

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2007, 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, April 13, 2007.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Bernard Clark, Senior Pastor for Gaines Chapel AME Church, gave the Invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

Chairman Liakakis called for a motion to excuse the absence of Commissioner Thomas, who was in the hospital, but is home now recovering. Commissioner Odell made a motion to excuse Commissioner Thomas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farrell and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Liakakis asked for a motion to excuse Commissioner Patrick Shay, who is out of the country. Commissioner Farrell moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Shay. Commissioner Odell second the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
B. Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District Seven
Helen L. Stone, District One
James J. Holmes, District Two
Patrick K. Farrell, District Four
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
David M. Gellatly, District Six

Absent: Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
Patrick Shay, District Three

Also present: Russell Abolt, County Manager
Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Liakakis introduced the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Aysha Washington, a Junior at Windsor Forest High School, and Erica Scott, a Senior at Windsor Forest High School.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR FAIR HOUSING MONTH. TERRY TOLBERT WILL BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT.

Chairman Liakakis asked is Terry [Tolbert] in the audience from Fair Housing this morning? Wayne [Dawson], are you going to come up, and anybody else from Fair Housing. If you would come forth to the microphone, I'd like to call on Commissioner Harris Odell to present this proclamation.

Commissioner Odell read the following proclamation into the record:

PROCLAMATION

***WHEREAS**, the Federal and State of Georgia Fair Housing Laws prohibit discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, disability (or handicap), familial status or national origin; and*

***WHEREAS**, the month of April has been designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as National Fair Housing Month.*

***WHEREAS**, April 12, 2007 marked the 39th anniversary of the passage of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Federal Fair Housing Law; and*

***WHEREAS**, the first housing discrimination court decision under the State of Georgia’s Fair Housing Law was resolved in Chatham County; and*

***WHEREAS**, Chatham County supports the efforts of local agencies, non-profits, the private sector, and individuals in ensuring compliance with the Federal Fair Housing Law; and*

***WHEREAS**, Chatham County affirms the right of all citizens to choose where they wish to live without encountering discrimination; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Pete Liakakis, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Chatham County, Georgia do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2007 as:*

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

in Chatham County, Georgia and call upon all citizens of our city to participate in ceremonies and activities supporting the Federal Fair Housing Law.

*Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission*

ATTEST:

*Frances Q. Rasmussen
Deputy Clerk*

Commissioner Odell said, gentlemen, congratulations. Mr. Charles Nelson said, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, will you have a word?

Mr. Nelson said, my name is Charles Nelson. I am a board member of the Savannah Fair Housing Council. I'd like to thank the Commissioners for this proclamation. We have a luncheon scheduled for next Wednesday at twelve o'clock at the Temple of Glory in the Ballroom of Eden, and I understand — I think the Commissioners have already gotten a table and I hope to see you there. We have — our speaker will be the Assistant Secretary of HUD. Her name is Stephanie Kendricks. She will be here. She's coming — that's also her birthday — she's coming to Savannah to speak about Fair Housing to our community.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Charles [Nelson], for you and Wayne Dawson, who are with the Fair Housing Council because it's important that we have this council in our community because we want to make sure that we afford the opportunities to the citizens that might be less fortunate to have Fair Housing in our community, and that's really important. I thank each and every one of you and I appreciate you coming this morning. Mr. Nelson said, thank you.

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2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 9-14, 2007, AS ARCHITECTURE WEEK. DAVID HOLTON, PRESIDENT - SAVANNAH CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, WILL BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT.

Chairman Liakakis said, David Holton, the President, was unable to be here this morning, but Laura Henning, who's the Director of Education for AIA, will receive the proclamation and Commissioner Farrell will do the proclamation for the County.

Commissioner Farrell read the following proclamation into the record:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2007, the American Institute of Architects will celebrate its 150th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, with a spirit of appreciation, the citizens of Chatham County honor and congratulate the Institute, its 88,000 members and the 281,000 Americans who work in architecture firms for their many contributions to our nation, our state and our community; and

WHEREAS, through their work, American architects have expressed the richness of our nation's heritage and the vitality of its spirit and have combined

advances in building technology with design innovation to enliven our communities and improve our citizens' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the architecture profession in Chatham County, with the support of the American Institute of Architects, has been especially vigilant in its stewardship of many of our great architectural and historic treasures and in its efforts on behalf of building healthy, safe, livable, and sustainable communities, which enrich the lives of people in every walk of life.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, as Chairman, with the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby proclaim April 9-14, 2007, as Architecture Week in Chatham County, and call upon the people of Chatham County and all government agencies to observe the week with appropriate recognition to the architects of America and the American Institute of Architecture in this, its 150th year of existence.

IN WITNESS, I SET MY HAND THIS 13th DAY OF APRIL, 2007.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman

Attest:

Patrick O. Shay, Commissioner

Ms. Laura Henning said, Commissioners, on behalf of the Savannah Chapter of the American Institute of Architects we appreciate this proclamation. Today is our 150th anniversary, and to celebrate this tonight we'll be hosting a ball along with the American Institute of Architectural students, who today is the 50th birthday. We'll be at Orleans Hall. We hope most of you can join it. It starts at eight o'clock. Architecture is very important to this City. We have a very private historic district in this area. We have a very active tour of homes. There are less than one hundred schools of architecture and we are fortunate to have one in this City, and we hope to be able to add to the richness and to the happiness of this community in the future. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Laura [Henning], would you repeat that so the people will know again the place and the time for that event this evening? Ms. Henning said, that is eight o'clock tonight. It is in Orleans Hall and it's on Barnard. It's — Barnard and —. Chairman Liakakis said, Hull Street. Barnard and Hull. Ms. Henning said, Barnard and Hull, excuse me. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much and we do appreciate the great work that the architects in our community have done because with their help we've seen the sustain and with other citizens too, the historical district, which is the largest in the country now, and one of the reasons for it is the participation of the architects that we have in our community and others that have continued that mighty important thing for us.

Ms. Henning said, thank you, Commissioner. Chairman Liakakis said, you're welcome.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. PENDING DIRECTION ON M&O CIP PROJECTS.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, did we skip or did I miss under your items, Pending Direction on M&O CIP Projects?

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, yeah. Excuse me. You're correct. The pending direction on M&O Capital Improvement Projects, I call on the County Manager Russ Abolt for that.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Stone and gentlemen. This is something that has pending. It's a great opportunity for you all to return it to the taxpayers for some very needed improvements because of your very wise and talented financial policies. You'll remember, this year you had a total of four and a half million dollars in M&O you could allocate and over two million dollars in SSD. You've already acted on SSD. If there's not a consensus today, which there may not be, my suggestion to y'all is allow me to make certain recommendations to you in the proposed budget, which you'll be receiving on the 11th of May, and then in your budget deliberations in the weeks ahead you can sort it all out.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if I may please. I was informed this morning by the Assistant County Manager Pat Monahan and Robert Drewry that a meeting took place yesterday at the request of Congressman Kingston and the director of chain baseball. We — which I was well aware of because I've been talking with the director of chain baseball. We have the, I guess, golden opportunity to really do something good for the unincorporated area as far as recreation is concerned by working with chain baseball, a topnotch group that are providing facilities and receiving their services — a tradeoff of sorts — but we're in the beginning stages, but at this meeting that took place yesterday, and again I was informed right before I walked in here, so I think it's worthy of us if we could possibly just hold this particular item because — and I'll respect the opinion of the two that attended the meeting, if I can get both of you to come up front. They have requested in improvements for the area, which we all knew but this is too quick to make any type of decision, that Scott Stell Park would need \$400,000 to be brought up to par. With us about to approve Capital Improvements — I know we have \$1.5 million budgeted with this for recreation, but there may be some — Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Abolt said, you're not approving anything today. Unless you give me specific direction because I haven't got anything exact from y'all by way of a vote. There are proposals out there for one and a half million for recreation and three million for general purpose, but you're doing nothing today that would commit that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Well, because number one I think it's a great idea and, number two, Congressman Kingston obviously thinks it's a great idea also, I just wish that the director of chain baseball would have actually called Commissioner Gellatly and myself because, you know, we're definitely behind this and we're the ones that have to ask for this Commission's approval, so I would like to ask them to communicate through us in the future, but we're definitely in support, and then I ask if you can please somehow take into consideration pending direction and figure out how to accommodate this type of request to move forward before this comes up for some type of vote. Just with pending direction, and, Pat [Monahan] —.

Assistant County Manager Monahan said, let me clarify a few things. The meeting took place this morning. So Robert [Drewry] and I met out there early this morning and then rushed directly from that meeting to the Commission meeting. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, so — and the number that I mentioned to you, the \$400,000 represents what we estimate as the first phase of improvements, and that number did not — no one knew that number this morning. That was just the number that Robert [Drewry] and I threw out there based on his experience at Charles Brooks Park. So maybe that's why you haven't heard from Mr. Edge because he didn't even know that number existed until this morning. That was the number we came up with. I mentioned to the group just the struggle the fact the Commission was meeting this morning to talk about funding recreational improvements and, despite the fact that this Commission's made just a herculean effort at it, it still is a small pot of money even though it's the first major money spent on recreation in a number of years other than through the sales tax. The next opportunity for the sales tax to try to do something in Stell Park similar to Brooks Park would be 2014. So that's — I mean, a lot of discussion this morning. The only thing I commended to the group is that I would relay the message to you — that Mr. Drewry and I would relay the message to you, and that's about all we could do at this point.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I could sense the importance in your quick presentation right before we walked in because 2014, I believe, projections has the Seventh District alone at 70-something thousand people, not to mention all of the growth in Commissioner Gellatly's district and our facility at that point needs to be a minimum up to par with the facility on the Island to handle all of the people. So with everyone's approval, if we can ask where it says pending direction, if we can ask for them to please take a look and see how they can possibly figure out something on this, I sure would appreciate it. Commissioner Gellatly, I know, would also.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Aysha [Washington], you wanted to ask a question?

Youth Commissioner Washington said, yes sir. What are the M&O CIP projects? Chairman Liakakis asked, repeat that? Youth Commissioner Washington said, what are the M&O —? Commissioner Odell said, what are the M&O and CIP projects. Chairman Liakakis said, the M&O is Maintenance and Operation. That's — we have two budgets, M&O and one SSD — Special Service District is the second category that we have.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Patrick [Monahan], do you want to come back up just a minute?

Commissioner Farrell said, one comment I wanted to make is that this Commission did look to the future on the westside when we approved the current '08 SPLOST and directed additional funds in the Pooler area. Not saying that this doesn't also need to be done, but we are currently working on, you know, future projections of higher populations and more use on the westside.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, and I agree, but to remind this board, the money that has been placed in that park in Pooler is not for recreational — organized recreational activities. There's no organizational recreational programs in Triplett Park whatsoever, and the only park that we have as far as servicing any type of organized recreation sports for unincorporated West Chatham County comes out of Scott Stell Park, which I believe is next to nothing now and, you know, we're talking \$400,000. Here we are today just to —, just so the public will know that Commissioner Gellatly and myself, we're really not asking for much — here we're going to spend \$100,000 on a whim and a quick request to extend a trail on Tybee Island. So to put it in perspective a trail for \$100,000 or \$400,000 so our kids on the westside can have recreational — organized recreational activities. That should be no discussion. I believe we're a better proof of people than that, and I think we need to really move forward.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Since we're on recreation right now, I'll call Al Lipsey — would you come forth too because we'll just quickly go through this what has occurred in one of our recreation areas.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, before Al [Lipsey] and while Al is coming, could I just make a point, which I think —, we had prior to this administration woefully neglected recreation in Chatham County. Not just on the westside, but on the Islands and literally everywhere. We did not allocate the money. I really don't want us to get into a debate as to the necessity of a value of a trail at Tybee as opposed to the Triplett Park. What I'd like to see us do is to have a system where we actually not depend solely upon SPLOST funding to do things that we ought to be doing anyway. I mean, you cannot be a civilized community if you don't have some of the amenities. We cannot successfully compete with other major metropolitan areas if we don't have the amenities to attract companies and their employees here. How you solve that is not to rob Peter to pay Paul, but to have a global understanding for this County recreationally what we need and for us to logically and reasonably set down a system of financing that and not depend solely upon SPLOST. We need to allocate a certain amount of money in our budget each year to solve some of our recreational woes. We need to do that. We don't need to wait until 2014. We have not allocated the money, but it's a payoff, and a payoff is Savannah is a beautiful city and we have something that most other places do not have. Macon —, we've got something that Macon doesn't have, Columbus, Augusta, and it's called an ocean. We have the opportunity if we do the things at Tybee then I think that benefits the westside, Dean [Kicklighter]. But we're not competing. What it is is that everybody has been under-budgeted. What we need to do is to have a system for budgeting, and I think we can do that. We have the Recreation Authority. We can develop a global plan of action as to our recreation, and it's all because of the leadership of our Chairman. Our Chairman started this one when he — I don't know if it was accidentally or intentional — he went out to Lake Mayer and saw the hideous condition our restrooms were. You cannot be a first-class city if you try to do things second-class and catch as catch can, and we'll make progress but the progress will be in having a global plan and funding that global plan.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I agree completely with Commissioner Odell on — well, not completely, but for the most part. But basically as far as what you said, I agree. We need a logical process and right now really up until this point we have not had anything remotely coming close to being logical when concerning recreation. The fact is, is basically you can split the unincorporated areas in half and you have from the Chairman that way organized recreational sports benefitting the children of all of those districts. Split it coming this way, your district, Gellatly's, mine and Dr. Thomas, we have no — virtually no organized recreational programs for our children whatsoever available. And that's not logical. How — for whatever reason for all of these years, we — the left side — decide that how we've let that happen, and it wasn't us letting it happen. That's what took place in the past because the people lived on the Island so you put the programs where the people are at. But that's all changing. By the time we have another SPLOST vote there may be double, triple, quadruple the people on our side than there will be on that Island, and by the time that comes around I would think that this side — my district will be cut up and all of you will occupy my district. What I currently have, you'll take at least probably 15,000 people. Each one of you, by the time we redistrict, we'll all be in your areas because that's how much it's growing out there and no longer will there be one representative on that westside. There's going to be probably four at least because of the way the population is growing, and that's just the way I see it. It's time. We talk about planning for the future, you know, we're too late for that on this one, but we can darn sure catch up right sure catch up right now. But if we don't look at for it right now, we will be so far behind by 2014 that it's going to be virtually no way to catch up. So that's all I'm asking is yes let's do it, but let's think and be fair. The people are out there now in our districts and they need organized sports also. So thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, excuse me, Al [Lipsey]. You know, sitting here listening to everything pertaining to recreation, and I don't think no one sitting on this Board have dealt with recreation come onto the County participating all these years, Dean [Kicklighter], fifty something years, dealing with the County and its recreation program. And I remember that this same Board cut funding for recreation and when it cut funding, it was sent down to the participation organization that we had to find a way to deal with the programs that exist under the County program. And we dealt with it. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, are you talking cut funding to nonprofit organizations? Commissioner Holmes said, not nonprofit. I'm talking about to the overall recreation facilities that comes up on the County. The Board cut recreation funds period. Did you know that? Commissioner Kicklighter asked, this Board? Commissioner Holmes said, when I say — not this Board. I'm talking about the Commissioners that were seated at this particular time. They didn't see fit — not this Board — previous. In the past. I'm kind of pulling you up. I'm giving you a little clearer vision. Commissioner Kicklighter said, 15 years ago or —. Commissioner Holmes said, I'm giving you a clearer vision of how this Board has been dealing with the recreation over the years and I'm wanting to give it to you historically. We suffered. When I say we suffered because no money was coming down for the Recreation Department. No money. We used to play on the westside, Dean [Kicklighter]. We used to play Bloomingdale, Port Wentworth, but you know what? We won a game out there one year and we got ran out of Bloomingdale because we

won a tournament. And that very first year that we won that tournament and we got ran out of Bloomingdale by some fans that didn't see fit that our program was not equal to these other kids' programs, and when that happened funding beginning to diminish away from recreation under the County government. And we suffered, but due to the fact that we were so aggressive on the eastside, we maintained recreation for the youth in our [inaudible] and all the teams on the westside did not want to participate with the teams on the eastside. Now that we are in position and see that we have funds for recreation now, I don't want us to look at recreation with one eye and not look at it with both eyes. We've got two eyes, let's put two eyes on recreation as a whole. And I keep hearing westside and eastside, but if I'm not mistaken, the County is based on four areas. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I explain [inaudible] — Commissioner Holmes said, yeah. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I believe this will help you as a new Commissioner. Commissioner Holmes said, I look at recreation as a whole and not east or west, and when I went on the Authority Board, I went on it to serve it for the citizens of this whole County and not east and west. So I'm hoping that we can kind of stop looking at this as an east and west, but where the need is at. Wherever the need. If the need is the westside, then I'm also for it, but if the need's on the eastside, I'm also for that. So let's look at it, Dean [Kicklighter], with both eyes and not look at it on the one side.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I agree, Commissioner Holmes. Let me explain to you and Ms. Bell to you out there. I heard you clapping and that's great. He's a great man, great intentions, but he misunderstands because he's new the structure of this government and what I'm speaking. We, as elected representatives of Chatham County, are sworn in with two specific duties. Now I'll elaborate on your question of what's an M&O budget and what's an SSD budget. Our two duties — one first and foremost, each one of us, we're elected to represent our district. We are district representatives. Second duty, we have an M&O budget. We have to look out for the entire County. Everyone in the County pays the M&O portion of the budget. We do things, you know, for the entire County. Third, SSD budget. Special Service District. That means every person living in this County that is not a resident of a city in this County, they pay a tax, a separate additional tax that no other person that they live in a city pays. Out of that SSD tax we are supposed to act as if we're their city government. We have to provide them with city services with that additional tax monies that they're paying. And, Commissioner Holmes, that's why you hear east/west on the recreation, sir, because that's where the unincorporated areas are. They're on the east side and the west side. It's not a slight of anyone in the middle, but the simple fact is, is the people in the middle, everyone that lives in the city, their recreational — organizational recreational activities are provided by their city government, but it's our duty to provide those city services to those people living in this County that do not live in a city because they pay extra and we're supposed to do it. I —, you know, that's it in a nutshell. It's not anyone thinking east and west. The fact is that's the way it is and that's one of our duties. And, yes, it's hard when you possibly live in an area that you really don't even have much unincorporated area, but that's our duty is to provide those people with those city services. And that's it, and what we have here is we have organized sports in the eastside and we don't in the westside, and the people on the westside are paying that tax for that service and they're not getting it. And I'm not talking about Bloomingdale and, you know, or any city around. It does not involve a city, it involves our elected duties to provide city services to the unincorporated areas and that's it.

Commissioner Holmes said, Dean [Kicklighter], when you say you don't have organized sports on the westside, what do you mean by that? Commissioner Kicklighter said, organized recreational activities such as football programs —. Commissioner Holmes said, you know, you do have that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, very little, very —. I said next to nothing. Commissioner Holmes said, I don't know how small it is, but you do have it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, very little as far as the County organizing those sports.

Commissioner Odell said, what I'm going to move is that after the meeting that —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, the recreation [inaudible]. Commissioner Odell said, Dean [Kicklighter], Dean, that you and James [Holmes] talk in detail and sort this out. I think we've beaten this horse as much as we need to and if y'all could get together then some of what you're saying, while I enjoy it, I don't really need to hear it right now. I would like to hear from Al [Lipsey] if that would — if you two gentlemen would agree. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's fine with me. I hope I explained it to him because I'm not an east/west person. I'm a right/wrong person.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Al [Lipsey], would you make that announcement for us please.

Mr. Lipsey said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be brief. Three or four months ago we came to you with a request to do something about the deplorable conditions of our tennis courts throughout the unincorporated area. Again, you proved that you're making recreation a priority and approved funding to renovate those courts. We had a total of eighteen courts that we were working on. Eight of them in stell, eight at Lake Mayer, two out on Wilmington Island and today I can safely — not safety, but I can tell you that we have reopened four of the courts at Lake Mayer. We're trying something new in Savannah and that is everywhere you go you see a green on green tennis court. This is something new that they are now starting throughout the United States to have a blue and green tennis court. It's very pretty. We've gotten a lot of comments or compliments as a result of those tennis courts out at Lake Mayer. We did Lake Mayer primarily because that's where all the activity is and that's where we have a lot of our tourists. That is — also, we get a lot of use from the Savannah Tennis Association. They are very appreciative of it. We're very appreciative of recruiting funding to do that. Hopefully, within the next 30 or 45 days we will have all of those courts back up and running and we ask that you go out and visit and look at them.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Al [Lipsey], and we appreciate what our Recreation Department is doing, and for all the citizens to know this, that this Commission when we came on board in 2005 we put recreation as one of our top priorities because it's part of the quality of life in our community, and looking as we came on board that there were some four million dollars that needed to be put into the Recreation Department. In 2005 we put a half a million dollars. We put five hundred thousand dollars in there to start putting more money into the recreation because instead of spending a few hundred thousand dollars in the past, before this board came on board — this Commission came on board, instead of them spending a couple of hundred thousand dollars, what happened is it increased to some four million dollars. But each year now, in 2006 we're coming up with a budget, we're going to see in our CIP, our Capital Improvement Program, that we are addressing recreation in our community because we know how important it is, and Al Lipsey, who is the director for recreation in our community, has just talked about another situation where both on the westside and the eastside, if you want to put it like that, that they have worked

on those and have fixed up those tennis courts for the enjoyment and recreation of our citizens of our community. So what I'd like to do right now — Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to thank you. I have been out to Lake Mayer. The people are using the courts, they look nice and it's wonderful to see our citizens out there enjoying recreation and enjoying what our Chairman set out to accomplish, which is to get recreation back as a top priority for this Commission. But they really do look great.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you, Al [Lipsey] and also thank Robert [Drewry]. We thank you also.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. REPORT ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION'S ANNUAL TRIP (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Thomas was supposed to do that. Is Van [Johnson] here to give that report? Or we'll just —.

Commissioner Odell asked, can we hold that until Dr. Thomas is here because that's her baby and I'm certain she'd like to be here. I don't know if it's time sensitive, but if we could hold it —. Commissioner Gellatly said, I agree.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Then we have a motion on the floor then — Commissioner Odell — and a second to remove that item and place it when she gets back — Commissioner Stone. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

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Chairman Liakakis said, we had a phone call moments ago from Commissioner Priscilla Thomas. She is at home watching our Commission meeting this morning through television and she did not want to wait for this report about the Youth Commissioners' trip that they had recently, their annual trip. So she requested that the Director Van Johnson give that report for her and not wait. So what I'd like to do now is call on Van [Johnson]. Go ahead.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, y'all took that off the agenda so you just need a motion to put it back on.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll make that motion. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we have a motion on the floor to put it back on the agenda. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, a second. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE:

Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Van [Johnson].

Mr. Van Johnson said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, good morning, and certainly we would have loved to have Dr. Thomas here because what we're doing — what we're talking about is so central to the person being of Dr. Priscilla Thomas, but we will press on anyway. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is one of the most famous phrases in the United States Declaration of Independence. These three aspects are listed among the unalienable rights of man. We know that God provides life, we know that our form of government provides and our military, both past and present, provides liberty, and we know that our community and nurturing community provides the pursuit of happiness. I do not think that Mr. Jefferson guaranteed us happiness, but certainly guaranteed us the right to engage in looking for happiness. By extension, this is what you have been able to do for young people in this community for many, many years. Now going into our fifteenth year through the Chatham County Youth Commission, through the vision of Dr. Priscilla Thomas and through your support, both Commissions past and present, we have been able to create wonderful opportunities for our young people in this community. And as many of you well know and you've heard from your colleagues across the country, the world is watching Chatham County, and you are a model for youth empowerment, youth engagement and youth development.

Mr. Johnson said, during March, the 4th through the 8th, we embarked on our annual trip as we do every year. We've done it for the last almost ten years now, we went to the Air and Space Museum, the Indian Museum, the Smithsonian, and on that Sunday, and the young people will talk about it, is that we had a very good meeting, conversation, dialogue with the Prince Georges County Commission, and the Prince Georges County Youth Commission that we started a little less than a year ago, and they were excited about meeting our kids, our kids were excited about meeting them, and they just had a wonderful time together. On Monday we traveled to NACo. We saw many of you there I know. We saw several of you during there, and through Dr. Thomas — and I don't know how she was able to do this — but when we got off the bus, as you know, we ended up walking into the Executive Board Meeting of the National Association of Counties and there were, of course, County Commissioners, your leaders from across the country there. And she marched us up in the middle of their meeting, at which point they stopped. They recognized us and they acknowledged, just like we knew all along, that Chatham County is again the epicenter for youth engagement and youth development. We also had the opportunity that afternoon to not only fellowship with some of you and Commissioners from across the country, but to go to the United States Capital and spend time with Congress Jack Kingston, who came back in town and spent the better part of his afternoon with us giving us a personal tour. Not too many people can say they had a tour of the capitol by their own congressman. As you now, they delegate staff to do that.

We then the next day went to Philadelphia and on to New York, where it was extremely cold. It was colder than I can remember it being and we had a wonderful time still in the cold because some of these young people had never felt cold like that before. Some of them had never seen snow and they had the opportunity to see and play in the snow. We had the opportunity to visit the new Tribute Museum at Ground Zero and they had the opportunity to actually meet a

firefighter, who was featured in Life magazine. And then some of them had the opportunity to watch their first MBA basketball game. And it was a wonderful opportunity in the world's most famous arena with the world's worst team, but in my heart and in the heart of them we all became big fans even though we lost by one point. And the next morning we were featured on national TV on the Today Show that many of you saw on NBC and we had the opportunity to go to the world famous Apollo Theater. So, again, wonderful opportunity for our young people. Times that they will never, ever forget. And I want to introduce Erica Scott and Aysha Washington, who will share their perspectives.

Youth Commissioner Erica Scott said, I believe the Youth Commissioner's annual trip was important because it gave us a chance to learn new things and go new places. For instance, for some of us this was our first trip to New York and on our first trip we were able to see so much of the city. For me the annual trip was a good learning experience. During the annual trip we also went to Washington, DC. When we arrived at DC we went to the Air and Space Museum. We were able to see aircraft and other objects that were taken into space, like food and computers. In another part of the museum, there was also an area where you could see original items of clothing from TV shows, movies and museums. This museum was very nice. The next museum we visited was the Indian Museum. We were able to see a lot of Indian artifacts and we watched a movie on a lot of the Indians and the artifacts that they use. Our final stop in DC was to a dinner with the Prince Georges County Youth Commission. It was very fun getting to know them. They were just like us in a lot of ways. They were young adults trying to do something positive. This is an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. Thank you for allowing us to attend.

Youth Commissioner Aysha Washington said, as a first year Chatham County Youth Commissioner I was told that this annual trip would be considered my right of passage, and from my experience that has been true. When we arrived in DC we were told that this was a trip that would take all of our energy, that would just broaden our horizons, and I am grateful to have this opportunity because I have learned so much. While we were in DC, we attended the National County — the National Association of Counties, which is also known as NACo. We learned — we got to mingle with other Commissioners and county officials, such as yourself, and then we went — after we went to NACo, we visited some tourist sites and after we visited tourist sites, we went to take a Capitol tour with our representative, and that was a privilege in our honor because I realized that my Georgia Representative was very down to earth. He's not stuck up like most officials. Sorry to be so plain about it. And then we went to New York. I was able to see the Ground Zero Tribute. They had — of course they had the area blocked off because they were building the memorial, but that was an experience of patriotism that I have never felt before. I felt an overwhelming rush because I realized that we only have one day to live and we have to live it to the fullest, and those people that were in 9-11 did not know that they were going to be in such a catastrophe, but as we know, all things will work out together. Then we went on the Today Show in negative 24-degrees below zero. This was my first time being in extreme cold. I was told I was born in the South for a reason. I am not used to cold weather, but as I said earlier, it was a great experience that broadened my horizons. And then we went to the Apollo Theater. I took pictures, along with my fellow colleagues, and we just had a great time on this trip. So along with the County Commission — well, on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, I want to

thank you for granting us the opportunity to go on this trip, which is one trip that I will not forget and I appreciate it so very much. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Thank you very much Aysha [Washington] and Erica [Scott] for that report.

Mr. Johnson said, she was not saying that you all were stuck up. She meant that you were really down to earth people, but this is again a wonderful opportunity for them to have the opportunity to interact with the leaders today because we know that they are the leaders of tomorrow. We want to thank Dr. Thomas, and we can't enough because we met her in DC, she was there earlier because of the NACo Conference and she hung with us the entire length and breadth of the trip on this bus, up and down, very, very late nights and very, very early mornings. I have a staff of committed professionals — Ms. Debra Allen, Ms. Sandra Smalls, Ms. Takiyah Martin, who worked with us diligently. Mr. Pete Nichols was able to accompany us this year and you will see the benefit of his attendance momentarily. We also had our Junior Advisors to go. They are graduates of the Youth Commission, who have come back to help — Taqwaa Saleem, Yalonda [phonetic] Saleem and John Hawkins. We also had the Summer Bonanza project, our [inaudible] to attend with us and we are excited every year to have them. We thank Mr. Abolt for laughing at us and for his constant support year after year, and Mr. Kaigler, my director. The schools who are very instrumental and allowing these young people to take this trip, Dr. Lockamy for the public schools and all of the private school principals. The parents are definitely to be commended for entrusting their young people to us, and our community partners: Coastline Travel, Savannah Communications, Four Seasons Travel, and as you know we were all over TV and radio, and that was through the efforts of WTOC, WSAV and WEAS E-93. I have a brief presentation I want to show you that I think will put this in context and then you can be where we were and see what we saw and enjoy the sites and the sounds of the 2007 Youth Commission trip.

[NOTE: Mr. Johnson showed a short video of the Youth Commissioners on their annual trip]

Mr. Johnson said, thank you so much for the opportunity and we appreciate the continued support of our young people through the Chatham County Youth Commission.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much and we thank Dr. Priscilla Thomas for her vision when she came up with this some fifteen or sixteen years ago and, of course, Van [Johnson], y'all are working with those students.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Odell moved to delay the presentation of the report on the Chatham County Youth Commission's annual trip until Commissioner Thomas returns. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

b. Commissioner Stone moved to rescind the motion to delay the presentation on the annual trip until Dr. Thomas is here and hear the report now. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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~~2. STATUS OF HIGHWAY 17 CONSTRUCTION (COMMISSIONER GELLATLY):~~

Chairman Liakakis said, we are remove this item by the request of the Commission to get a report later.

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~~3. INITIAL PRESENTATION BY MR. JEFF JEPSON, REPRESENTING SOUTHBRIDGE AND ITS GRAND LAKE LODGE AND SPA PROPERTY VALUATION. (NOTE: THE INTENT IS TO TAKE INFORMATION AND THEN REFER IT TO STAFF FOR RECOMMENDATION.) (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER):~~

Chairman Liakakis said, on Item #3, there seems to be a settlement in that or some other information on that, so we take also Item 3 under Commissioners' Items.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to make a motion to amend the agenda and move item under Items for Individual Action, Item #3, Port Wentworth Annexation request, I'd like to move it to handle it right now. I put that in the form of a motion. Commissioner Farrell 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: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

[NOTE: Item IX-3 was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Odell, seconded by Commissioner Gellatly and unanimously approved, the Board recessed as the County Commission at 10:30 a.m., and convened as Chatham Area Transit Authority. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Commissioner Kicklighter and Thomas were not present when this vote was taken.]

Following adjournment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority meeting, the Board reconvened as the County Commission at 11:05 a.m. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present when this vote was taken.]

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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. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO TRANSFER \$10,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR READ IT LOUD SAVANNAH. (See attached information, as requested.)**

Chairman Liakakis said, this is a tabled item. I'd like a motion on the floor to put it back on the agenda. Commissioner Odell said, I move that it be placed on the agenda. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, I have a motion on the floor to put the special appropriations for Read It Loud Savannah back on for consideration. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, request Board approval to transfer \$10,000 from Continency to the Special Appropriations for Read It Loud Savannah. You have information in your packet on that and basically this Read It Loud Savannah is a program that was brought to us a pilot program, Savannah's is from Wally Amos, the Famous Amos cookie individual who is concerned about our literacy in our area and around the country. He has put a lot of his resources, a lot of his money into it. He's been to a number of functions in Savannah and Chatham County where he has read aloud to a number of the children, and we find out from the school area that a good many of the dropouts that we have in our Chatham County schools unfortunately is because they cannot read. And this Read It Loud Program, of course, is encouraging parents and guardians to start reading to children shortly after they are born, and it has been very successful if this is done, and of course we want to reduce our dropout in Chatham County school system. Unfortunately, forty percent of the students that drop out of school in Chatham County commit crime, and we want to do whatever we can to encourage those students to stay in school and Read It Loud Program

is one that helps educate them and to move on to a higher areas, to a higher plain, whence they, you know, complete their school training.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I'm not trying to be adversarial here, but at the last meeting I still don't have any information about what this program is. I have some information about the Library, but in the minutes I said I'd certain like to know about this program — more about this project and how their results are measured or any information that says anything. The only thing I've got in my package today is some information about our public library that was requested by Commissioner Kicklighter. I still don't —. Chairman Liakakis said, well, we're going to have that now. Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll call on the County Manager in a moment, but I'd like the representative from Read It Loud Savannah to come forth, identify themselves and explain the program.

Ms. Hannah Paquette said, my name is Hannah Paquette and I am the Campaign Manager of Read It Loud Savannah. Mr. Greg Dziuban said, and I'm Greg Dziuban. I am one of the Advisory Board members and I'm also with Gulfstream, and we are the primary corporate supporter of Read It Loud Savannah.

Ms. Paquette said, Commissioner Stone, I am going to be happy to give you a brief rundown of the accomplishments of the Read It Loud Savannah campaign. Back in August of 2006 Read It Loud Savannah was launched and the mission of this campaign is to communicate the importance and benefits of reading aloud to children, especially from birth through the age of five. The reason why, there have been numerous scientific studies that have proven the benefits of reading aloud to children. It increases fiscal brain development, their imagination, all of their learning abilities are enhanced through the simple thing of a parent or a grandparent, a caregiver, a sibling, reading aloud to a child for as little as ten minutes a day. And you've probably all seen the television commercials that have been running on Savannah TV talking about the importance of reading aloud, but you may not be aware of the breadth of our campaign. Read It Loud Savannah, as Mr. Dziuban mentioned, has the support of corporations and the school system, the public libraries, City of Savannah, but what you may not be aware of is this campaign has the unprecedented support of all four television stations here in Savannah, as well as Comcast, the Savannah Morning News, so for a very small budget we have a very big impact. Over \$120,000, I believe, worth of in-kind advertising is being committed by our local media to help us spread the message. Programming wise, we do have a Books To Babies Program. Every single mom giving birth in the Savannah area hospitals this year is receiving a Books To Babies packet from Read It Loud Savannah. They get a baby book plus a brochure that contains tips and information about the importance of reading aloud to children. You may have seen advertisements running on TV from Publix. Publix is doing something where people can go into a Savannah area Publix Store and donate books, and those are being distributed to families in need in the Savannah area. The Chatham County Youth Commission has come on board to support the campaign. On April 27th the Youth Commissioners are going into every single child elementary school that has a pre-K classroom. They're going to be going in, reading aloud to the kids, and then the children will

receive a book and an information packet from Read It Loud Savannah. So, like I said, primarily our advertising campaign, which is basically being donated by the area TV stations, and then Books To Babies, Books To Families, and then our special events initiative, those are our activities. So we're trying to impact families across the board. It is not a specific charitable program and a specific group. It is a community initiative. It is geared towards every family, every person that has contact with small children. We're trying to raise the awareness of the importance of reading aloud.

Mr. Dziuban said, if I could just add to that, Gulfstream supports obviously a number of organizations, nonprofits in the community, United Way certainly being our biggest single, but we support probably right now about forty other organizations that we think improve the quality of life in the Savannah region. The reason that we became supportive of Read It Loud Savannah was because of the support that was shown when Wally Amos proposed this idea for Savannah, and when I say the support that was shown we have Mr. Commissioner on the board, we have Mayor Johnson, we have Dr. Lockamy, we have Greg Schraider, President of the United Way, we have Christian Kruse, the Director of the Library System, along with me as a part of that board. So with that kind of public support, and also with the support that has been provided by the Chamber of Commerce and some other organizations, we thought this is a campaign that with a relatively small budget could have such a great impact. As the Chairman mentioned, this would be something that would be worthwhile for us to do, and as Hannah [Paquette] also indicated, we do have unprecedented support from the media. I mean, if you think of any other thing that's going on in the media where more than one TV station supports it, you're not going to find it. But everybody supported this one and that's the reason we are so interested in this.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I support the concept. I think it's an excellent idea. It is a small budget. I think we are partners with private enterprise, like Gulfstream, we're partners with the City of Savannah, we're partners with the Board of Education. We as a general rule have not given money directly to nonprofits, but there are always exceptions. I see this as an exception. I take it on good faith that our Chairman is on the board for Read It Loud Savannah and he is thoroughly convinced that this is an excellent program. Through my wife I was able to acquire some additional information about it and I'm very supportive. I hope that it passes. I know for one I'll vote for it, and I would say to my fellow Commissioners we're going to spend \$390,000,000 and for our \$10,000 expenditure if we impact one child's life, then what we've been fighting for as far as jail reimbursement, maybe we won't need that. And when I was a young lawyer, I did a lot of criminal work, and without exception I'd say the overwhelming majority of the nuisance, I mean someone breaking in your house, breaking in your car, if you were to do an unmet need of those people, you'd find that many of them had problems. So it is important to the steps of [inaudible]. We cannot lay all academic success at the feet of this program. This is one component of many. Board of Education. We have to do a lot of things to ensure the civility of those who live in our community, and this is a worthwhile program.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I just have one question. Will this be a reoccurring expense every year? Mr. Dziuban said, well, this is a year-long campaign that began in August and our advisory board has not gotten together to see if it will continue through the year. I mean, we're going to look at different results. For example, the Books To Babies Program, where Hannah [Paquette] indicated every mother leaving either Memorial or St. Joseph's/Candler, we have a reply card for them to fill out and send back to us to indicate whether they're reading or not and whether this has made a difference to them because that's what we're trying to do and trying to get the metrics. It's — some of the metrics are challenging in a sense of all the publicity we're getting there's no immediate mechanism for somebody to send something back to us indicating I'm reading to my child now because I saw it on WSAV or WTOG. Commissioner Gellatly asked, is your answer you don't know? Mr. Dziuban said, the answer is right now we don't know. What we intend to do by the Summer is look at the results we have and see if we do have the results that would justify it or if there's the need to continue it or if it's something that could be incorporated in the library or something else. So the answer is right now we haven't gotten to that stage yet. Commissioner Gellatly said, I think it's an excellent program also. I just have a question about County government funding. I think it would probably be appropriate for the school board to fund that or certainly the library and certainly the corporations, but I have a problem of committing taxpayers money to that. I think those are individual decisions that ought to be made by the taxpayers.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the things in that is some of the advisory board members are talking about going to more business and industries in town to put resources into the program because of how important it is. That's why Dr. Lockamy, the Superintendent of Schools, you know, is on this board because he sees how valuable it is that this is more of an education program. This isn't a charitable program doing [sic] to bring up the literacy to our students and to help them in their life areas.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I think it's a good program, but I definitely believe that we have the Live Oak Library System, which their goals are very much the same as this worthy cause here. What I would like to see is if we can amend our budget and then the budget for the Live Oak Library System to add a line item to their budget for this. Transfer the \$10,000 to them. Transfer the \$10,000 over to the Library, and I'll say it again, now that this is on, but can we amend our budget, add \$10,000 to the Live Oak Library System's budget with a specific line item for this cause, let them fund it at the end of the year next year because that is what the Live Oak Library System does is their whole purpose is to promote reading in the area, that away [sic] they could evaluate the program next year and request whether or not the \$10,000 be in their budget again to fund the following year. That away [sic] they are the ones that are, you know, the professionals in that area. Could we do that? I have no problem transferring the funds to the library, but I would like for those folks to be able to evaluate the program.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Stone, gentlemen, yes you can do that. I caution you not to do that. It would make it, I think, entirely too complex for the amount of money, plus if you give it to the library — not give it. If you ask the Library Board, then under State law that would probably become part of their base level of service and you would get

yourself what Commissioner Gellatly talked about. So if, Heaven forbid, we were faced with cuts in the library in the years going forward, they could probably make a case that that's part of their base level of service. I would say ask them to evaluate it. If you choose to give them the money, make it a clean transaction between the County Commission, but by giving it to the Library Board and then asking them to pass that through, I think might create some problems.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and if I can, I definitely understand the going around to get to a certain point, but we did experience a tough time getting out of donating out of the M&O budget to nonprofits, and again this is a very worthy group, worthy cause, and if our library system could somehow make it where it's integrated and it's a part of reading in the area, I see no problem because then we are not in the business of donating to nonprofits. We have simply increased the budget of our library system, which promotes reading, and if they feel that it's a worthy cause, then it's a logical extension for them to pay the funds. And I'm just very much more comfortable with this route because it does not set a precedent for future nonprofits to come in front of this board because we're not the experts and, you know, in that field. County Manager Abolt said, if that's the wish, that's fine.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I appreciate the presentation because when this was brought before us at the last meeting I didn't really have any information, and I do want to support this, but if this becomes a reoccurring expense, I would want some type of measurable results to see that this money that's being invested, that we are getting a return on this investment. I don't want to just get into a situation of giving the money without some measurable results. So I do think you all have presented a program that I certainly agree is necessary and worthwhile, I just want to make sure that we are held accountable for the money that we spend.

Chairman Liakakis said, I need — I'd like a motion on the floor.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion to approve that Chatham County directly provide the \$10,000 to the Read It Loud Savannah Program. Chairman Liakakis asked, going through the library? Commissioner Odell said, no. I think that that — I understand Russ's [Abolt] concern, and Russ's concern is that that becomes part of their base budget. David's [Gellatly] concern is it's a good program, but I don't want to have to do this every year. If we do it through the library then I think it hurts us as far as if we ever have to reduce it. I'd like to see if they need it next year then they have to come back to us for us to make a separate vote to approve, and I'd like to see us approve it. There are exceptions to the rule. Part of our charge is that of the welfare of citizens. I think this goes to that charge, so I make the motion. I need a second. Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a motion on the floor. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if this motion fails, I will — legally I can make a motion to approve, can't I, an amendment budget? Okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to provide these funds for the Read It Loud Savannah. Go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I'm going to before this is called change my vote because I'm not against it. I just think the procedure should have been different. [NOTE: Commissioners Gellatly and Kicklighter changed their vote to vote for the motion.] The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We appreciate that and, of course, the Commissioners, you know, have discussed it. Commissioner Kicklighter, because he wants to make sure that it's done in such a way for the progress of our children and our community and look at it in a way that it could go forth and also with Commissioner Stone to have some kind of results that you can look at to make sure that this program is doing the right thing in the community.

Ms. Paquette said, thank you for your support and we will be providing — we will be doing an evaluation in cooperation with the United Way. They have a lot of tools to evaluate programs, and so we will be making that information available at the end of the one year campaign. Chairman Liakakis said, yes and if you'll get that information so that the Commissioners can have that and go from there, and hopefully the business and industry in our community will support this, you know, and that way funds can come from those areas.

Mr. Dziuban said, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and all the Commissioners. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to untable this item for reconsideration by the Board. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present when this vote was taken.]

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from Contingency to the Special Appropriations for Read It Loud Savannah. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

UNITED WAY OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE

October 26, 2006

READ IT LOUD SAVANNAH

Expense participation for Read-It-Loud Savannah Initiative is as follows:

<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gregg Dziuban	Gulfstream	\$25,000
Gregg Schroeder	United Way	\$10,000
Mayor Otis Johnson	City of Savannah	\$10,000
Chairman Pete Liakakis	Chatham County	\$10,000
Dr. Thomas Lockamy	Superintendent of Schools	\$10,000

Please make check payable to:

United Way — Read-It-Loud Savannah
PO Box 2946
Savannah, GA 31402

Thank you,

Margaret Davis
VP, Finance and Administration
United Way of the Coastal Empire, Inc.

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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) AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL FUND M&O TO: A) TRANSFER \$29,000 WITHIN THE CNT BUDGET TO SALARIES AND BENEFITS, B) TRANSFER \$78,501 FROM CONTINGENCY TO ICS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, C) TRANSFER \$145,000 FROM SALARIES IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUDGET TO DEPARTMENT OPERATING AND SUPPLIES EXPENDITURES, D) TRANSFER \$22,000 FROM SALARIES IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, AND E) TRANSFER \$75,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT, (2) AMENDMENTS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND TO: A) RECOGNIZE A \$22,000 TRANSFER IN FROM M&O AND INCREASE THE VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT BY \$22,000, AND B) INCREASE REVENUE**

\$134,265 FROM AUCTION PROCEEDS AND APPROPRIATE \$1,977 FOR AUCTION EXPENSES, \$12,000 FOR FLEET EQUIPMENT, AND \$120,288 FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT, (3) AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO TRANSFER \$67,425 FROM POLICE CONTINGENCY FOR ISLANDS PRECINCT FURNITURE AND FIXTURES, AND (4) AN AMENDMENT TO THE MONTGOMERY STREET COURTHOUSE PROJECT IN SALES TAX IV TO APPROPRIATE \$153,430 IN SALARIES AND BENEFITS.

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a motion on the floor to approve these items.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval minus D [sic]. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, D. That's the District Attorney? Commissioner Odell said, no, that's increase from \$134,265 from auction proceeds and appropriate \$1,977 for auction expenses — my concern was the \$120,288 for vehicle replacement. I have a comment which I would like to specifically address to that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I believe D actually is the transfer. Right? Commissioner Odell said, yeah. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, of \$22,000? Commissioner Odell said, of the \$120,000. County Manager Abolt said, he means B. Chairman Liakakis said, that's what you're talking about. Commissioner Kicklighter said, amend the motion and I'll amend —. Commissioner Farrell asked, 2(B) is that what you're saying? County Manager Abolt said, that's right. Commissioner Odell said, I'm talking D. Chairman Liakakis said, that's B.

Commissioner Odell said, well, we don't number these right. Russ, everyone, the point is to remove the \$120,288 for vehicle replacement. My motion restated is to approve everything with the exception of that section, whether it's B, C, D or K and G, that's the motion. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll amend my second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second on that. Okay, all in favor of —. Commissioner Farrell said, oh, we're going to —, well, I'd like to —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we'll approve the balance. Chairman Liakakis said, we'll approve the balance and then we're coming back to this item. Commissioner Farrell said, well, I still have a question. Chairman Liakakis said, sure.

Commissioner Farrell said, on this Item 3. Is there anybody from the Police Department. County Manager Abolt said, what this is, is put together the budget for the Islands Precinct, we were of the impression that we could not use that generation of SPLOST to purchase FF&E. Remember the correspondence I sent to the Board here the last couple of weeks, we asked for a special legal opinion as to whether or not that was the case because in times gone by we could do that. Pending that legal opinion and working with Chief Berkow, we know we can use Confiscated Funds, so we end up in this project completely whole and then, as Jon [Hart] has time, he'll give us a legal opinion as to whether or not the current iteration of SPLOST would allow for FF&E. Commissioner Farrell said, my question is that due to the fact that this building could possibly house first responders after a natural disaster, and one of the items that we recently learned from

our trip to New Orleans was that if this building does take on water, in the St. Tammany Parish they said that they had some buildings had a foot of muck and mud in their buildings after the tide went out, my question is does this budget include a carpet cleaning machine that will stay in this building and also due to the fact that there may be first responders in this building and isolated, does it include a washer and dryer that will be permanent fixtures of this facility. Not so much for the day to day activities of the police precinct, but to be pre-positioned and ready in case of a natural disaster. County Manager Abolt said, we'll make sure it does. Commissioner Farrell said, then I'm in favor of it.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, now under Item 2(B). Commissioner Odell said, we've still got the \$120,000. Chairman Liakakis said, that's what I'm doing. Commissioner Odell said, oh, I thought you were saying two —. Chairman Liakakis said, under this Item 1 —. Commissioner Odell said, we're on the same page. Chairman Liakakis said, increase revenue \$134,265 from auction proceeds and appropriate \$1,977 for auction expenses, \$12,000 for fleet equipment and \$120,288 for vehicle replacement. Harris [Odell]?

Commissioner Odell said, my concern is that not with \$120,288, Stuart [Chatham], I think that's a good thing. I think at one point in Chatham County we subsidized salary by giving people cars. Unless it's a police vehicle and the County Manager's vehicle, any replacement vehicle that we purchase, the department head, I feel, should write a justification — a needs justification as to that vehicle because, you know, doing it the same way as how the dinosaurs became extinct, they did it the same way, but the conditions changed. I think the conditions have changed in this County and we need to look and examine and every time it comes up for the next two years I'm on the Commission, if you've got a vehicle I'm going to ask a question about it because I think it is fiscally responsible for us to make a determination based on this environment whether or not all of the vehicles we have running around this County are necessary. I don't need a response, Stuart [Chatham], it's just my position. What I want is when a vehicle is replaced, not you. What you could give me is the necessity — this vehicle has 300,000 miles, we can't get it from here to Hinesville. You can tell me whether or not that vehicle is functional. That's not my question. My question is whether or not that vehicle is necessary. Whether or not based on that departmental need and comparing it across departments, we even need to have a vehicle for this particular position, and I don't think we've done that analysis. To [inaudible] that, if you've got a response to it, Stuart [Chatham], I'll welcome it. No, it's not — this is not a criticism of anyone. It is a desire to determine the necessity of all of the vehicles that we have, and I think it makes sense for us to periodically audit the need for certain positions.

County Manager Abolt said, we'll do it. I don't hesitate for Stuart [Chatham] to make a comment. I think it should be that the using department, as you so indicated. It's kind of like going to one's mechanic and say justify why you and I need a car. I think this should come from the using department and we'll initiate those procedures.

Commissioner Odell said, oh, no. It should not come from Stuart [Chatham]. Stuart can't tell whether or not Department A, based on that employee's function, needs a vehicle. You know, it would be ideally if we could give every employee a vehicle. You know, when we hand them out a check, we hand them out a gas ticket and we give them a car, we pay for the insurance. We can't do that. We're not going to continue to do that and for any vehicle that's non-police, non-sheriff, non-law enforcement, as they come up we analyze them. At least we'll make a decision about it. For those people who are fiscal conservatives, you should join this bandwagon. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and CEMA. Commissioner Odell said, and CEMA.

Chairman Liakakis asked, have you made notation of that?

Commissioner Farrell asked, why not just have them all do it. I mean, they can very quickly just tell us this is a police car. Okay. Commissioner Odell said, if it's a police car, then the investigation is complete. If it's CEMA, the investigation is complete. Commissioner Farrell said, why not just look at all of them. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. Commissioner Farrell said, some are going to be easier than others.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We need a motion on the floor for this and Mr. County Manager has the information.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'll make the motion to approve this item. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second to approve this item. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following: (1) amendments to the General Fund M&O to: a) transfer \$29,000 within the CNT budget to salaries and benefits, b) transfer \$78,501 from contingency to ICS for infrastructure, c) transfer \$145,000 from salaries in the District Attorney budget to department operating and supplies expenditures, d) transfer \$22,000 from salaries in the District Attorney budget to Transfer Out to CIP, and e) transfer \$75,000 from contingency to the Utilities department, (2) amendments to the Capital Improvement Program Fund to: a) recognize a \$22,000 transfer in from M&O and increase the vehicle replacement project by \$22,000, (3) an amendment to the Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund to transfer \$67,425 from Police contingency for Islands Precinct furniture and fixtures, and (4) an amendment to the Montgomery Street Courthouse project in Sales Tax IV to appropriate \$153,430 in salaries and benefits. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]
- b. Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following: amendments to the Capital Improvement Program Fund to: 1.(2)(b) increase revenue \$134,265 from auction proceeds and appropriate

\$1,977 for auction expenses, \$12,000 for fleet equipment, and \$120,288 for vehicle replacement. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE: To request approval of the following: (1) amendments to the General Fund M&O to: a) transfer \$29,000 within the CNT budget to salaries and benefits, b) transfer \$78,501 from contingency to ICS for infrastructure, c) transfer \$145,000 from salaries in the District Attorney budget to department operating and supplies expenditures, d) transfer \$22,000 from salaries in the District Attorney budget to Transfer Out to CIP, and e) transfer \$75,000 from contingency to the Utilities department, (2) amendments to the Capital Improvement Program Fund to: a) recognize a \$22,000 transfer in from M&O and increase the vehicle replacement project by \$22,000, and b) increase revenue \$134,265 from auction proceeds and appropriate \$1,977 for auction expenses, \$12,000 for fleet equipment, and \$120,288 for vehicle replacement, (3) an amendment to the Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund to transfer \$67,425 from Police contingency for Islands Precinct furniture and fixtures, and (4) an amendment to the Montgomery Street Courthouse project in Sales Tax IV to appropriate \$153,430 in salaries and benefits.

BACKGROUND:

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1) The Counter Narcotics Team Commander will be paid through the county payroll system. Funds will be transferred within the department to salaries and benefit line items. The amount needed for the balance of the current fiscal year is \$29,000.
- 2) The ICS department has received an invoice for a project that was started in a prior year. The encumbrance for the project had not been brought forward to the current fiscal year. A contingency transfer of \$78,501 is requested.

- 3) The District Attorney has requested an amendment to the departmental budget to use salary savings for operating expenses and for the purchase of equipment. \$145,000 will be transferred within the department's budget to various line items. \$22,000 will be transferred to the CIP Fund for a vehicle. Correspondence with details on the request is attached.
- 4) Expenditure projections for the Utility department in the General Fund show cause for concern and a possible budget overrun by year end. An additional \$75,000 is requested from contingency to offset possible negative variances.
- 5) Proceeds from the sale of surplus vehicles are deposited back to the funds that originally provided funding to purchase the vehicles. A recent auction generated \$134,265 from the sales of vehicles from the General Fund M&O, and SSD fund. A request has been made to amend the CIP fund for this revenue and appropriate \$1,977 to offset the expenses of the auction, \$12,000 for equipment for Fleet Management, and \$120,288 for vehicle replacement. The CIP fund will also be amended to increase revenue by \$22,000 transferred in from M&O Fund - District Attorney and appropriate \$22,000 for a vehicle. A copy of correspondence is attached.
- 6) An amendment to the Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund to transfer \$67,425 from Police contingency for the Islands Precinct is requested. The funds will purchase furniture for the new building.
- 7) The Board of Commissioners has approved two positions for Child Support security because of disruptions caused by the Courthouse project in the Annex. The capital project will fund the two positions until Child Support relocates to the South Annex in fall 2008. An amendment to the Montgomery Street Courthouse project in Sales Tax IV to appropriate \$153,430 in salaries and benefits for the security positions requires Board approval.

FUNDING: Funds are available in the General Fund M&O and Confiscated Funds contingencies, the Counter Narcotics Team Department budget, the District Attorney Department budget, and Sales Tax IV Courthouse project. The budget amendment will establish funding in the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- a) transfer \$29,000 from other line items to salaries and benefits in the CNT Department,
- b) transfer \$78,501 from contingency to ICS for infrastructure,
- c) transfer \$145,000 from salaries in the District Attorney budget for operating and supplies expenditures within the department,

- d) transfer \$22,000 from salaries in the District Attorney budget to Transfer Out to CIP for a vehicle, and
- e) transfer \$75,000 from contingency to the Utilities department.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND

- a) an amendment to increase revenue for a \$22,000 transfer in from M&O for a vehicle for the District Attorney with a corresponding increase to the vehicle replacement budget,
- b) an amendment to increase revenue \$134,265 from auction proceeds and appropriate \$1,977 for auction expenses, \$12,000 for fleet equipment, and \$120,288 for vehicle replacement.

CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

an amendment to transfer \$67,425 from Police contingency for furniture and fixtures at the Islands Precinct.

SALES TAX IV FUND

an amendment to the Montgomery Street Courthouse project to appropriate \$153,430 in salaries and benefits for security positions.

- (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. PLAN OF ACTION TO CONSTRUCT WHITFIELD AVENUE.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is a project, as the Board so well knows, it's critical. Each day that we delay this project is one day longer before we commence construction of the Diamond Causeway Project, which is one of the highest priorities of all the road projects that we have in front of us. We have to get an access route to and from an island that could be interdicted in the event of storm. We have several thousand people depending upon that one roadway, the Diamond Causeway, for egress and ingress and this particular project based on this relationship to the Diamond Causeway is critical. Commissioner Stone, as you've all indicated, has led the way in doing all possible to create amenities along this corridor. Staff has been working along with our Consultant Engineer with the Georgia Department of Transportation. We

bring you an update on this, but we would like to see some reasonable closure on the part of the local body, this County Commission, realizing ultimately that GDOT makes the decision, but I think it's important at this juncture that we get consensus from you to do as much as we can for trees and promising really no more than six canopy trees in the median because of some public safety issues, but allow the project to commence so that we can get Diamond Causeway under way with priority and as quick as possible, realizing absent Whitfield we can't get there.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. This situation that we have, this project's been held up and held up and I want the general public to know this, the residents in that area and all. On Skidaway Island there are close to 10,000 people at that location. The bridge there, the Diamond Causeway Bridge, is 38 years old now. It has broken down on numerous occasions and if a hurricane or some other disaster was to come and breaks down like it has numerous occasions in the past, we've got those thousands of people's lives at risk there. They could die because it's the only place in the State of Georgia where they have that many people living in an area that has only one exit out of that location, and that's why it's so important that we have that. They've got a little marina there, but they can only take out a few people, you know. There's not enough ships to get into that area to take people out of there. It's the only place. There's not another place in the State of Georgia. I've talked to the Department of Transportation, the Department of Community Affairs and others. There are a few other locations in the State of Georgia that have got a few thousand people that have only one roadway out of there, a bridge, but this is the only one with this amount of people in the entire State of Georgia. And I have talked to the people with the Department of Transportation, Helen Stone has talked to them on numerous occasions and all, but we really need to move this on because what was told to us, if the Whitfield Project is not completed, they cannot bridge that — build that high-level bridge over there. And we can look at the history, what has happened in hurricanes around this country, in the gulf and around Florida and around South Carolina and North Carolina and the areas, and we can see that a hurricane can be — just using that as an example — can be headed in a direction. For example, last year they had a hurricane that was predicted the travel area was going to be between Charleston and North Carolina. Well, what occurred was before, you know, as it got moved and they were targeting that area, the hurricane turned in a westerly direction and hit Florida. And if you look at the maps that show all of these hurricanes that has happened in the past, that sometimes if that happens the people only have a short period of time for evacuation if it all of a sudden turns into a different direction and not headed where they were targeting it. So this is one of the reasons. We want to make sure that we save people's lives. We are charged with the protection of life and property and this community and we need to move on with this project and so I want all of the citizens to know, and especially those that live around Whitfield Avenue area, that we're not trying to circumvent anything. We want to hopefully that we can get those trees in there. I think we've got a modification that we'll be able to do that, but we also want to make sure it's safe and also the protection of those lives of those other people that live on Skidaway Island.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would concur and have worked — tried to work with you and Commissioner Farrell in going to Washington and ensuring that this bridge gets built as soon as possible for the safety of the residents on Skidaway Island. I would though like

to encourage the application of this roadway amenities resolution on Whitfield Avenue and all other roadway constructions and renovations throughout our beautiful community. I just — before I ask Mr. Black to give a presentation of where we are today with this, and I think this is probably a compromise that will work for us all, but before I do that I just want to read the first couple of sentences of this resolution that was adopted by our MPO. Mr. Wilkes helped draft this. This was something that was agreed upon and it was actually agreed upon due to the Whitfield Avenue Widening Project was what spurred this resolution to begin with. And I don't want to lose sight of the fact that we do live in a beautiful community, we have made an effort, there are citizens in the community that have made an effort to make this roadway amenities resolution be a part of our community, and I'm just going to read the first couple of paragraphs and then, Mr. Black, if you could give your presentation and then I know that there are a couple of people in the audience that would like to give a couple of comments. The first couple of words of the resolution — the first couple of sentences of the resolution state: "WHEREAS, trees particularly canopy trees are an historic essential element of Savannah and Chatham County's history as the "forest city" and it's character and infrastructure." And it goes on and I won't read the entire thing. I'm happy to give anybody a copy that would like it, but if, Mr. Black, if you would be kind enough to give us what you've got today and if there are any comments, but I do concur with the Chairman that this project needs to move on. There are people who's lives are in jeopardy and we're not here to stall that. Thank you.

Mr. Al Black said, I'll make it short. I'll be happy to answer any more questions. We've been going back and forth with DOT on Whitfield Avenue, which is a state route, for probably a year and a half or more. We've tried a number of different things. The latest thing that happened was they changed the median opening method and through work between the consultant and DOT and the County staff, we've come up with a compromise which I recall is a Type B modified median opening for this structure, which will allow six trees to — six canopy trees to be planted in the median. Of course, beyond that there will be other landscaping really throughout the project and the County already does have a contract with our consultant to do a landscaping plan for this project.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any other questions you want to ask our Engineer?

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to point out then there are six trees, canopy trees in the one part of the median that was agreed upon after the additional curb cut for The Sanctuary would stay in this new plan. Correct? Mr. Black said, yes. Commissioner Stone said, and then that we can fill in in some of the areas where they can't be canopy trees with crepe myrtles and those type of trees in the narrower parts of the median, and then anything that can be done on the side of the road will also be incorporated. Mr. Black said, yes. Commissioner Stone said, and no concrete in the medians other than just on the noses. Mr. Black said, as far as I know, yes. Commissioner Stone said, okay. Thank you. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Commissioner Stone said, I know that — I think, Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of people that came to speak on this.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have some residents or someone that would like to speak, and what we'd like to do is instead of, you know, we know that the residents out there would like the trees

and they'd like for it to be safe and all, but if somebody could speak out for them and then I'll ask the others in the audience that might not want to speak or what have you, if you would just stand up. I'll ask you to stand up, that you also support that particular presentation that the member is going to make now. Go ahead.

Ms. Dale Thorpe said, I'm Dale Thorpe from Savannah Tree Foundation. I have a statement that I'm going to abbreviate it. We have been working with County Engineering, Commissioner Stone, we've been working on this since 2003. We are disappointed that due to the curb cuts, all median cuts for The Sanctuary that we had to go back to the drawing board, but there are a resident of the neighborhood and that's what we're here to talk about is retaining the neighborhoods, and neighborhoods are retained by having canopy trees and good landscaping. Psychologically slow the driver down, make them realize that they're in a short community that has other churches, an elementary school, old established resident neighborhoods, residential areas. I've just walked out there, driven out there. I mean, that's a vibrant neighborhood area and it doesn't need to have the effects of, you know, just pavement flying through. From what Mr. Black says and from what I've read, I think this plan, this basically was the plan that was presented on January 4th by mail will do. As I say, we're disappointed about losing the big median, but we understand. So the Savannah Tree Foundation does support this modified use of amenities and also the other amenities of having the sidewalks for pedestrians and bicyclists. This landscaping will help protect them and make it a safer, happier neighborhood.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the things, to let you know, that there are going to be a number of intersection lights over there, too, so it's not going to be a raceway because you're going to have those intersection lights there. So the Department of Transportation made a plan to us that, you know, that those intersection lights are going to be placed there. So that will help out also. So it's not like it's a straight shot, you know, without any kind of safety measures.

Ms. Thorpe said, right, and we did — when I walked it, I looked at all that. I still think it will be just the character, plus it is one of our old historic roads, and it's just a shame to lose it. We are not Atlanta, thank goodness. Thank you.

Ms. Beth Kinstler said, good morning. My name is Beth Kinstler. I'm here representing Preserving Savannah Neighborhoods. First, I would like to say we're here in support of the Savannah Tree Foundation and our mission statement includes the fact that we are here, that we believe in the preservation of all neighborhoods against commercial encroachment and poor design. First of all, let me just state that poor planning over 30 years ago has led to this situation today, and we continue to make the same mistakes over and over. The DOT is consistently insensitive to the ascetics of roadway design and is out of date with current thinking on roadway design. Unfortunately, it's too late to do anything about this apparently, but in future amenities packages we would like you to look more carefully at context sensitive design, which is something that you'll be hearing more and more about. But just for the record, PSN does support Savannah Tree Foundation in this regard. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis asked, is there anybody else that would like to speak, or would you stand up all of the people that are here in support of this. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you very much.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, the principal of Hess School would like to speak.

Mr. Raymond Patricio said, yeah. I've been the principal at Hess for 10 years and over those 10 years —. The Clerk said, please state your name for the record. Mr. Patricio said, Raymond Patricio. Over those 10 years when we discussed traffic, we've always been — the parents have always been concerned about the volume of traffic and primarily the speed of the traffic, and I would be very concerned that the speed limit remain 35 miles an hour. Just last year there was a fatality in front of the school. Two people died and then a few months later we had an accident in front of the school also where people just were going too fast, and when you think about that area, there's a church right next to the school. Within two blocks of the school there are two other churches and then The Sanctuary is just a half a mile down the street. But the number of kids that are coming there to the park, which the County Commission so generously supported several years ago to help develop our playground area into more of a community park, it has been — increased the traffic, pedestrian traffic in that area, and I defy — I know many of the times that I drive on Waters where it's double-laned, which is what is going to end up with Whitfield for that traffic limit, the speed limit there is 45 miles an hour and if you drive 45 miles an hour, you'll be passed by almost every other car around you. So it would be a great concern to me — again, we talk about saving lives off of Skidaway Island, but we'd also like to save the lives of the people walking around the school, to and from the school, riding bicycles to and from the school, and pulling in and out of neighborhoods and churches, that the speed limit in that area remain at 35 miles an hour.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me ask you this question. Mr. Patricio said, yes sir. Chairman Liakakis said, those people that had those accidents, they were speeding? Do you know that? Mr. Patricio said, I believe the one accident with the fatality where both people died, they hit a tree right in front of the school. Fortunately, it was just an hour before dismissal so the students didn't get to witness it, but I would think that they may have been going a little bit faster than they needed to go. If they had been going 35 miles an hour, I don't know if they both would have died. The traffic — the other accident was actually an older sister coming to pick up a younger sister after school and just did not — was going a little too fast and ran into the car in front of them, and fortunately no one was hurt. So I think the issue is that people just need to slow down when they're not only in a school area but within any neighborhood, and that with the wider roads, that's going to be a temptation. You figure if you're coming off of Diamond Causeway, the speed limit is 50 miles an hour there. If you're coming off of the double lane of where Waters is it's 45, and so right now it's difficult to get people to slow down to 35 miles an hour with just the two lanes, and I would be concerned with the four lanes, and if you set the traffic at 40 or 45 miles an hour, they're going to drive faster. So it would be —, I think it would be more of an encouragement for them to drive slower if the speed limit in that neighborhood area between Cresthill Baptist Church and The Sanctuary remained at 35 miles an hour.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. And we can talk to the State, you know, and let them know concerning that speed limit, but one of the things also that we could do in the meantime is request the police department to do more traffic enforcement out in that area. So when you have some concerns and all, just call the department or you can call us and we will make that request so that people will slow down. You know, they can put those visible signs up that shows what speed they're going. In addition, they can put the radar units over there to cite people that are going fast to make sure that those areas are safe. That's even before this other part was even built. Mr. Patricio said, yes sir. That would be a great idea. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Mr. Patricio said, I appreciate it.

Commissioner Odell said, rather than his doing anything, can Russ [Abolt], you contact the police department and it might be a good thing for them to —. County Manager Abolt said, before the end of the day. Commissioner Odell said, — run a radar unit a couple of times. If they do that, that will stop the speeding.

Commissioner Stone said, just to —. Chairman Liakakis said, he's next and then —. Commissioner Stone said, okay. I was just going to piggyback on the speed thing because I've already —. Chairman Liakakis said, well, he had asked next. Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to —. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Patrick [Farrell]. Commissioner Stone said, — finish something. Chairman Liakakis said, and then you can speak after Patrick [Farrell]. He wanted to say something.

Commissioner Farrell said, for one thing I want to also recognize Mr. Patricio. Not only has he been the principal for the last 10 years at Hess, but as I recall in 1971 he was the music instructor that attempted to teach me how to play the trumpet at Hess School. Commissioner Odell said, so you're the one. Mr. Patricio said, it was my pleasure. Commissioner Farrell said, so he's got quite a long history at Hess, as I do myself. Anyway, welcome to the Commission meeting and it's good to see you're in good health and carrying on. Also, I would like to say that it is very important to move this project along due to the long periods of time it takes to build a bridge and to get funding and the okay from the Georgia Department of Transportation, and I'd like to speak in favor and actually make a motion to approve a Type B modification, as just suggested and proposed by GDOT, which will have six trees.

Commissioner Stone said, wait a minute. I want to make real sure that in your motion — Al [Black], can you state for us what we're actually approving because Type B really was not — was not the exact proposal that —. Commissioner Farrell said, Type B modified, I think is what he said. Commissioner Stone said, okay. I meant, I just wanted to make sure.

Mr. Black said, no, that's a good term. The Type B is under the DOT standard details. So even though you don't know what a Type B is, we know what a Type B is, and that's the appropriate way to describe that. It's a modified Type B. Commissioner Stone said, okay, because when we looked at Type A and Type B, it was in our discussions that Type A was really the one that we were looking at and then they came up with Type B and now we're at a modified Type B, so I just want to make it real clear what we're looking at here. Mr. Black said, modified Type B would be

the appropriate —. Commissioner Farrell said, which will include six trees. Commissioner Stone said, which will include all the —, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, all right, you have a motion and a second. Any other comments?

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to say one other thing that followed your concern about the speed limit. To go on record, I did have a phone call last night that, Mr. Abolt, perhaps that this can be looked into as well as the speed limit in front of the school. In front of Mist Wood Subdivision they are having speeding in the morning. The people can't get out and, again, this is supposed to be 35 miles per hour and we need some help out there as far as traffic enforcement.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second for the Whitfield Avenue project. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve a modified Type B median for the design of the Whitfield Avenue widening project from Old Whitfield Avenue to Ferguson Avenue which will allow six canopy trees and other landscaping. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Allan R. Black, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

ISSUE: To establish the County's position on "amenities" criteria for the design of the Whitfield Avenue widening project from Old Whitfield Avenue to Ferguson Avenue.

BACKGROUND: The FHWA approved the Environmental Assessment (EA) on February 13, 2004. Preliminary design was completed in June, 2004. Staff was advised in January, 2005, however, widening of the median for landscaping and reducing the speed limit would require amending the previously approved Concept Report and EA. A revised Concept Report was submitted to GDOT on July 6, 2005. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) was held on February 28, 2006. As a result of a meeting with the GDOT Project Manager on May 2, 2006, the GDOT provided (by email) written guidance as to an acceptable minimum landscaped

median width (not less than 40 feet) and a design speed (45 mph). Approval of the Concept Report (and the design concept) is on hold pending resolution of the design speed, the median width and tree planting opportunities.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. A Resolution approved by the Board on September 26, 2003, states in part “The County shall consider as part of the CUTS roads projects, without causing undue delay or redesign increase or undue increase in cost, a process for inclusion of trees and tree planting opportunities.”
2. In the meantime, the EA for this project was on its way through the GDOT to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval (February 13, 2004). The Concept Report, the preliminary design and the EA were based on a 20 feet wide raised median. There were some comments from the public hearing with concerns about loss of trees in the area. Also, Commissioner Stone asked to reduce the speed limit to 40 mph.
3. After doing more traffic studies required by the GDOT to consider the design speed reduction, staff was advised in January, 2005, that the widening of the median for landscaping and a reduction in speed limit would require amending the previously approved Concept Report and Environmental Assessment. The layout showed that the wider median with landscaping would cause four additional residential displacements thereby increasing GDOT's right of way costs. A revised Concept Report was submitted to GDOT on July 6, 2005. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) was held on February 28, 2006. This meeting raised the issue of adding a bikeway from Hesse Elementary School to Old Whitfield. The project now includes the bikeway from Ferguson to Old Whitfield. As a result of a meeting with the GDOT Project Manager on May 2, 2006, the GDOT provided (by email) written guidance as to an acceptable minimum landscaped median width (not less than 40 feet) and a design speed (45 mph). The consultant received additional comments from GDOT on July 19, 2006, and responded on August 17, 2006.
4. Based on discussions and direction from the GDOT, consideration was given to a 50 feet wide median so that canopy trees could be planted within the median. It was originally believed that approximately 20 canopy trees could be planted in the wider median. As the design criteria evolved and a median opening was added for The Sanctuary, the actual number of possible plantings was reduced to approximately seven canopy trees within the median.
5. The GDOT staff suggested that the original 20 feet wide raised median be used so that more than six or seven canopy trees could be planted outside the shoulder and clear zones. It appeared that about 30 trees could be planted along the corridor between Hendry Avenue and the Truman Parkway. Since the narrower median would be less intrusive on the adjacent properties, it may also save some

existing canopy trees which are generally along the southwestern side of the existing roadway.

6. On this project, the consideration of the trees and changes in design speed has resulted in a delay of over one year so far. The project is now on hold pending resolution of the "tree planting opportunity" issue. The GDOT has advised staff that the design process can continue without amending the Concept Report or the Environmental Assessment if the County concurs with the 20 feet wide median. They will not agree to a reduction in design speed. They will consider posting the speed limit as 40 mph. Based on the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), funding for construction is programmed in fiscal year 2008.

7. On March 30, 2007, GDOT introduced a new criteria and involves median openings and specifically, said that a Type B opening should be used for the 50 foot median rather than the standard Type A. This means that the left turn lanes would be located in the middle of the median and with the accompanying taper, significantly reduces the open area available for the planting of trees. In fact, it reduced it so much that the remaining area would not be sufficient for the planting of any canopy trees.

8. After consultation with GDOT staff and the County's consultant, a compromise was suggested that uses a Type A median opening at the Halcyon/Kings Way intersection which should provide enough space to plant about six canopy trees in the median. In order to use a Type A, the signal would be set up so that left turns could only be made on the green arrow and would not allow permissive left turns on the thru movement.

9. The County's consultant submitted layouts of the revised design. GDOT staff is currently evaluating alternatives.

10. The Draft Environmental Assessment for the Diamond Causeway project (signed by the FHWA and approving Advancement to Availability/Public Hearing Phase) stipulates that "Construction of Whitfield Avenue (Project STP-00MX(5), P.I. No. 550560 will be completed before the Diamond Causeway is let to construction."

FUNDING: No funding is required for this decision.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To approve the compromise design with a Type A median opening at Halcyon/Kings Way intersection which should provide space for about six canopy trees in the median.

2. That the Board provide other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Board takes action necessary to support and implement its projects.

RECOMMENDATION: For Board consideration.

District 2

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3. PORT WENTWORTH ANNEXATION REQUEST.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if possible, I'd like to just go ahead and make a motion to approve annexation's request and then we can have discussion. Can I get a second on this? Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We have a motion on the floor and a second to approve the annexation request by Port Wentworth. All of you received that information in the packet. Is there any discussion on that?

Mr. Kicklighter said, I would just like to thank —, we have the Mayor in the audience, the Manager, the Attorney, the Engineer. I would like to thank them as well as the County staff: Russ [Abolt], Jonathan Hart, they all got together. We had a meeting and worked out the details necessary. This is an annexation, small area, for them to simply expand the water —, the sewage services in Port Wentworth, and I thank y'all for actually giving our staff here — professionals, the courtesy and respect to let them know what was going on. A lot of cities go out there and just annex land and we get a little piece of paper, so thank y'all very much for working with our attorney to make sure that everything was done right. Mayor Jones?

Mayor Glenn Jones said, Mayor Jones, Mayor of Port Wentworth, and I thank you, Commissioner Kicklighter, and all the work that your staff and our staff did work together because I know we —, Mr. Chairman, you know, when I first come on board, we got together and we were working good and we wanted to have a good, happy relationship and this is very important to us. As you know, we do have to create a wastewater treatment facility and any day now we're waiting on our permit to come in, and this was another hurdle we had to cross, and I do appreciate all of us working together to make it an admirable thing for us and I do appreciate it again. Thank you. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mayor.

Chairman Liakakis said, Mayor Jones, thank you very much for providing this additional services for the people in your community because that's really important that we have those services. Mayor Jones said, as you know, we're growing really big out on the westside. We knew we had to do something very soon, and we're working hard to do that. We have a great staff that's leading our way and keep going well in the future. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Mayor Jones said, thank you very much.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I call for the question to approve.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, all in favor let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request of Port Wentworth to annex certain property within the unincorporated area of Chatham County and wholly owned by the City of Port Wentworth and is separated from the City's present municipal boundaries by the length of O'Leary Road. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3
AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

ISSUE:

The City of Port Wentworth proposes annexation of 22.25 acres of land in the unincorporated portion of Chatham County for the use of the property as part of its waste water treatment facility.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Port Wentworth needs to expand its waste water treatment capacity. The City of Port Wentworth has the opportunity to acquire 22.25 acres of land in the unincorporated Chatham County to be used as a portion of its waste water treatment facility. Georgia law provides that a municipality may only annex property into a city should it be "legally contiguous" (That is a definition within the statute.) This property does not meet the definition of legally contiguous. O.C.G.A. § 36-36-20(c) allows a municipality to apply for a resolution from the governing authority of the county to permit this type of annexation. The property site will be accessed by a 40 foot right-of-way which shall be maintained by the City of Port Wentworth. The City of Port Wentworth also agrees to provide maintenance along Richmond Road and hold harmless the County from responsibility.

As of this date, there have been no objections from any surrounding property owner and the neighbor EM Industries supports the proposed annexation.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The City of Port Wentworth needs to expand its waste water treatment capacity. The City of Port Wentworth has the opportunity to acquire 22.25 acres of land in the unincorporated Chatham County to be used as a portion of their waste water treatment facility.
2. Georgia law provides that a municipality may only annex property into a city should it be "legally contiguous". This property does not meet the definition of legally contiguous.
3. O.C.G.A. 36-36-20(c) allows a municipality to apply for a resolution from the governing authority of the county to permit this type of annexation. The property site will be accessed by a 40 foot right-of-way which shall be maintained by the City of Port Wentworth. The City of Port Wentworth also agrees to provide maintenance along Richmond Road and hold harmless the County from responsibility.
4. There have been no objections from any surrounding property owner and the neighbor EM Industries supports the proposed annexation.

FUNDING:

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Pass a Resolution granting consent to the annexation.
2. Do not pass a Resolution granting consent to the annexation.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The allowance of this annexation within the unincorporated Chatham County has not been objected to by third parties and will benefit the citizens of Port Wentworth. The City of Port Wentworth will assume responsibility for maintenance for the access right-of-way and Richmond Road relieving Chatham County of the maintenance costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative 1.

RJH/jr

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4. TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN FUNDING WITH TYBEE ISLAND FOR A TRIAL TRAIL WHICH INCLUDES UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Stone, gentlemen, this as you've discussed and are aware of, in my estimation at least, is possibly one of the best examples of intergovernmental cooperation we can put before you. It is a partnership with the City of Tybee to complete the easterly most end of the Rails to Trails Program, McQueen's Island trails, that was started a number of years ago. I would like to recognize two people that made this possible. One is Pat Monahan, who had the creativity to work with Tybee representatives. The other one is a gentleman I see only infrequently, and I'm sorry about that. That gentlemen is Mr. Jim Golden. Many, many years ago when he had nothing to go with, he came up with the idea of Rails to Trails. He got a bunch of people to donate some clamshells ground and started up this project, and it was done with next to nothing beside his creativity and love for his work and love for the people that he served so well. So, Jim [Golden], if you're watching, thank you very much.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize funding of \$100,000 which will be provided to the City of Tybee Island for Chatham County's participation in the Rails to Trails Pproject which will extend from Lazaretto Creek Bridge to 2nd Street in Tybee Island and authorize use of funds from the 2003-2008 SPLOST/Greenspace, Open Space and Bikeways. Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-4

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

ISSUE:

To authorize participation in funding with Tybee Island for a trail which includes unincorporated Chatham County.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Tybee Island has developed a project to extend a trail from the Lazaretto Creek Bridge to 2nd Street in Tybee Island. About a mile of this project will be located in Chatham County. The project also will make a logical link to the McQueen's Island Rail-To-Trail, which Chatham County developed and has constructed through Phase I. Phase I, a nationally-recognized trail project, already provides a separated six-mile trail to Fort Pulaski. Phase II, which will be constructed concurrent with the proposed widening of U.S. 80, will extend the trail one mile from Fort Pulaski to Lazaretto Creek.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The City of Tybee Island has requested Chatham County's participation of \$100,000, of the \$400,000 trail project, which includes planning, property acquisition and renovation of the existing elevated railway bed (see attached letter). The project will extend from Lazaretto Creek to 2nd Street.
2. More than a mile of the project will be located in the unincorporated area. The project also makes a connection to the McQueen's Island Trail, which Chatham County developed and has constructed through Phase I. Phase I, a nationally-recognized rail project, already provides a six-mile trail, which ends at Fort Pulaski's entrance. Phase II, which will be constructed concurrent with the proposed widening of U.S. 80, will extend from Fort Pulaski's entrance to Lazaretto Creek.
3. Tybee Island would maintain the unincorporated area section.

FUNDING:

The 2003-2008 SPLOST includes funding for Greenspace, Open Space and Bikeways. While plans are to use most of the funds for greenspace acquisition under a preferred list adopted by the Board, funds are available for this purpose.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board authorize funding of \$100,000 which will be provided to the City of Tybee Island for Chatham County's participation in the trail project which will extend from Lazaretto Creek to 2nd Street and authorize use of funds from the 2003-2008 SPLOST/Greenspace, Open Space and Bikeways.
2. That the Board opt not to participate.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Besides the benefit of participation with Tybee Island on this project for the part of the trail in unincorporated Chatham County, the project provides a valuable extension of the McQueen's Trail System. Altogether, the addition of this project will provide more than 10 miles of recreational trails east of the Bull River.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CREATE ONE FULL-TIME POSITION TO MANAGE THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM, AND A PART-TIME POSITION TO ASSIST IN ADMINISTRATING THE CAP PROGRAM.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Commissioner Odell said, I read the staff report. Commissioner Stone said, very good.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve request of the Construction Apprentice Program (CAP) for the creation of one (1) full-time position to manage CAP and one (1) part-time position to assist in administering the program. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-5

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Daniel Dodd, Step Up Director

ISSUE:

To create a full time position to manage the Construction Apprentice Program (CAP) and a part-time position to assist in administering the CAP program.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County, Step Up Savannah's Poverty Reduction Initiative (a collaboration of 80 organizations working to reduce poverty in Chatham County), The Home Builders Association, Project SAV (a local non profit), and Savannah Technical College began a partnership in 2006 to train people from the high poverty areas with classroom and on the job training in construction and then place them in well paying

jobs. Although Step Up designed the program at the bequest of the County, Project SAV, (a local non-profit) has been administering the CAP program under Step Up's direction.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. Project SAV which is the organization currently administering the program will be dissolving. Administrative costs which included salary and benefits for a program administrator was paid to Project SAV via Step Up. The previous program administrator resigned. Two new people have been hired to manage the CAP program. One position is a full-time manager and the other position is a part-time coordinator.
2. The position was housed in Project SAV, but now Step Up needs to find a place to administer payroll for the positions. Step Up is asking Chatham County to administer payroll and benefits for these two positions. Based on discussions with the Human Resources and Services Department, this can be accomplished by adding these positions to the payroll system.
3. No additional funding for these positions will be necessary since the County already funds the Construction Apprentice Program and part of the funding already covers the salaries of these employees. Please note that these positions will be eliminated if the County discontinues funding for the Construction Apprentice Program.

FUNDING:

No additional funding required

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board authorize creation of the Construction Apprentice Program Manager, and the part time Program Coordinator positions.
2. That the Board not take action on authorizing the Construction Apprentice Program Manager nor Program Coordinator positions.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Board of Commissioners approved funding for the construction of the Construction Apprentice Program in 2006. The program recruits, selects, and manages under employed residents to complete a construction training program. The students learn from both classroom and professional contractors, who are members of the Home Builders Association, which enables them to obtain career paths for employment in the construction industry. This is also creating a qualified labor pool for the construction industry in this area.

Since the inception of this program, approximately forty-five students have successfully completed the program with approximately twenty-five students obtaining full time employment.

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, Action Calendar. As you know, you've got that information that was given to you in your package. We have Items 1 through 13 and under 13 for expenditures, Items A through J. Do we have any items that the Commissioners would like to withhold before we vote on the entire unit? Commissioner Odell said, Item 6. Chairman Liakakis said, Item 6. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, which one? Chairman Liakakis said, 6.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, number 13-E, I would just like to an explanation. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis asked, 13-E? Commissioner Stone said, yes sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a motion on the floor and a second to approve all items except Items 6 and 13-E. Let's go on the board. The Clerk asked, who seconded the motion? Commissioner Odell said, Dean [Kicklighter] motion, David [Gellatly] seconded the motion. he motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items 1 through 13-J except Items 6 and 13-E. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2007, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commission Kicklighter moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2007. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 15 THROUGH APRIL 4, 2007.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period March 15, 2007, through April 4, 2007, in the amount of \$10,369,720. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, COMMODORE CHASE, LLC., FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR COMMODORE CHASE, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND CREATE A NEW STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT RATE DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request from Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung (HGBD), engineer for the developer, Commodore Chase, LLC., for the County to record the subdivision plat for Commodore Chase, accept the subdivision agreement and the financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment rate district. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

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

ISSUE: To record the subdivision plat for Commodore Chase, accept the subdivision agreement and the financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment rate district.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, HGBD, for the developer, Commodore Chase LLC., requests that the County approve the final plat for recording, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment rate district.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Commodore Chase is a new single family residential subdivision that will create 9 lots on 10.41 acres. Asphalt paving and drainage improvements will be maintained by Chatham County. Each lot will have a private septic system and will be served by Commodore Point Water Works, a private water system. The brick pavers and the tree islands within the right of way of Schooner Drive will be maintained by the Commodore Chase Homeowners Association.
2. Staff approved construction plans and issued a permit. Construction of the improvements is underway.
3. The developer has submitted a letter of credit (#P004081) issued by SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$168,133.90, which is 100% of the cost of improvements.
4. This plat will create a new streetlight assessment rate district. The subdivision will have four new poles and four new 150-Watt lights. The total annual assessment for the poles and lights will be \$558.24. The initial annual assessment for lots 1 through 8 of the subdivision will be \$93.00. Lot 9 has access on Bradley Point Road and will not be included in the new street light assessment rate district.
5. An Environmental Site Assessment was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To approve the recording of the subdivision plat for Commodore Chase, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment rate district.
2. Do not approve the request.

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 4

PREPARED BY: Nathaniel Panther

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**4. REQUEST FROM HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, KONTER DEVELOPMENT CO., FOR THE COUNTY TO END THE WARRANTY PERIOD FOR SALT CREEK LANDING, PHASE 1, RELEASE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND ACCEPT THE DEDICATED IMPROVEMENTS.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request from Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung (HGBD), engineer for the developer, Konter Development Co., for the County to end the warranty period for Salt Creek Landing, Phase 1, release the financial guarantee and accept the dedicated improvements. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE: To end the warranty period for Salt Creek Landing, Phase 1, release the financial guarantee and accept the dedicated improvements.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, Hussey Gay Bell & DeYoung, for the developer, Konter Development Co., requests that the County end the warranty period, release

the financial guarantee and accept the dedicated improvements for Salt Creek Landing, Phase 1.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Salt Creek Landing is a single-family residential subdivision located on Cottonvale Road. This phase consists of 108 lots on 28.75 acres. Paving and drainage will be maintained by the County. Water and sanitary sewer are maintained by Consolidated Utilities, Inc.
2. Construction of the required improvements is complete. The improvements have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.
3. The warranty period was initiated on October 7, 2005.
4. A letter of credit from The Savannah Bank in the amount of \$261,832 was submitted as a financial guarantee during the twelve month warranty period, and now the developer requests the letter of credit be released.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To end the warranty period, release the financial guarantee and accept the dedicated improvements.
2. Do not approve the request.

POLICY ANALYSIS: This action is consistent with the subdivision regulations.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 7

PREPARED BY: Suzanne Cooler

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**5. REQUEST FROM HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, CARTER BROTHERS INVESTMENTS, FOR THE COUNTY TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FOR VILLAS OF GARRARD, PHASE 1.
[DISTRICT 8.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request from Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung (HGBD), engineer for the developer, Carter Brothers Investments, for the County to reduce the

financial guarantee for Villas of Garrard, Phase 1. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE: To reduce the financial guarantee for Villas of Garrard, Phase 1.

BACKGROUND: The engineer, HGBD, for the developer, Carter Brothers Investments, requests that the County reduce the financial guarantee for Villas of Garrard, Phase 1.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Villas of Garrard, Phase 1 is a private townhome subdivision. Phase 1 of the subdivision created 28 townhome lots on a 4.85 acre tract of land.
2. All common property, including the paving, drainage, detention ponds, buffers, common areas, private drives and off-street parking shall be owned and maintained by the Villas of Garrard Homeowners Association. The water and sewer improvements have been accepted by the City of Savannah for ownership and maintenance. The County will maintain the portion of Louis Mills Canal that runs through the property within the 65' right of way.
3. The developer submitted an original letter of credit issued by Bryan Bank & Trust in the amount of \$362,483.50, which is 100% of the total cost of the Phase 1 improvements.
4. Because the water and sewer improvements have been accepted by the City of Savannah for maintenance and ownership, the developer's engineer requests the financial guarantee be reduced to exclude the cost of these improvements. The developer is in the process of obtaining a new letter of credit in the amount of \$132,210.50, which is 100% of the cost of the paving and drainage improvements.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To reduce the original letter of credit from \$362,483.50 to \$132,210.50, which is 100% of the cost of the paving and drainage improvements for Villas of Garrard, Phase 1.
2. Do not approve the request.

FUNDING: None required.

POLICY ANALYSIS: This action is consistent with the subdivision regulations regarding the reduction of a financial guarantee.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt alternative No. 1.

District 8

PREPARED BY: Nathaniel Panther

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**6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN OPTION FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND COMCAST FOR THE ACQUISITION OF COMCAST'S PROPERTY 5515 ABERCORN STREET IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH'S HAMPSTEAD AVENUE EXTENSION PROJECT, AND THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SUBSEQUENTLY EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED CONVEYING THE PROPERTY TO THE CITY.
[DISTRICTS 1 AND 5.]**

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, your example of intergovernmental cooperation, many, many months ago the City of Savannah came to us requesting help in this project. It does address in part some of the east/west friction in that corridor. The County agreed to help out from the standpoint of acquiring some of the right-of-way in allowing the City to take the lead. This does it. The County Commission, once you'd heard the initial proposal from the City, wanted to make sure that there were limitations — restrictions, if you will — on how much the County would do. We're staying within those guidelines and we're coming to you with an agreement that is consistent with our partnership with the City of Savannah.

Commissioner Odell said, Russ [Abolt], I asked that this be pulled, and my concern was that we had a major uproar from citizens on DeRenne Avenue, and this is part of that east/west bypass and it will —. County Manager Abolt said, you're right, sir. Commissioner Odell said, — and although DeRenne and Habersham — that is Helen's [Stone] district, isn't it? We've had some discussions of this and I'm a little bit uneasy and unready — and, Jon [Hart] has — do you have a point? County Attorney Hart said, yes, this is just a situation in which the County agreed to assist with the acquisition with Comcast, their utility. There's some unusual issues there in regard to how you have to acquire property for utility. The County does a lot of that through its road program, and basically we just helped the City acquire that piece of the puzzle and let it go back via a City project. It's just much more efficient for our office to do it versus somebody else's. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, and I understand that, but I guess my ultimate question is the problems that were identified on the DeRenne widening, this furthers that discussion, doesn't it? County Manager Abolt said, it adds — it contributes a localized solution, yes sir. Commissioner

Odell said, a localized solution. County Manager Abolt said, localized on that end of DeRenne, yes sir. This was a project that Mayor Johnson and the City Council came to the County Commission and said please help us. We gave it priority and, as Jon [Hart] said, we had the people that did the job — did the job well. The City wanted to take advantage of that and the County Commission said, “Yes, by all means.” Commissioner Odell said, I remember those discussions.

Commissioner Odell said, I move for approval. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, let’s go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve an Option for Right-of-Way between Chatham County and Comcast for the acquisition of Comcast’s property at 5515 Abercorn Street in association with the City of Savannah’s Hampstead Avenue Extension Project, and that the Board authorize the Chairman to subsequently execute a quitclaim deed conveying the property to the City. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-6

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE: To approve an Option for Right of Way between the County and Comcast for the acquisition of Comcast’s property at 5515 Abercorn Street in association with the City of Savannah’s Hampstead Avenue Extension Project, and that the Board authorize the Chairman to subsequently execute a Quit Claim Deed conveying the property to the City.

BACKGROUND: On November 4, 2005, the Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Savannah for the Project, which included a provision wherein the County would act as the acquiring entity and provide right of way acquisition services for the project. The Intergovernmental Agreement further specified that the County would convey the properties acquired to the City and the City would be responsible for all utility relocation activities, property management tasks and disposal of surplus property, if any.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The property owner (Comcast) has accepted the Fair Market Value (FMV) offer of \$1,775,000 for the 1.83 acre property located on Abercorn Street just south of DeRenne Avenue.

2. The property is the site of Comcast’s central broadband processing facility for its cable television operation. Under State and Federal law, this facility is considered a “utility” which must be handled as a utility relocation issue separate from the real estate acquisition.

3. Comcast’s utility facilities have “prior rights” which the City must address by granting Comcast easement rights on the property. The City cannot grant easement rights to Comcast until the County obtains title to the property and subsequently conveys the property to the City.

4. The Option for Right of Way has a Rider which contains the owner's Special Provisions. Comcast’s conditions specified in the Rider stipulate that Comcast and the County will close in escrow pending the County’s conveyance of the property to the City and the City’s execution of the utility relocation and easement agreements with Comcast. Comcast’s conditions, and the form and content of the utility relocation and easement agreements, have been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney..

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To authorize approval of the Option for Right of Way between the County and Comcast and the County’s subsequent conveyance of the property to the City of Savannah.

2. To deny authorization and approval.

FUNDING: Funding is available in the 1998 - 2003 SPLOST, East/West Corridor, Hampstead Avenue Extension, (Fund/Department 322- 4220 / Account Code 57.30101/ Project 322-51100.).

POLICY ANALYSIS: Approval is consistent with the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Alternative #1.

District 1 and 5

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7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SCHEDULE BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT SO THAT CHATHAM COUNTY MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES NECESSITATED BY HARBOR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request of a Cooperative Agreement Schedule between Chatham County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, so that Chatham County may be reimbursed for mosquito control services necessitated by harbor maintenance activities. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Henry B. Lewandowski, Mosquito Control Director

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a Cooperative Agreement Schedule between Chatham County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District so that Chatham County may be reimbursed for mosquito control services necessitated by harbor maintenance activities.

BACKGROUND: The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is appropriately assuming primary responsibility for pest management reimbursement that has been provided by the Georgia Department of Transportation in Chatham County's FY 2006 and FY 2007. Beginning in FY 2008, the Georgia Department of Transportation will assume a minor role regarding reimbursement for mosquito control activities necessitated by harbor maintenance activities.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Chatham County has provided mosquito control services in and around the Savannah Harbor for a number of years. Some of the local nuisance and disease risk created by the mosquito populations may be attributed harbor maintenance activities.

2. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is permitted to pay for mosquito control at dredged material disposal areas when the Corps is responsible for operation and management costs pursuant to the Water Resource Development Act of 1996. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts are encouraged to enter into cooperative monitoring and control arrangements for pest control.
3. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, has proposed a Cooperative Agreement Schedule to reimburse Chatham County within approved funding limits, for mosquito control activities necessitated by harbor maintenance activities.
4. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, has allocated approximately \$100,000 for pest management activities in federal FY 2007. With adequate documentation provided by Chatham County Mosquito Control, there is potential for reimbursement at a higher level in future years.
5. Execution of 1) the Cooperative Agreement Schedule; and 2) the Applicant's Certification is required to receive reimbursement from The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District.
6. The County's Legislative Liaison has reviewed and endorsed the 1) the Cooperative Agreement Schedule; and 2) the Applicant's Certification.

FUNDING: Revenue budgets will be established in the General M & O Fund.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is the policy of the Board to promote efficient and cost effective operations and to diversify its sources of revenue.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Cooperative Agreement Schedule between Chatham County and the U. S. Army Corps on Engineers, Savannah District, so that Chatham County may be reimbursed for mosquito control services.
2. Provide staff with alternate direction.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Alternative #1.

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CREATE TWO CHILD SUPPORT SECURITY POSITIONS FOR CHILD SUPPORT AND RECOVERY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve a request to create two (2) Child Support Security positions (\$153,430) for Child Support and Recovery until Child Support Recovery is relocated to the South Annex in late 2008, when the positions will end. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-8**AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** Michael A. Kaigler, Director
Human Resources and Services**Issue:**

To request Board approval to create two (2) Child Support Security positions for Child Support and Recovery.

Background:

The courthouse renovation project requires the relocation of the Child Support Recovery office. It has been determined that this move may make the office more vulnerable to security risks. To address this, the Board of Commissioners, at the February 23, 2007 meeting, approved funding to create two (2) Child Support Security positions for the Courthouse Project. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize the creation of two Deputy Sheriff positions to perform this function.

Facts and Findings:

1. The Sheriff's Department is currently proving temporary staffing for the Child Support and Recovery Office.
2. To fulfill the security requirements, staff is requesting that two Deputy Sheriff positions be created.
3. Once Child Support Recovery is relocated to the South Annex, in late 2008, the funding for the positions in the Courthouse Project will end.

Funding:

The funding for the two Deputy positions (\$153,430) will come from the Montgomery Street Courthouse Project, Sales Tax IV.

Policy Analysis:

State law and the Enabling Act provide that only the Board can authorize additional personnel positions and provide funding. In the past, the Board of Commissioners has approved resource enhancements to departments where a need has been demonstrated, and these enhancements maintain the delivery of services to the citizens of Chatham County at adequate and efficient levels.

Recommendation: That the Board adopt Alternative #1.

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9. TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH G.E. CAPITAL PUBLIC FINANCE, INC. TO PROVIDE A CAPITAL LEASE FOR A RADIO FREQUENCY ID FILE TRACKING SYSTEM AND EQUIPMENT FOR SCANNING OF CRIMINAL CASE FILES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement with G.E. Capital Public Finance, Inc., to provide a capital lease for a radio frequency ID File Tracking System and equipment for scanning of criminal case files. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-9

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director
Lewis, Leonard, ICS Director

ISSUE: To authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement with G.E. Capital Public Finance Inc. to provide a capital lease for a radio frequency ID File Tracking System and equipment for scanning of criminal case files.

BACKGROUND: The Clerk of Superior Court and the Superior Court Case Manager have asked for an RF ID File Tracking System and equipment to be used for the scanning of criminal case files.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Clerk of Superior Court is requesting an RF ID File Tracking system to be used by the Courts in the Montgomery Street Courthouse, Court and the Records Center at the Eisenhower Campus. The cost of this system is \$283,000.
2. The Superior Court Case Manager is requesting funding for a Criminal Case File Scanning system that would provide a "paper on demand" and redundancy for criminal case files. The cost of the system is estimated at \$142,000.
3. Due to an oversight by the departments, the projects were not submitted for evaluation in the 2007 CIP Plan, and therefore have not been rated.
4. The ICS Department fully supports these two investments in much-needed technology. The County could finance the purchase of the equipment through the County's master lease with G.E. Capital Public Finance Inc.
5. G. E. Capital has provided a quotation to finance \$425,000 at a 4.99% interest rate.

FUNDING:

GE Public Finance has proposed to fund a \$425,000 lease at 4.99% over 5 years. The first payment under this lease would be November 1, 2007 with an end date of May 1, 2012.

The annual debt service for the proposed lease would be:

Fiscal 2008	\$97,095
Fiscal 2009	\$97,095
Fiscal 2010	\$97,095
Fiscal 2011	\$97,095
Fiscal 2012	\$97,095

Funding would be provided by the General Fund.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Use of master lease agreements is consistent with prior actions. In addition, financing of equipment will allow the Board to use available funds in the Capital Improvement Program for other needs that can not be financed, such as maintenance needs.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the Chairman to execute an agreement with G. E. Capital Public Finance, Inc. for the purchase of an e-mail archiving system and equipment for scanning of criminal case files as identified in the attachments,
2. Defer the funding decision on the project until after CIP Plan deliberations are completed; or
3. Disapprove the project and the financing mechanism.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Board Consideration.

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10. TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A SUBSTANDARD-SIZED VACANT LOT IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AT 921 WEST 37TH STREET AND CONVEY IT TO THE ADJOINING LAND OWNER TO CLARIFY OWNERSHIP. [DISTRICT 8.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to declare as surplus a substantial-sized vacant lot in the City of Savannah at 921 West 37th Street (PIN 2-0067-13-026), described as "38 Demere Ward." Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: *X-10*

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

ISSUE:

To declare as surplus a substandard-sized vacant lot in the City of Savannah at 921 West 37th Street and convey it to the adjoining land owner to clarify ownership.

BACKGROUND:

At the March 14, 2003, meeting, the Board declared as surplus 923 West 37th Street in the Savannah and authorized its sale based on Chatham County's legal interest held by tax deed (unpaid taxes). In accordance with established procedure required

by state law, staff advertised the property and conducted an open auction. The successful bidder accepted a quit claim deed and committed to obtain marketable title to the property; however, the bidder erroneously assumed the auction included Lot 38 and Lot 39 of Demere Ward based on visual appearance of the property and began maintaining both lots in preparation of building a house. In clearing title, the high bidder learned he only holds title to Lot 38 (923 West 37th Street) and not Lot 39 (West 37th Street). Because each lot only comprises a 30-foot width, he cannot develop one lot without the owner. Meanwhile, the County cannot dispose of one without the other.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The property of interest is known as 921 West 37th Street. It is a vacant 30 foot x 100 foot lot (about .079 acres), which substandard for development without a variance. The legal description describes it as "38 DEMERE WD," with a Property Identification Number of 2-0067-13-026.
2. Chatham County owns tax interest (Sheriff's Deed) in this property because of the default of the property owner of record to pay taxes or pursue any form of redemption. Chatham County's interest remains as a tax lien and not any established marketable title; thus, any auction attempts only to convey Chatham County's interest in the property (the property previously went to sale on the Courthouse steps, but because no one bid on it, state law provides it becomes titled in the name of the County to ensure no transfer of the property until the tax liability becomes settled).
3. Because tax deed properties involve interest acquired through default of taxes, staff explains to any prospective buyers the problems that can arise with marketable title. The owner assumes all liability to clear title, which includes paying off all outstanding tax liability.
4. In this instance, the successful bidder of Lot 39 assumed the County's offer included Lot 38. Despite maintaining both properties, he cannot proceed with construction of a house without the larger lot. He would be willing to pay outstanding taxes, penalties and interest, which is Chatham County's goal in selling tax deed properties since the more important issue should be returning the properties to tax-generating status.
5. The Board previously authorized the conveyance of Lot 38 to the City of Savannah; however, the City of Savannah did not execute its interest since the lot would be too small to develop without Lot 39.

FUNDING:

Funding is not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Declare Lot 38 as surplus and authorize staff to convey for outstanding taxes, penalties and interest to the owner of Lot 39 as clarification of the sale approved March 14, 2003.
2. Declare Lot 38 as surplus but offer the property for public use after advertising.
3. Do not authorize staff to proceed with disposition of the property.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 36-9-3), Chatham County must follow certain procedures in the disposition of public property. While recent amendments to this code section make this task easier, the law requires certain procedures to maintain the public's interest in property it owns. Returning these properties to private ownership achieves the county's goals of returning property to tax generating status and responsible maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

District 8

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11. RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF FEDERAL HOUSE BILL 810 AND SENATE BILL 559 REQUIRING THE REPLACEMENT OF COUNTY EXISTING VOTING SYSTEMS WITH ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS TO PRODUCE VOTER VERIFIABLE PAPER TRAIL AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE 2008 FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve a resolution opposing the passage of Federal House Bill 810 and Senate Bill 559 requiring the replacement of County existing voting systems with electronic voting systems to produce voter verifiable paper trail and implementation for the 2008 Federal elections. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-11

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution Opposing House Bill HR811 and Senate House Bill S. 559

As per our discussion, please see the attached material which the National Association of Counties (NACO) is requesting local county boards of commission to pass resolutions opposing federal House Bill HR811 AND Senate House Bill S 559. (See attached). According to NACO, this legislation would require voter verified permanent paper ballot with experimental new scanning technology that would require Chatham County to replaces it recently acquired new voting system. Please see the attached letter of concurrence from Ray M. Thomas, Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Elections.

I have attached a proposed resolution in support of opposing the federal legislation. Obviously, this is a policy matter for the Board to make a determination.

RJH/jr

cc: Board of Commissioners
Board of Elections of Chatham County
Russell Bridges, Board of Elections

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County in their regular meeting of April 13, 2007, upon a motion being made and properly seconded, did adopt this Resolution.

WHEREAS, there is currently pending before the United States House of Representatives a Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 (The Bill); and,

WHEREAS, there is also pending in the United States Senate, Senate Bill 559, a bill voter verified paper ballot; and,

WHEREAS, the state of intent of the bill is to acquire nationwide voter verified permanent paper ballots; and,

WHEREAS, the affect of the bill, if adopted, would be to render useless the recently acquired voting machines currently used by Chatham County and throughout Georgia unlawful; and,

WHEREAS, Chatham County would be required to replace its voting machines with the new machines with a cost in excess of \$1 million dollars and no ability to sell the used machines to recapture or minimize costs; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the voting equipment required by the bill would increase voting waiting times by 33% and increase cost of elections by approximately 20%.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners pass this Resolution for the passage of this Bill with the direction of the Clerk of Commission to forward to the federal legislative delegation copies of the resolution to oppose this legislation.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this _____ day of _____, 2007.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

By: _____
Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

Attest: _____
Sybil Tillman, Clerk
Chatham County Commission
[SEAL]

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- 12. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2007. PETITIONER: THOMAS E. WHITE, D/B/A GRAND LAKE LODGE & SPA, LOCATED AT 815 SOUTHBRIDGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Thomas E. White, d/b/a Grand Lake Lodge & SPA, located at 815 Southbridge Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2007. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-12
AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

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

ISSUE

Request for renewal Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2007, Thomas E. White, d/b/a Grand Lake Lodge & Spa, located at 815 Southbridge Boulevard.

BACKGROUND

Mr. White requests approval for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license in connection with an existing fitness club facility at Southbridge. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday Sales Ordinance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 7

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13. 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) self contained leaf collector	Public Works	Old Dominion Brush Company	\$26,431	CIP - Public Works
B. Annual price agreement to provide various types of high volume printing	Various	•VIP Office Furniture and Supply (WBE) •Wynn Business Systems, Inc.	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
C. Five (5) digital reader printer	Superior Court Clerk	Milner, Inc. (State Contract)	\$42,153	General Fund/M&O - Superior Court Clerk
D. Contract for construction of the Wilmington Island Road Culvert Rehabilitation	CIP	E & D Contracting Services, Inc. (WBE)	\$157,736	CIP - Wilmington Island Road Outfall project
E. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for comprehensive inventory and GIS database of municipal storm sewer system in unincorporated Chatham County for continuation of collecting and incorporating data into the database	Engineering	Jordan, Jones & Goulding	\$200,000	SSD - Engineering

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
F. Engineering Services contract for professional services related to monitoring of buildings during construction of storm sewer improvements	SPLOST	WPC (Sole Source)	\$29,000	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage, Fawcett Canal
G. Labor and material to install the communications system at the Islands Police Precinct	SPLOST	Layer 3 Communicati ons	\$50,520	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Police Merger
H. Change Order No. 3 to the design contract for the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum addition for additional revisions to abide construction permitting requirements	SPLOST	Goode Van Slyke Architects	\$7,040	Contract modification only. No additional funds necessary (project contingency)
I. Change Order No. 1 to the design/ engineering contract for additional services for the Behavioral Health Center	2005 DSA Bonds	Hansen Associates	\$23,604	2005 DSA Bond Series
J. Amendment to the contract to review the County's employee health benefits program to conduct a medical claims audit	Human Resources	Buck Consultants	\$29,000	Employee Health Benefits Fund

As to Items 13-A through 13-J, except Item 13-E:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items 13-A through 13-J, except Item 13-E. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

As to Item 13-E:

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to understand what this is for. Is there anyone —?

Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have anybody here from —. County Manager Abolt said, yes. We have Mr. Uhl, our expert on drainage, who's just flown in from Statesboro. Mr. Uhl in private life is a pilot. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself, please.

Mr. Bill Uhl said, yes sir. My name is Bill Uhl. I'm an engineer and I work in the Department of Engineering with Mr. Bungard. Okay, the item is additional funds, which will be used to continue the Storm Water Sewer Inventory Program with JJ&G. They are in the field of gathering the data, collecting information on manholes, storm sewers, outfalls to various streams. This is mandated by the EPD and is required under our NPDES permit that we create or develop an inventory of all of our storm sewer systems. This change order will allow us to continue this work.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it basically helps with the Countywide coordinate — further coordinating the Countywide drainage plan. Right? Mr. Uhl said, oh, yes, absolutely. The data will be useful in planning and pre-design efforts throughout the County, as well as filling the need of this permit.

Commissioner Stone said, and the change order just allows for you to —. Mr. Uhl said, continue the work. Commissioner Stone said, okay, that was my main question.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if someone puts a new ditch in or whatever, storm drainage, they need to be able to put it in there. We've had recently with all of the municipalities out there conflicting type views between engineering firms where one thought the elevation was this and the other thought it was that, but with this type of input and update system, it will eliminate a lot of the future problems and a lot of that future growth will drain better. So, it is a good plan.

Commissioner Stone said, I just wanted to understand what the change order was necessary for. Thank you. Commissioner Odell asked, you move for approve? Commissioner Stone said, I move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second for Item 13-E. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

Commissioner Odell said, before we leave Mr. Uhl, for those people who have neighborhood association meetings and you are beaten up about drainage or flooding or anything of that nature, take Mr. Uhl to those meetings. Commissioner Farrell said, he's also a lagoon expert. Commissioner Odell said, he is excellent as far as —, he will answer the questions. He rolled up his sleeve and genuinely showed a concern for the citizens and they've not harassed me so I think we solved their problem. County Manager Abolt said, and he doesn't lose his patience either. Commissioner Odell said, and he — he is Job. I mean, he does not lose his patience.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items 13-A through 13-J, except Item 13-E. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]
- b. Commissioner Stone moved to approve Item 13-E. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

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

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

1. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

Chairman Liakakis said, under Item 1 now, you know, there’s no discussion, but there is some change, so I’ll call on the County Attorney to give us the information on Item 1 under First Reading.

County Attorney Hart said, this is an ordinance that was requested by our police department some time back concerning the parking of commercial vehicles in recreational vehicles of size greater than 20 feet. We are going to probably amend that to 22 feet. Commissioner Farrell pointed out a couple of things that make a lot of sense. The idea — and we’re further going to amend this to limit it to subdivisions with either restrictive covenants that may be expired. This will keep people from parking their trailers, commercial vehicles and other things in their front yard or side yards and in neighborhoods where there is not meant to put them.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Jon [Hart], do we leave that under one until you get it modified? County Attorney Hart said, what I plan to do is just to go ahead and declare this to be the first reading with that I’ve just announced that we’re going to make and then between now and the next meeting I’ll make those modifications and you should be able to —. Chairman Liakakis said, have it for second reading. Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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**2. THE PETITIONER JAMIE CSIZMADIA, AGENT (FOR KERN COLEMAN & CO) IS REQUESTING THE REZONING OF A 33.45 ACRE SITE LOCATED AT 663 LITTLE NECK ROAD FROM A R-A (RESIDENTIAL - AGRICULTURE) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A PUD-M-6 (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT - MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL - 6 UNITS PER NET ACRE) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-070302-29580-1**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

**1. THE PETITIONER COTTONTOP ASSOCIATES, LLC., AGENT (FOR J. CORDE WILSON) IS REQUESTING REZONING AT FORT ARGYLE ROAD FROM AN R-A-W-T CLASSIFICATION TO A PDR-SM CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-070126-33968-1**

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, is there any opposition in the audience? Commissioner Odell said, none. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if you would like to speak —. Chairman Liakakis said, somebody hasn't voted. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Cottontop Associates, LLC., Agent (for J. Corde Wilson) requesting rezoning at Fort Argyle Road from an R-A-W-T classification to a PDR-SM classification. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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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: April 13, 2007**

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>
Install concrete walls with monolithic footing for the walks going around the Julie Backus Smith statute at Lake Mayer	Parks and Recreation	Coastline Concrete Services, Inc.	\$6,435	Land Bank Authority
Provide labor to install pavers for walks going around the Julie Backus Smith statute at Lake Mayer	Parks and Recreation	Savannah Hardscapes	\$3,931	Land Bank Authority
Purchase and install Walter Parker plaque at Tybee Pier	Parks and Recreation	Doug Bean Signs, Inc.	\$5,000	Land Bank Authority

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
380 - 5gl pails of white field marking paint	Parks and Recreation	The Paint Store	\$9,112	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Removal of 27 trees to include grinding stumps and clean up debris along the Green Island Road	Public Works and Park Services	Sharp Tree Service	\$5,075	SSD - Public Works
100 loads of fill dirt to be used as stock pile	Public Works and Park Services	Crosby Paving Company	\$4,000	SSD - Public Works
Delivery and installation of ten (10) palm trees for the Skidaway Road project	Public Works and Park Services	Hester & Zipperer	\$2,550	SSD - Public Works
145gl herbicides	Public Works and Park Services	Red River Specialties, Inc.	\$2,585	SSD - Public Works
450 tons stone for the construction of the Wilmington Island Drop-Off Center	Solid Waste	Martin Marietta Aggregates	\$9,000	Solid Waste
Paint and body work to Public Works vehicle	Fleet Operations	A & L Autobody, Inc.	\$3,085	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Heavy duty automatic transmission service machine	Fleet Operations	Advance Auto Parts	\$3,845	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Six (6) Dell desktop computers	Fleet Operations	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$7,570	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Waste disposal of residual mosquito control chemicals	Mosquito Control	Moran Environmental Recovery	\$4,716	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Annual inspection for one of the Chieftain fixed wing aircraft	Mosquito Control	Precision Aircraft Services, Inc.	\$3,900	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Skidaway Road Bridge culvert inspection and report	SPLOST	Collins Engineers, Inc.	\$6,646	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Unincorporated Roads
Install flashing light service over Highway 17 for Southwest Middle School	SPLOST	Georgia Power	\$3,480	SPLOST (1985-1993) - U.S. Highway 17/ Ogeechee River to Abercorn
Two (2) Canon scanners with three (3) year maintenance agreement	State Court Judge	GHA Technologies, Inc.	\$6,600	General Fund/M&O - State Court Judge
Two (2) Dell laptop computers	Voter Registration	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$3,900	General Fund/M&O - Voter Registration
Four (4) Dell desktop computers	Voter Registration	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$5,715	General Fund/M&O - Voter Registration
Six (6) Dell desktop computers	Detention Center	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$7,690	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Install, terminate, test and label 18 data and 18 voice cables at the Old Courthouse	CEMA	Entre Solution (MBE)	\$3,650	CIP - CEMA Equipment
Replacement of one (1) 13ftx9ft complete curtain and bottom bar, lubricate and adjust	Parking Garage	Overhead Door Company of Savannah	\$2,875	Parking Garage
Replace door operator	Parking Garage	Otis Elevator	\$8,375	Parking Garage

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Roads
AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer
ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County road projects.

BACKGROUND: The schedules for construction are dictated by GDOT allocations of funds among the Congressional districts and the balancing of funds in the Chatham Urban Transportation Study (CUTS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was approved by the CUTS Policy Committee on June 22, 2005. The TIP was approved on June 28, 2006. Key milestone events are summarized in the attached table.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway
 - a. Phase 3. Lighting project by GDOT is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2007.
 - b. Phase 4. Punch list items remain. Acceptance by GDOT from R.B. Baker is pending.
 - c. Phase 5. Right of way (ROW) plans were approved by the GDOT on June 30, 2005. Property acquisitions are underway and will take until April 2008 to complete (26 parcels acquired by early acquisition; 65 parcels to acquire). Final design continues.
2. Whitfield Avenue Widening. The FHWA approved the EA on February 13, 2004. Preliminary design was completed in June, 2004. Staff was advised in January, 2005, however, that the widening of the median for landscaping and the proposed reduction in speed limit would require amending the previously approved Concept Report and Environmental Assessment. A revised Concept Report was submitted

to GDOT on July 6, 2005. A Public Information Open House (PIOH) was held on February 28, 2006. As a result of a meeting with the GDOT Project Manager on May 2, 2006, the GDOT provided (by email) written guidance as to an acceptable minimum landscaped median width (not less than 40 feet) and a design speed (45 mph). The consultant received additional comments from GDOT on July 19, 2006, and responded on August 17, 2006. Approval of the Concept Report (and the design concept) is on hold pending resolution of the design speed, the median width and tree planting opportunities.

3. US 17, Ogeechee River to SR 204: The bonding company for the GDOT project awarded a new contract to complete the job. The estimated completion is May 2007.

4. Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road Widening. Scheduled completion is May 31, 2008.

5. Diamond Causeway Widening. Because of issues regarding the impact of changed design criteria (width of median and design speed of high span bridge) on approval of the EA, the GDOT took over management of the project. In the meantime, the County offered to do the widening on Skidaway Island by permit. The plans and permit are pending GDOT approval. The Landings Association has signed the donation letter. Closing is pending. The project is ready to bid. It will be advertised as soon as the easement agreement is signed.

6. Bay Street Widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct. The Concept Report was approved by the GDOT on February 9, 2005. The FHWA approved the Draft EA for Advancement to Public Hearing on October 20, 2006. The public hearing was held January 18, 2007. The next milestone is completion of the EA and approval by FHWA.

7. Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2 (I-16 to US 80). The FHWA approved the Final EA on March 3, 2006. On September 22, 2006, the Board approved a change order for the engineering services contract to complete the design.

8. Stephenson Avenue. Substantially complete as of April 1, 2005. Liquidated damages totaling \$54,450 were assessed from December 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. GDOT, County, City of Savannah and APAC performed the joint final inspection on June 14, 2005. A punch list was compiled (129 items) and given to APAC on June 21, 2005. Some punch list items remain uncorrected. Staff started the process to find them in default. In the meantime, APAC filed a law suit against the County.

9. White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Road. A PIOH was held on August 12, 2004. The Need and Purpose Statement was revised to essentially create a 3-lane section from Willow Road to Cedar Grove (near entrance to Country Day School) and to

improve the two lanes (i.e. widen pavement to 12 feet wide travel lanes) from Cedar Grove to Rose Dhu Road. It was submitted to GDOT January 19, 2006. The project will include either sidewalks on both sides or a multi-purpose trail on one side. GDOT has transferred management of the project from Atlanta to the Jesup District Office. The revised Need and Purpose Statement has been approved by GDOT and sent to FHWA for comments.

10. Eisenhower Widening from Abercorn to Truman Parkway. The Concept Report was approved by GDOT on June 22, 2004. Because of the high estimated ROW costs (over \$22 million -- local cost), the City of Savannah, County and consultant proposed reductions in the project. The proposal was sent to GDOT October 28, 2005. This project has also been transferred to the Jesup District Office to manage. City and County staffs have met to discuss further reducing the scope of the project. A revised concept with reduced right-of-way impacts is being evaluated.

11. Abercorn Widening from Truman Parkway to U.S. 17. The GDOT is managing a project for Abercorn Street from Truman Parkway (Phase 5) to U.S. 17. PIOHs were held November 14, 2006 at AASU and November 15 at the SW Middle School on U.S. 17. GDOT and consultants are evaluating comments and alternatives.

12. Skidaway Widening. The Final EA was approved by the FHWA on December 30, 2004. The Board approved a new engineering services contract with the County's consultant on October 20, 2006, to resume design of the project incorporating all new GDOT requirements known to date.

13. Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement. LPA Group (consultant) is under contract with County to develop the Concept Report. A PIOH was held on May 26, 2005, presenting three alternatives to construct high span bridges. Written responses to the comments are complete. The last utility relocation estimate was received and the consultant submitted the Concept Report on August 8, 2006, to GDOT. A Concept Team Meeting is scheduled for April 26.

14. Abercorn Intersection Improvements (DeRenne Avenue, Mall Boulevard, Apache Drive, Tibet Avenue). The County has certified the ROW to GDOT for DeRenne, Apache and Mall Boulevard. The ROW issue with the City of Savannah involving Tibet has been resolved. Appraisals for the Tibet Avenue intersection are complete. The two condemnations have been forwarded to GDOT for filing.

15. Local Roads

- a. Fountain Road. Board approved the construction contract on June 12, 2006. NTP was issued July 24, 2006. Estimated completion is in May 2007.

- b. Mobley Street, Yucca Place, Perkins Place. The Board approved award of the construction contract on April 7, 2006. The project is substantially complete. A final inspection and punch list of corrections remain to be done.
- c. Heather Street, Shore Road. Both roads are substantially complete. Clean up, dressing of the shoulders and a stand of grass remain. A final inspection and punch list of corrections remain to be done.
- d. Dulany Road. The request for County Contract with GDOT was approved by the Board on October 21, 2005. Several alternatives have been designed. The project is on hold because of right of way issues with one of the two property owners affected by the project.
- e. Palm Drive. Construction plans are complete. Bid opening is scheduled for April 24, 2007.
- f. Old Pine Barren Road. ROW acquisition and construction plans are complete. Funding from GDOT for a County Contract has been delayed due to funds committed to other projects in Chatham County (i.e. Gulfstream Product Support Road). Consequently, the project will have to be constructed using only County SPLOST funds. Expect to have a bid opening in May.
- g. Stone Street. The Board authorized entering into a County Contract with GDOT on February 24, 2006. The request (GDOT Form 532) was sent to GDOT on March 1, 2006. GDOT authorized preparation of a County Contract by copy of letter to the Jesup District Engineer Glenn Durrence dated November 8, 2006. Contract documents were in the process of being executed. Final construction plans are near completion. Acquisition of a permanent drainage easement remains to be completed. Although the County Contract process was well under way, the GDOT State Aid Administrator, now advises they cannot commit funds for this project. As a result, this project will also proceed using only County funds.
- h. Chatham Health Department Roadway Connector. The bid opening was January 24, 2007. The Board approved award of a construction contract to A. D. Williams Contracting in the amount of \$154, 991 on the February 9, 2007. Notice to Proceed is pending receipt of proof of bond and insurance. The project has 130 days to complete after Notice to Proceed is issued.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

SUMMARY OF ROAD PROJECT STATUS

April 2007

PROJECT	ELEMENT	MILESTONE FOR COMPLETION	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	NOTES
Truman Parkway, Phase 5	Environmental ROW Final Design Construction	Complete April 2008 Nov 2007	County County/GDOT County/GDOT GDOT	EIS approved 8/12/99 Acquisition underway. CST FY 2009
US 17: Ogeechee River to SR 204	Construction	April 2007	GDOT	
Middleground/Montgomery Cross Road Widening	Construction	May 2008	GDOT	Change order with APAC signed May 31, 2006.
Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2	Environmental ROW Design Construction	Mar 2006	County County County GDOT	Final EA approved by FHWA. CST LR
Whitfield Avenue Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Feb 2004	County County County/GDOT GDOT	EA/FONSI approved 2/13/04. On hold - median/tree issue. ROW funded FY2006/07 CST FY 2008
Diamond Causeway Widening and two bridges	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Unknown	GDOT GDOT GDOT GDOT	Draft EA signed Feb 05. ROW FY 2007 CST FY 2010
Skidaway Road Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Complete	County County County GDOT	Final EA signed 12/30/04. New contract 10/20/06. CST FY 2010
Bay Street from I-516 to Viaduct	Environmental ROW Final Design Construction	Mar 2007	County County County GDOT	Draft EA approved 10/20/06. ROW (Local cost) FY 2008 CST LR
White Bluff/Coffee Bluff	Environmental	Unknown	County	CST FY 2010
Eisenhower (Abercorn to Truman Parkway)	Environmental Construction		County	Concept Report approved 6/22/04. CST FY 2010
NOTES: CST = FY in which the projects are programmed for construction in the CUTS 2007-2009 TIP.				

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Drainage**AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** A. G. Bungard, County Engineer**ISSUE:** To provide information on the status of Chatham County drainage projects.

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

FACTS AND FINDING:**1. Pipemakers Canal**

- a. Phase 1 (From the outfall at Savannah River to SR 21). Increase channel size, replace bridges, replace tidegate, and provide maintenance access. Construction is complete and the new sluice gates function automatically. A final pay request from the contractor and a summary change order are outstanding.
- b. Phase 2 (From SR 21 to I-95). Increase channel size and provide maintenance access. The permit application documents have been submitted to the USACE for approval. The Consultant and staff are working to address preliminary comments.
- c. Kahn Mitigation Site. This site will provide the necessary wetland mitigation for the Pipemakers Canal Drainage Improvement projects. Staff has been advised that the Federal Aviation Administration opposes the project on the basis of its potential to attract wildlife. Staff is working to resolve the issue with the USACE.
- d. Bridge Removal and Sheet Pile Wall Modifications. A project to remove an existing bridge that restricts drainage from Pipemakers Canal into the Savannah River. Work has been suspended while options with the Georgia Ports Authority are discussed.

2. Hardin Canal

- a. Phase 1 (SR307 bridges). Widen channel and replace canal crossings. The USACE has issued a permit. Preliminary construction and right of way drawings have been reviewed by staff and returned to the consultant.
- b. Phase 1 (Southbridge bridges). Replace bridge crossings. The owners of the Southbridge Golf Course offered to cooperate in a project to replace two

- bridges with wider structures. Right of way acquisition is underway. Design work will commence after the right of way is secured.
- c. Phase 2 (From 307 to Pine Barren Road). Widen channel and construct a detention pond. No target construction date. Staff is working to acquire canal rights of way for the future improvements on property owned by the Georgia Ports Authority.
3. Westlake/Springfield Canal CSX railroad undercrossing. Final Design is complete. Staff is working to acquire access onto Hunter Army Airfield property which is required to facilitate project construction. Staff expects to secure permission to enter onto HAAF property for project construction soon.
 4. Diggs Avenue Drainage (part of Louis Mills) This drainage improvement project involves improving drainage at the east end of Diggs Avenue. Notice to proceed with construction was issued to the contractor on June 9, 2006. Construction is complete.
 5. Conaway Branch Canal (tributary of Pipemakers Canal) Widen channel with road crossing improvements and a maintenance road from north of Main Street to the Pipemakers Canal.
 - a. Phase 1A extends from Pipemakers Canal to Conaway Road. Right of way acquisition is underway. Coordination with GDOT for the crossing at U.S. 80 is ongoing.
 - b. Phase 1B extends from Conaway Road to Main Street. There is no target date for completion.
 - c. Phase 1C includes the area west of Maple Street. Construction costs are to be funded by the City of Bloomingdale. Recommended improvements have been provided to the City of Bloomingdale.
 6. Little Hurst Canal Improve undercrossings at SR 21 and railroad, and widen channel downstream of S.R. 21. A project to acquire rights of way and easements, and to acquire the required permits is underway. The GPA granted approval to enter upon their affected properties. Geotechnical investigations are underway for design of the improvements.
 7. Wilmington Park Canal Phase 2 Widen channel and improve culvert crossings under Wilmington Island Road. The USACE permit expired on September 30, 2005. The scope of the project has been reduced to avoid costs associated with relocating City owned water and sewer utilities. Project is currently on hold.
 8. Kings Way Canal Phase 2 Widen channel and enlarge culverts from Kings Way Court to the Truman Parkway. Preliminary design and easement plans have been reviewed and returned to the consultant for revisions.

9. Romney Place Drainage Phase 2 Improve storm drains and road crossings on Romney Place and along Parkersburg Road. Final design drawings are complete. Permitting is complete and ROW acquisition is underway. The project will connect to the Skidaway Road Shoulder Improvement Project.
10. Village Green Canal, Phase 2 Improve the outfall and provide access for canal maintenance. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE. The Board approved the engineering services contract on February 23, 2007. Design work and right of way acquisition work is underway concurrently in an effort to expedite the project.
11. Port Industrial Park Improve the channel downstream from S.R. 307 to Pipemakers Canal. Design of the project is complete. Staff is working with Garden City staff and the property owner to coordinate plans for future development with the needs of the drainage improvement project.
12. Louis Mills Canal Widen channel from Veterans Parkway downstream to outfall at Westlake Canal and improve crossing under Marshall Avenue. Design is complete. Acquisition of easements and ROW is underway. The USACE has issued the wetlands permit. Staff is working to secure the necessary Stream Buffer Variance from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Construction work will be delayed until improvements can be made to the downstream railroad undercrossing that is a part of the Westlake/Springfield Canal Drainage Improvement Project.
13. Redgate/Rahn Dairy Provide larger undercrossings at several roads, widen the canal and provide for maintenance access. This project will reduce storm water flows in the Louis Mills system, as well as improve the drainage in the Rahn Dairy canal. Acquisition of easements is underway.
14. Ogeechee Farms Phase 2 Improve road crossings at various locations. The permit from the USACE has been received. Mitigation requirements have been met. A fee proposal from the Consultant for design of drainage improvements in additional areas identified by Public Works has been requested.
15. Fawcett Canal Phase 2 Provide increased storm water drainage capacity in areas affecting Red Fox Drive and White Hawthorne Drive. Design is complete. Acquisition of easements from the City of Savannah is complete. Acquisition of the remaining easements is underway.
16. Quacco Canal Drainage Improvements East of US17 Improve Quacco Canal and associated road undercrossing capacities from US 17 to marsh, including removal of a private tidegate structure. A construction contract was

- awarded on February 9, 2007. Estimated date of completion is March 14, 2008.
17. Quacco/Regency Park Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. Preliminary plans have been submitted to staff for review. The County Attorney has been asked to provide a legal opinion regarding relocating utilities located within road right of way.
 18. Halcyon Bluff Subdivision Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. Construction is approximately 85 percent complete.
 19. Golden Isles Subdivision Phase 2 Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. Approval by Health Department to proceed with the project has been obtained. Right of way acquisition is complete. Options to provide access for maintenance of the outfall are being evaluated. Staff is negotiating a fee proposal with the consultant to provide surveying services.
 20. Wilmington Outfall A project to correct storm sewer drainage pipes between Wilmington Road and the Wilmington River. Design work is completed and necessary easements for construction work have been obtained. Award of a contract for construction is pending approval by the Board of Commissioners.
 21. Henderson Channel and crossing improvements to alleviate flooding in the subdivision.
 - a. Brown Thrush Canal (a.k.a. Channel 1): Crossing and channel improvements on the canal parallel to Brown Thrush Road, from Al Henderson Blvd. to Little Neck Road. Design work is underway.
 - b. Little Neck Crossing: Replacement of the undersized culvert. Design work is underway.
 - c. Henderson Canal: Provide maintenance road for canal from Gateway Blvd. to Little Neck Road through wetlands. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE. No target construction date.
 22. Walthour Canal at Off Shore A project to improve the undersized culverts under the entrance road to the Off Shore Subdivision. Final construction documents have been received. Efforts continue to secure the necessary permits for construction of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

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

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4. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON NEW RECREATION RESOURCES (RAP).**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-4

AGENDA DATE: April 13, 2007

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Robert Drewry Director, Public Works and Park Services

ISSUE: Provide Board a status update on RAP

BACKGROUND:

At the Board's request, staff has developed a Recreational Action Plan (RAP) that best utilizes the additional funds allocated to Parks and Recreation for FY 07. It is staff's overall commitment to improve the visibility of the recreation facilities and the quality of recreational programs for the citizens of this community.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. To provide the Board with data on RAP
2. FY 06 staff was able to accomplish the following:
 - In-house renovation of Lake Mayer's Restrooms
 - Installed new infield mix for Ambuc Park, L. Scott Stell, and Charlie Brooks Park
 - Installed new backstop and foul line fencing for Ambuc Park
 - Hired nine Maintenance Workers
 - Replaced the scoreboards at Ambuc, L. Scott Stell, and Charlie Brooks Park
 - Replaced all roofs at Memorial Stadium
 - Purchased three new vehicles
 - Purchased material for the renovation of the restroom at Ambuc Park
 - Painted the exterior of the concession stand at L. Scott Stell, and Ambuc Park
 - Contracts were awarded to replace the roof on the large pavilion at Lake Mayer, and reconstruct/resurface eighteen tennis courts
3. With remaining funds allocated for FY 07, staff established a priority project list and anticipate proceeding with the following:
 - Mid-month completion date for replacing the Large pavilion roof at Lake Mayer.
 - Four of the eight courts at Lake Mayer have been resurfaced and are being used.

- Wilmington Islands courts will re-open in two to three weeks.
4. Priority projects identified on previous RAP reports that are still unfunded:
- Back stop fencing and dugouts replacement at L. Scott Stell

FUNDING:

Looking at CIP choices by Board in early 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

For Board Information Only

[All Districts]

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Odell and seconded by Commissioner Stone the board recessed at 12:15 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 12:45 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter 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 Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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APPOINTMENTS

1. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to reappoint George Cohen and William Haynes to the Historic Preservation Committee to a term to expire April 7, 2010. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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2. SAVANNAH INTERNATIONAL MARITIME & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to appoint Patrick Shay to the Savannah International Maritime & Trade Center Authority to a term which will expire May 1, 2010. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Thomas were not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2007

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION