures in the Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund, and (2) an amendment to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to appropriate \$123,500 from restricted net assets for improvements to the Wilmington Island Drop-Off Center. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 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) a transfer of \$810 from CNT Contingency to CNT Expenditures in the Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund, and (2) an amendment to the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund to appropriate \$123,500 from restricted net assets for improvements to the Wilmington Island Drop off Center.

BACKGROUND:

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1) The Counter Narcotics Team (CNT) has received a court order awarding a vehicle. A transfer of \$810 from CNT Contingency to CNT Expenditures in the Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund is necessary to pay off a lien. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- 2) The Director of Public Works and Park Services has requested an appropriation of \$123,500 from restricted net assets in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for improvements to the Wilmington Island Drop off Center. A staff report and budget resolution are attached.

FUNDING: Funds are available in the Confiscated Funds Contingency for the transfer. The budget amendment will set up funding in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

(1) That the Board approve the following:

CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

a transfer of \$810 from CNT Contingency to CNT Expenditures.

SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND

an amendment to appropriate \$123,500 from restricted net assets for improvements to the Wilmington Island Drop off Center.

(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. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO TRANSFER FUND THE RECONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING OF THE TENNIS COURTS AT LAKE MAYER, L. SCOTT STELL, WILMINGTON ISLAND.

Chairman Liakakis said, do we have a motion on the floor? Commissioner Thomas said, move for — oh. Chairman Liakakis asked, we have a motion on the floor? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to approve. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, Helen [Stone] wanted to speak.

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to make sure that the districts were corrected in the — because it's not correction our notebook. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes ma'am, I've already corrected those. Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, I'll yield to —. Go ahead, Pat [Shay]

Commissioner Shay said, I just wanted to clarify. I'm going to vote against this even though I think these are good projects. We have a number of things on the agenda today and from my

perspective the good news of the CAFR was that we have some fund balance, but to this Commissioner at least it feels like we've started a mini-gold rush. I don't really have enough information and context to be able to see where we are on the entire CIP budget, and I just think we ought to look at projects in the context of the full CIP budget. These are good projects, they need to be done, but I'll be voting against this one and number three later on. So, Dean [Kicklighter], I'm not picking on you, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I know that.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, basically the same position as Pat [Shay]. Two and three could be lumped together with Dean's [Kicklighter] request. I'd like to see it come back. I agree that we are started a mini-gold rush and I repeat, if you didn't do part of the digging for the gold, you shouldn't be the first one to get it doled out.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just — part of this is what — and I understand totally what Commissioner Odell's saying, but with recreation that's going to hit the same districts over and over pretty much because we — my district represents the huge portion of unincorporated area of West Chatham County and then you have Farrell's with the huge portion on the other side, and so over and over when it comes — that's where most of our projects that we actually have to fund for the unincorporated area actually exists in both of those areas, and if we — I'll just say it — if we don't resurface Scott Stell Park soon, you're going to be able to go play tennis like on grass courts there. We need to — because it's totally, I mean it's totally, I mean it's really some of the worst things I've ever seen. There's grass as high as you can see all through all the courts and actually the roadway getting there and all, it's horrible. So I ask you to please either repave it or dig it and place grass there and we'll have grass courts out there.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, it's not just the recreation projects, and I do agree that the needs are disproportionately at this point in the unincorporated area of the County, so I'm not opposed to that. We also had an item on the agenda today \$250,000 blank check basically for the Tax Assessor's Department. I know they're shorthanded. I just feel like if we are able at midyear to sit down and consider how we want to allocate resources that we didn't have at the beginning of the budget year, then we ought to do it in a process that allows all the Commissioners to consider all the needs and put them all on the table and talk about them before we start one at a time going through and picking off how to spend all this fund balance.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, all I asked — and it's great to table — I asked this Commission, those that may be concerned, which I understand the concerns, please ride out to Scott Stell Park and take a look at the tennis courts because we talk about recreation, and I respect and understand exactly what you're saying. I mean, I absolutely do, but if you'll ride out and take a peak, you'll understand exactly where I'm coming from. Yeah, it's really deplorable,

and if y'all will please take the time before the next meeting and just ride out to that park, I sure would appreciate it, and it's fine to table it with me.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, then could we — I think that what's been said makes a lot of sense, that we really need to look at all these projects and be fair about it. So should we in light of that continue — ask for a continuance in Item #2 and Item #3 until we can sit down with the big picture and not start cherry-picking projects just at first come, first serve?

Chairman Liakakis said, let me do this. Robert [Drewry], would you come to the podium please and tell us if any of these three projects are something that we have to do right away. Go ahead, Patrick [Monahan], excuse me. Wait a minute, Robert [Drewry]. Go ahead.

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, I would be remiss in not saying this, but this item's different than the others because this does result in a bid. This is to award a bid, which you will see on the Purchasing agenda. Unlike the other two projects being the boat ramp paving and being the bridge at Triplett Park, those will come back to the Commission for award of a contract at some future date, but this one is an award of bid. So if it's the Board's desire to delay this, then you will need to table this specifically and also remove the item from the Purchasing agenda as well.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what's the amount of money on this one? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, it's \$460,577. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, on the courts? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes sir. It's to resurface twelve and then rebuild six of them, and that's mixed in between Stell Park, Lake Mayer and Wilmington Island.

Chairman Liakakis said, and the total amount is — well, it's in our books. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, \$460,577. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, so we could approve this and then table the next? Being you've already bid this one out? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. We're further along in the process with this. We had conceptual approval for this and then we went out for the bids. We got the bids back. All this does is just put it back on there and say let's go with it on the financing part of the — purchasing part of the report, excuse me, and then you're accepting the bid and awarding the contract. You're not as far along with the bridge at Triplett and you're not as far along with the boat ramp.

Chairman Liakakis said, Robert [Drewry], tell us the —. Commissioner Odell said, the urgency. Chairman Liakakis said, — the urgency of this right now, part of this.

Mr. Robert Drewry asked, for the tennis courts specifically? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Mr. Drewry said, okay. Several of the courts, as Mr. Monahan mentioned, have deteriorated to the point where they're unsafe to play on. I don't know the exact number. Al [Lipsey], I think it was —? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, it's a third at six. Mr. Drewry said, six. Okay, six of them are unusable and unsafe, and that includes a couple at Stell Park and a couple at

Wilmington Island. The other — the rest of them requires some resurfacing phase to do that, will cause further deterioration.

Commissioner Farrell asked, so it's kind of like just maintenance? Mr. Drewry said, no sir. The reconstruction is construction. Commissioner Farrell said, well, that would be kind of like if the windows fell out of this building, I mean, you've got to maintain it to keep the building going.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, the fences are still up at Stell, but that's about —.

Chairman Liakakis said, I happen to know that Stell Park's tennis courts are in bad shape. Not only knowing about it personally, but I've got a number of letters in my office from people who use that on the Westside, plus other parts, you know, people that have friends in that area, they go play tennis and they can't do it right now because of the condition of Stell Park.

Commissioner Thomas said, the total condition of that park is in bad shape. Even restrooms and you name it, it's just been neglected over the years just like a lot of other things, but that is one facility that needs some attention.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have — go ahead, Patrick [Farrell].

Commissioner Farrell said, well, I think we identified early on in our term that there's a lot of facilities that are lacking, and I'm going to vote in favor of this motion because there's facilities work has been done and, you know, I don't see the —, you know, I'd like to see it go ahead and get done, but that's just —.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Chairman Holmes.

Chairman Holmes said, yeah, I don't want to prolong this, but last year we sat here and we watched a presentation come to us, a picture of these tennis courts at Scott Stell and, as we know, we did as a body to put money into recreation and deal with recreation, and we're sitting here today questioning recreation. We've been blessed to have the money that we have and we have to look at doing what we have to do, let's do what we have to do and let's stay to our committed. We had pictures came before us last year with the condition of Scott Stell Park and its incredible bad condition, so let us not sit here and question that and go ahead and do what we have to do to upgrade that place.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, and I do want to indicate that this is not a necessary project; it is, but as we sit here today my concern is we're saying that we have a child that has no shoes and that in and of itself is just hideous. But compare that to a child that has no food. Now if you've got to spend money first, would you spend it on shoes or spend it on food? And we don't have a pecking order as to the priority over projects, so while it's not questioning, admittedly we have gone a long time and we didn't do any real renovation on these parks, and they have been declining and it will be like at Wimbledon on the grass courts because they're no longer an asphalt

or cement ground. It's ground. That's a necessity, but my concern is and not that this does not need to do, but in the pecking order. Are we buying shoes when we should be buying food, and I don't know that as we sit here, and that's not a criticism. I think that's a legitimate concern. We need to do something with the Turner Creek Bridge. We've got the problem of Tom Triplett Park as far as completion of that bridge. That to me is not just a need to do, that potentially could be a disaster if you get caught on the wrong side of the bridge. So we have a lot of things that we really need to do. We're in desperate need of doing those, but in the hierarchy of needs in that they have come up, having come up in the order that we need to do them or they've just been problems that have been brought to our attention and they're not, we need to do one, two, three and four, or are we doing three, eight and ten, and we don't know that. And if staff can tell me that, if these three are in a hierarchy of need that that fund could suffice or the top three that we need to address. I rely on staff, I believe in staff. I think we have the best County Manager and Assistant County Manager in Chatham County. That's right, y'all are the only ones. No, but tell me, are we at that position, Pat [Monahan], that it's — you know, these are necessary and worthy programs because for so many years we did so little to so many areas that were under our concern?

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, Ms. Cramer tells me that the CIP book should be in your hands by the first meeting in January, and to answer your other question I can tell you that these three projects are not the three highest rated because they're recreation, and there are other maintenance projects based on the rating system that are rated higher. I can't remember off the top of my head, but I —.

Commissioner Odell asked, would those come from the same funds? Would those be —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes, they will come from the same fund. Commissioner Odell asked, — competing funds? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes, they're competing against one another, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, if we have a maintenance issue as to pavement as compared to a paving of a tennis court, then, James [Holmes], I think that's something that — I'd like to know that and I think you all would too. Do we have this pecking order and will this harm us. I know we need to do it quickly, but if we wait until we get the book from Ms. Cramer and we could look at it and staff could give us a priority of needs, then I think we're in a better position to make an intelligent rational decision because what's going to happen is we're going to spend the money and there's going to be something that's not cutesy, attractive or that constituents call you 50 or 60 times about that you've got to do and we won't have the money to do it. I'd like to have the pecking order is my point.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone] and then I'm going to ask for Linda [Cramer].

Commissioner Stone asked, how far along are we on the project with the tennis courts? You made the statement, Mr. Monahan, that this project was different. Has money already been spent? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, no, no ma'am. This would encumber the money for the award of the bid. Commissioner Stone said, and my second comment would be when I was running for office and going through the CIP list, we did have some projects listed as critical and I don't want to forego the critical list to get to some of the recreational items. If there are items that are still deemed critical, certainly I think it would be the prudent thing to do to deal

with the critical items as a top priority and give to some of the more favorable items in the eyes of like recreation down the road. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, the critical items mostly related to, as I recall, the Detention Center and I believe this Board has addressed most of those. I do know that there is a highly rated project involving the new ducting system for the courthouse because the findings by the Health Department — I can't remember how much that is off the top of my head — but I do realize that was rated quite highly. Commissioner Stone said that would be one for instance. I certainly wouldn't want to put employees at risk over paving a tennis court, so I think that it is incumbent upon us to do the critical list first or at least look at the critical list which goes back to what Commissioner Odell was saying that maybe we ought to put these off until we get that CIP list.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I would be more than willing to ask staff to just dropping the bidding out on the bridge at Triplett. This you can't put it in critical, but we all are proud of ourselves, patting ourselves on the back, we're committed to recreation, blah, blah, blah. This amount of money can have a major impact as far as the improvements at those parks. I'd like to see, Commissioner Farrell, if you'll take your — because I agree. That's good, we need to prioritize the list and you can't put anything above, you know, safety — public safety or whatever, but we know that when we pat ourselves on the back, we're going to spend more than the four hundred and something thousand on recreation. If we don't, then we're just a bunch of big talkers. We don't act on recreation, we just talk about it. I'll be glad to ask staff to not bid out the Triplett Bridge because that is nowhere near as necessary at this point as resurfacing those hideous tennis courts in Stell and out on Wilmington Island. It will have a major impact to get that done. We won't just be — in other words, you'll get a lot out of that amount of money where whatever — two hundred and something thousand for the bridge, that's great, it's needed, but it's not as needed and there's not going to be the major impact that there will be with the tennis courts being resurfaced and all. We need to approve this and I'd like to see because, yes, I don't want to build a boat ramp and build a little bridge if we've got someone's bridge falling to get to their homes. I mean, so I think it makes sense and I'm glad that it's been brought up. Let's look at it. That's only coming up in January, but being they've got to this point on the tennis courts, let's do that and put the other ones back and look at everything. And, again, if — we know that we're going to spend more than four hundred and something thousand on recreation, but I'm telling you, if you get a chance to ride out there, this has to be a top priority of recreation because it's just really deplorable. So please just approve this today and I'll — and I don't know if I even — I doubt I can ask them not to send out a bid, but y'all can stall.

Chairman Liakakis said, Linda [Cramer], come forth and give us some information please.

Ms. Cramer said, I just want to shed a little bit of light on the CIP process and where we are. The CIP Committee, which consists of Mr. Monahan, Mr. Drewry, and a number of other folks, have gotten together and rated all the projects. We're just right now in the process of putting those together in a book to give you and you'll have that in January. The top-rated project outside of the police vehicles, which we put down as mandatory every year, are the bridge repairs which are from the drawbridges and the fixed bridges, looking at Robert [Drewry] here, and that's \$1.8 million. And then after that we have a number of other projects before you get down to these recreation projects, which are rating between 80 and 90. The bridges are rating 110. So we're

using the same sort of rating scale we've used in the past as far as priorities. Mr. Monahan's also right about the air ventilation system at the other courthouse. That's a higher rated project and I know it's over one and a half million. So we'll be getting all of that to you in January and, you know, if you want something in advance I can give you a summary list before the book, but y'all just let me know what you need.

Commissioner Odell said, I don't think, Linda [Cramer] — if you can stay at the podium. I don't think we have sufficient funds. What I'd like to see us do in all honesty because I think we're going to have a substantial growth on the Westside, which we're seeing. I think that we're going to have to do something for recreation. We're going to have to do substantially more than what we're doing because they're in the unincorporated area and many of those people are — they pay taxes and I know that's not my district and I shouldn't be speaking up for it, but we're going to have to do something about that and it's not going to be a couple hundred thousand dollars. When you present the CIP list, if we could separate the list as far as maintenance. The Courthouse problem is a decking problem which we're going to have to address before we do the renovations because there's some health concerns. So that is a must-do. Juvenile Court, we're about 90% along the way, but if we could isolate and separate, maybe we could use the Recreation Authority to make a commitment. These things need to be done, but they don't need to be torn between do we fix a drawbridge where you get to your property or do we have tennis courts that cannot be used, and we might want to look at some of the options as far as balling up all of the things in recreation, making a substantial commitment, looking at potential bonding through the Recreation Authority. And again, that is just an idea and as Commissioners we bring forth ideas and they all don't have to be gold nuggets. Hopefully they can be thought provoking. This is hopefully to get us thinking about other ways that we can solve both problems and spread the debt over a period of time.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter] and then Patrick Shay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll just — I agree. Basically that's probably why the recreation facilities are in the condition that they are in because, you know, public safety is going to outrank recreation every year and, you know, again we seem to be a group that prides ourselves on we're doing something great for recreation when in fact most of the current projects that have been done actually was implemented — came from the previous SPLOST from a previous administration. We talk — we really — and again, I think we're wonderful — I think we work wonderful together, a great group, great intentions, but putting our money where our mouths are, you know, most of the recreation projects to date that have been improved comes from the past not from this group, and we can make a major impact today by taking this project and just putting the other ones on the back burner until we weigh everything in, but we know that this will have a major impact on our recreation. I mean, major. And then we're not just talking about it, we're doing something about it, so — and I think we're beating a dead horse or whatever here. We need to just move on one way or another.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Chief Dead Horse checking in. The motion before us or I guess there's going to be a motion before us, if this is the will of the Commission and we feel like this is a high priority, then I don't have a problem with it, but the CIP budget that's going to come out in January that considers the full range of project list, the amount of money that we have in fund balance that's actually available and what our five-year revenue projects are — remember when we were going to five-year revenue projections before we did all of these big expenditures — I mean, we just spent earlier today \$250,000. That's not a one-time cost, that's actually recurring revenue that we committed \$250,000 to this year that automatically committed us to \$500,000 next year. I just think we need to be looking a little more carefully in a context so that we don't end up spending our seed corn money on getting things done just because, you know, the process allows us to do that. I want to be collegial, I would like for every Commissioner to be able to address the priorities that they have in their own districts and the priorities that we have across the community. I just, as one Commissioner, don't really feel like I've got enough context and information to be voting on spending all this money. It's Christmas time, I know and I love it, but I'm not sure I've got enough information to be spending all this money right now without understanding the full budget picture. When I looked at the fund balance projections when we had to bite the bullet, some of us, and vote for a revenue increasing tax increase, it didn't look all that rosy in all of our budgets even in the out years and I'd like to look at the out years and see where we are on the fund balance in the out years before we spend all this money right now. Thanks.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a motion on the floor and a second to approve Item 2. You've heard all of the comments and everything. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve transfer of funds for the reconstruction/resurfacing of the tennis courts at Lake Mayer, L. Scott Stell and Wilmington Island. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Robert Drewry, Director, Public Works and Park Services

ISSUE: Request Board approval to fund the reconstruction/resurfacing of the tennis courts at Lake Mayer, L. Scott Stell, Wilmington Island, and to

approve the transfer of funds from CIP M&O Contingency in the amount of \$460,577 to fund CIP Fund-Tennis Court Project.

BACKGROUND:

In keeping with the goals established by the Board in 2006, staff is committed to improving the visibility of the recreational facilities and the quality of the recreational programs. Many of the tennis courts have not had major renovation during the last ten years or more. To determine what would be required to bring the courts back to playing condition, a RFP was sent out. Four courts at L. Scott are unplayable, and the two courts at Wilmington Island are playable but unsafe. The results were, six of the eighteen courts should be reconstructed, and the remaining courts would only require resurfacing. Fourteen of the eighteen courts are being used.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Only two Vendors responding to the RFP.
2. Both Vendors agreed that six courts needed to be reconstructed.
3. Four of the six courts recommended for reconstruction are unplayable. Two are playable but unsafe.
4. Fourteen courts are currently being used.
5. These courts are needed to accommodate the increase in tennis players.
6. Savannah Tennis Association utilizes both Lake Mayer and L. Scott Stell for practice and tournaments.
7. Park Services was recently recognized for our support of the Tennis Association.

FUNDING: CIP Fund - Tennis Court Project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board approves funding or partial funding for the reconstruction/resurfacing of eighteen courts as per the following and per the low bid:

A. Resurfacing 12 Tennis courts	- Tennico of Columbia - \$254,624
B. Reconstructing 6 Tennis Courts and Fencing	- Tennico of Columbia - <u>\$205,953</u>
	TOTAL \$460,577

2. That the Board provide staff with other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

It is consistent with Board policy to award construction contracts to the low responsive, responsible bidder that will aid in providing a safe environment for the citizens of Chatham County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

Commissioner District: 7 & 8

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3. REQUEST BOARD CONSIDERATION TO FUND TURNER'S CREEK BOAT RAMP PAVING PROJECT.

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes sir, Mr. Chairman. We're bringing back this item that the Board requests. It's gone through the progression of making the CIP list and this would provide the funding in place as a transfer from the CIP contingency. This one has not been bid. This would be for both design and construction.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Robert [Drewry], did you have a presentation on this? Mr. Drewry said, no sir, I have nothing else to add to what Mr. Monahan said.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, Mr. Chairman? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, in light of everything that's taken place, discussions so far, I would ask my fellow Commissioners let's — and I don't know if we can — can we revoke an order earlier that we passed in the same motion or not? So I gladly will pull out asking to bid out the bridge at Triplett at this point and I think we should just table this until we get everything in January with a list. Commissioner Stone said, I would second that.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make that a motion. Chairman Liakakis said, — to table this and a second. County Attorney Hart said, and my understanding is also to withdraw the direction — reconsider to withdraw direction to bid out —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. County Attorney Hart said, — the bridge at Triplett Park. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but let me ask you, Dean [Kicklighter], does that cost us anything to know what it's going to be? What does it cost to have an exact cost on that bridge because I think we need to know that. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, and on this we can do the same thing then, right? Commissioner Odell said, I don't want to withdraw the —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, — selection of the estimates.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll withdraw that motion then and I'll —. Commissioner Stone said, I'll withdraw my second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and make the motion to approve this then. Commissioner Odell said, not to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is to bid it out, right? County Attorney Hart said, it says fund. Commissioner Thomas said, you need to restate it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Well, my motion is to bid this out in the same manner in which we're going to bid out the Triplett improvements. Commissioner Stone said, and I would second that.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have a motion on the floor and a second to put this out to bid. Let's go on the board. Commissioner Odell said, and it will come back —. Chairman Liakakis said, and this is not committing anything. This is just putting it out for bid process, folks. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to put out for bid the Turner’s Creek Boat Ramp paving project. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2
AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

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

Issue: Request Board consideration for funding the paving of the Turner’s Creek Boat Ramp parking lot.

Background: At the November 3, 2006 Commission meeting, the Board asked staff to prepare a budget to pave the Turner’s Creek Boat Ramp parking lot.

Facts and Findings:

1. The Turner’s Creek Boat Ramp is located within the Johnny Mercer Blvd right-of-way under the bridge. Parking is unimproved and limited to within the existing right-of-way. The single boat ramp is well used and the only public access to the waterway on Wilmington Island.
2. Staff of Public Works and Park Services asked the County Engineer’s office to provide an estimate to pave the Turner’s Creek Boat Ramp parking lot. The attached is a Capital Improvement Project Detail Sheet. The estimated cost for construction is \$250,000 and engineering design cost of \$25,000 for a total cost of \$275,000. This proposed budget will only address the area that is used for parking.
3. At the time the parking lot is under design, staff will work with Georgia Power to design the lighting requirements. As the County does with other facilities, the cost of the lighting will be spread over multiple years.

Funding: Funds are available in the CIP M&O Contingency.

Policy Statement: Board action is required to designate funds in order to proceed with the project.

Alternatives:

1. Board designate funds and request staff to proceed with the project.
2. Board take no action.

Recommendations: For Board consideration.

District 7

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4. TRANSMITTAL OF THE 2006 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND THE MANAGEMENT LETTER, RESPONSES TO THE SINGLE AUDIT FINDINGS AND THE MANAGEMENT LETTER, AS WELL AS FUND BALANCE AND STATISTICAL DATA.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Linda [Cramer].

Ms. Linda Cramer said, I'm the guinea pig on the new video system, so what we're trying to do is get the projector to work here.

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, Mr. Chairman, you should see, if you look on your monitor, you'll see the information she's providing.

Chairman Liakakis said, this is — what you see on your screen is the same thing that they have out on the big screen. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes sir. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Linda [Cramer].

Ms. Cramer said, I'm pleased to transmit our CAFR Report to you this year. I think we had a good year in 2006. We were able to — due to largely the millage increase, we did a high collection rate in our revenue category in the General Fund. There you see we had a total of \$24,000,000 come in. We had projected \$118,000,000, so we were able to pull six million out of that revenue increase, and that's the money that went over to the CIP Fund that — where you're talking about the six million right now. Our expenditures were \$107,000,000 and then you see where we had transfers in and out. Again, with that transfers out number we were able to put that \$6,000,000 in the CIP Fund and also throughout the year you also put additional monies over there for various projects. So I think all in all we did transfer about \$9,000,000 over to CIP during the year.

Ms. Cramer said, we had a \$2.7 million increase to our fund balance in the General Fund at the end of the year, and then in the SSD you still had a good picture here. It looks kind of bad when you look at it, but again you were transferring money out of the SSD fund over to the CIP fund during the year because you had enough fund balance in there to cover your reserve level. And

so I think we transferred about four, four and a half million to the CIP fund during the year. That's why you're showing a decrease in your fund balance for SSD. So that's the negative three million.

As far as the fund balance goes, you have several components to your fund balance each year, and the one that we label unreserved undesignated that is your reserve level that you have in your financial policy. So in the General Fund we have a \$10.7 million reserve, which is one month of expenditures according to the 2007 budget that we have set up as your unreserved undesignated fund balance. Now you also have a designated portion of your unreserved fund balance of \$3.7 million. That's money that you can use if you choose once we get into the CIP process to either move over and above what we have there now or you could use that money for, you know, my favorite problem which is the OPEB, the Retiree Health Care Funding. You could use some of that money for seed funding to get that trust fund started for your retiree health care obligations. We did have \$2.2 million dollars of reserved fund balance in the General Fund. Most of that is what we call encumbrances. Those are purchase orders that are already committed but not paid at the end of the year and they're carried over to the next year.

In the SSD fund, your reserve level there and your financial policies is two months. That is really a three-month number and your own reserved undesignated of \$5.8 million, and the reason I just put it that way is frankly with the changes in the Police budget we weren't sure what we might need during the audit. We had \$2.7 million still available in SSD that you could potentially use for CIP or other expenditures over and above your reserve level.

I like this chart. This is our fund balance history chart for Chatham County and, as you can tell from year to year, things have improved in the past several years. The blue line is your unreserved fund balance and that's the number we key in on for your one month expenditure level. The yellow line there is your total fund balance number. So as you can see, we're showing an increase. I think this year with the property tax increase in November or, well, I guess it was July of 2006, what happened when the tax — 2005, July of 2005. When the Tax Commissioner sent the billings out in November, he captured and bumped up the collections that were made the previous May, so you kind of have a bump in a year where you do a millage adjustment, an upward millage adjustment. You're going to have a bump in revenues. Correspondingly, if you decrease your revenues, you might have a little bit of a bump down. We've tried to account for that this year during the audit, but if you had a strong drop in your millage rate, you might have a strong bump down over and over what your digest projections were. I think in 2006 we did see that bump in the revenue because of the kind of that catch-up billing that occurred in November for the May collections. So anyway that's my favorite chart and I like to show this to the bond rating agencies. They like this chart.

Commissioner Farrell said, one question. Chairman Liakakis said, put that back up. He wants to ask a question please. Thank you. Commissioner Farrell said, how much — we've heard about the bump up in the millage rate increase. What was the bump up in the digest increase as far as these revenues? Ms. Cramer said, I believe — Russ [Abolt] might have to help me. It was either 10 or 14% digest increase. Was it 14 this year and it was 10 the current year? Okay. Yes, that did play a big part in the revenue collections and the fact that your digest was a lot higher.

Ms. Cramer said, okay, and here's the same chart for SSD. Again, you have three months of reserve in SSD. You're still in pretty good shape. Long term we'll have to look at it on our forecast because, you know, we are looking at probably coming to you in January to amend that the [inaudible] for the City's budget adoption. So we're looking at probably about a \$400,000 increase in police services for — that will be coming to you in January on. So that's why we're keeping a little bit higher reserve level in our SSD right now.

Commissioner Farrell said, another question. Will you leave that chart up for a second. Ms. Cramer said, I'm too fast. Commissioner Farrell said, you're fast. We've been trending up since 2001 and then 2006 we had a pretty noticeable trend down. Could you give a brief description of why we took a change in direction? Ms. Cramer said, we took a change in direction. A digest is continuing to grow in SSD. The millage rate has remained level. We've had some pretty good revenue situations with our franchise taxes and some of our other tax revenue in SSD, but what you did in 2006 was we transferred that \$3,000,000 — over \$3,000,000 out at the first of the year after the last year's audit to fund capital projects. Now some of that money has not been spent in the CIP fund. It has not been allocated for projects yet. I think there is about \$2,500,000 still sitting there. So that is something when we come to you in January with the CIP plan and we start discussions, we can address how you would want to spend that money, and you can always put it back. You know, if you don't want to do your capital projects, you can put it back in the SSD fund. We do maintain it separately for purposes of separation with a tax digest base. Commissioner Farrell said, okay. So it trended down because we are in such a strong position we were able to transfer some out to the CIP. Ms. Cramer said, right. Correct. Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, I have a question. You said \$2.5 million. Ms. Cramer said, remaining in the CIP fund. Commissioner Stone said, so that really brings you up to, you know, a little over \$10,000,000, but I'm just concerned like my fellow Commissioner here. We were up to twelve, and that even if you put the \$2.5 million back, that's still a downward trend, and I just want to be real careful. I see this SSD budget as looking a little more fragile than the M&O budget and I think we need to be very careful and keep an eye on the Special Service District. Ms. Cramer said, I agree.

Commissioner Shay asked, are you going to make a presentation later of the five-year projection or is that —? Ms. Cramer said, yes. We'll do that. Commissioner Shay asked, I mean, is it going to be in your presentation today? Ms. Cramer said, no. Commissioner Shay said, because my recollection was that when we looked at the out years last budget determination, M&O looked pretty healthy, SSD started to crater in about two years, and I was just worried about that. County Manager Abolt said, that is the issue. We've got to come [inaudible] and say that the profit Recorder's Court revenue, we up the business license fees to offset that. I think comparing the two budgets, M&O and SSD, we see strength in the M&O but SSD is fragile. Very fragile. Commissioner Shay asked, could you identify yourself please? County Manager Abolt said, yes. I'm a very interested citizen.

Ms. Cramer said, we are watching SSD and I know when we had our discussion about legislative issues, one of the issues was the insurance premium tax that one of the legislators had made a

comment about doing away with that. Well, that's a \$3,000,000 amount of revenue to SSD, so all these things we have to watch and bring to bear. I mean, they're going to have long term impacts on us.

Commissioner Shay said, again Linda [Cramer], you also mentioned earlier in your presentation this thing that's looming out there for all governments that are not as high as federal governments with the unfunded future liabilities for employee benefits. Could you remind me of what our potential exposure is there in round numbers? Ms. Cramer said, our required contribution based on preliminary numbers is \$9.5 million annually. Commissioner Shay said, annually. Ms. Cramer said, annually. Right now we're paying about \$2.7 million of that, so that's the increase that we to fully fund that every year that we would be looking at. And most of that would probably be coming out of the General Fund just because that's how we funded retiree health care in the past. Rick [Tindol] may have some things to say there.

Ms. Cramer said, okay, we do have some funds with deficit positions and these are special revenue funds. The Land Bank fund, which we use really for property sales and property maintenance. That fund is really the revenues that come in there are from property sales and I know Mr. Monahan has been selling some property this year, so we have it to eliminate that position. The Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund is an enterprise fund and we are currently in arbitration, I believe, on a lot of the issues surrounding that fund in the rate. Until that is completed I don't think that we can really do any adjustments. I could envision, you know, a potential rate increase at the completion of that or correspondingly a transfer of funds in from one of the main operating fund, so we're going to need to continue to watch that. And then our Risk Management Fund is an internal service fund. This is the first year that we've had that as a separate fund and when we did that we had to book a large amount of prior year claims as an accrual. So it threw us into this negative position, and I hope that's going to turn around for us in the next year.

Ms. Cramer said, well, I don't have anything else to really add. If you have particular questions, I'll be glad to answer them, and I did want to introduce our auditors, Rick Tindol and Derrick Cowart, who are also here with us and I think they want to speak to you as well. So do you have any more questions for me?

Chairman Liakakis asked, any questions? Okay, thank you, Linda [Cramer].

Mr. Tindol said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have a lot planned, but —. Chairman Liakakis said, Rick [Tindol], identify yourself. Mr. Tindol said, I'm sorry. Rick Tindol, the County's external auditor with Karp, Ronning & Tindol, PC, CPAs. It is indeed my pleasure to announce that the County, as you indicated before, is in strong financial condition. As a matter of fact, probably over the last 40 years I've either been associated in looking at the financial statements of the County in some fashion, either auditing them or looking at them as a taxpayer, and I do not recall a year where the County has been in better or more sound financial condition than you are this year. So you've really —. Chairman Liakakis said, excuse me, Rick [Tindol]. Would you repeat that loudly please? I'd like the citizens to hear that. Mr. Tindol said, I think that the County financially has never been in a stronger financial position than they are at the end of this last fiscal

year. I don't want to get into politics, but obviously I applaud not only that, but sitting back here listening as a taxpayer to hear the comments and the fiscal conservatism I think that you're applying to a lot of your decisions are really tremendous. And as some have already stated to you, you have some strong financial opportunities here with the monies and the CIP programs and other funds. Indeed, even the, Commissioner Stone, the SSD fund I think really looks good even though it did reduce somewhat. That's because of the transfers out is really putting it, taking out of your left pocket and putting it into your right pocket, so to speak. But along with this success becomes potentially more problems for you as Commissioners. Now you've got to decide on how do we best allocate these resources for the benefit of the citizens and truly be accountable. So I do really envy that portion of your job, but I'm sure that you'll be able to weather that storm too. But always remember I think the key thing is to look at these things in a very fiscally conservative basis, and again I applaud that effort on that part.

Mr. Tindol said, if you'd like, I could just draw your attention maybe to a few things and possibly discuss very briefly the one hand out on the ratio analysis. I would like to say again to Russ Abolt, to Pat Monahan and to Linda Cramer, they have just done a tremendous job. I think you guys know that already from over the years, but without their leadership these things just don't happen, and they are to be commended for their efforts in this.

Mr. Tindol said, the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the CAFR which I believe you've received now, even if you're not numbers people, which all of us are, if you will look at Linda's [Cramer] Management Discussion and Analysis, which starts on page C-1, there's one section of the financial highlights that maybe is worthwhile, Mr. Chairman, if you can indulge me for a second, just to point out a few of these figures. Financial highlights on C-1, Management Discussion and Analysis, the assets of the County at June 30, '06, exceeded its liabilities by \$929.5 really point .6 million, and of this amount \$48.7 million is unrestricted net assets. One thing I should point out in here, and this is real key, that this year was the year where the County had to bring on retroactively infrastructure, your roads, your bridges, drainage type assets, rights-of-ways and so forth that the County has acquired from really 1980 and prior. This was the year all of that had to be brought on. That was a bump of \$540.6 million of these assets. Of course, that's the good news. Along with that though you have the responsibility for maintaining these assets. So that again will provide more problems in the future, you know, coming up with the money to maintain these. Of course, the State will help out to some degree on that.

The second bullet there points out that the County's net assets increased from the previous year by \$33.1 million. That's a significant number. The Governmental Fund balances, the balance sheet there reports ending fund balances of \$218,000,000, an increase of some \$26,000,000 over the preceding year. The general fund — and Linda [Cramer] has pointed out a number of these things already — but the general fund's unreserved fund balance of \$14.5 million or an increase of \$4.3 million, and the long term liabilities at the same time — the last bullet there — decreased by \$5,095,000 — right at \$5,096,000. So again, all those trends are, I think, very, very positive. I think Commissioner Odell mentioned before the possibility — he wasn't necessarily advocating, you know, debt in certain areas — but certainly given the strong financial position that the County's in, the rating agency should look very favorable at this and you have a large capacity should you ever need to issue general obligation or other debt.

Mr. Tindol said, that's the quick — my quick analysis or actually Linda's [Cramer] analysis that I'm reviewing from the CAFR. One other thing that I like to do with all the governmental entities that we audit is prepare selected financial ratios, and I've shared this with you in the past. Briefly on this, and I guess we could put it on the screen here if you'd like — Derrick [Cowart], do you want to do that? The first page is actually What Is The Purpose of Financial Statements, and here we have, I guess there are really two important factors, one of which is financial statements are an important way for the government to demonstrate their accountability to the citizens, and not the least of which to the very last bullet down there, the audited financial statements are mandated by law. But even if they weren't mandated, certainly I think the whole writing thing is that you as various Commissioners and Chairman need to demonstrate, which you have through this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, accountability to the citizens and the public.

The next page shows the financial statements and the fact that they provide information about the whole local government. We're talking about the government-wide financial statements, the governmental activities and the business type activities as well as component units is what we're talking about there. The financial ratio explanations, this is — I looked back, as I mentioned before, last year when this GASB-34 first came out and I think the first presentation to the County did was for the year June of '02, I came up or had the idea well what way — what's a good way of comparing year to year how the County and other cities for that matter — we do this for Garden City and other entities as well — how do you compare year to year and how do you compare with other cities or counties, and that's my attempt to do this. We take nine key ratios that we can actually come up with a scoring system on to do a benchmark of how we look from year to year, and #10 while it's not a financial ratio that we grade, it's what is the actual cost per person of all the activity costs that the County is spending. So we'll present that in here as well.

Then on the next page — I won't go into the scoring method — but this over the years and my judgment on what scoring ranges should be identified. I have come up with a system where you can actually get negative scores, a negative one, you can be neutral with a zero score or have a positive one for certain ratios or a positive two for other ratios. The maximum overall score is a positive fifteen and it's possible to get a negative if you were the worst county around, you could get a negative eight. That's the parameters on there.

The next page is How Has Chatham Progressed over the five years since the GASB-34 came along, and you can see in fact you've doubled from a score of seven back in June of '02 to a score of fourteen for the last two years. There's only, in case you're interested, of the — I mentioned the maximum score of fifteen. You're getting a zero for question #3, and that one I think is going to be very difficult and maybe I set the bar too high on that particular one, but just out of looking at that one, #3 — if you back up a couple of pages then to Financial Ratio Explanations — this is to what extent are activities supported by general revenues, and I've used a criteria here and this general revenues are largely property taxes, and so what I'm saying is I'd like to see a governmental entity not be more than 50% reliant on property taxes, and that's tough to do and this is where if you go back over to the scoring system where an 81.3% on general revenues, which — all of which are not property taxes, but a substantial portion of that is property taxes, and this is just again my only judgment on that. Some may argue the reverse of it. Well,

we have a strong financial position because of the fact we indeed do have a strong property tax base. I'm just saying don't go to the well too often if you don't have to.

Commissioner Odell said, but counties have limited options as far as revenue as opposed to the City of Savannah, you know. Dean [Kicklighter] and I just walked down to look around and stretch our legs and the meter maid has swarmed on the area. They have a budget deficit, they hire ten more meter maids. We don't have those kind of options. Mr. Tindol said, this is true. Commissioner Odell said, we're limited as to our sources of revenue. Mr. Tindol said, this is true. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we can't franchise.

Commissioner Stone asked, I mean, what are some of the other taxes? I mean, if you're not relying on property tax? Mr. Tindol asked, what are some of the other taxes? Commissioner Stone said, I mean, what are some of the other ways to raise your revenue. I mean, I'm listening to the conversation and I agree here, so — I mean, if this is going to be in part of the rating, I'm just curious to know where the other revenue would come from. Mr. Tindol said, in general they would be program revenues, which would be of a grant type nature to the extent that you can get grants, which are harder and harder to do as time goes on — federal and state grants or charges for services or user fees. Those are — that's what distinguishes the general revenues from a program revenue, Commissioner Stone.

County Attorney Hart said, that's a big problem for counties because we have very restrictive ability to raise revenues. We don't have the right to do franchise, as an example, and when we get into user fees or regulatory service fees, you generally have to be revenue-neutral in that in most cases where you can raise money to the extent that it costs to deliver the regulatory service because you can't use it as a tax, for example, to raise revenues. So — Commissioner Stone said, that's why I wanted — County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Tindol is very tough grader on that particular element.

Mr. Tindol said, I think I am a little tough on it too frankly, although if we will flip to the next page, "How Does Chatham Compare?," you can see that — and here I chose those counties that I could find information on, and this comes off of the State of Georgia Department of Audits website there, and frankly I don't understand why some of these they don't want to date, like Gwinnett County and Augusta have not been updated in several years.

Commissioner Shay said, so you're telling me that Gwinnett County makes their whole budget with only 28% of their revenue coming from property tax? Mr. Tindol said, that's what it — well, general revenues of which property taxes would be a significant portion of it, so there may be a place to look and see, you know, how are they doing. Athens-Clarke County just did make the cut on the one point at the 49.5% there, Commissioner Shay, but that's an excellent point. They must have had a lot of federal and state grants in that particular year. County Attorney Hart said, the Mall of Georgia. Commissioner Shay said, oh, the Mall of Georgia. Okay, all right.

Commissioner Odell said, but their revenue, because they're a consolidated government, gives them the benefit of a county and the city, so it's not a comparison. You know, we're limited as to our sources of revenue whereas if we could — if we had a water system monopoly on that, we

had some other things that the cities do, franchising [inaudible], but I don't know what other things we can do in our situation. Mr. Tindol said, you're right, Commissioner, it is very difficult and the cities have more flexibility and being combined governments could be one of the reasons that they're able to use this —.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, not to mention we're actually pretty tight as far as reducing our expenses to a certain extent also because constitutionally we have to provide basically whatever the constitutional officers tell us or they take us to court and they win. So, unlike cities like Garden City, which operates with 51% of revenues coming from sales tax revenues, you know, I understand that responsibility of reducing the budget and making it fit so that that can apply, but we're even different in the fact that we can't, should we want to go in and slash things down to nothing, we couldn't if we wanted to. So that part, you know, that part should apply also.

Commissioner Odell said, because we've got jails, we've got court systems and —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we tried that one time. Commissioner Odell said, and there's no way that — we don't make money off court systems and it's a good thing that we don't make money off the court system. We don't make money off the jail, and we collect taxes. We have a Tax Assessor and we don't make money there. Unless we had an additional penny or two dedicated tax, that would be the only way that we could do that, and then depending on whose you read, that would be more draconian to the lower income as opposed to the higher income as to percentage, and we're kind of limited right now. Mr. Tindol said, right.

Commissioner Shay said, if I could, I don't know that we've come up with a real soft sounding acronym or pet name yet for this vilasraptor that's in the room that is going to consume a lot of revenue in the future for funding the pension benefits now —. Mr. Tindol said, OPEB. Commissioner Shay said, — instead of in the —. What is it called? Mr. Tindol said, OPEB, O-P-E-B, Other Post Employment Benefits. Commissioner Shay said, yeah, that doesn't sound mean enough to me yet, but that is out there somewhere. It doesn't fit into your formula, but I think we also need to take that into consideration. I don't know that we've really come to grips yet of how we how we're going to begin even the process of funding that, and also the fact that, as we were told earlier, right now because it hasn't been funded heavily in the past, it's been funded to what extent it has been out of General Fund M&O. In the future I think there's going to have to be some sort of an evaluation of how to spread that burden more evenly. You know, your rating number, we can't get higher than a fourteen. Part of the reason we can't get higher than a fourteen is because our municipalities don't have to raise their taxes because we're doing the heavy lifting on the things that Harris [Odell] was enumerating before, but to take all of that burden and just concentrate in the M&O budget is probably not fair. At what point are we going to start having recommendations about how the fair allocation of that OPEB is and how we're going to start making progress to actually funding it? I think we have a period of time we're supposed to deal with it, but it's not forever, right? We can't just —. Mr. Tindol said, it's within the next year or two, if I'm —. Linda [Cramer] did an excellent memo, I think, on this about a year ago too, about a two-page memo and you may dust that off again if any of you don't know what we're talking about, but she points out the tremendous burden that this is going to place on the County and, you know, how do you eat that elephant — one piece at a time, one bite at a time. Commissioner Shay said, not in two years you don't. Mr. Tindol said, not in two years.

Commissioner Shay said, when I dust that thing off, it makes me start sneezing, so I'm just kind of curious.

Ms. Cramer said, basically with the OPEB you're looking at a recurring expenditure, so you're going to have to match it with recurring revenue. Initially —, the rating agencies are not really expecting you all at one time to start funding \$10,000,000 a year for that liability, but they are going to be looking for a plan to fund that liability. For example, you could carve out \$2,000,000 in your next budget and then increase it every year until you get to the point where you're funding that fully each year, and that's really the kind of approach I think I'll be coming back to you with as we go into this next budget year because it will be an FY08 expenditure for us.

Commissioner Shay said, and I think there's also an equity issue there between M&O and SSD. Ms. Cramer said, there is. The problem with that is getting the retiree data to tell us which fund these people work in, and I'm not sure we have done that before. We're going to have to go through our retiree data to do that. Commissioner Shay said, proration between the number of employees. Well —. Ms. Cramer said, you would do it a number of different ways, but that's, you know, if you're really going to tie it in, you would tie it into where they worked probably. Commissioner Shay said, it's a big policy issue and we haven't set a policy among the Commissioners yet, but those five-year revenue projections, they need to at least have a big old red asterisk footnote in there that says, oh, by the way, there's a vilaseraptor in the room. Ms. Cramer said, yes, and that was my King Kong last year. Y'all laughed at me with my King Kong, but that was that, but we have not put those in the forecast yet because we have not gotten the final solid number from the Actuary. We're still tweaking that number. You know, a lot of people are handling this by looking at benefit changes or eligibility changes for your medical plan too, so there are things you can do from both sides, and it is a big policy discussion that we will need to have this January/February as we go into the budget year.

Commissioner Odell asked, the funds that we collect after we have to start funding our pension, will we be limited as to how those reserves can be used? Will it have the same flexibility as far as use of health care reserves? Ms. Cramer said, we're going to propose — and Jon [Hart] and I have been working on this — putting it in a trust fund, like we have our pension trust fund, and then hiring money managers to come in and invest in stocks, bonds, whatever so that we can maximize our returns under — for the money we put aside. That's the approach we're looking at now, and what you would want in that situation is an out clause. For example, if we go to National Health Care and you've put all this money in this trust, you want to be able to get it back out if you have a change in the environment that we have now, so Jon [Hart] might want to comment.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah, we spent a good bit of time looking at this the last several weeks. It's interesting that my memo came out to Linda [Cramer] and the next day in the paper you have the Governor talking about changing the healthcare benefits at the State level for retirees because they're getting eaten by this vilaseraptor also, and this is one of those things that governments are going to wake up and realize just what the funding obligation is there. Commissioner Odell said, there's going to be some —. County Attorney Hart said, and we want to make sure we put a pour-over position in the trust that is the actual health insurance is ever adopted, that we can pour that

money over back in and we're going to recommend probably pouring it back into the pension plan so we can use that money to fund any shortfall that we'll still have a funding obligation there.

Commissioner Shay said, I'm sorry I digressed so long.

Mr. Tindol said, no, I think that's a very big point. I just recommend that you put this very close to the top of your priority list, and there are a lot of policy decisions including what can we afford, you know, benefit wise going forward based upon an actuarial report. So you've got a real tough job here.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Is that it, Rick [Tindol]? Mr. Tindol said, that's essentially all I have. Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Thank you very much. We really appreciate it because we can see by the years that you've handled the outside audit that you've done an outstanding job and we really appreciate that. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Finance Director Linda Cramer and Auditor Rick Tindol gave an oral report to the Commissioners on the 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Management Letter, and responses to the Single Audit Findings and the Management Letter, as well as fund balance and statistical data.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-4

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE: Transmittal of the 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Management Letter, responses to the Single Audit Findings and the Management Letter, as well as fund balance and statistical data.

BACKGROUND: The 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report ("CAFR") will be submitted to the State of Georgia and the Government Finance Officers Association's award program in December 2006.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The CAFR represents the audited financial report of Chatham County prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The CAFR presents the recorded financial transactions and activities of Chatham County for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Management's Discussion and

Analysis provides information about significant transactions that occurred during the year.

- At June 30, 2006 the main operating funds of the County were the General Fund and the Special Service District. Components of fund balance are shown herein:

**General Fund and Special Service District
June 30, 2006
(in 000s)**

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>SSD</u>
Components:		
Reserved	\$ 2,202	\$ 216
Unreserved, Designated	3,765	2,730
Unreserved, Undesignated	<u>10,736</u>	<u>5,858</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$ <u>16,703</u>	\$ <u>8,804</u>
Change from Prior Year	\$ <u>2,769</u>	\$ <u>(3,032)</u>

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5. REQUEST BOARD CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF AN ON-CALL AFTER HOURS UNIT IN THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE DIVISION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES, WHICH WILL REQUIRE A TRANSFER OF \$42,500 FROM GENERAL FUND M&O CONTINGENCY.

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, Mr. Chairman, Charlotte Rehmert is here, the Director from DFCS, to make a presentation.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, I don't know —. Commissioner Odell asked, do we need a presentation? Chairman Liakakis said, I don't think we really need a presentation on that. That's my personal opinion, unless some Commissioner, because we really need this. I mean, this is important for the protection of children, you know, for them to be out there so that if something happens in the County that the children are going to be protected, and just closing down shop at five o'clock in the afternoon doesn't get it because if something is really threatening a child or children, we need to respond to that immediately. So I request a motion on the floor for this item.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll move to approve. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all in —. Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, just one or two questions, if I might. She's not here. There's a representative here. That's not \$42,500 new money is it? Mr. Tom Walsh said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay, and the new money —. Chairman Liakakis said, General Fund M&O. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And is that a half a year

allocation? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, so really we're looking at \$85,000 for next year in reoccurring —. Mr. Walsh said, two people. Commissioner Odell said, two people.

Mr. Walsh said, by the way, I'm Tom Walsh. I'm Deputy Director at Chatham DFCS. Ms. Rehmert had to leave to go to Atlanta.

Commissioner Odell said, you have a new service and this would be a new service. Is that true? Mr. Walsh said, well, what we do, we rotate staff to be available during the night. Commissioner Odell said, so it's an on-call system. Mr. Walsh said, right. Commissioner Odell asked, and the system is patterned after what? Mr. Walsh said, I'm sorry. The system —. Commissioner Odell said, you have an on-call system and you pay people to be on call. How did you make that determination as to what you pay them? Mr. Walsh said, well, this is what the — these are State salaries and these are for eight hours. They would be working from twelve to eight. It includes the base salary plus the benefits that the State normally pays —. Commissioner Odell asked, so they're not on-call, they're actually working? On-call means, I'm sitting at home watching —. Mr. Walsh said, these people will be working eight hours a day and they will, once they go out and do the —, once they respond during the night, they will also carry on the investigation and —. Commissioner Odell asked, how many people are there in this pool? Mr. Walsh said, they have —. Commissioner Odell said, you currently do this —. Mr. Walsh said, we have ten people that are investigators. Commissioner Odell said, you have ten people during the day that do this. Right? Mr. Walsh said, right. Commissioner Odell asked, and they do this basically from eight to five? Mr. Walsh said, right. Actually longer than that. They work long hours. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely. And now you're doing it at night? Mr. Walsh said, well, we're going to — what we're trying to do is specialists at night so that they can respond more quickly with the police and also give the police regular contacts regular than have different people every time. Commissioner Odell said, I understand. And what happens now when that happens at night? Mr. Walsh said, well, right now we have individuals who are on call, as you said, and they respond as soon as they can. A lot of these folks have already put in ten hours and they go home and they might be called at one o'clock in the morning to respond, so they have to get up and get dressed and take care of their children and —. Commissioner Odell asked, the current staff would take care of that now at a later time? Like if they get a call at ten o'clock at night, then they will take —. Are they compensated for being on call? Mr. Walsh said, no. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And — my concern is (a) have we seen a 20% increase in these kind of cases? Mr. Walsh said, the problem is you've got — these are the more complex complicated cases that we have at night, and we're asking staff who are already working anywhere from ten to twelve hours a day to respond, and we're trying to get a specialized unit. Just like they do in the emergency rooms they have physicians who take care of specialized cases —. Commissioner Odell said, I understand. Not to cut you off, but if you have all of your staff now during the day and the more complicated cases occur at night, what is the logical flaw in there? Am I —. Mr. Walsh said, well, we have complicated cases during the day too. Commissioner Odell said, that happen during the day. Mr. Walsh said, but we have the same people who are working on those cases during the day that have to be available after they've worked again, you know, ten to twelve hours. Commissioner Odell asked, did you all consider taking two of the people of the ten and making them night people? Mr. Walsh said, well, we don't have enough capacity. We've lost in the last,

I think, fiscal year — Fiscal 02 — we've lost about 26% of the staff that we had, so we don't have that built-in capacity anymore without wearing out our staff. We also have a 28% turnover rate. Most of — the majority of our investigators only have two years experience, which is unusual for us. We can't keep people because we're wearing them out. This are — all of these cases require quite a bit of investigation, not only investigation but we have to also place these children. We have to go in and investigate the homes before we can place the children, so it's a long complicated, lengthy process. Commissioner Odell said, so the solution, although the problem exists, we're addressing the problem differently, and rather than moving staff around, we're adding two new staff. That's basically — Mr. Walsh said, we are adding two —, we would add two staff if you approve. Commissioner Odell said, and that would — and they would be about \$85,000 for next year. My only concern, although I made the motion, is that if you have most of the serious problems occurring at night and you have most of your staff at day, maybe you need to have some of your staff at night if most of your serious cases occur at night. Does that make — Mr. Walsh said, well, you're asking staff that have already put in ten to twelve hours to also be available — Commissioner Odell said, no, what I'm doing is I'm changing their work hours. I'm changing their work hours from working the standard business time to work when the files are actually — Mr. Walsh said, we used to have the capacity to be able to do that, but we don't now due to cuts in staff. Commissioner Odell said, okay, I'll yield, that's all I've got.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I've listened to you very carefully and I would like to go along with what my fellow Commissioner said. You've got ten people. Just like the police department, you know, you can't have ten people working in the day time when you're work load is occurring on another period of time. It doesn't make any sense, number one, and — Mr. Walsh said, well, we did that in the past. We did pull some staff to work at night, but we had to pull them back because we didn't have enough staff during the day. Commissioner Gellatly said, well, what are they going to do on a slow night? They'll have nothing to do but they'll be working until Midnight, or something like that? Mr. Walsh said, well, as I said, they don't just respond. They have to do the full investigation. Commissioner Gellatly said, I'm sorry, but I think you've got a real slick way to get two extra bodies and I'm not sure that you need them.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I have one question. You said you are down some staff members. Mr. Walsh said, yes ma'am. We've lost — Commissioner Stone said, then you've got some salaries from those staff members that's not being spent. Commissioner Stone said, no ma'am. We don't get the salaries. The State —, they do a staffing allocation every year and they make the decision how much staff goes to each county department and I think I mentioned since Fiscal 02 for Social Services, we've lost about a quarter of our staff. Commissioner Stone asked, so the State pays their salaries? Mr. Walsh said, yes. Commissioner Stone said, okay. Then why couldn't the State pay this salary? Mr. Walsh said, well, the State has determined not to do that. They look at the money they have and they look across the State how many county departments, and they distribute the money that way, they make the decision. Commissioner Stone said, I'm sorry, this is not computing.

Commissioner Shay said, well, in essence, then what we're hearing is that because the State decided to cut back on the number of positions that are funded in your department, that you now need to come to Chatham County in order for us to increase the staffing, whether they work in the daytime or the night, and you need for the County to start picking up more of the tab for what heretofore has been a State responsibility. Mr. Walsh said, we rarely come before the County and —. Commissioner Shay said, no, I'm not —. Mr. Walsh said, I'm just saying that we have been cut to the point that it's beyond bare bones. We're barely being able to function with the staff that we have and we would like to be able to have staff full time overnight to be able to respond to emergencies. Commissioner Shay said, I'm speaking out of turn. I apologize.

Commissioner Stone said, no. I mean, I'm agreeing with you. It seems like to me then that this should really be an issue for the State. I mean, if they're supposed to fund these salaries and if we need to, you know, help you in that matter —. Mr. Walsh said, it's a State responsibility, but these are our children in Chatham County and the only —. Commissioner Stone said, I understand, but my concern is that they asked us to pay these salaries. What are they going to ask next? Mr. Walsh said, they're not asking, we are as a County department. The State of Georgia is not asking you, it's a County department asking. Commissioner Stone said, well, I guess what I'm saying is because they have cut salaries from some of your other employees, they would make sense. I mean, you're asking for employees, additional employees, something that they have paid for, and if I'm correct have set a precedent here in paying for them, and I'm worried about setting a precedent on a local level of once we start picking up the tab here, where will this end?

Chairman Liakakis said, well, let me respond to that. They've already the State has cut out one-fourth of their employees. If anybody, and I'm sure that some of you know, that we've got a problem in our community with our children being abused, not being taken care of and all of that, and at Greenbriar is a great example of that is how many children that they've got to go out there because maybe abandoned children or that some that have not been taken care of, you know, they just let them wander in the streets. There's all kinds of abuse with child abuse and those kind of things, and the State has taken a fourth of the employees away, so that shows right there that the State is not going to pay for it because they've already taken a fourth of the employees away. I'm familiar with that situation, you know, because I'm out at night time and I've been over at the Department of Family and Children Services and I see out there, you know, what's going on. It's a sad state that we've got in our community that we have so many children that are being abused and being deprived of things in our community, and I'm talking about regular abuse, you know, by language, I'm talking about physical abuse. That's a sad state that we've got in our community.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I agree with you and that's not what I'm trying to say here. I appreciate the work that you all do. I'm just working about picking up the tab again for the State. I'm not certainly at all arguing the need for the service. I mean, I concur that is desperately needed. I'm just concerned that this is the situation — a trend that just seems to be happening that the State cuts and then we have to pick up the tab. That's my concern.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, sir, could you tell me the previous number of investigators that you had before the State cut —. Mr. Walsh said, I think the number was fifteen. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, and currently you have —. Mr. Walsh said, ten and we have —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what percentage of your overall budget does the County actually contribute? Mr. Walsh said, I can tell you the dollar amount. I'm not sure what the percentage is. The State obviously contributes quite a bit more. It's — I think y'all contribute \$600,000, but that includes our medicaid screeners for indigent care, foster care, emergency assistance, and nothing with — the monies that we use primarily for the social services side is for the foster children, monies that again the State does not provide for services. We have emergency situations that come up that they don't provide for. This is nothing new with the — and I'm not —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, what I'm going to propose here is — well, my wife's a principal in Chatham County schools and I hear from I guess her almost weekly or whatever how stretched —. Commissioner Shay said, I'll bet you hear from her every day. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — she calls me every now and then, but I hear basically how stretched your department is. I know that even the emergency situations y'all respond as fast as you can, but that you're extremely overworked and I've heard some cases in the past where, you know, we're just lucky that the kids didn't die because there's just no way with the personnel, the lack of personnel at your place, that you could get there as fast as needed. This is one of those things that, you know, we need to help. I don't know about — if we can approve six months for this amount and in that motion state this is a one-time deal and send a letter to the State of Georgia, our Legislators, let them know that we have covered their butts once again because they keep cutting here and making us pick it up and, you know, again money I understand, but this is one of the things that God knows if we're ever going to pick up a cost of something, this one's needed. It's needed bad. These are the kids that they don't ask to be beat and asked for any of that, and I know that it's not our responsibility at all, whatsoever to do, but at this point if we have the ability to help, it's the right thing to do. It's not our responsibility, but it's the right thing, but I think a scathing letter needs to go to the Governor as well as everybody around that this is a one-time six month, and if you have to hire, pay people overtime or whatever with that money as far as I'm concerned to help out, that's what you need to do or hire part time that you can bring in, but I kind of agree with Gellatly on this. You know, I'd like to see them working during the day when you actually have to get out to all the various schools because I don't know the stats but I would imagine they have to be the reporters of most of the child abuse that you receive as far as reports have to come from the schools because they're with those kids daily, and to put people out there at night that we could work during the day, you know, I think would be better, but again I think we should send a letter to the State that we're going to pay X-amount and it's going to provide whatever for six months and that is it, and for them to do their job after that and that's their job. In other words, I don't want to see it even come in front of us as a continuance if this — what I'm thinking goes through. I would want, if the State didn't pick it up and if they still needed, I would want them to come back and ask for it. In other words, there is no continuance after this funding, and we're not the bad guys in six months because we cut spending off at that point. It would need to be where it's a one-time thing and after that, if they came back, they were requesting funding, not a continuance of funding because there's no way we're the bad guys in any of this. The State may need to cut a few little pet projects they like to bring home for their districts and protect the kids, so that would be my recommendation to this group.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, it's just another example of the State of Chatham. Okay? We are becoming the State and in this particular case I'm satisfied, after hearing this gentlemen and hearing his testimony and I'm sure he will take the advise that he's heard from some of the Commissioners to consider some of the operational issues, but we've got to step into this breach. I mean, this is not the child goes without shoes, this is the child remains in circumstances that are absolutely untenable, and I would hope that maybe when the Legislature gets through the session this year that they would restore funding so that the positions that you've lost could at least some of them be restored, and I would trust that you would come back to us at that point and say, you know what, the State stepped back into this breach. But I'm not naive. I understand what's going on here. I think everyone of the Commissioners understand exactly what's going on here and you obviously work hard, your department works hard. If you've got people that are so stressed out from working overtime that were having a high attrition rate, then we need to step into this breach and even though it's probably a recurring revenue, \$42,500 in this particular case isn't too much to ask, I don't think, for — times two — you know, too much to ask under these circumstances. But we just have to get ready for it. Not only is there a vilaseraptor in the room about whatever OPEB means, there also are this gradual process that's speeding up where what has heretofore been a federal or state responsibility is gradually being pushed over onto our shoulders and, you know, there's not a good answer. We can't accept all the responsibilities, but this is one we've got to accept. I just can't fathom us leaving young people in the desperate circumstances that they find themselves through no making of their own and not helping this gentleman to try and rectify that situation.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm going to support this. My statements were not directed as criticism but simply as inquiry. I'm literally concerned that when the State boasts the fact that it has surplus funds and they leave children in this desperate position, these children need government, but so that everyone keeps score here, and I like keeping score, and today we're going to approve this \$85,000 because we need to, but today you have committed \$600,000 to next year's budget so you've committed \$600,000 and you do not have a continuing stream of revenue. It's \$600,000. It may just be \$85,000 here, but earlier when we did the \$250,000 for the Board of Assessors — Commissioner Shay said, which turns out to be \$500,000. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, you're talking about real money, but I am a little concerned. I think that if you had fifteen positions and now you have ten — Mr. Walsh said, and one thing I didn't make clear. We have ten positions that are not filled all the time. It takes six months to certify. Our turnover rate is about 28% so we're constantly — we've got a small core of experienced workers and in this case several, and we constantly are losing people because of the stress and the demands on them and on their own time. Commissioner Odell asked, when you say that, how do you know that? Mr. Walsh said, well, they're leaving and they're going to get — Commissioner Odell said, they could be leaving because they've — Mr. Walsh said, well, we have exit conferences with all our staff. Commissioner Odell said, the only reason why I say that is that if you have a 28% turnover rate, either (a) you're hiring the wrong people, number one, or (b) supply and demand, you're not paying what you need to be paying for that skill level and so they come in, get their training with you, and go to a job where they can make some real money, but just burnout, I don't think they work harder than I work and I'm not burnout. I'm a little fed up but I'm not burned out. If the

money is good enough you'd be surprised what people would do to stay there, but I don't think that's the problem. I would recommend that we approve this. I am —, I don't think, Dean [Kicklighter], it does any good to send them a letter telling them that they've again left children in an abandoned state, but at some point I'd like to see those State agencies that we're acquiring bigger junks of —, I was on the Board of Directors at the old Tidelands Community Mental Health and they told me that they worked harder than soldiers in the field, but we brought in a group that looked at what in fact they were doing and they had a utilization rate of 27%. In private business if I had a utilization rate of 27%, they'd call that bankruptcy. I'd like to see us, if we're assuming the bigger task, to have some departments that we could go in to make certain that we have systems in place to ensure effective use of the limited people that we have. Doing it the way we've been doing it twenty years to me is unacceptable. I'm a little bit concerned you went from fifteen to ten people and yet you're surviving. That — I'm not certain what that implication is. I'll support this, but I'll strongly — \$600,000.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, where are you getting that from? Commissioner Odell said, here's where I'm getting it from, Dean [Kicklighter]. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, from what we already pay them? Commissioner Odell said, no, no. We've already paid \$250,000 for the Tax Assessors to new people. Double that in that it's just a half a year, \$500,000. This \$42,500 is only a half year. So it's rounded — we're talking \$600,000 in which we don't have a stream of income. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, so are you going to make — is the motion going to be to approve it as it is for it to continue or for them to come back —. Commissioner Odell said, the motion has already been made. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Is that the way it's going to be or would y'all like to see it with a one-time thing and then they come back?

Commissioner Shay said, Dean [Kicklighter], if they have a six month training period, it's going to be hard to get somebody to fill that position if they know that it's going to expire. Commissioner Kicklighter said, let me ask. Is there anything legally that we can do in the future to not only have an M&O budget, a SSD budget, but a State tax that everything —. Commissioner Shay said, over there on the wall. Commissioner Kicklighter said, in other words, I really would like to see that broken out during budget time of exactly what the millage rate is that's costing our citizens on their property taxes for all the State — unfunded State mandates and projects. I'd love to see it because, yeah, you guys did what you thought was right, some of you, and everybody up here tries to do what they believes is right, and you voted to increase the tax where had that been broken out I guarantee you all of the unfunded mandates increase taxes where it was not the Commission blowing any money. It needs to be broke down where we can just show the public specifically because they pride themselves on having money in their bank account, but they're gouging the citizens on a different level. They've now moved into not only are they taxing us on our income, but now they're shifting all of their expenses to the cities, counties and boards of education and they're putting property taxes on the people, but we're the lame ducks taking the blame and getting beat up for what they're just putting on us. So we need to somehow break it out and just show it by millage rate every single year, Russ [Abolt] and Pat [Monahan], where we can show from now to a hundred years from now where the County actually raised the millage rate or reduced it or whatever for the parts that we are actually responsible for, and then we can show what the State has done in that bracket. So every time they shift a dollar to us and it goes us, that's going to automatically — just like basically when the board of education sends us a

budget, we whatever — we just have to go with it. We really have no choice, but we've got to put it through. That needs to be the same thing with the State of Georgia where it's basically known to this community that it's automatic and everything's shifted is the State of Georgia increasing the taxes on them, and that's just the way it is, and if we don't like it we start getting on the State Representatives and State Senators rather than we're the messenger, and that's what we need to do. If they're not doing the right thing, we need to.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, finally. Chairman Liakakis said, pull the microphone in front of you. Commissioner Gellatly said, this isn't really about you, but it's affecting you. This is certainly an unfunded a State mandate and it should be called what it is and the County's going to pick up the tab for it. I'm not going to support it. I'm not going to vote an additional expense for our taxpayers at \$85,000 every year that's going to reoccur based on a thirty-minute presentation. I'm not going to do that. I think that if we're going to be taking over State responsibilities that you should ultimately probably be reporting directly to the County Manager and not the State as we take over more and more of this. I also have a question. You stated before this Commission that when your employees say they have to work from nine to midnight they get no compensation. When you say no compensation, they don't get time and a half off for every hour they work? Mr. Walsh said, they do, some of us they get comp time. It depends on their level. Commissioner Gellatly asked, what do you mean some levels. Are you telling me that you actually have employees that come in and work for three hours at night and they get no compensation whatsoever. They don't get to take time off at a different — on a different day, they don't in fact get for every hour they work an hour and a half off? Mr. Walsh said, well, they do get comp time, they don't get financial compensation. Commissioner Gellatly said, sir, that is compensation. Mr. Walsh said, that's what I'm saying, they get the time. You told this Commission — Mr. Walsh said, the problem is they never get to use the time and we're required by law after a certain point, if they don't use the comp time, we have to pay them. I didn't bring the — Commissioner Gellatly said, but that's compensation. Mr. Walsh said, yes sir, it is. Commissioner Gellatly said, okay. Well, you told this Commission they didn't get compensation and that was correct —, that was incorrect. Mr. Walsh said, I'm sorry, I misunderstood what you were asking. Commissioner Gellatly said, well, there's nothing to misunderstand, compensation is either money or it's time or time and a half off at another time. Mr. Walsh said, I was thinking financial. Commissioner Gellatly said, like I say, I think you put together a real slick thing to get some more bodies, and I'm not saying you don't deserve it, but I am telling you that I'm not going to transfer the responsibility of paying what the State should pay to the citizens of Chatham County based on a thirty-minute presentation. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've listened to everything everybody had to say and I definitely agree with the fact that the State should set up to the plate. It's their responsibility and I think we all are tired of the unfunded mandates and et cetera, and the County continues to pick up various tabs for things that should be done at the State level, understanding that during the campaign Governor Perdue and others talked about the excessive surplus that

they had. I think like over \$500,000,000 or whatever. I participated in the Sonny-Do List and I personally intend to continue with my Sonny-Do List after this today, and I would urge all citizens and this Commission regardless of whether — what results that you're going to get, I think they need to continue to know. The other thing I think we need to do is to do a much better job from this Commission to communicate to our citizens all of these things that are unfunded and being mandated by the State and others and we're picking up the tabs and not just do it at budget time. I think it needs to be an on-going thing so it would be fresh in people's minds as to what's going on. That is something that I would suggest that we do. Now, given the fact that — whether we vote for or against this request, the ultimate concern of mine are the children. I have had several calls late at night and have had to refer them to this body, and I can tell you had they not been there, I don't know what would have happened to two of these young people, and they were teenagers and they could have very well stepped out into our community and committed a crime because of the way that they had been treated. So I said all of that to say this, is that regardless of how we see it, I hope we will look at what we need to do for the children.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, you know, I stated earlier I want to support it, and I do want to support this, but as a last — I'm tired of getting into the State also. I'd like to see us possibly contact our — Senator Eric Johnson and ask him to set up a meeting with the Governor. I'll be glad to go with you, Mr. Chairman, and one of your representatives to talk personally with him. I would like to have the information in our hands before we go of counties of comparable sizes to ours and of similar economic makeup, the amount of officers that they have working for their DFCS departments. I imagine because we have larger voting precincts just knowing how politicians work, they have more officers in other areas of similar size. That's just a guess, which they may not, but I'd like to have that information. Let's go talk to the Governor, let's try to bring them to do what they should do, which is their responsibility and I think it needs to happen quick, and if they say no, then we've done what we had to do and then we go ahead and approve this thing, but I think it's worth a try to get to him quick and let him know exactly — We know it and unless citizens come to us or someone comes to us, we don't know how devastating something is until we experience it personally or hear from those folks personally, and if we can get to the Governor and tell him what's going on, you know, maybe we can bring back the money from them rather than us paying. And I'll say it would have to be really quick before the next Commission meeting or whatever — I guess that's unrealistic with the holidays right now — sometime early January meet with him and we would know by the end of that month whether or not we made progress and, if not, we do the right thing and we bail the State out on their responsibility once again, but I'd like to see us give a shot at the Governor first.

Commissioner Thomas said, so you want to do another motion?

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll come to you in just a moment. Let me remind everybody. Last year the Finance Department gave us an amount of money and they said the State of Georgia owes a little over \$12,000,000 on unfunded mandates. That's the figure that we were given. So it isn't like, you know, the information isn't coming to us. Take the Public Defenders. They don't fully fund the Public Defenders. They do not fully fund the Health Department where we've got a lot

of people that have this health treatment, they don't fund that. Last year, they owe the County for State prisoners \$2,790,000. The ACCG, which is composed of all the County Commissioners of the State of Georgia, they lobbied heavy with the Legislators and went to the Governor's office and the Governor stated, well, we'll have a little over 4,400 additional beds so that we can move people out, not giving us the money but just adding some beds over there, some room for them so that they would take them out, and we still have not as many, but we still have State prisoners waiting to be transferred in our County jail, instead of them paying us the \$50 — almost \$50 that it costs the citizens of Chatham County. They'd only pay us, when they do, \$20 a day. We're talking about the children. Y'all were mentioning something about the children being abandoned. Listen, they abandoned them over at the Georgia Regional. I've been over there multitudes of times. It's heartbreaking to go over there and see those children that have mental problems. A lot of their families had abandoned them and they was no way for them to go except to be there, and what the State of Georgia does with a \$600,000,000 surplus, they close that particular children's unit of the Georgia Regional. So, you know, sending them letters and all, they have been brought — it's been brought to the Governor's attention, to the Legislators' attention. What I have done last year and part of this year, I've gone around the State for public hearings and others and I have lobbied for the smaller counties, as well as our County and all, and stated that we need to get every County Commissioner in the State of Georgia and everyone of their elected people on city councils to do bring their Legislators in and that if every county commissioner and every city council person talks with their Legislators in the State of Georgia, we'll have a difference because the Legislators will have no way to turn. What happens right now, we've got a Lobbyist for Chatham County. The ACCG has four or five lobbyists, the same thing with the Georgia Municipal Association, but they go over there and they lobby for things that we need, like these right here, and it doesn't make an impression that if we had several thousand of our elected officials, city council people and county commissioners, holding onto our county Legislators and telling them this is what we want, we'll see a difference because I have said that at the ACCG meetings and all, and that's what we need to do. Unfortunately, we have got this \$600,000,000 surplus, and I understand what you're saying. This is the situation over there if we really go out there and see the children are being taken advantage of in many ways, being abused and all. And I understand what you're saying, a continuous thing on there. Instead of \$42,500 it will go to \$85,000, but look at this. This is something, do we want to abandon the children like the State of Georgia? They took five employees away from here, a fourth of their employees in this particular division. They keep taking monies and they are not funding us like they should. So unfortunately, the burden is on this Commission to make a decision and our citizens to have to pay for takes on this thing, and we need to look at it in that aspect. For us to go talk to the Governor, I tell you, what he did was with the prisoners ain't no way they're going to give us the money last year or this year to pay for what they owe the counties for the prisoners. That was it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman? Chairman Liakakis said, now, no, it's here.

Commissioner Shay said, I had my finger up a little while ago. Sorry, Dean [Kicklighter]. I would like to ask that we get the Clerk to restate the motion and then I'd like to call for the question. Sorry, Dean [Kicklighter]. Commissioner Kicklighter said, they did an across-the-board cut on DFCS. If we find out the amount of employees that we have investigated versus —

The Clerk said, I have that Commissioner Odell made the motion and Holmes seconded it.

Commissioner Shay asked, Commissioner Odell, was your motion to approve as submitted to us? Commissioner Odell said, to approve the \$42,500 —. Commissioner Shay asked, \$42,500 request? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Commissioner Shay said, okay, well, I'd like to call for the question. Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to vote yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Everybody let's vote. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Gellatly voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request of the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to transfer \$42,500 for FY 2007 to support the creation of an after hours unit in the Child Protection Service Division of DFCS consisting of two (2) field case managers to act as first responders with law enforcement, provide enhanced services to children, and relieve other staff members who are currently rotating these responsibilities. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Gellatly voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-5

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE: Board consideration to support the creation of an on-call after hours unit in the Child Protective Service Division of the Chatham County Department of Family and Children Services.

BACKGROUND: Chatham County provides annual funding to the Chatham County Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS) in the amount of \$636,210. DFACS is facing budgetary restraints from its other funding sources as state staffing allocations to the County have decreased 26.2% since fiscal 2002.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

(1) The DFACS Director is requesting creation of an on-call after hours unit in the Child Protective Services division consisting of 2 field case managers to act as

first responders with law enforcement, provide enhanced services to children, and relieve other staff members who are currently rotating these responsibilities.

- (2) The attached memorandum from DFACS outlines the responsibilities of the proposed on-call unit and assesses its impact on operational efficiency and service levels.

FUNDING:

No funding is currently available within the DFACS budget allocation, and use of funds in the General Fund M&O Contingency account would be required to facilitate the request. Fiscal 2007 funding needs are \$42,500. In fiscal 2008 funding of \$85,000 would be required.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) That the Board approve DFACS' request and provide a contingency transfer in the amount of \$42,500 for fiscal 2007 to the DFACS department.
- 2) That the Board amend or deny the DFACS' request.

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

RECOMMENDATION: For Board consideration.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

We've got a request right now to amend the agenda to move up the Second Reading on Item #2. Would you like to make that motion, Pat [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to amend the agenda so that we could consider Second Reading Item 2 in order to accommodate Attorney McCorkle, who's been waiting very patiently all morning and who is trying to get away to take care of some family responsibilities. So if we could do that, I'd appreciate it on his behalf.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, let's —.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure in case there are any questions that I assume the MPC across the street is listening, but do they need to come back if there are any questions, Mr. McCorkle? Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Go ahead then.

Mr. Phillip McCorkle said, as far as I'm aware, there is no opposition. There has never been through this whole process, so I can't imagine —. Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to make sure.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a motion on the floor and a second to approve Item 2 for the requesting to rezone 4343 —. Commissioner Shay said, it's actually a motion to amend the agenda so that we can consider it. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, amend it, yeah. To amend the agenda to put this item ahead of the other items. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously.

NOTE: The agenda was amended and Item XII-2 was heard next on the agenda.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION (Continued)

6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE REQUEST OF GREENBRIAR CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC. TO REFUND TAXES FOR 2003, 2004 AND 2005 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,819.73.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have a motion on the floor. Let's go on the board.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to state for the record —. Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Let's have —. Commissioner Shay said, I am doing work for the Greenbriar Children's Center and so I think I should properly ask for a recusal on this. County Attorney Hart said, [inaudible] made a motion. Commissioner Shay said, either that or I'll just simplify things by taking a walk.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor —. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, — and it has been approved.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request of Greenbriar Children's Center, Inc., to refund taxes for 2003, 2004 and 2005 in the amount of \$12,819.73. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-6**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney**ISSUE:**

To approve request of Greenbriar Children's Center, Inc. to refund taxes for 2003, 2004 and 2005 in the amount of \$12,819.73.

BACKGROUND:

This is a request by the Greenbriar Children's Center, Inc. for a refund of taxes paid for tax years 2003, 2004 and 2005 in the amount of \$12,819.73. In October, 2002, Greenbriar purchased the property at 711 Lincoln Street; however, they never filed an exemption request until 2006 which was granted by the Board of Assessor's on July 18, 2006. Greenbriar has used the property for their Transitional Living Program since it was purchased in October, 2002.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. Greenbriar Children's Center, Inc. is seeking a refund of taxes paid for tax years 2003, 2004 and 2005 in the amount of \$12,819.73.
2. In October, 2002, Greenbriar purchased the property at 711 Lincoln Street.
3. Greenbriar never filed an exemption request until 2006 which was granted by the Board of Assessor's on July 18, 2006.
4. Greenbriar has used the property for their Transitional Living Program since it was purchased in October, 2002.
5. O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 (a) authorizes a refund to taxpayers of taxes which are determined to have been erroneously or illegally assessed or which have been voluntarily or involuntarily overpaid. A refund may be requested three years after the date of the payment of the tax to the County. O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 (b).

FUNDING:

Delinquent collections of the Tax Commissioner's office.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Greenbriar is exempt from ad valorem property taxes. The 2003, 2004 and 2005 taxes that have been paid should be refunded.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The Commission should authorize the refund of \$12,819.73.
2. The Commission should not authorize the refund of \$12,819.73.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative 1.

/jr

=====

7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE REQUEST OF GAIL S. O'MERA TO REFUND TAXES FOR 2005 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,253.04.

Chairman Liakakis said, that is being recommended to our Commission after they looked into it, our staff people.

Commissioner Odell said, I recommend approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request of Gail S. O'Mera to refund taxes for 2005 in the amount of \$3,253.04. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-6
AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

ISSUE:

To approve request of Gail S. O'Mera to refund taxes for 2005 in the amount of \$3,253.04.

BACKGROUND:

This is a request by Gail S. O'Mera for a refund of taxes paid for tax year 2005 in the amount of \$3,253.04. In 2004, Ms. O'Mera had the buildings demolished for PIN nos. 1-0082-01-021, 1-0082-01-022 and 1-0082-01-024. Ms. O'Mera did not contest her value for 2005, nor did she file a tax return for 2005 to indicate that the buildings had been razed. The Board of Assessor's was unaware that the buildings had been demolished.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. Gail S. O'Mera is seeking a refund of taxes paid for tax year 2005 in the amount of \$3,253.04.
2. In 2004, Ms. O'Mera had the buildings demolished for PIN nos. 1-0082-01-021, 1-0082-01-022 and 1-0082-01-024.
3. Ms. O'Mera did not contest her value for 2005, nor did she file a tax return for 2005 to indicate that the buildings had been razed.
4. The Board of Assessor's was unaware that the buildings had been demolished.
5. O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 (a) authorizes a refund to taxpayers of taxes which are determined to have been erroneously or illegally assessed or which have been voluntarily or involuntarily overpaid. A refund may be requested three years after the date of the payment of the tax to the County. O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 (b).

FUNDING:

Delinquent collections of the Tax Commissioner's office.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Gail O'Mera's property should have been taxed as a common area lot value of \$10.00, since the buildings were demolished.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. The Commission should authorize the refund of \$3,253.04.
- 2. The Commission should not authorize the refund of \$3,253.04.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative 1.

/jr

=====

8. REQUEST BOARD CONSIDERATION FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CITY OF SAVANNAH TO CONVEY THE SPA INDUSTRIAL PARK WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM FOR THEIR OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION.

Commissioner Odell asked, staff recommendation?

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, the Water and Sewer Division has struggled for a number of years with exceeding permitted capacity, not only at this location but at several locations, and was looking at different options on how to provide the needed capacity without exceeding or continuing to receive fines from the State for the water systems. Meanwhile, the City of Savannah made a proposal to acquire this system from the County. The City of Savannah in 1999 annexed a good portion of this area and Pooler has annexed the other area. The County has maintained the system. It's called the SPA based on the old Savannah Port Authority. It's the industrial park that's off US80 that's actually within Savannah and Pooler. Staff is recommending that we continue with our current plan, and that is to enter into an agreement with the City of Pooler to acquire additional water to allow — to remain within the permitted capacity and then use some of that permitted capacity to provide some relief in some of our other water systems.

Chairman Liakakis said, and I understand from the staff that this is the best for the County as opposed to —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, absolutely, because there are two issues. One affects the water system itself and then the rest of the customers. This happens to be our best revenue generating part of the system and by selling this system that would then cause somewhere between a 14% to 15% increase for the other customers.

Commissioner Odell said, I move that we deny. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, right. We just — I think the staff recommendation would be to continue on the existing course, enter into an agreement with Pooler for the extra water —. Commissioner Odell said, and just say no to the City. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, just say no.

Commissioner Farrell asked, so we can make a motion to approve Alternative 1? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, Alternative 1, yes sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Do we have a second. Commissioner Stone said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's go on the board. The motion to deny carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to **deny** the proposal from the City of Savannah to convey the SPA Industrial Park water and sewer system for their ownership and operation and that Chatham County continue it's current plan of purchasing water from the City of Pooler. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and the motion to deny carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-8

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Robert Drewry, Director of Public Works and Park Services

Issue: Request Board consideration for proposal from the City of Savannah to convey the SPA Industrial Park water and sewer system for their ownership and operation.

Background: The County owns and operates the SPA Industrial Park water and sewer system located off U.S. Highway 80 adjacent to the airport (see attached map).

Facts and Findings:

1. The water system is served by 2 groundwater wells through a distribution system. Through an Inter-governmental Agreement in 1976, the County pumps the sanitary sewer generated in the park to the City of Savannah for treatment. In addition, in 1987 the County inter-connected the SPA water system with the City of Pooler as a backup water source.
2. The County's groundwater withdrawal permit with the State Environmental Protection Division allows for 172,000 gallons per day monthly average from the Upper Floridian Aquifer. Unfortunately, the County's actual withdrawal has exceeded the permitted rate. The State of Georgia has issued the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water

Intrusion in June 2006 that eliminates increased withdrawal from the Upper Floridian aquifer. As a result, the County has initiated discussions with the City of Pooler for an Inter-governmental Agreement to purchase water through the inter-connection and transfer the permitted capacity to the Glen of Robin water system. This will accommodate future water demands of the Industrial Park and the Glen of Robin system where the County has had capacity problems also.

3. The City of Savannah annexed a majority of the park in 1999. The City of Pooler annexed the balance of the area during the same time.
4. The County serves 55 industrial related customers in the park. A majority of those customers are in the City of Savannah, the remaining are in the City of Pooler. The County serves water to customers in both municipalities.
5. On November 9, 2006, the City of Savannah has officially asked the County to consider transferring or selling the SPA water and sewer system to the City (see attached letter from City Manager Michael Brown).
6. Staff has consulted with the Finance staff on the operating of the SPA system and the potential impact to the Water and Sewer Fund. As expected, the SPA system generates approximately 14% more revenue than the cost of operating the system.

Funding: No funds are requested.

Policy Statement: Board action is requested as a result of the City of Savannah's proposal.

Alternatives:

1. Chatham County continue the current plan of purchasing water from the City of Pooler since we already have an inter-connection of service. This will probably necessitate an increase in fees for the customers within SPA to offset the increase cost to purchase water from Pooler.
2. Chatham County blend water and sewer services, assets, and personnel with the City of Savannah and create a Water and Sewer Authority. With the City of Savannah having the only water available for growth in the region and in light of the State of Georgia's issuance of the Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion released June 2006 that encourages the blending concept and recognizes the City as the water provider, developers would not have to get incorporation status for their property in order to receive water and sewer service.
3. Chatham County to either sell the SPA Water and Sewer system to the City of Savannah and use the funds to advance our capital improvement program or

authorize staff to negotiate other service areas of equitable value. To take this action will require an appraisal of the infrastructure and confirmation by the Board at another future meeting.

4. Board provide staff with other direction.

Recommendations: Board approve Alternative #1.

District 7

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9. BOARD APPROVAL TO CREATE A NEW POSITION TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes sir, Mr. Chairman, this wraps up the last of the individual action items and perhaps the most important one for my office. This relates to a need for an additional administrative support position. As you realize, the Construction Management Division, which falls within me, includes two full time employees who oversee more on quality assurance the various construction projects. We've got approximately \$80,000,000 worth of projects on the books that we're overseeing right now and an administrative assistant in the County Manager's office handles all of the accounts payable. Where we're having a problem are the number of projects we're taking in-house and being able to process competitive bids and also some of the bookkeeping requirements. So we're asking for an additional position to assist.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, for the record this position is funded out of SPLOST funds. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes sir. It's funded out of SPLOST and the DSA Series bonds because it relates primarily to the Courthouse and the adaptive reuse of the old jail. Commissioner Shay said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to create a new position to provide administrative support for construction projects. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-9**AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager**ISSUE:**

To create an Administrative Assistant I position for the Courthouse and Adaptive Re-use Project (old Jail).

BACKGROUND:

With the Courthouse renovation and addition and other construction projects, the workload has increased beyond the capacity of existing staff in handling administrative support services. An Administrative Assistant in the County Manager's Office now provides primary support, but this split duty proves troublesome because of the demands of work in the County Manager's Office versus needed requirements for assisting with construction projects. As work continues on the Courthouse and renovation of the Jail, additional support services will be required to assume the increased work load, especially as work progresses on the Adaptive Re-use Project (from Jail to offices) and Courthouse addition. Additional staff support will be especially needed for procuring competitive bids, assisting with project accounting and providing additional support for accounts payable.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The Courthouse project, including Adaptive Re-use of the old Jail, includes multiple phases to add 120,000 square feet of space to the Montgomery Street complex. While the Purchasing Office will handle major contract bids, a secondary level of bidding will be necessary for construction by the In-House General Contract Program, which will be responsible for completing interior work and finishes.
2. For example, during the past two weeks, staff has processed more than 30 purchase orders for varying work in the \$500 to \$5,000 amounts. While lesser amounts, these purchase orders require competitive bids, purchase orders and payments. Additional staff support will ensure proper accounting and accountability for the full range of work which will be required for the next seven years or so.
3. Based on discussions with the Human Resources and Services Department, the qualifications of this position would be an Administrative Assistant I. The job will be advertised for selection through a competitive process.

FUNDING:

Funding for position will be funded from SPLOST 2003-2008 and the Adaptive Re-use Project (1999 and 2005 DSA Series Bonds, SPLOST 2003-2008) based on a charge back for actual time.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board authorize creation of an Administrative I position to provide support services for the Courthouse and Adaptive Re-use projects.
2. That the Board not take action on authorizing the Administrative I position.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law and the Enabling Act provide that the only the Board can authorize additional personnel positions and provide funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ADOPT A PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Commissioner Odell said, I recommend approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to adopt a proposed fee schedule for Environmental Health Services pursuant to O.C.G.A. 31-3-4(6). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-10
AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: W. Douglas Skelton, M.D., Director, Coastal Health District

ISSUE:

To present a new schedule of fees for Environmental Health Division (Chatham County Health Department) services.

BACKGROUND:

By O.C.G.A. 31-3-4.(6), the Board of Commissioners must set the fees for the Environmental Health Division under the Chatham County Health Department. The Board of Health unanimously voted to seek the new schedule, which would result in an increase in fees for the first time in seven years.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The new fee schedule is attached. While it would double many of the cost of services and add new categories, the Board of Health believes this is warranted to cover the actual cost of delivering the services for restaurants, hotels, public pools, sewerage systems and other public health inspections.
2. The Board of Health also notes that fees for the Environmental Health Division have not increased at all in seven years.
3. The schedule compares similarly to fees set by other counties of similar size and for the inspections services of those governments, such as Chatham County's Department of Building Safety & Regulatory Services.

FUNDING:

Not applicable. The new fee schedule would increase revenues to the Chatham County Health Department, which helps to offset increases needed in state and local funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board adopt the new fee schedule, as attached.
2. That the Board take other action as appropriate.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

By O.C.G.A. 31-3-4.(6), the Board of Commissioners must approve the fee schedule.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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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, we have Items 1 through 6 and under Item 6, A through I. Do we have any items that anybody would like to hold off? If not, do we have a motion on the floor to approve all of these items on the Action Calendar?

Commissioner Gellatly said, motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve Items 1 through 6-I, both inclusive. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2006, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commission Gellatly moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 22 THROUGH DECEMBER 6, 2006.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period November 22, 2006, through December 6, 2006, in the amount of \$5,159,429. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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3. REQUEST BOARD TENTATIVELY SET MEETING DATES FOR 2007. THIS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to tentatively set meeting dates for 2007 as follows: Set meeting time to immediately follow 9:00 a.m. pre-meeting on the second and fourth Fridays in January through June and August, and on the first and third Fridays in July and September through December. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF THREE (3) BOARDS OF EQUALIZATION AS AUTHORIZED BY GEORGIA LAW.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve a resolution to provide for the use of three (3) Board of Equalization as authorized by Georgia law. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

- TO:** Chairman and Members of the County Commission
- THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager
- FROM:** Gail F. Gordon, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
- ISSUE:** Board of Equalization

To present for the County Commission's approval a resolution to provide for the use of three (3) Boards of Equalization as authorized by Georgia Law.

BACKGROUND:

Approval of a resolution for Chatham County's use of three Boards of Equalization is a matter of routine. Under Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. § 48-5-311), the county governing authority must adopt a resolution authorizing this procedure.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. That Chatham County is entitled to three (3) Boards of Equalization.
2. Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. § 48-5-311) states that the county governing authority must adopt a resolution authorizing this procedure.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt the resolution that would allow Chatham County's use of three (3) Boards of Equalization.
2. Do not adopt the resolution that would allow Chatham County's use of three (3) Boards of Equalization.

FUNDING:

Funding for the Boards of Equalization is included in the 2006 budget.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

It is the policy of the Commission to adopt a resolution each year allowing the use of three (3) Boards of Equalization.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Georgia during the 1981 Session thereof provided for the establishment of County Boards of Equalization as set forth in the Georgia Laws of 1981, pp. 1554-1556, amended Ga. Laws 1991, p. 1122, 1128, § 4 [O.C.G.A. § 48-5-311(a)(1)]; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 80,400 parcels of real property (tax accounts or property identification numbers) in Chatham County, Georgia, which necessitates the establishment of three (3) County Boards of Equalization pursuant to the provisions of the foregoing legislation; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is entitled to three (3) County Boards of Equalization; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County presently has three (3) Boards of Equalization.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, Georgia, in regular meeting assembled, that there be three (3) County Boards of Equalization for Chatham County, Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that three (3) Boards of Equalization presently exist having terms which will expire December 31, 2006, December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2008 respectively, named and provided by confirmation of the Grand Jury in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia, be and is hereby confirmed by the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, Georgia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 15th day of December, 2006.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

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- 5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A NEW SUNDAY SALES LICENSE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2006. PETITIONER: WILLIAM ALFRED ROWLAND, D/B/A UNCLE HARRY'S, LOCATED AT 12 N. LATHROP AVENUE.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the petition of William Alfred Rowland, d/b/a Uncle Harry's, located at 12 North Lathrop Avenue, for a new Sunday sales license of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2006. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-5
AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2006

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES
WILLIE LOVETT, INTERIM POLICE CHIEF

ISSUE

Request for new Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2006, William Alfred Rowland, d/b/a Uncle Harry's, located at 12 N. Lathrop Ave.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Rowland requests approval for Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license in connection with a existing private club. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday Sales Ordinance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Marshal inspected the site for compliance with code requirements and approved the facility.
3. The application is in compliance with all requirements.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

The Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 7

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.).

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. One (1) mowing tractor	Public Works	Atlantic Coastal Equipment	\$13,800	CIP - Public Works
B. One (1) 2003 Mack tracker	Solid Waste	Bunch Truck & Equipment	\$52,356	Solid Waste
C. "Piggy-back" off of the City of Savannah's Contract for one (1) John Deere/Alamo 30' Boomaxe mower	Public Works	Hendrix Machinery	\$116,590	CIP - Public Works
D. 88 Hewlett Packard Personal Computer Workstations for Live Oaks Public Libraries	SPLOST	Hewlett Packard (State Contract)	\$56,936	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Library Technology
E. One (1) Rhino FR-15' cutter and one (1) Rhino FR 10' cutter	Public Works	Miles Tractor Company	\$20,090	CIP - Public Works
F. Contract for the reconstruction/resurfacing of 18 tennis courts located at various County facilities	Parks and Recreation	Tennico of Columbia, Inc.	\$460,577	CIP - Tennis Court Project (Pending Board approval of budget amendment)
G. Contract for group term life insurance	Human Resources	MetLife	\$.19 per thousand	Health Insurance Fund
H. To correct funding for the Riverwalk Project	SPLOST	Savannah International Trade & Convention Center	\$17,168	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Hutchinson Island Riverwalk
I. Design and construction of Aquatic Center replacement roof and mechanical system	Aquatic Center	Joint venture: The Industrial Company and Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$3,300,000	2005 DSA Series Bonds

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve Items 6-A through 6-I, both inclusive. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

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. THE PETITIONER JARROD M. SMITH, AGENT (FOR CHATHAM COMMERCIAL GROUP LLC, OWNER) IS REQUESTING THE REZONING OF A 10 ACRE SITE LOCATED AT 204 COTTONVALE ROAD FROM R-A (RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURE) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A P-R-3-10 (PLANNED MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL-10 UNITS PER NET ACRE) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.
[DISTRICT 7.]
MPC FILE NO. Z-061005-63582-1

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. SEE TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS, ITEM VIII-1

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

See action taken on Item VIII-1.

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- 2. THE PETITIONER, PHILLIP MCCORKLE, AGENT (FOR JAMES THOMAS MOORE) IS REQUESTING TO REZONE 4343, 4347, 4351, 4359, 4363, AND 4401 OGEECHEE ROAD FROM A R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.
[DISTRICT 8.]
MPC FILE NO. Z-060928-49980-1

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like a motion on the floor to approve this now. Commissioner Odell said, District 8.

Mr. Phillip McCorkle said, if I could Your Honor — Mr. Liakakis, it's a P-B-C so before it's adopted I just want to make sure that it's —. Chairman Liakakis said, it's P-P-C, okay. Mr. Liakakis said, B as in boy. It's just a typographical error. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, Planned Business Community? Mr. McCorkle said, yes.

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Shay said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We have a motion on the floor to approve this item. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the petition of Phillip McCorkle, Agent (for James Thomas Moore) requesting to rezone 4343, 4347, 4351, 4359, 4363, and 4401 Ogeechee Road from a R-A (Residential-Agriculture) zoning classification to a P-B-C (Planned Community Business) classification. Commissioner Shay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MPC File No. Z-060928-49980-1

Petition of Phillip McCorkle, Agent
James Thomas Moore, Petitioner
MPC File No. Z-060928-49980-1

MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present R-A (Residential Agriculture) classification to a P-B-C (Planned Community Business)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point located on the northernmost right of way line of Ogeechee Road, approximately 320 feet east of its intersection with the centerline of Heathcote Circle, thence proceeding easterly along the northernmost right of way of Ogeechee Road a distance of approximately 460 feet to a point, thence southerly along a line South 14 degrees 53 minutes East a distance of approximately 886 feet to a point, thence along a line North 69 degrees 40 minutes West a distance of approximately 307 feet to a point, thence southwesterly along a line South 21 degrees 19 minutes West a distance of approximately 315 feet to a point, thence in a westerly direction along a line South 76 degrees 08 minutes West a distance of approximately 39 feet to a point, thence northerly along a line North 13 degrees

51 minutes West a distance of approximately 945 feet back to the point of beginning.

The property is further identified by the Property Identification Number:

P.I.N.: 1-0836 -02008 thru 013

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AND ADOPT THE COMBINED SAVANNAH/CHATHAM COUNTY SPEED ZONE ORDINANCE, WHICH HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCLUDE CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONAL ROADS THE COUNTY HAS ACCEPTED FOR MAINTENANCE.

Chairman Liakakis said, everybody received information on this in their packet. What is your desire?

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve and adopt the combined Savannah/Chatham County Speed Zone Ordinance, which has been updated to include corrections and additional roads the County has accepted for maintenance. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

LIST NUMBER 11012006

SCHOOL ZONES ARE EFFECTIVE

A.M. from 45 minutes prior to commencement time to 15 minutes after commencement time –

SCHOOL DAYS ONLY.

P.M. from 30 minutes prior to dismissal time to 30 minutes after dismissal time –
SCHOOL DAYS ONLY.

ALL LISTS AND PARTS OF LISTS IN CONFLICT WITH THIS LIST ARE HEREBY REPEALED.

Signature of Governing Authority:

Chairman, Chatham County Board of Commissioners
Pete Liakakis

Sworn and Subscribed before me
This 15th day of December, 2006

Clerk
Sybil E. Tillman

Signature of Governing Authority:

Mayor, City of Savannah

Sworn to and Subscribed before me
This ____ day of _____, ____.

Clerk

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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: December 15, 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>
Clear vegetation along Quacco Canal	SPLOST	Philip Blankenship	\$9,375	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Quacco Road Drainage Improvement
Field stake or flag approximate location of easements for Quacco Canal	SPLOST	Carl Jackson Surveys	\$2,800	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Quacco Road Drainage Improvement
Removal of two large trees	SPLOST	Sandhill ALS Construction, Inc. (MBE)	\$2,995	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Halycon Bluff
Clear underbrush at new location for Public Works and Park Services	SPLOST	Philip Blankenship	\$9,375	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Public Works Building
Structural engineering services to evaluate floor loading capabilities within the Montgomery Street Courthouse	SPLOST	RWP Engineering	\$4,950	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction

System closure panels and file relocation for high density filing system for Superior Court Clerk	SPLOST	Modern Business Systems, Inc.	\$6,722	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction
Cut out, frame and flash for garage door	CNT	Overhead Door Company	\$7,950	2005 DSA Bonds - CNT Headquarters
Full service annual maintenance on the UPS system	Police	Nationwide Power Systems	\$4,810	SSD - Police
Purchasing and install ADA locking handle, paint, sheetrock and patch walls at Forest City Branch Library	ADA Compliance	Joco Development	\$2,695	General Fund/M&O - ADA Compliance
Ran sewer cable to trace out sewer system and unclog line at the Courthouse Annex	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Consolidated Plumbing Services (WBE)	\$2,613	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Fee for on-line auction conducted in October	Purchasing	Govedeals, Inc.	\$3,122	General Fund Escrow - Sale of Surplus
Cisco Network Infrastructure	Detention Center	Entre Solutions (MBE)	\$6,503	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
\$8 Waterproof reversible jackets with reflective back imprint	Detention Center	Uniforms by Patrick (WBE)	\$6,042	General Fund/M&O Detention Center
Ten (10) wall mount toilets	Detention Center	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$2,530	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
110,000 Assessment stock forms	Assessor	Moore Wallace North America	\$5,445	General Fund/M&O - Assessor
County lot maintenance for the month of September	Public Works	L & P Enterprises (WBE)	\$4,302	Land Bank Authority
Quarterly maintenance on the HVAC system	Juvenile Court	Siemens Building Technologies	\$2,610	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court

Custodial service twice weekly at the Tag office on Wilmington Island from 12/01/06 - 6/30/07	Tax Commissioner	R.I.T., Inc. (MBE)	\$3,040	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
12,500 printed letter and legal size file folders for 2007	Administrative Services	Wynn Business Systems	\$8,988	General Fund/M&O - Administrative Services

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Odell and seconded by Commissioner Thomas the board recessed at 12:20 P.M. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 1:49 P.M.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CONCILIATION AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE EEOC CHARGE NO. 115-2005-00414, CHARGING PARTY: VICKIE WILLIAMS (JON HART).**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the proposed conciliation agreement to resolve EEOC Charge No. 115-2005-00414, Charging Party: Vickie Williams. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

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2. DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTER AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION, WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER (JON HART).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to authorize the County Attorney to hire a lawyer investigator from Atlanta, Georgia, with regard to potential litigation involving the Anderson-Cohen Weightlifting Center. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

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3. 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 Farrell 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 Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:51 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