

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 11 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 9:33 a.m., Friday, May 11, 2007.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Liakakis gave the Invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

- Present:                   Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
                              Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight  
                              Helen L. Stone, District One  
                              James J. Holmes, District Two  
                              Patrick Shay, District Three  
                              Patrick K. Farrell, District Four  
                              Harris Odell, Jr., District Five  
                              David M. Gellatly, District Six

- Absent:                    Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District Seven

Also present:            Russell Abolt, County Manager  
                         Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
                         Barbara Wright, Acting County Clerk

Commissioner Odell made a motion to excuse the absence of Dean Kicklighter. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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## **V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION OF YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY STUDENTS: CADET GORDON, DISTRICT 8; CADET OXENDINE, DISTRICT 7; CADET SHARP, DISTRICT 6; CADET IBRAHIM, DISTRICT 6; AND CADET RUFFIN, DISTRICT 8 (COMMISSIONER FARRELL).**

Chairman Liakakis said, before I ask Commissioner Farrell to call on them, I'd like to introduce two of the cadets and they are not part of the Chatham County Youth Commission, but we wanted them to be up there. The Youth Commission is out of school today and they were not attending, so we have Cadet Lasanté Ruffin, who's with the Youth Challenge Academy and Cadet Nicholas Oxendine, who is also with the Youth Academy. We welcome both of you sitting in the positions of our Chatham County Youth Commission this morning. Now I'll call on Chatham County Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, some months ago I had the pleasure of spending the day with many other community leaders down at Fort Stewart and I was introduced and shown around to the Youth Challenge Academy Program. It's an organization that reaches out to high school aged boys and girls that for whatever reason have opted out of finishing their high school education. It's a very intense rigorous education, military training and disciplinary type situation. It's completely voluntary. These are not folks that have to be there. They volunteer to go there. I was tremendously impressed by what the State of Georgia in conjunction with the military is doing out there and working with these young people and giving them a second chance that few people that make that choice to leave their high school environments get. So at this time I'd like to call the instructors for the Youth Challenge Academy to come to the podium and perhaps come on up and introduce your cadets, and I want to wish you on behalf of myself and the rest of the Commission a warm welcome to come and participate with the Chatham County Commission and learn a little bit about local government, which is part of their education process.

Ms. Denise Fisher said, I thank you, Commissioner Farrell. I live in Chatham County even though I work at Fort Stewart, so Patrick Farrell is my County Commissioner, first of all. I'd like to introduce the rest of the students. These are students from all over the State of Georgia, but because Chatham County is close, that's why we choose Chatham County. So I'll have them each introduce themselves and what county they will be going back to.

The following cadets introduced themselves: My name is Clayton Robinson, I live in Fulton County. William Shrope. My name is Albert King and I live in Fulton County. My name is Kenya R. Palmer [inaudible]. I'm Eric E. Villarreal [inaudible]; Gregory T. Williams.

Chairman Liakakis said, excuse me. If you want, each one of the cadets here, if you'll stand up and tell us what county you're from also. Ms. Fisher said, yes sir. Thank you.

My name is Nicholas Alexander Oxendine and I'm from Chatham County. My name is Shanté [inaudible] Ruffin and I'm from Chatham County. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Ms. Fisher said, I'm sorry, gentlemen. If you could tell the Commissioners which one is your Commissioner.

Cadet Oxendine said, my Commissioner's name is Dean Kicklighter. Cadet Ruffin said, my Commissioner is Dr. Priscilla Thomas.

Ms. Fisher said, thank you. And we have some appreciation gifts that these gentlemen have and also Cadet Palmer would like to present you, Chairman, at this time. Presentation of gifts were delivered to the Chairman and Commissioners. Several Commissioners said, thank you.

Ms. Fisher said, thank you again, Chairman and Commissioners.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much for what you're doing because this is making a difference with the youth that attend that particular academy. We've seen a big difference and they have been very successful in the past and we wish you well and may you always have a great success for each and every one of you.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Thomas said, I would just like to thank Commissioner Farrell for making this possible. Having had the opportunity of working with the Youth Challenge Program for two and a half years, served as a mentor for four young men, and I can truly say that it is an excellent program, helping these young people to get on the right track and still be very productive citizens. So I want to continue to challenge you to continue your pursuit because you can go as far as you want to go, and I know that you have been well disciplined. I don't have to say any more about that, and I'm just so proud of the fact that you've made it thus far and I know that you are going to continue on with your dreams. So thank you so very much for coming here this morning and we look forward to hearing great things from you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, Pat [Farrell], congratulations. Very good move. But let me say congratulations to all of you for this accomplished which you achieved today. But you know youth always wear different color wrist bands, and I would like to ask you what does this represent? A cadet said, integrity. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Commissioner Holmes said, thank you. I don't want to put on anything that represents something wrong, but I know it wouldn't be coming

from you all. A lesson learned is a lesson gained, and I don't want either one of you all to go through life not using the lesson that you learned. Congratulations again.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

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## **2. PROCLAMATION PRESENTED TO DANNY POWERS FOR BEING NAMED GEORGIA TAX COMMISSIONER OF THE YEAR.**

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a proclamation, a special proclamation, this morning and I would like to ask Tax Commissioner Danny Powers to come up to the podium. You know, we feel that we've got the best tax commissioner in the State of Georgia. Now I want all the public to know and everyone here that the tax commissioner is not the one that puts any kind of assessment on your property. He only collects taxes, because some people get made with Danny [Powers] and think he's the one that does that. He is not the one that does that. I want the public to know that. He just collects the money, you know, so that we are able to give the services to the citizens. And we've got a special proclamation for him this morning because you can see also that his peers in the State of Georgia, who are tax commissioners also, recognize him.

### ***PROCLAMATION***

**WHEREAS**, tax commissioners perform duties that are beneficial and vital for the successful operation of local and state government, and today we show our pride for Chatham County's Tax Commissioner, Danny Powers; and

**WHEREAS**, Danny Powers assumed the responsibilities and duties of Chatham County's Tax Commissioner January 2, 1995, and has successfully taken on the many task this office is required to perform to enure Chatham County's Tax Commissioner Office remains effective and efficient; and

**WHEREAS**, Danny Powers is a member of the Georgia Association of Tax Officials and has served in such capacities as chairman of the Legislative Committee and First Vice President and during the 45<sup>th</sup> Institute of County Tax Officials, he was named 2007 Georgia Tax Commissioner of the Year and elected to serve a two year term as President of the Georgia Association of Tax Commissioners.

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

***DANNY POWERS***

for being awarded the title of Georgia’s 2007 Tax Commissioner of the Year and for his election to serve as President of the Georgia Association of Tax Commissioners and extend to him our sincere appreciation for his outstanding management of the Chatham County’s Tax Commissioner Office.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2007.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Liakakis said, congratulations again, Danny [Powers].

Tax Commissioner Powers said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, for the recognition and proclamation. We have 159 counties in this great state, and being named Tax Commissioner of the year is a great honor and I am very, very humbled. This honor would not have happened without a great supporting cast, and by that I mean my co-workers. They do so much for me and the citizens of our County. I am very blessed. Again, thank you. I appreciate it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Danny [Powers], before you go, I was thinking we need to change the County’s motto, and it should read something like “World Class Services at the Fairest Lowest Possible Tax Rate.” Something along those lines because you received this award, and it’s an honor. You have been selected by your peers to represent their organization. That is an honor. We are not the largest county in the State of Georgia and for you to rise to that level, I think it speaks high towards what we are doing here in Chatham County. I really do, and you are to be commended. That does not mean that we are going to approve your budget request. Tax Commissioner Powers said, and now that I have the microphone —. Commissioner Odell said, but we have plenty of accommodations for you. Maybe no additional money, but we’ve got some commendations.

Tax Commissioner Powers said, well, this is a great honor and I appreciate what y’all have done here this morning.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I would just like to echo those words also. Having served with Mr. Powers over the years has really been a pleasure. I don’t care how many times you may call him or go in and out of that office for whatever reason, he makes himself accessible to you and he

certainly works with you to try to clear up whatever the matter might be, and I think that we are better off today than we have ever been in terms of the tax commissioners office, and I just want Danny [Powers] to know that we are very proud of your accomplishments and it has been a pleasure serving with you.

Tax Commissioner Powers said, thank you very much. It's actually been very much a pleasure working with all of you. These last few years have been very, very good.

Chairman Liakakis said, thanks again, Danny [Powers]. Tax Commissioner Powers said, thank you, folks. I appreciate it.

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### **3. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO MOSQUITO CONTROL FROM CHATHAM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to call on our Director Phillip Webber to do the presentation.

Mr. Webber said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. Phillip Webber, Director of Chatham Emergency Management Agency. Thank you for this moment that we have this morning to recognize and appreciate one of our own departments in the County. This is possible this morning largely because of the — due to the commitment and the investment of this Commission and the protection of lives and property for the citizens of Chatham County through the leadership of our County Manager, Russ Abolt. All our County departments see that as one of their priorities and it takes teamwork and cooperation. What we're going to example this morning is an event that took place — that showed that that commitment to teamwork and cooperation on behalf of Mosquito Control. Mr. Dan Stowers, Deputy Director of CEMA, is liaison with Fire Services. I'm going to ask him to take it from here.

Mr. Dan Stowers said, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, Mr. Abolt, it's an honor to be here today. I want to introduce two people who are actually going to — three people who are going to help me present this. We've got Chief Jay Hillis with the Pooler Fire Department, we've got Chris Roberts and Greg Daughtridge [phonetic] with the Georgia Forestry Commission. On the afternoon of 12 April 2007 the Pooler Fire Department and the Georgia Forestry/Chatham County Unit were dispatched for a large fire in the Savannah Quarters Subdivision. Upon completing the size-up of the situation, the Pooler Fire Department and Georgia Forestry reps requested mutual aid from municipal fire departments and CEMA. I arrived on scene as the liaison and I talked to both the incident commanders and they asked me to inquire about Mosquito Control's ability to drop large amounts of water on this fire from the air. I made the request of Mosquito Control and within minutes Mosquito Control had the fixed wing aircraft, the helicopter and ground support personnel on the scene dropping large amounts of water in a heavily wooded area to cut off the advancing fire. These areas were not easily accessible to structural fire — Forestry Commission personnel operating tractors. The helicopter, which was supported by Mr. Bacon, was able to draw water from the manmade ponds near the Savannah Quarters golf course and they made

strategic drops as directed by the Georgia Forestry air boss. The fixed wing aircraft was supported by the 165<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard Fire Department at the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. The fixed wing aircraft was able to drop hundreds of gallons of water at the head of the fire and slow it down. Under direction of the Georgia Forestry Commission air boss, Mosquito Control's pilots strategically dropped enough water to slow the advancing fire, which allowed Georgia Forestry personnel to cut adequate fire breaks to protect the subdivision's homes.

Mr. Stowers said, on April 12, 2007, the Chatham County Mosquito Control Department went above and beyond its assigned duties and was a key player in a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response, which protected over a dozen Chatham County homes. So we want to make this presentation to Jeff [Heusel], and it reads:

*Sincere appreciation for your services 12 April 2007 wildfire that threatened the Savannah Quarters Subdivision in Pooler. Chatham County Mosquito Control was instrumental in containing one of the largest wildfires in Pooler's history. Your efforts helped to protect over a dozen homes that were directly threatened by the rapidly advancing fire.*

Mr. Heusel said, thank you.

Mr. Stowers said, I'm going to ask Greg [Daughtridge] from the Georgia Forestry Commission and Chief Hillis to come up and say a few words.

Mr. Daughtridge said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, as the Air Boss on this fire I don't think these guys know our motto, and that's to fight fire aggressively, but providing for safety. What these gentlemen did when they got on the fire, they acted like veterans, veteran firefighters. They protected our people and they protected the citizens of Chatham County. They did a great job on it and I would like to express our appreciation for what they did and it was very impressive dropping the water where they did, like they had been doing it for a long time, and I'd like to present this.

Chief Hillis said, good morning, Chairman and Commissioners. I'd just like — one thing I'd like. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself please. Chief Hillis said, Chief Hillis for the City of Pooler Fire Department. A lot of times services request and for funding for budgetary information and these resources that the Mosquito Control had was definitely helped protect a lot of residents in our subdivisions there in West Chatham County, and without the funding and your support and the Commission's support definitely that resource would not be available, and we just want to commend you on supporting those agencies. A lot of times requests come and you might not know exactly what it would be used for or once in a lifetime situation, but definitely protected property in Chatham County, and we do appreciate that, and we again salute them for their hard work. Thank y'all.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, gentlemen, this is one of those now frequent, and I'm very proud of frequent moments, in which we are able to

celebrate the quality of the men and women that work for you in Chatham County government. I have repeatedly told you about how proud of all my departments because each one of them, led by their individual department head, really do exceptional things and let me illustrate. Beyond just the emotion and emergency of the moment just described, none of this would have happened, as Phillip Webber mentioned, without your approval of a purchase, but the purchase came about because a very good operation chose to expand its capabilities to serve our citizens beyond just killing mosquitos. Dr. Lewandowski and his staff thought that they could, by augmenting our chopper to begin with, with this water bucket be able to respond in the situations at that time were unknown. Well, a few months ago they became known. Now Mosquito Control could have been operating to this day and not have done what they did on this particular moment, but they did it because they care. They did it because they realize beyond just the resources and stuff they're given to do their job they could augment that and expand their service to the citizens we're all responsible for. Dr. Lewandowski could not be with us today — he's on a family matter out of town —, but it's just like Henry [Lewandowski] not to chose to be here because he's a very modest man. I do want to introduce Jeff [Heusel] to you who'll introduce the rest of the team. I have a real affection for the gentleman you're about ready to meet. I certainly give the two gentlemen in the blue flying suits a hard time. On more than one occasion when I've been at public gatherings, like the citizens night out on crime, a gentleman by the name of Scott Yackel — Scott — I give him a hard time because on more than one occasion he told me that these flight suits are babe magnets, but that aside, before we give Scott [Yackel] a chance to — and he never gets out on me, he wears them all the time. There's also — at a recent meeting he was whistled at, too — but that aside, I give them a very difficult time only because I really appreciate them. They're great individuals who again have done so much, so very much to make our lives special in Chatham County. And to use Commissioner Odell's terms a few minutes ago, this is a world-class operation.

Mr. Jeff Heusel said, thank you. First of all I'd like to say thank you to CEMA and Pooler Fire Department and Georgia Forestry Commission for the certificates. I'd like to introduce Scott Yackel. He's our helicopter pilot. Clark Hansen, he's our fixed wing pilot. Bo Payne, he is fixed wing support. Russ Bacon is our helicopter support, and Bill Hicks is just all-round support. These gentlemen — if you've ever had the opportunity to work with these gentlemen, they epitomize the term public servants. These guys will go out of their way to help anybody and it's always been my pleasure to work with them. Thank you very much.

An unidentified gentleman said, before I let them go, there's two gentlemen from Georgia Forestry. I would ask that — I would like to take a quick moment to remind everyone in Chatham County how fortunate we are to have this unit here. In years past they've been talking about closing the Chatham County Unit, and I think on April 12<sup>th</sup> we saw how important it is to have them close by. They were on the scene within minutes, which is phenomenal for a forestry agency, but I think we should give them a hand because this unit has probably been the hardest working unit in the last two months in the State of Georgia. Right now there are over 300,000 acres burning in South Georgia and they've been there day and night. There was a statistic yesterday that the fires have burned over 571 square miles, which is four times the size of the City of Atlanta. So I want to take this time to recognize Georgia Forestry Commission and give them a hand.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank each and every one of you. We appreciate the service that you are dedicated to for the citizens of all of Chatham County.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just want to add something. I think the spirit of cooperation of the departments and this Commission has opened the door for opportunities that were not previously available, and it's something that we see being strengthened every day, and I want to thank the departments as well as this Commission for making this all happen.

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**PERSONAL PRIVILEGE — COMMISSIONER FARRELL**

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, one more item under special presentations. I just wanted to make an announcement for everyone's benefit that on — about the naming ceremony and dedication of the Rodney J. Hall Memorial Park at Skidaway Narrows, will be conducted on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. All persons are invited to participate in that dedication. What we will be doing is honoring Rodney's [Hall] memory and pay tribute to a person who during his life spent a lot of time using that facility for its incredible beauty and usefulness as a point of entry into the magnificent waters of Chatham County, which we all tend to take for granted, but not too many counties in this country have such a vast estuary — saltwater estuary for which anyone for the price of some sort of floating craft, whether it's a kayak or a yacht, can go out and enjoy those waters. So I just want to make everybody aware of that special dedication to a fine man, and I'd also ask perhaps that staff could prepare a press release for distribution about this dedication so that the media outlets will be aware of this event. Thank you.

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**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

**1. MOVE THE BOARD'S MEETING ON FRIDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE TO MONDAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE, SAME TIME AND SAME PLACE.**

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion on the floor to change the next County Commission meeting from the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, which is on a Friday, of course, to Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup>. And the reason for that is a number of our County Commissioners will be at Jekyll Island going through training courses from the ACCG, which is the County Commissioners' organization for the State of Georgia. I'd like a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved. Commissioner Stone said, second.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Farrell moved to move the date of the next meeting of the Chatham County Commission from Friday, June 8, 2007, to Monday, June 11, 2007. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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**VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

**1. BETHESDA SCHOOL CUTTING HAY (COMMISSIONER FARRELL).**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, as we were made painfully aware a few minutes ago about the vast number of acreage that's burning in South Georgia, there is other problems in the immediate area as far as our agricultural needs. It came to my attention that the Bethesda Home for Boys, which has their own beef cattle herd for both educational purposes for their students and residents, but also as a main source of protein the Boys Home, are experiencing some difficulty getting hay at this time because of the drought and of the grass, the fields are not growing. Being at the end of the winter season, preparations made to get through the winter, those stocks are depleted and are few and far between and very expensive. So I asked staff to look into other opportunities on County-owned property that may be available for Bethesda farm team to harvest our grass for their benefit to feed their cattle. So at this time I make a motion to amend the current contract that we have with Bethesda, who is currently harvesting grass from one of our sites on Thomas Avenue, to extend it to the other sites mentioned on the agenda item.

Commissioner Stone said, I second that motion and, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a comment as well. I concur with everything that Commissioner Farrell is saying. The situation of finding hay in this State is a problem right now. People are having to get it from outside of the State and anything that we could do to certainly help Bethesda, as well as see this as an opportunity to keep our grass mowed, I think is a win/win situation, and I thank Commissioner Farrell for bringing this to our attention.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Farrell moved to amend the agreement with Bethesda Home for Boys to provide grass mowing to other County-owned properties to include Pine Barren Wastewater Treatment Facility, Dillon Landfill, Sharon Landfill, and Chevis Landfill. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: VII-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

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

Issue: Request Board approve an amendment with Bethesda to provide mowing services to other County owned property.

Background: On September 22, 2006, the Board entered into an agreement with Bethesda to provide mowing services at the Thomas Avenue landfill site.

Facts and Findings:

1. Per the original agreement Bethesda provides mowing services at the Thomas Avenue landfill site so that they could harvest the hay for their use. At the time of the agreement Bethesda advised that it was not economical to traverse other areas of the County.
2. Commission Farrell advised staff that Bethesda may now be interested in mowing other areas in the County. They are in critical need of hay for their livestock because of the drought conditions. The other areas include the Pine Barren Wastewater Treatment Facility, Dillon Landfill, Sharon Landfill, and the Chevis Landfill.
3. These other areas are currently being mowed by Myers and Son but their contract is set to expire before the second mowing cycle begins so the timing to allow Bethesda to pick up the mowing is ideal.
4. Bethesda will mow these areas at no cost to Chatham County. They gain the benefit of providing hay to their livestock.

Funding: Funds are not requested.

Policy Statement: Board action is required to amend a long term agreement with a non-profit organization.

Alternatives:

1. Board approve an amendment to the agreement with the Bethesda Home for Boys to provide grass mowing to other County owned property as listed in the staff report.
2. Board not to approve request.

Recommendations: Board approve Alternative #1.

Various Districts

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### VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

None.

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### IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING: AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL FUND M&O TO: A) INCREASE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS BY \$3,000 FROM A DONATION TO SUMMER BONANZA, B) TRANSFER \$100,000 FROM SALARIES AND WAGES IN THE JUVENILE COURT BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, (2) AN AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND TO INCREASE REVENUES FROM COURT FINES BY \$15,000 AND INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS TO PEACE OFFICERS ANNUITY BY \$15,000, (3) AN AMENDMENT TO SERIES 2005**

**DSA BOND FUND TO INCREASE REVENUES BY \$223,604 FROM A PAYMENT BY UNION MISSION AND INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC PROJECT BY \$223,604, (4) AN AMENDMENT TO THE CIP FUND TO INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY \$100,000 TRANSFER IN FROM THE GENERAL FUND M&O FOR A JUVENILE COURT PROJECT, AND (5) AN AMENDMENT TO THE SALES TAX IV FUND TO TRANSFER \$400,000 FROM THE RESERVE FOR UNINCORPORATED ROADS TO THE OLD HIGHWAY 204 BRIDGES PROJECT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, I need a motion on the floor.

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

Chairman Liakakis asked, any comment? Alright, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following: (1) Amendments to the General Fund M&O to: a) increase revenues and appropriations by \$3,000 from a donation to Summer Bonanza, b) transfer \$100,000 from salaries and wages in the Juvenile Court budget to Transfer Out to CIP, (2) an amendment to the Special Service District Fund to increase revenues from court fines by \$15,000 and increase appropriations to Peace Officers Annuity by \$15,000, (3) an amendment to Series 2005 DSA Bond Fund to increase revenues by \$223,604 from a payment by Union Mission and increase the appropriation for the Behavioral Health Clinic project by \$223,604, (4) an amendment to the CIP fund to increase revenues and expenditures by \$100,000 transfer in from the General Fund M&O for a Juvenile Court project, and (5) an amendment to the Sales Tax IV Fund to transfer \$400,000 from the Reserve for Unincorporated Roads to the Old Highway 204 Bridges project. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

**ISSUE:** To request approval of the following: amendments to the General Fund M&O to: a) increase revenues and appropriations by \$3,000 from a donation to Summer Bonanza, b) transfer \$100,000 from salaries and wages in the Juvenile Court budget to Transfer Out to CIP, (2) an amendment to the Special Service District Fund to increase revenues from court fines by \$15,000 and increase appropriations to Peace Officers Annuity by \$15,000, (3) an amendment to Series 2005 DSA Bond Fund to increase revenues by \$223,604 from a payment by Union Mission and increase the appropriation for the Behavioral Health Clinic project by \$223,604, (4) an amendment to the CIP fund to increase revenues and expenditures by \$100,000 transfer in from the General Fund M&O for a Juvenile Court project, and (5) an amendment to the Sales Tax IV Fund to transfer \$400,000 from the Reserve for Unincorporated Roads to the Old Highway 204 Bridges project.

**BACKGROUND:**

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

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1) The Summer Bonanza Program has received a \$3,000 contribution from Arboris, LLC. A budget amendment to increase revenues and expenditures for the program has been prepared.
- 2) Juvenile Court has accumulated salary savings from vacancies. A request has been made to transfer \$100,000 from the Salaries and Wages budget to Transfer Out to the CIP Fund for modular office units. A resolution to amend the CIP Fund is attached.
- 3) A portion of the fines collected by Recorder's Court is paid in to the Peace Officer's Annuity Fund. Collections for this fiscal year will exceed the original budget projection. A budget amendment to recognize the additional revenue and expenditure is in order.
- 4) The Board of Commissioners approved a funding plan for construction of the Behavioral Health Clinic at their meeting held April 21, 2006. The plan included participation by Union Mission. Payments totaling \$223,604 have been received. An amendment to recognize the revenue and adjust the project budget is attached.
- 5) The County Engineer has requested a \$400,000 transfer from the Reserve for Unincorporated Roads to the Old Highway 204 Bridges project in the Sales Tax IV Fund. A copy of correspondence is attached.

**FUNDING:** The budget amendments will establish funding in the General Fund M&O, the Special Service District Fund, the Series 2005 DSA Bond Fund, and the CIP Fund. Funds are available in the Juvenile Court budget and the Reserve for Unincorporated Roads for the transfers.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

(1) That the Board approve the following:

**GENERAL FUND M&O**

- a) an amendment to increase revenues and appropriations by \$3,000 from a donation to Summer Bonanza,
- b) a transfer of \$100,000 from salaries and wages in the Juvenile Court budget to Transfer Out to CIP,

**SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND**

an amendment to increase revenues from court fines by \$15,000 and increase appropriations to Peace Officers Annuity by \$15,000,

**SERIES 2005 DSA BOND FUND**

an amendment to increase revenues by \$223,604 from a payment by Union Mission and increase the appropriation for the Behavioral Health Clinic project by \$223,604,

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND**

an amendment to increase revenues and expenditures by \$100,000 transfer in from the General Fund M&O for a Juvenile Court project,

**SALES TAX IV FUND**

a transfer of \$400,000 from the Reserve for Unincorporated Roads to the Old Highway 204 Bridges project.

(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. TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW.**

Chairman Liakakis said, ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is being held in compliance with State Law relative to Chatham County’s proposed fiscal year 2008 budget. We will be discussing the total budget, with all the various funds, and all of the Commissioners were supplied and it’s on the

agenda about these items. The recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2008. Information packets showing the proposed budget for all funds are available at the front entrance. A list is being passed around asking for the names and address of those present. The purpose of this is to document that public input was solicited for future audit purposes. We will start at the right side of the room, and go row-by-row. If you wish to speak please come to the podium; state your name, address and the name of the group or organization you represent, if any. We have staff available to help pass out any written material to the Commissioners. We would ask that you be brief and concise in your remarks since we have a number of people that may want to speak and we want everyone to have an equal chance to be heard today. So anyone on the right hand — on our right hand side now that would like to speak for their particular organization, come up to the podium please and identify yourself.

Ms. Keisha Gibson Carter with Interface Hospitality Network. Shall I proceed? Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Ms. Carter said, on behalf of our board of directors and all the families we serve here in Chatham County in the Savannah area, I would like to extend thanks to you, the Commissioners, for affording us this opportunity to present to you this morning. If you recall, we presented before you about a year ago this time requesting \$50,000 to support our efforts to build a new day center. For those of you who do not know or are not familiar with the organization of Interface Hospitality Network, we are a independent nonprofit organization here in Savannah that works to alleviate homelessness among families with children. We work through a network of local congregation in addition to social service provided from the City to help families link to resources that will enable them to secure housing, employment and child care. Many of you may or may not know, but homelessness among families with children is a largest segment of our population. Forty percent of the homeless population today makes up the — is comprised of families with children; therefore, the average age of a homeless person is nine years old. We at Interface Hospitality Network fill an important void in that we provide services for these families in a hospitable way, allowing them to afford their dignity and basically move on in a way in which we treat them like people. Our request today still stands at \$50,000. We are proud to say that we have been supported by the City of Savannah to the tune of \$75,000 and the Department of Community Affairs through the State of Georgia at \$115,000. So today more than having join in on those efforts at \$50,000, we really need your help. We need your support to close out our projects and completely satisfy our goal. We kicked off the capital campaign about two years ago, so for an organization like ours to raise \$900,000 on our own is remarkable. One, we're not very well known and we're not a household name. At the same time, we're doing a very important work in the City of Savannah in helping families get back on their feet. As a matter of fact, if you will allow me to toot our horn, last year we served 23 families — 19 families. Of those families, every last family that entered our program exited successfully and moved on as independent housing settings. They're living on their own, working people, and we're so proud of them and proud of that achievement. So because of the rising construction costs since we first began, we still have a chunk to go. So we're asking today that you help us close out that amount, and if you are interested in seeing our budget, I can pass that out for you.

Chairman Liakakis asked, how many families did you help last year, as you were talking about. Ms. Carter said, 19 families totaling 88 people. For — to receive our services a family must be comprised of an adult and at least one child. Most of our families are single mothers with two or

three children. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Now, this is a public hearing and we don't — there's no vote today. We're just hearing the presentations from all organizations at this time and then we will be going over the budget with our County staff and then at a later date we will be voting on the budget. Thank you very much for your presentation. Ms. Carter said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to have a copy of the budget. Commissioner Thomas asked, do you have copies? Ms. Carter said, sure.

County Manager Abolt said, we did send you, ladies and gentlemen, information a few days ago, Ms. Carter did send this same information —. Ms. Carter said, it is. Ms. Carter asked, are there any other questions?

Chairman Liakakis said, no. Thank you very much. We appreciate it. Next organization please.

Ms. Jacquelyn Alexander said, good morning. My name is Jacquelyn Alexander. I'm with the Georgia Department of Corrections Probation Office for the Eastern Judicial Circuit here in Chatham County. I am here to let some of you know or remind you that back in 1989 Chatham County entered into a contract with the Department of Corrections where the Probation Office provided misdemeanor supervision for probationers, and that contract ended in 1997. During that time we accrued over \$30,000 in the escrow account, and we've been using that money to fund a postage meter and also pay the lease of a copy machine in our office. That money is now down to \$2,000 and we are here to request continued financial assistance from the County to help us continue to pay for that. Those costs are not included in our budget at all. The copy machine — and we have a staff of 41 and we only have two copy machines and if we lose one of those, we'll have to share one copy machine and we won't have a postage meter and we do a lot of mail. There are other counties in the State where the Probation Department doesn't collect fines. We collect fines for Chatham County and for last year we collected and paid out over \$138,072 in fines that we collected for Chatham County and paid directly to Chatham County. And in addition to that, we collected over \$400,000 in restitution that was paid directed to victims of crimes in our County. So I'm only asking for a small amount of at least \$3,750 to fund us for the next year to help with the postage meter and the copy machine.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Ms. Alexander said, I did speak with Dan Massey and Mark Hill in the Clerk's Office and asked them how much would it cost if they had to fund a position to collect that money, and it would cost them a minimum of \$24,000 to hire a person to do the collections for them, but we actually provide that service at no cost and pay the money directly to the County. So I'm only asking for a fraction of that cost.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, and you're a State office, right. Ms. Alexander said, yes sir. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, in — so what you're telling us that you're State employees and State funded and the State won't pay for a copy machine for you? Ms. Alexander said, that is correct. Commissioner Gellatly said, okay. I just wanted that a matter of public record. Thank you. Ms. Alexander said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Ms. Alexander said, it has been requested, but it was not paid for.

Commissioner Odell asked, is that because they presume and hope that the County will pick up the additional —? Ms. Alexander said, well, the County had been paying — we had been using money that we had from the County since 1989 and that's money is now running out. So they never had it in their budget since prior to 1989. Commissioner Odell asked, what's your total budget? Ms. Alexander said, I don't have that information here. Our budget is a statewide budget —. Commissioner Odell said, no, no. Just for the people who are here in Chatham County? Ms. Alexander said, I don't have that information either.

Chairman Liakakis said, if you could, could you present it? You know, send it to the County Manager's office so that he could distribute that, you know, to the Commissioners. Ms. Alexander said, yes. I can get that information and I can get it to you.

Commissioner Odell said, I don't think that there's a problem except that the State has required the County to pick up so many things and it's appreciated the fact that you all do the collection, which is part of your charge. I think the reason that the State has not funded this — which is relatively small — \$4,000 for your budget, which is probably over \$400,000 is a small amount ---- is that they presume that their would be continuation of funding by the County, although your priority of funding came from monies from reserve and those reserves are now ended. Ms. Alexander said, that's correct, but there are other counties in the State that provide services to their Probation Departments. They provide — some provide cars, computers, telephones, radios to use when they're out in the community seeing probationers and protecting the community. Some offer supplies, office space and also pay for some positions and support staff positions. So it is not an unusual request that this is Statewide where the counties do provide these funds.

Commissioner Gellatly said, we're not saying that there's anything wrong with your request. What we're saying is that is — and this is not your problem — but that this is really truly something that should be funded by the State of Georgia. I mean, you are the State of Georgia and it's nickels and dimes, but there's a whole bunch of nickels and dimes that the State doesn't pick up that they should, including not nickels and dimes like millions of dollars of prisoner expense that they don't pay for in the County jail. It just seems like every time the State of Georgia turns around and wants something done or mandates something, why it costs us more and more money, and that's our frustration. It's not with you. Ms. Alexander said, right. Commissioner Gellatly said, okay, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I was just going to say some of what Dave [Gellatly] just said — Commissioner Gellatly just said. We certainly appreciate what you do, but the last time the State funded — put money into this was '89, did you say? Ms. Alexander said, there was a contract that the County had entered into with the State and that was the year that they provided —. Commissioner Stone said, I just don't want to set another precedent for giving money for State funded entities and especially in light of the fact that we can't even collect the money that's owed to us from the State, and I understand that you're providing a very valuable service to us and we're very grateful. It's just very frustrating from our end when we have many departments to fund and many of our own Chatham County employees and departments to take care of to not have to start to pick up the State's employees and departments, and that's my concern is opening this can of worms again, putting money back into this fund that really belongs to the State.

Chairman Liakakis said, and we want you to know because we know that our Probation Officer here — that y'all do an excellent job and we really appreciate that, but the State of Georgia owes the taxpayers in Chatham County over twelve — somewhere between twelve and fourteen million dollars in the last number of years and it's a burden that we put on the taxpayers of Chatham County as opposed to the State of Georgia accepting their responsibility and pay that, and especially when they have excess in their budget that they could be doing that and taking the burden off taxpayers and homeowners and commercial owners in the Chatham County area. But we thank you very much. We will be talking about that in the regular budget proceedings.

Commissioner Odell asked, your request is for under \$4,000? Ms. Alexander said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And we're making a big to-do about it. It's not in out of our frustration. They mentioned the jail, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. The other bigger piece would be they stopped funding the Bamboo Farm and they added — shifted work so that we have to add a position in Danny Powers' office, and it's not at you and it's not at the \$4,000 so the viewing public will know. We compliment you on what you're doing. We're just really frustrated with the State that looks at our citizens and says you've got to pay more, and that's the frustration. It's not with your request. You've done an excellent job and thank you. Ms. Alexander said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, to add on to Harris' [Odell] comments, the frustration is not that another government agency needs financial help, because since this Commission started sitting back in January of '05, the State budget went from fifteen billion dollars to a current twenty billion dollars, which is a difference in two and a half years of five billion dollars more revenue, yet we're asked to shoulder a greater and greater amount of State expenses. So there's a disconnect here, and anyway we just wanted to point that out for the general public. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, next organization please.

Mr. Tom Kohler said, thanks for letting us be here. My name is Tom Kohler and I'm representing Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy, and I'll be brief. Just to say that our request is for \$20,000. We don't come see you very often. We're a grassroots community organization and over the past

30 years when we first started our organization every dime was from four different layers of government. Over the past 30 years we've managed to shift that so that well over sixty percent of our budget is grassroots local support. We are in a little bit different situation, so I am before you today just to say that there are several of you that know us in very personal ways. Commissioner Odell, his wife, Deborah, [inaudible] for decades. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, we've been divorced for 20 years. Mr. Kohler said, yeah, I know, and we go back that far. Commissioner Odell said, thank you for reminding me. I'll remember that in the vote. Mr. Kohler said, my memory is of two people who worked really hard to help a young woman and her two children live a better life. That's my memory of those days, and then, Commissioner Stone, your brother-in-law just assisted us in the past couple of months to try to help a young man who went through special education, went to four years of college, has waited for two years for a local service agency to find him a job. I think he's now decided that he'll help with that. The work that we do is very straightforward. Individual citizens align themselves with individual people and try to help people live better lives. You know, there's always an issue of money. Do we save money? The first thing I would say, and this was in your material, the first thing I'd like to say is we'd like to think that sometimes people are citizen advocates and save people's lives, and we would suggest that saving people's lives is always more important than saving money. And you might talk to Pat Lyons, who lives in Ardsley Park, or Eloise Ardell [phonetic], who lives out near the Girl Scout Camp, or Sheldon Tennebaum, who lives downtown, and ask them about the person they know and if they feel that maybe they saved that person's life, and I think you would discover that they feel like they have. We also would suggest that there are times when we can help people not be surrounded by services, and that people sometimes get surrounded by services that are inappropriate and, quite frankly, overly expensive. For example, people with mild memory retardation many times make more choices and sometimes those choices pull them in to the criminal justice system, and you know that's more expensive or you know the cost of that really more than I do. You could talk to [inaudible] out near The Landings or Sylvester Brown, who lives out in Pooler, or Chuck Jones, who lives in Garden City, or Dean Spencer, who lives downtown, or Charla Hall, who lives out in Pooler, and you could ask them about their involvement as an individual citizen advocate, and I think they would talk with you about this notion of helping a person that they are involved with and not be quite so surrounded by services and instead better things happening for them. And then there are some people who get social work out of their houses and get social work in the nursing homes, and this happens all the time. And, of course, whenever a person has to lose their home, that's a great loss for the person and it's expensive, and you might talk to Margaret Minus who lives out in Isle of Hope or Ken Abbott who lives on Wilmington Island, or Cathy Looper who lives at Tybee. Cathy's been an advocate for over 20 years and she could talk to you about that on behalf of her individual protégé. And then there's times when people just need help managing the affairs of everyday life so that they can get their business done and molehills don't turn into mountains. And you might talk to Clay Mobley about that and his protégé. You might talk to Sherri Urston [phonetic], who lives in Ardsley Park, who's been an advocate for 30 years, or [inaudible] Dempsey or Angie Johnson, who lives in midtown, an advocate for 13 years. So the work that we do as individual people, aligning themselves with individual people. Where we are organizationally is we realized two years ago that we plateau, a two-person staff. We were doing all we could do. We bit the bullet and hired a third person. We also realized that we were all getting older together when you look at the organization staff-wise, board-wise, [inaudible]-wise and advocate-wise. We're all getting in our 50's, so we felt like

we had to connect ourselves to a younger generation. We have hired a young person as a coordinator and in a small budget of a \$30,000 salary with a \$5,000-\$8,000 fringe is a big hit, and so we are having to circle back and talk with people that we've not needed to talk to really for many years and say this would be a time that if 30 years of hard work asking individual people to align themselves with individual people makes sense, this is a time we could use a little extra money. That's the whole pitch. I'll be happy to answer questions.

Chairman Liakakis said, Tom [Kohler], I want to thank you for what all you have done because you have changed multitudes of people, you know, in our community that were sort of abandoned or in the wrong direction or whatever the case might be, but your advocacy is the leadership that you have done there. In the past I have been to a number of meetings and see people at that meetings that you have and the difference that you and the advocacy group is making in people's lives, and that's commendable, and I know that y'all receive a lot of blessings for helping those that really need help in our community, changing their lives in many directions, and even motivating many of them also.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Tom [Kohler], you're one of the first people I met when I came to Savannah. It's been almost 30 years, and you're one of the most intelligent and humane people I've ever known in my entire life. The work that you do is outstanding. Whatever money you get is leveraged a hundred times — a hundredfold in our community, and I will support as much as I can your request for the budget, but I also have a check here for you that's got Pete Liakakis' signature on it. This is my pay check for the month of May as a Chatham County Commissioner and I want to give that to you right now. I'll endorse that over to you. Mr. Kohler said, you couldn't be kinder. Thank you very much, Patrick [Shay].

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Tom [Kohler], what is the requested amount? Mr. Kohler said, we're requesting \$20,000. Commissioner Odell asked, does the City of Savannah contribute? Mr. Kohler said, eleven and we're asking for fifteen.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much, Tom [Kohler]. Mr. Kohler said, thank you. Chairman Liakakis said, next — on the right-hand side, anybody else with an organization? Anybody else on the right-hand side now? Any department? Okay. On the left-hand side. Come forward please.

Mr. Bob Egan said, good morning. My name is Bob Egan. I'm with Park Place Outreach and I'd like to — Lem Campbell and Jim Overton also come up. They are also board members of Park Place. We are a youth emergency shelter in Savannah. I think many of you know where we are at Park Place. We service youth ages 11 to 17 and we are the first agency that really a child is brought to in Savannah, whether they are picked up for a curfew violation or they're picked up by the police for other reasons, or they could be self-admitted because of environment at the home where they have decided to leave the home. So we receive the child first in the community and

we have been in existence now for over 25 years. Over 5,000 children have come through our shelter over this time frame. And we have in our shelter social workers who try to work with the children. The first objective with the children is to get them back home, and if that's not feasible, then we try to place them in a much longer term solution and we have a strong relationship with Greenbriar. Many of the children that come to our shelter end up in Greenbriar because we only keep the children for no longer than two weeks. I think you are aware that we have bedroom facilities and we have the children there, as I said, for no longer than two weeks. So we are very active in trying to deal with the youth crime issue in Savannah because many of our children, we have a lot of success stories where children have come to our shelter and they have in fact become productive citizens, which I think is obviously the objective that we all have. Now you may ask well why are we here? Our facility that we are in right now is over a hundred years old and I think again many of you know where it is. It's on Park Place right by Forsyth Park. The facility is in what I would call disrepair, not from the standpoint that it's not kept up. It is, but we have electrical, plumbing and other issues. The Fire Marshal has advised us, for example, we don't have a sprinkling system in the home, which obviously is not the best for any children in our home. So we are in the midst of building a new home. We purchased property on Henry Street. The property has now begun. We have begun construction of that home. It is a 1.5 million to 1.6 million dollar project. It is a Leeds building. We are probably one of the few agencies that have actually building an environmentally secure building, you know, obviously dealing with energy and issues like that. So it is a Leeds-certified building. J. T. Turner is the contractor and Jerry Cowart is our architect. We, as I said, this is a 1.5 million to 1.6 million dollar project. We are now in the homestretch of that project. We need about \$250,000 more to get the money to complete our project, and we're asking Chatham County and the Commissioners for a modest \$25,000 towards that. We have discussions underway with the City. The City has contributed to us in the past and we're looking for a contribution to this building from them and also the State.

Mr. Egan said, before I conclude my remarks, I want to just begin introducing Lem Campbell. Lem [Campbell], I think many of you know, has been involved extensively in this City with the youth in organized sports and other organized events. Lem [Campbell] brings an extraordinary feeling for the youth to walk towards, so we're very pleased to have him. And Jim Overton, who is in fact involved in construction, is the board member overseeing our construction. So we're asking again for about 25,000 — for \$25,000 towards completion of this building. As I said, we have a six-month objective, by the end of the year, to raise that money and that will give us the 1.5 to 1.6 million. We expect to be in our new facility in February. So we are well on our way completing this very important project. We'll just finally say that the board decided not to try to refurbish the existing building because we would have had to close our facilities down for a long period of time and we decided not to do that and to move to a new facility. So if we could answer any questions, we'd be pleased to do it.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell. Commissioner Farrell said, I think that James [Holmes] was first.

Commissioner Holmes said, I happened to be at your groundbreaking and I made the statement in my remark on behalf of the County Commissioners that we're here to support, and I'm glad that you're not asking for that 1.6 million. After I made that remark, but that site that you

are on is great. It's in my district and definitely I told you that I will be supporting it and whatever we can do in support of your request I'll be in your behalf. Mr. Egan said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I also attended the groundbreaking and I find that Park Place provides a very valuable service to our youth in this community. As we know, we're dealing with the tail-end of youth problems, which is an overcrowded jail and they're not pointed in the right direction at the right point in their lives. So the work that you do in conjunction with Greenbriar, which is another very worthy organization that tries to get to the root of problems that we are suffering as a community. So I would like to pledge my support for your endeavor.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, just real quickly. I concur with what's been previously said, but also you all came before us last year for matching grant money — Mr. Egan said, we did. Commissioner Stone said, — and it did not get, I mean, the Commission voted to give it to someone else. So is there any chance of any matching grant money with any of this funding? Mr. Egan said, yes. Let me just — since you brought it up, Helen [Stone]. As a result of the fact that we weren't selected for that \$500,000 grant from the State, we in fact redirected our whole strategy and we have applied now for several grants in the State. The reason that we are just in the process of applying now for additional grants — now it won't be a \$500,000 grant. We're looking at \$75,000 and a \$125,000. The reason we are just now really applying for it is because we needed our building permits, which were secured several months ago. So we are now in the process of applying for those grants. And we fully expect to get from the State something.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say to you that I personally support your endeavors. I supported your concerns on last year; however, we were not able to grant you the permission to seek the grant that you were seeking. I feel that what you are doing lends a tremendous support to our youth, to our community as a whole and when you can join forces and serve in a partnership, like working with Greenbriar, I think that is very worthwhile. Anything that I can do to help move whatever you're doing along, I will certainly do that. You do have my support in that endeavor. Mr. Egan said, thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. We appreciate, you know, all the things that you do in our community for our youth. Mr. Egan said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and we appreciate you and the Commissioners for listening to us and I hope that we'll be successful in getting this money. I'm going to leave behind just maybe a formal document just explaining what we're asking for and why we're asking for it. Chairman Liakakis said, just pass it on. Gail [Gordon], get this please. All right, thank you. Next please.

Mayor Jason Buelterman with the City of Tybee and, as usual, I'm asking for sand. I didn't realize that was my job as Mayor to go around to the County, the State and the national government

asking for sand, but it's kind of what I do anymore. We're up for a beach renourishment. We're supposed to have one this year. I have some — a copy of the newspaper from about a week and a half ago. I brought copies for everybody. Is there a way to distribute this to the folks? This is the front page from the newspaper from May 14<sup>th</sup> after that tropical storm came through showing the loss of sand that we experienced out at the beach. We're in a bit of a pickle because we're waiting on federal funding for this, but I'm here today to ask for your support once again as you've done over the past two years of contributing \$150,000 towards our local share — cost share of the beach renourishment. As you all know, and as I've said many, many times, you realize with your support of the SPLOST and the amount of money y'all contributed to SPLOST, there is a huge impact of Tybee's beach and a healthy beach on the County as a whole. Right now we have a problem with the fact that there is not a whole lot of beach left. At high tide we're experiencing, especially down by the pier area, nothing left at high tide, which is becoming a major problem. So I'm here to urge you to continue to support that funding that you have agreed to do the last two years but also understand that should the federal government not come through on their commitment, and they did make us a commitment but they have not followed through on that, that I may be back here soon to ask for increased support for this project. The federal government has promised for over a 50-year period to fund sixty percent of the project. That agreement is supposed to run through 2023; however, the last three presidents have not put beach renourishment into their budget. Therefore, Congress has to put it back in, which they have done over the past several years, but over the last two years they have not because those are considered earmarks and with the scandals in Washington over lobbying, the Jack Abramoff scandal and all that, the last two years the federal government has been pulling away from earmarks, which is when a local, you know, official congressman tries to put in money into the budget that wasn't in the president's budget that will benefit his or her district. So —, are there any questions?

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell asked, what's the total estimated cost of the renourishing the beach and what's the time frame? How many number of years do you estimate between — since the last one? Mayor Buelterman said, the — we're supposed to be seven year cycles and quite frankly we haven't really been on that. We're trying to get back on that. So we were supposed to have a renourishment, according to the Army Corps plans, at the end of 2007, but the tropical storm that came through which sat off the coast for four days and basically battered the beach more than any hurricane has in the past several years, increased the urgency for the need for it to happen on time. The cost, the total federal — if we go with the federal government and do the sixty/forty where the Feds pick up sixty and we pick up forty percent of the cost, the cost is roughly \$11,000,000. If were to go it alone absent the federal government, of course, we all know that would be less expensive because you don't have to go through all the bureaucracy and all. So the federal share is \$6.266 million.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you, Jason [Buelterman]. We know how important it is for the quality of life of our County, you know, that the beach has for us. Thank you. Mayor Buelterman said, thank you very much.

Commissioner Farrell said, you know, I'd like to echo that sentiment that, you know, it's a very integral part in the uniqueness of Chatham County that we have oceanfront property that is readily accessible to all citizens of the County, the State and the country and folks visiting from other countries, that y'all do a remarkable job where other parts of the country make part of the beach private and difficult to get to, and we applaud the fact that Tybee does such a good job of opening its doors and playing the gracious host during the summer and warm months of the year to the many thousands of folks that come and visit on a daily basis, and we thank you for that. And I'd like to speak in favor of your modest request, that Chatham could help out with the important process of beach renourishment.

Mayor Buelterman said, thank you and thank y'all too for your support of the renaming of the pier. We had a ceremony out there two Saturdays ago and I want to thank you for your support of that project. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you. Before we continue I want the Youth Challenge Academy members here today to understand. We operate this County on a fiscal year for our budget to pay for the funding of all our departments, whatever they might be, and our fiscal year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. So what we're doing right now is putting the information and listening to our staff and our different departments and, of course, where we have this public hearing, we're listening to organizations about their needs in the community also so that we might consider them in our budget process, which will be going on next month for the approval of that. So I wanted to explain to the academy youth what we are doing today. Now, next on the — please come forward for your organization.

Mr. Chris Miller said, good morning, Commissioners. My name is Chris Miller. I am with Creative Coast Initiative. I have some things to hand out. Thank you. Two and a half years ago — it's been a long time since I've been to see you — two and a half years ago I came to you with an idea and a plan for a smarter, higher wage future for the region. It provided a wage growth path and it provided a way to retain and employ our youth in the region who were leaving for lack of job opportunities. Two and a half years ago this Commission demonstrated leadership in funding a trail program to prove that Chatham County could collaborate regionally with other partners to build on existing economic assets. I'm here today to petition you for funding of \$178,000 that matches contributions that have already been made by the City and by the Savannah Economic Development Authority in 2007. We are a unique community connector. The Creative Coast Initiative allows a higher wage economy to grow and flourish. Now Chatham County has dozens of worthy organizations that are doing exceptional work and showing great results. There's no question, and everybody comes before you — hundreds of people come before you with funding requests. What is unique, I think, about the request that I'm making is that it returns to Chatham County in newly generated wages and jobs and significant future upside economic potential, more than you put in. This is a rare example where your investment in our future returns to Chatham County \$18.77 in annual wages for every dollar put into the project. By partnering with the City and SEDA, this Commission's investment is leveraged three to one for return of \$56.37 for every Chatham County dollar contributed. Your help to our continued operation is critical that nets this significant return.

I'd like to just briefly draw your attention to the documents I just handed out. Obviously, our mission: We work to improve the quality of life in Savannah by building a diverse and innovative higher wage economy that greatly increases the opportunities for everyone. Our vision: We envision this area as the hub and economic center of The Creative Coast that is both beautiful and smart. We see an all-inclusive, multi-cultural Savannah that values innovation and economic diversity. We see a Savannah that treasures its past but looks to the future by fostering and making investments in the dynamic climate for creative and knowledge-based jobs. I want to talk just a second about why this is important. I think we all understand the need to retain the best and brightest of our youth. There's nothing more frustrating than realizing that many of the people that graduate, many of the 44,000 students in this area that graduate from college have to leave to find other economic opportunities and then contribute into somebody else's tax digest at a very high wage rate. We want to prevent that. We want to create a sustainable higher wage economic future. We prevent a declining real average wage. It's interesting to note that a recent study we did showed that relative to our peer group, Savannah is declining in real average wage. We are losing ground to our peers in Atlanta, in Charleston, in Raleigh. We are breaking even with Macon relative to our real average wage group. I don't have to tell you that as housing rates continue to climb dramatically and our wage rates — our average wage rates stagnate, we're facing a problem that if we do not address it by creating capacity for higher wage economy, we will — the people that live — that work in Chatham County will very likely not be able to buy a house in Chatham County, and that will be a shame.

On the next page, page three, what we do as a project and what we've done over the last two and a half years, we attract and assist new knowledge based businesses at higher-wage jobs. We connect existing businesses to the resources that they need to be successful. Further, we raise the profile of these knowledge businesses in the region and we leverage Savannah's existing resources to maximize our potential. I could go on and on about examples of how this works. I'm going to leave you with the detailed annual report that has very specific numbers and analysis and all the information you could possibly want, but some of the very brief types of things that we get involved with, and these are very recent examples, a gentleman by the name of Jason Berg, who we helped recruit to the area and to make comfortable here, is now leaving the Advanced Technology Development Center and has launched the Aerial Savannah Angel Partners, which is funding companies with capital investments. These are the types of entrepreneurs that we work with because they really benefit Savannah for every hour I spend with these guys, they generate jobs and wages that come back to Chatham County's tax digest. Smack Dab Studios was a company of one we attracted about a year ago. She has now hire ten employees — is employing ten people and has actually recently bought another company in the Savannah area. That's a ten to one leverage on the existing effort that we put in to attract one person here. MPVO [phonetic] is a company that's creating leading edge software that is now used nationally, including on political campaigns and around the country — made here in Savannah. Benedetto Guitars, internationally renown guitar maker, Bob Benedetto, who we assisted his attraction — bringing him into Savannah. Gorilla Studios is a new movie production studio that moved here from Raleigh. Farmers Almanac, our own local grown company, which reaches I think eighty million people in the American market, and Odd Pods, a recent addition even last month, a new cutting edge technology company that relocated here from Tampa. Again, because of the investment that this Commission made two and a half years ago. It's starting to bear fruit.

Just very quickly, on the next page, page four, yes we've been lauded in the press, both local, regional, national and international. Yes we have been recognized by our peers. Again, both local, regional, national and international. In fact, for those of you that read Swedish, you would have noted there were three articles in the Swedish press last week regarding some real opportunities to bring companies from Sweden to Savannah to grow and attract jobs. I don't read Swedish, but I could definite pick out The Creative Coast Initiative as it appeared in the rather odd text.

On the next page, we are very beloved by our clients. We did a survey this year where 91% of the people that we surveyed indicated that our work was important or very important; 87% felt we had had a very positive — more positive impact on the economy in Savannah and, yes, we have been praised by a lot of people. I have almost fifty pages of unsolicited feedback from people who really, really appreciate what we are doing. I think it was Victor Hugo who once said that there's nothing in the world, not all the armies is as powerful as an idea who's time has come. I would submit to you that this idea of a higher wage economy, a better, a smarter Savannah for everyone is that idea.

In the next page, yes, we do participate in the community. We attract and grow knowledge-based businesses, but that's only a small portion of what we do. We get involved in youth, we get involved in people at risk, we've helped step up the poverty reduction initiative build their website, we work with [inaudible] to assist minority women returning to the workforce, and we also work with AWOL to keep at risk youth engaged in learning. We're working with entrepreneurs with the Savannah State Entrepreneurial Center and all these things we do and more, but most importantly, and the thing that I'm here really to talk to you today about are the results. Commissioner Farrell, I believe two and a half years ago when I spoke to you, you said, "Okay, go out and make good things happen; show us what you've done." I believe we've done that, and on page six, slide twelve, the results that we've netted over that time and with your investment are at least 199 jobs that were generated from the 25 businesses that we assisted in relocating to Savannah. Those businesses and those jobs are generating \$11.1 million in annual wages into your tax digest. If you divide that by the total investment that the City, the County and SEDA has made in this project, that comes out to about \$2,900 per job. Let me give you an example. Let me put that into a context for you. Someone just asked me why we didn't land Google. They just announced they were going to move to Lenoir, North Carolina, with a small operation. Well, Lenoir, North Carolina, paid \$260,000,000 for 200 jobs. I think that comes out to about one point some million dollars per job. The Creative Coast is doing it for far less than that. We're doing it for \$2,900 a job. Even automotive jobs, the typical automotive industry job in the U.S., whether it's Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, is roughly \$125,000 to \$100,000 per job, meaning you put \$100,000 in, you get one job out. With The Creative Coast Initiative for every \$2,900 that goes in, you get one job out. So what does that mean in terms of wages? It means that for every dollar that's contributed to The Creative Coast Initiative, \$18.79 in annual wages is generated. That's a good thing for the County, it's a good thing for the community.

What you need to know about The Creative Coast, and I'll wrap up here, is that we generate a two to one cash match. With the dollars that you give us, we then use to petition the City and SEDA for a matching fund. That leverage is your contribution two to one. We're overseen by an

executive committee made up of representatives from the County, the City, SEDA, the business community and the education community, and we work closely with those staffs to make sure that we are operating in the best interest of the community at all times. In addition, we contribute hundreds and hundreds of hours annually to various organizations. We list about 30 organizations that we partner with closely. The other thing I just pointed out is that what we're doing in a very small grassroots way is outperforming other ways that economic development is done, but we're doing it in a way that is long term and sustainable and generates a significant revenue and creates a high wage economy. So it matters because we provide an exceptional ROI, it matters we're having — your investment is having a significant impact on Savannah's future. We've proved the concept. Two and a half years of turning this crank has netted some very significant results to this community. Your constituents think it's important and your support from the County is absolutely critical to that. I would point out, this is not only one of the most successful projects that I believe has been funded by the City and the County and SEDA, but I would argue it's one of the most successful collaborations that those three organizations can point to.

I guess I'll wrap up by just asking what we do when Chatham County's land runs out? When there's no more land to develop, how do we build an economy? If there's no more quantity of land, then we're going to have to find a way to qualitatively improve the economy. If we do not start planting those seeds now, we'll never be able to harvest anything later and there is not that much more land left to be developed. I would argue that this is a critical, a critical component to our future. You know, who will buy the houses when the values of the houses double but the wages stay the same in real terms and, lastly, where will our best and brightest go when they leave college? Will they work here or will they leave and go to work some place else? Your help is critical to the continued operation of our project. The City and SEDA have already contributed their 2007 budget and are committing to 2008, and I'm asking this Commission to consider our request as well.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you very much Chris [Miller]. I appreciate that.

Commissioner Odell asked, can I just ask a question? Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Odell said, Chris [Miller], thank you. I supported you two years ago, I still support your efforts. What is the amount of your request? Mr. Miller said, \$178,000, and that actually covers an 18-month interval, not a 12-month. Commissioner Odell asked, so it's roughly \$120,000 per year? Mr. Miller said, correct. Commissioner Odell said, and the City of Savannah is contributing? Mr. Miller said, an equal amount. Commissioner Odell said, an equal amount and — Mr. Miller said, as is SEDA. Commissioner Odell said, SEDA. Mr. Miller said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes asked, what was the amount two years ago? Mr. Miller said, two years ago this was presented to you as a trial project and because I came to you in midyear, the City and SEDA had already contributed so it was a midyear allocation of half the annual rate. So it came out at \$59,000 was the original request and that was to cover the six-month interval. So this

time we're looking for the full year's funding to bring us in line with what the City and the County have already contributed — or the City and SEDA.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, I disagree with Chris [Miller]. Our records show \$119,000. Commissioner Odell said, his amount was for 18 months. Our budget is for 12 years — months. Is that correct? Mr. Miller said, right.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, we sent a check for \$119,000. Mr. Miller said, I stand corrected then. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Chris [Miller], I intended to throw you a couple of softballs here, but you've already crushed it. You know, it was a good presentation. I'm proud to have one of your stickers on the front door to my business. Everybody that comes to my door knows that I'm part of The Creative Coast and I look forward to being a supporter of yours as time goes forward. Mr. Miller said, thank you. We think we're making Savannah better.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you, Chris [Miller]

Mr. Miller said, I'd like to leave you with the annual report. For any of you that did not get a copy originally, this is the detailed breakdown of all the numbers and facts and figures and, Russ [Abolt], there's also one here for you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, as a economic development tool in the community tool chest, from the facts and figures that were presented today, it appears that the dollars that you have are highly leveraged and well placed and bring a great benefit to the community, and I'm a results-oriented type person and I kind of go out on a limb for you one time, but it's good to see that, you know, a lot of positive and fruitful things have evolved from your operation and I hope to see that continue into the future. Mr. Miller said, thank you very much. You guys took a chance on me two and a half years ago. I wanted to show results and I wanted to make sure that when I came before you again that I had some very positive and significant to offer. I really appreciate your time here today.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, just real quickly, Mr. Chairman. Chris [Miller], I've been very impressed with what you've done, but I think you've hit on something that for me coming from the Planning Commission previously that is so important to think about that jobs that do not require development of properties or land is going to be critical in the future as well as attracting young people from college back to the Savannah area to keep it thriving. So I appreciate what you've done and have been very impressed with what you've done.

Mr. Miller said, thank you very, very kindly. I'll leave you with one quick thing to think about. It's one of the things that I get up in the morning thinking about. It's what I call wages per acre or wages per square foot. When all the land is gone, when everything is sold and there's buildings on everything, how much wages is it generating per acre? Is it the highest and best use? When all the land's developed, how then do you improve your economy if not qualitatively? What I think about are wages per acre and there's some very interesting numbers when you start breaking down different types of economic activity. We recognize — we've estimated that the types of jobs we're creating generate about \$11.8 million per acre. One, because they work in offices. They're tightly packed. Consider that against other types of economic activity that generate far, far less. When Chatham County hits that land limit, this is going to be a question that we're all going to have to start thinking very deeply about. I'm thinking about it today and I appreciate your support. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Next? Any other organizations? Any other organizations for our public hearing? Okay. The public hearing for today is now closed.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A public hearing was held on the Chatham County FY 2008 budget, as required by law.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Linda Cramer, Finance Director

#### **ISSUE:**

To hold a Public Hearing on the Chatham County Fiscal Year 2008 Budget as required by State Law.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

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

#### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. A Public Hearing was advertised on May 11, 2007 in the *Savannah Morning News* to be held at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 25, 2007.

2. Copies of the proposed budget were made available to the public in the Finance Department and the main branch of the Live Oak Public Libraries on the date the budget was presented to the Board, which was May 11, 2007. Copies of the proposed budget are available at all branches of the library.
3. On a date at least one week before budget adoption, Chatham County is required to hold a public meeting. The budget adoption must be advertised at least one week in advance.
4. The budget adoption has been advertised on May 23, 2007 in the *Savannah Morning News* for Friday, June 22, 2007 budget adoption.
5. The budget for Fiscal Year 2008 covers the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) Proceed with the public hearing on May 25, 2007 and adopt the FY 2008 budget on June 22, 2007.
- (2) Reschedule the hearing and adoption of the FY 2008 budget and re-advertise within limits established by State Law.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**Georgia Law 36-81-5. (f)**

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

**Georgia Law 36-81-6. (a)**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Estelle Brown

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**3. REQUEST APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER'S STANDARD COUNCIL TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO RECORDER'S COURT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to have a motion on the floor. We've all received information on that. Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Chairman Liakakis said, and what it is it's no cost to the County. It has been worked out between the Public Defender's Office and the Recorder's Court with their budget. We have a motion on the floor to approve. Do we have a second? Commissioner Gellatly said, second. 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 Kicklighter were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Mr. Michael Edwards said, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Chairman Liakakis said, you're welcome.

Commissioner Odell said, just by way of follow-up, the DA requested an Assistant DA for the various municipalities and I'm just wondering at some point will their be Public Defender's in the various municipalities? Mr. Edwards said, no sir. We are going to do that. We're actually doing that on a limited basis now and we're working with the various municipalities to fund those positions. Commissioner Odell said, I mean, I really am concerned that we have equal footing as far as people representing those accused of crimes and those who are trying to put them in jail. Mr. Edwards said, we have — we are working with most of the municipalities, not all of them, but there are a couple of the Chatham County municipalities that are contracting services out to other lawyers to provide that service. But we're working with several and we're going to continue to do so. Commissioner Odell asked, is there anything — just anything in your charter that would preclude you from having a contract with a particular municipality? Mr. Edwards said, no sir. Nothing at all.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much, Michael [Edwards].

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve an amendment to the agreement with Georgia Public Defender's Standard Council to provide services to the Chatham County Recorder's Court. Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-4****AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007****TO:** Board of Commissioners**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director  
Michael Edwards, Circuit Public Defender  
Prince Johnson, Recorder's Court Director

**ISSUE:** To request Board approval of an amendment to the agreement with Georgia Public Defender's Standard Council to provide services to Recorder's Court.

**BACKGROUND:** The Public Defender's Office and the Recorder's Court desire that Public Defender's Office assume expanded responsibilities on the felony side of the Recorder's Court.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1) The Public Defender has submitted an amendment to the Indigent Defense Services Agreement for approval. The effective date of the amendment is July 1, 2007. The agreement reflects additional staffing for representation to indigent felony defendants in the Recorder's Court.
- 2) The Public Defender's Office will handle all incarcerated felony defendant cases up to and through bind-over, excepting conflict cases.
- 3) Superior Court of Chatham County and the Recorder's Court of Savannah/Chatham County Judiciary support the proposal between the Public Defender and the Recorder's Court. (Statement Attached).
- 4) Existing funds within the Recorder's Court budget will be utilized.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the SSD Recorder's Court budget.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1) That the Board approve the amendment to the agreement with the Georgia Public Defender's Standard Council to provide services to Recorder's Court.
- 2) That the Board provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Board approval is required for amendments to contracts.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Board Consideration.

STATE OF GEORGIA     )  
                                  )  
COUNTY OF CHATHAM    )

**AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
AND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

The Agreement dated September 8, 2006, between Chatham County, Georgia and the Office of the Public Defender is hereby amended to implement the Recorder’s Court/EIP staffing plan of the Public Defender as referenced in Attachment RCA, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of this amendment.

The effective date of this amendment is July 1, 2007.

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2007.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sybil E. Tillman  
Clerk of Commission

[SEAL]

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**4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE CHANGES FOR RETIREE AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS, EFFECTIVE WITH FISCAL 2008 COLA IMPLEMENTATION.**

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. —.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this is consistent with my budget recommendation. Y’all have been briefed on it and it’s extensively discussed in the transmittal memo with the budget. As the Chairman said, this increase is modest and would be companioned with any cost of living increase —.

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

Commissioner Farrell said, question. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell. Commissioner Farrell said, this is our third budget that we've gone through as a Commission and I noticed that the portion of the employees that have families seem to be disproportionately targeted for higher increases than some of the other types of employees on a percentage basis. I am going to support today's motion, but I would like to make a request that in the future as we ask for higher contributions from employees that we don't target families and that we spread it out on a more even proportionate basis for all of the employee types and categories.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a motion on the floor and a second — you've seconded it? All right, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve changes for retiree and employee health insurance premiums, effective with fiscal 2008 COLA implementation. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

#### **AGENDA ITEM: IX-4**

**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Michael A. Kaigler, Human Resources and Services Director  
Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

**Issue:** To request Board approval of new insurance rates for employees and retirees for the FY 2008 budget.

**Background:** Chatham County has one of the best employee benefit plans in the area. While the Board of Commissioners has tried to keep employee benefit costs to a minimum, medical expenses continue to rise. It is projected that the County portion of the FY 2008 budget for health insurance for employees and retirees will be approximately \$15.3 million or an increase of \$1.5 million over the current fiscal year. Due to the rise in costs, the Human Resources staff has evaluated our current rate structure and recommends changes for the FY 2008 fiscal year.

#### **Facts and Findings:**

1. The FY 2008 recommended budget contains an overall cost increase for the employee/retiree health plan of \$1.5 million as estimated by ACCG and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia. The County funded share of the healthcare

costs for current employees increased by approximately \$970,000. The County funded share of the healthcare costs for retirees increased by \$434,000. Of the total budget for healthcare for active employees the County pays approximately 87% of the costs and the employee pays approximately 13% of the costs.

- The Human Resources staff is recommending a new premium within the health plan which adds a third tier to the plan. Projected costs increases are reflected in the Manager’s recommended FY 08 budget. The Manager’s recommended budget also contains funding for a COLA increase. The chart below shows the current and proposed premium structure for FY 08.

Health Insurance Premiums		
	<u>Current Premium</u>	<u>Proposed Premium</u>
Biweekly:		
Employee	17.31	17.31
Employee +1	71.80	71.80
Employee + Family		86.00
Monthly:		
Employee	37.51	37.51
Employee + 1	155.57	155.57
Employee + Family		186.33
Retiree, under 65	25.00	34.93
Retiree + Family, under 65	65.00	85.00
Retiree, 65 and over	34.93	34.93
Retiree + Family, 65 and over	98.92	98.92

- In our goal of committing to a competitive employee benefits package, both internal and external factors need to be considered. This past year, we have engaged our employees opinions and as in the past there was some sentiment to look at a tiered approach or reasonable gradation of premiums for our healthcare plan. For this year we have held the line on the employee only and employee plus spouse or dependent rates but included a third tier for a new family rate defined as an employee plus two or more dependents. Listed below are a couple of our local survey comparisons from City of Savannah (who has three tiered levels) and the State.

Company	Employee only	Two Person	Family
Chatham County	17.31 biweekly		71.80 biweekly
	37.51 monthly		155.57 monthly
City of Savannah	16.22 biweekly	88.06 biweekly	163.52 biweekly

	35.14 monthly	190.80 monthly	354.29 monthly
State employees	33.13 biweekly		81.14 biweekly
	71.80 monthly		175.80 monthly

**Funding:** Revenue generating therefore, no additional funding required.

**Alternatives:**

1. To approve new insurance rates for employees and retirees for FY 2008.
2. To provide staff with other directions

**Policy Analysis:** Chatham County provides an excellent medical benefits plan to it's employees, retirees and families at a favorable cost to the employee/retiree. Our goal is to maintain a competitive benefits package that will enable us to attract and retain a quality workforce. The recommended changes to the plan will help to offset the increased cost and still be competitive with the local market as well as favorable to the employee.

**Recommendation:** Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Liakakis said, we have Items 1 through 7 and under Item 7, A through M, and I see under Item 7-A that we have our CNT Commander here, who's done an excellent job. He's been on board here for a short period of time, but as everybody has saw on television and read in the news media, the papers and all, that they have done an excellent job working with the Metro Police Department and other law enforcement agencies and have taken quite a number of those repeaters and those people that are causing violence in our community, to take them off the street and are working on others to make sure that this community is much safer than it has in the past, and I'd like to thank Commander Harris for doing that because we see a big difference in what he has been charged with about doing not only a good job, but he is really pushing that effort right now. So I'd like a motion on the floor for those particular items I just outlined.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll make a motion to approve the balance, but I think, Commissioner Farrell, you had a question on one of them. Commissioner Odell said, on D. Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, on Item D, I'd like to pull. Commissioner Stone said, and I have one on 7-H.

I see that there are some people here from the Juvenile Court and I just wanted a brief presentation on the remote technology, a summary of what the request is. Commissioner Odell said, it's the Elmore System, which all the courts have and basically it saves time from having a person with a department of Family and Children Services to travel over to Juvenile Court. They can do it —. Commissioner Stone said, I just didn't know if they wanted to say any words about it. Commissioner Odell said, not unless we approve it. If we approve it, I think they've said enough.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. So we have a motion on the floor and we're holding those two items out. Do we have a second on that. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, we have a second. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the things — when you're talking about that Elmore System, is that remote that somebody can be at another location and, you know, give their information on the Elmore System? Commissioner Odell said, we have the Court Administrator here and all three judges, even our Chief Judge is here. You all can come forward. You've been kind enough to —. Chairman Liakakis said, just answer that one question because we have approved it and I just wanted to know if that system can remotely come from another area for that Elmore?

Judge John Beam said, it's the evidence presentation system. It's used to take documents or objects that are used in evidence and then you can project them upon screens for the entire courtroom to see. For example, yesterday I had a deprivation case that involved child abuse and child neglect and instead of a lawyer handing the document to the witness who identifies it and then it might get to the other attorney, we can present it up on the screen so that the grandparents and everybody in the courtroom can see what is going on and have an appreciation for what the evidence is. It's just a way to present evidence to not only the judge, but to the citizens who happen to be in the courtroom.

Commissioner Odell said, we have one already. Judge Beam said, we have one now, which is — in one courtroom. Commissioner Odell said, there are many occasions where all three — I know I was out there — and all three judges were actively in session. So we really need one for each judge so that —.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

Commissioner Stone said, I just want to thank you all. I just wanted some clarification of what this was. But thank you and I support it.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I believe we pulled that item from the agenda so it would be in order to make a motion to approve it. Commissioner Stone said, and I'll make that motion to approve it, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Shay said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We have a motion on the floor to approve that item. Let's go on the board.

Commissioner Odell said, wait a minute. That item lacks specificity. Is that item, when we said that, are we talking about D —? Commissioner Stone said, 7-H on the action calendar. Commissioner Odell said, okay. All right.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Commissioner Odell said, that was approved in the original motion. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, it was. Chairman Liakakis said, we voted to pull it from the agenda along with 7-D. Commissioner Odell said, it wasn't pulled. Commissioner Stone said, I made the motion —. Commissioner Shay said, we can reread the motion. Commissioner Stone said, — to pull it and support the rest of the agenda. Commissioner Odell asked, was it pulled? Chairman Liakakis said, she did pull it. Commissioner Stone said, I did. Commissioner Odell said, then it's been approved. Chairman Liakakis said, yes, it's approved now.

[Refer to Item 7 for discussion on Item 7-D.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve Items 1 through 7-M, both inclusive. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 11, 2007, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commission Stone moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 11, 2007. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 3 THROUGH MAY 16, 2007.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period May 3, 2007, through May 16, 2007, in the amount of \$6,869,258. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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**3. REQUEST FROM HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, CARTER BROTHERS INVESTMENTS, TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTED IMPROVEMENTS, INITIATE THE WARRANTY PERIOD AND REDUCE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FOR VILLAS OF GARRARD, PHASE I.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the request from Hussey, gay, Bell & DeYoung (HGBD), engineer for the developer, Carter Brothers Investments, to approve the constructed improvements, initiate the warranty period and reduce the financial guarantee for Villas of Garrard, Phase I. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

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

**ISSUE:** To approve the constructed improvements, initiate the warranty period and reduce the financial guarantee for Villas of Garrard, Phase 1.

**BACKGROUND:** The engineer, HGBD, for the developer, Carter Brothers Investments, requests that the County approve the constructed improvements,

initiate the warranty period and 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 consists of 28 townhome lots on a 4.85 acre tract of land.
2. The required site improvements, except the sidewalks, are complete. They have been inspected and found to be without fault. The City of Savannah has accepted the water and sewer improvements for ownership and maintenance.
3. The developer originally submitted a letter of credit issued by Bryan Bank & Trust, to record the plat, in the amount of \$362,483.50, which is 100% of the total cost of the Phase 1 improvements. The developer has submitted a new letter of credit issued by Bryan Bank & Trust in the amount of \$46,288.90, which is 50% of the paving and storm drainage improvements.
4. The developer has also submitted a separate financial guarantee issued by Bryan Bank and Trust in the amount of \$10,001.85, which is 100% of the cost to install the sidewalks. The developer is submitting this additional financial guarantee because he does not want to install the sidewalks prior to constructing the townhomes in order to avoid having to replace sidewalks that could be damaged during construction.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To accept the constructed improvements, initiate the warranty period and accept both financial guarantees 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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**4. REQUEST TRANSFER OF BEER AND WINE RETAIL LICENSE FOR 2007.  
PETITIONER: JEREMY P. MASLAK , (OWNER’S NAME CHANGE) D/B/A  
PIGGLY WIGGLY #49, LOCATED AT 7360 SKIDAWAY ROAD, 31406.  
[DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the petition of Jeremy P. Maslak (Owner’s Name Change), d/b/a Piggly Wiggly #49, located at 7360 Skidaway Road, 31406, for a transfer of beer and wine retail license for 2007. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4  
AGENDA DATE: May 25, 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 transfer of beer and wine retail license for 2007, Jeremy P. Maslak , (owner’s name change) d/b/a Piggly Wiggly #49, located at 7360 Skidaway Road, Savannah, Ga 31406.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Maslak requests transfer of beer and wine retail license in connection with an existing grocery store

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The applications were reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned applications were reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Marshal inspected the site for compliance.
3. The request has been advertised per ordinance requirements.

4. This application is in compliance with all requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 3

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**5. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF WINE TASTING LICENSE FOR 2007.  
PETITIONER: JEREMY P. MASLAK , (OWNER’S NAME CHANGE) D/B/A  
PIGGLY WIGGLY #49, LOCATED AT 7360 SKIDAWAY ROAD, 31406.  
[DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the petition of Jeremy P. Maslak (Owner’s Name Change), d/b/a Piggly Wiggly #49, located at 7360 Skidaway Road, 31406, for a transfer of wine tasting license for 2007. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5  
AGENDA DATE: May 25, 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 transfer of wine tasting license for 2007, Jeremy P. Maslak , (owner’s name change) d/b/a Piggly Wiggly #49, located at 7360 Skidaway Road, Savannah, Ga 31406.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Maslak requests transfer of wine tasting license in connection with an existing grocery store.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The applications were reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned applications were reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Marshal inspected the site for compliance.
3. The request has been advertised per ordinance requirements.
4. This application is in compliance with all requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 3

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**6. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR RETAIL PACKAGE LICENSE FOR 2007. PETITIONER: THOMAS JAMES BYRNE D/B/A WILMINGTON ISLAND BEVERAGE CENTER, LOCATED AT 205-A JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD, 31410. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the petition of Thomas James Byrne, d/b/a Wilmington Island Beverage Center, located at 205-A Johnny Mercer Boulevard, 31410, for transfer of beer, wine and liquor retail package license for 2007. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

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

ISSUE

Request for transfer of beer, wine and liquor retail package license for 2007, Thomas James Byrne d/b/a Wilmington Island Beverage Center, located at 205-A Johnny Mercer Boulevard.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Byrne requests approval of transfer of ownership in connection with an existing retail package shop.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and separation requirements and approved.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Inspector inspected the site for compliance with safety codes requirements and approved the facility.
3. The applicant and business meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday sales Ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 4

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**7. 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. Maintenance agreement on audio surveillance equipment	CNT	Sytech Corporation (Sole Source)	\$19,170	General Fund/M&O - CNT
B. 42 heavy duty office chairs for the Grand Jury room and the Grand Jury waiting area	District Attorney	Mason's, Inc. (State Contract)	\$21,795	General Fund/M&O - District Attorney

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
C. One (1) 15 passenger van	Juvenile Court	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$21,815	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court Supervision Account
D. Contract to fabricate and deliver the truss and structural components for the Aquatic Center roof replacement	Aquatic Center	Pocopson Industries	\$1,383,515	2005 DSA Series Bond - Aquatic Center Roof
E. Eleven Motorola digital portable hand held radios	District Attorney	Motorola Communications (State Contract)	\$49,863	General Fund/M&O - District Attorney
F. Software program and maintenance	ICS	NetPro	\$16,760	General Fund/M&O - ICS
G. Annual contract to provide copy and continuous paper	Various	•Corporate Express •Paper Chemical (WBE)	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
H. Purchase and installation of two (2) evidence presentation systems	Juvenile Court	Remote Technologies	\$74,084	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
I. Contract to create and develop an integrated recycling marketing and communications campaign	Solid Waste	Boblasky Advertising/ Designation and Design (WBE)	\$10,000	Solid Waste Restricted Fund
J. WordPerfect software maintenance agreements	ICS	Software House international (State Contract)	\$34,736	General Fund/M&O - ICS
K. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for tennis courts for modifications	Public Works and Park Services	Tennico	N/A	No additional funding required
L. Change Orders No. 1 and No. 2 to the construction contract for Behavioral Health Center for modifications	SABHC	Dabbs-Williams	\$1,182 (#1) \$63,165 (#2)	Union Mission will fund

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
M. Contract award for modular units for Juvenile Court interim plan	TBD	Williams Scottsman	\$300,000	TBD

**Items 7-A through 7-M, except Items 7-D and 7-H:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve Items 7-A through 7-M, except Items 7-D and 7-H. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

**Item 7-D:**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'd like to address Item D, Contract to fabricate and deliver the truss and structural components for the Aquatic Center roof replacement. As I was reading through, there are a couple of items I want to talk about under that. The first one I wanted to mention was under Facts and Findings, Item No. 3. It mentions that we're going to use a laminated southern pine, principally from Florida [sic], as a structural component, and connectors will be stainless steel. It sounds like a very good idea considering the corrosive nature of high humidity and chlorine gas that's part of that atmosphere. One thing that I would ask staff to do before that's fabricated is to look into the details of stainless steel because that is a very broad term and it's been my experience that let's say in galvanized fencing, if you get some stuff from China that's a little less expensive and it says galvanized, it lasts for three or four years, and then you buy another grade of galvanized from another company maybe here in America, and it tends to last for many, many more years. So being a critical component of the structure, I want to make sure that we're far enough ahead of the curve that we carefully analyze, inspect and recommend a grade of stainless steel, which they have many, many grades of stainless steel, that we have a proper grade that's not going to give us trouble 10, 15, 20 years down the road where we have fasteners that are corroding because all stainless steel is not made alike. Commissioner Thomas said, I agree.

Mr. Patrick Monahan said, yes sir, and we recognize that fact and we are specifying the highest grade we can afford. We did have an option to go to galvanize, which would have saved us approximately \$280,000, but just as you're shaking your head, we did not feel as though, even though we're still struggling to find additional savings in this project, we did not feel that was the proper route to take.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. The second item and final item on the Aquatic Center project, is I wanted to respond to the memorandum we received yesterday evening and the subject of the geothermal application at the Aquatic Center. Just reading over it without having time to discuss anything with staff, it appears that we're not very close to having staff present us with some really

good hard information for us to make a decision and the project is beginning almost immediately, and I think this is a very terribly important component to this project because it's not only the route system, but it's also the HVAC system. And as my fellow Commissioner Patrick Shay pointed out to me some weeks ago in casual conversation, that if we don't look at building better structures in the future, we're never going to get ourselves out of the energy consumption that we're in. We can't just create different sources and continue to do this, and that our buildings are some of our highest use energy consumers. And I would without having any facts or figures in front of me, I would say that a great majority of our budget on that particular center presently is an energy to cool the air and to warm the water of the pools. Now this thermal — geothermal technology is nothing new. It's been around for a long time. Some people call it a Florida heat pump — they have different names for it — but it is a system that is much more efficient in heating and cooling air and it has some properties of — a byproduct is warming the water. It can raise it just maybe a few degrees, but over the long term life span of a facility, this could have a huge component on recurring expenses of that center. That center currently consumes over a half a million dollars a year in budget and, as we go forward, I would like to have a very well thought out and well researched option for this Board because one drawback of a geothermal system is it takes a lot of financial commitment up front to put this in. You don't get — it's not instant gratification. You put it in and it takes years to get it back, but I don't imagine that this Aquatic Center is a temporary building, even though it was built in a tent style originally. I think that our intentions are to have a long lasting state of the art. Only Chatham County's the only one anywhere near these parts, you know, a jewel in our Public Works and Recreation crown, and I would like to see that we build this with good components and we don't take any shortcuts and we don't just put in the easiest system that expedites the process right now. That we look into it very thoroughly and come up with some options to build a better building and to have a better system so that the taxpayers as kilowatt hours go from 10 cents in 2007 to 15 cents five years from now and 20 cents ten years from now, as we can all imagine they will do as the energy crisis escalate, you know, we need to have in place a system that's going to buffer future budgets from increased expenditures to keep that very worthy and a well-liked facility open.

Mr. Monahan said, well, let me assure you first of all we still have plenty of time. Commissioner Farrell said, good. Mr. Monahan said, the long-needed item is the roof, and that's approximately a 12-week time. The mechanical system is totally separate and we still have additional time to take a look at these alternatives, and we're still planning to pursue them. The consulting engineer that developed the initial views on both the solar panel system as well as the geothermal system, I just — I feel uncomfortable with what he's presenting because he's looking at it from the cost savings, he's looking at it from the initial cost, but for a pool this size we are finding it difficult to find other natatoriums or aquatic centers elsewhere in the country with experience. The most successful on the geothermal came from Idaho and, yes, they have rave reviews, but the temperature of their water, it's just a matter of degrees to heat it. We're talking about going to 40-degrees to 80-degrees in one pool, the large volume pool, and in the pool it's up to 86, 87-degrees. So there's still a significant expense in that heating cost, whether it's heat strips, a heat pump or anything like that. The solar appears —

Commissioner Farrell said, are you talking about water temperature for the pool or air temperature? Mr. Monahan said, we're talking about water temperature. Commissioner Farrell

said, because the geothermal's main component is the conditioning of the air itself in the facility. Mr. Monahan said, right. Commissioner Farrell said, a side item is of minor benefit of warming up the water for the pool and, you know, I understand that going forward. Mr. Monahan said, well, I thought you were particularly considered about the solar panels because in the initial analysis, the consulting engineer only looked at solar panels on the roof and I thought you might be concerned because now we're proceeding with the roof and can't look at solar panels. My opinion, solar panels on the roof don't make any sense. One, its very awkward to get to that height even to maintain them because they do require frequent maintenance, and it's only roughly a quarter of an acre of solar panels and we've got enough property in the Bacon Park area where we could lay out the solar panels on the ground where they could be easily maintained. So his review of only looking at solar panels on the room, I disagreed with and so we're proceeding on a different course there. We will come back with an additional report with a lot more details. I'm concerned he's only looking at the savings; that the consulting engineer is not looking at the other cost associated with ongoing maintenance. And I think that's been the problem. The problem is never year one, the problems are year two and beyond. I agree, we need to take a look at alternative technologies to save as much money as possible, but we don't want to go leaping into an unknown technology for a pool of this size. Yes, there are small pools quite successful as far as the solar panel and the geothermal, but the volumes of this pool are not ordinary.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I would just like to go on the piggyback on what Commissioner Farrell said. When we first came on as Commissioners one of the first things we had to approve was a new roof for this, and it was in my opinion an extremely expense cost to the taxpayers, and then it was the door. So I would really like to get this fixed correctly and do something that would prevent us from having to go back to the Commission and back to the taxpayers in th future because that was a very hard pill to swallow as band new Commissioners was putting a new roof on that Aquatic Center. Mr. Monahan said, well, I think the roof will solve a lot of the problems. The air pressure issue goes away altogether, so the door lock on the revolving door, that's no longer an issue anymore, and neither is the fire safety concern that when the bubble goes down, only certain number of occupants can exit the building at one time, and that's a scary situation because we had the fire alarm go off during a meet and only a handful of folks can exit the building at a time. Fortunately, it was just a ballast that had gone bad, but I think replacing the roof will resolve a lot of those issues. We are struggling a little bit because of increasing construction costs to get the project within project to fully fund both the roof and the mechanical system. Right now we've got the roof fully funded and a portion of the mechanical system. We're continuing to work, take a look at some interest earnings from the project from not doing the project last year, and applying those to be able to do the full mechanical system, but we are headed that direction and we do have enough time. Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you. I need a motion.

County Manager Abolt said, I'd just would like to, because I think you all have it, pay respect to Mr. Monahan but it was through his initiative and leadership that saved the County, if you approve this almost \$97,000.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, and I'd like to certainly point that out. That's by the good leadership that we have on this project, there's one shining example of how to do a project better and more efficiently than just to follow up, you know, with some other areas, HVAC. You know, we've got one good chance as we do this major project to enhance and come up with the very best, most efficient system we can. It's very difficult when you spend the kind of money we're going to have to spend for an HVAC system to think about doing it next year or three years from now because then you've got to scrap a whole system. So the opportunity is in front of us and I would like to say that I would like to see that that's very thoroughly, if we don't have the personnel currently on board that can bring us the answers, expedite it and bring us the expert advice as we have in the past, to look farther and search for the person that is qualified to bring us this type of information in a timely manner so that we don't miss that window of opportunity and get our backs up against the wall and have to make decisions based on, well, gosh, we're going to delay opening the pool again if we don't do something. So it's very important that this issue gets looked at very closely.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I'm getting an education now from Commissioner Farrell about green buildings and I like that, but I'd like to make a motion that we move forward and approve Item 7-D on the calendar. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. And let me let all the citizens in this community, they might not remember. This Board approved a bond issue that we save — that was brought to us by a great financial staff and our County Manager, and so we were able to replace this roof — savings on refinancing a bond. So this roof situation is not costing the citizens anything in the community because of the savings that we got from that refinancing of the bond. County Manager said, next year you're going to build a new [inaudible]. Commissioner Stone said, right. Chairman Liakakis said, yes. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, motion approved.

#### **Item 7-H:**

[Refer to general discussion under "Action Calendar" for a discussion on Item 7-H.]

Commissioner Stone moved to approve Item 7-H. Commissioner Shay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to approve Items 7-A through 7-M, except Items 7-D and 7-H. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

- b. Commissioner Shay moved to approve Item 7-D . Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]
- c. Commissioner Stone moved to approve Item 7-H. Commissioner Shay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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## **XI. FIRST READINGS**

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

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

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

1. **REPEAL SECTION 4-11 (DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS AND ANTENNAS) OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE IN ITS ENTIRETY TO BE REPLACE BY SECTION 16 (WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES). REPEALING PORTIONS OF SECTION 4-5.1 (INDEX FOR C AND R ZONING DISTRICTS: TOWER-COMMERCIAL WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, USE 35 AND LIST OF USES, USE 35); SECTION 4-5.2 (INDEX FOR B AND I ZONING DISTRICTS: TOWER, USE 72C AND LIST OF USES: COMMERCIAL WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, USE 72C); AND, SECTION 8-2.C (NONCONFORMING USES, LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF A BUILDING OR A LAND BY NONCONFORMING USES). MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.  
MPC FILE NO. Z-070418-54569-1  
TEXT AMENDMENT – UNINCORPORATED AREA**

Chairman Liakakis said, as you know, we've had a lot of discussion on that. A number of Commissioners have gone to the hearings that we had about telecommunication towers and antennas because we wanted to make sure that these were not put in, you know, detrimental to residential areas where they wanted to — some put these in residential areas, so you have been distributed additional information. I'd like a motion on the floor to approve this. Commissioner Odell said, first reading. Commissioner Stone said, first reading. Chairman Liakakis said, excuse me. First reading. There is no — there is nothing on that on first readings. We vote only on second readings.

### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

**AGENDA ITEM: XI-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**THRU: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

**FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

**Repeal Section 4-11 (Development Standards for Telecommunications Towers and Antennas) of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance in its entirety to be replaced by Section 16 (Wireless Telecommunications Facilities). Repealing portions of Section 4-5.1 (Index for C and R Zoning Districts: Tower-Commercial Wireless Telecommunications Facility, Use 35 AND List of Uses, Use 35); Section 4-5.2 (Index for B and I Zoning Districts: Tower, Use 72c AND List of Uses: Commercial Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, Use 72c); and, Section 8-2.c (Nonconforming Uses, Limitations on the Use of a Building or a Land by Nonconforming Uses). MPC recommends approval. MPC File No. Z-070418-54569-1**

**ISSUE:** Repealing Section 4-11 (Development Standards for Telecommunications Towers and Antennas) of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance in its entirety to be replaced by Section 16 (Wireless Telecommunications Facilities). Repealing portions of Section 4-5.1 (Index for C and R Zoning Districts: Tower-Commercial Wireless Telecommunications Facility, Use 35 AND List of Uses, Use 35); Section 4-5.2 (Index for B and I Zoning Districts: Tower, Use 72c AND List of Uses: Commercial Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, Use 72c); and, Section 8-2.c (Nonconforming Uses, Limitations on the Use of a Building or a Land by Nonconforming Uses).

**BACKGROUND:**

1. The proposed Wireless Telecommunications Facilities ordinance is proposed to take the place of the existing telecommunications ordinance ("Development Standards for Telecommunications Towers and Antennas") which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2001. The existing ordinance was created in response to the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 which established the role of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and of local government with regard to the siting of telecommunications facilities for personal wireless services, including cellular phone service.

2. At the time the existing ordinance was developed, wireless service providers (companies such as Cingular, T-Mobile, and Alltel) focused on providing service coverage for large areas. As the number of cellular phone users increases and as more services become available such as text messaging and Internet access, wireless facilities have become overburdened by the volume of users. When call cannot be completed or is disconnected, it results in what is commonly termed a “dropped call.” The wireless industry has responded by shifting its focus to providing increased “capacity” for its customers.
3. Increasing capacity requires an increase in telecommunications facilities. While coverage facilities have been typically located in commercial or rural areas, capacity facilities require closer proximity to users to diminish gaps in coverage. As a result, more facilities are proposed for predominantly residential areas. Because the existing ordinance does not adequately address capacity concerns, a revision of the ordinance was undertaken. The ordinance also addresses other areas that have been problematic: screening of ground equipment that supports the antenna function; concealment of antennas; and lack of a technical review of applications.
4. Because of the technical nature of the ordinance, MPC retained the services of a nationally known telecommunications consulting firm, CityScape. CityScape has viewed the ordinance for consistency with the 1996 Act and has completed a Master Plan that identifies existing facilities and areas where future facilities will be needed. The Master Plan will be presented to MPC subsequent to the adoption of this ordinance. Additionally, CityScape will provide technical review for future wireless telecommunications applications.
5. Public outreach to introduce and discuss this ordinance has been extensive. Staff met with representatives from the wireless telecommunications industry on two occasions to discuss the ordinance and have maintained contact throughout the drafting process. A joint meeting of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, City of Savannah Mayor and Aldermen, and Planning Commission was held in January, 2007 to allow staff and CityScape to make presentations. MPC staff also made several presentations to the Planning Commission at MPC. Additionally, staff presented the ordinance at six meetings throughout the county and city in February and March. The draft ordinance has also been posted on the MPC’s website.
6. If the text amendment is adopted, it will be necessary to repeal the Wireless Communication / Digital Television Tower Overlay District (Section 4-6.57A) because it will no longer be applicable. Repealing the overlay district will also require that fewer than ten properties be rezoned in order to remove the overlay designation.

7. The Wireless Telecommunications Facilities amendment is proposed to be placed in a new section, Section 16, because the location of the existing telecommunications ordinance inappropriately located in the zoning district section of the Zoning Ordinance.

**FINDINGS:**

If adopted, the proposed Wireless Telecommunications Facilities ordinance will:

1. Provide an expanded purpose and intent section, including linkage to the 1996 Telecommunications Act, the Chatham County-City of Savannah Comprehensive Plan, and the Wireless Telecommunications Ordinance Master Plan.
2. Allows wireless telecommunications facilities in all zoning districts, but require adherence to a preferred hierarchy of facility types, including (in order of preference): concealed attached; collocation on an existing facility; concealed freestanding; unconcealed attached; or unconcealed freestanding (monopole). Ideally, fewer monopoles with exposed antennas will be constructed.
3. Require an applicant to provide technical information to “prove” why preferred hierarchy cannot be achieved. A review by a technical consultant will be required for this process.
4. Provide improved standards for screening, landscaping, and design / aesthetics.
5. Establish additional standards for residential areas, recognized historic areas, and specified scenic vistas and landscapes.
6. Eliminate new lattice and guy towers, but allow them to remain as nonconforming facilities.
7. Increase the public notification period from five days for property posting and seven days for mailed notification to at least 15 days for both.
8. Provide waivers for height and certain setbacks.
9. Identify responsibility for review (Executive Director or Planning Commission) based on the type of wireless telecommunications facility.

- 10. Additionally, a new fee schedule will be established. A separate report will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners as the Revenue Ordinance will have to be amended to change the existing fee schedule.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Approve the proposed text amendment.
- 2. Do not approve the proposed text amendment.
- 3. Approve an alternate text amendment.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** The proposed ordinance addresses the rapid changes in technology and increased demand for wireless services in a manner that complies with the 1996 Act, while balancing the needs of the wireless industry and the desires of the community.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The MPC and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend **APPROVAL** to repeal Section 4-11 (Development Standards for Telecommunications Towers and Antennas) of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance in its entirety and to enact Section 16 (Wireless Telecommunications Facilities) in its place. **APPROVAL** to repeal portions of Section 4-5.1 (Index for C and R Zoning Districts: Tower-Commercial Wireless Telecommunications Facility, Use 35 AND List of Uses, Use 35); and, Section 4-5.2 (Index for B and I Zoning Districts: Tower, Use 72c AND List of Uses: Commercial Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, Use 72c); and, Section 8-2.c (Nonconforming Uses, Limitations on the Use of a Building or a Land by Nonconforming Uses).

PREPARED BY: Charlotte Moore, AICP,  
Director of Special Projects

May 1, 2007

Gregori Anderson, Director  
**BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES**

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**2. THE PETITIONER, NEW OGEECHEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, REPRESENTED BY PASTOR JOYCE FRASIER, IS REQUESTING DESIGNATION OF 751 CHEVIS ROAD AS A HISTORIC PROPERTY ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. MPC FILE NO. DP20070314-01-1 [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

**AGENDA ITEM: XI-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**THRU: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**  
**FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

The petitioner, New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church, represented by Pastor Joyce Frasier, is requesting designation of 751 Chevis Road as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places. The Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) recommends APPROVAL of the adoption of an ordinance to designate the church as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places. MPC File No. DP20070314-01-1

**ISSUE:**

Adopting ordinance to designate New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places.

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 18, 2005 the Chatham County Historic Preservation Ordinance was approved to create the Chatham County Historic Preservation (CCHPC) and establish the designation process for listing properties in unincorporated Chatham County on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places. The CCHPC has

received its first application for designation from the New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church. The CCHPC reviewed the application at its May 2, 2007 meeting and voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners.

#### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. **Public Notice:** Notice of the CCHPC public hearing was published in three consecutive issues of the Savannah Morning News and written notice of the hearing was mailed to the owner of the property not less than ten and not more than twenty days prior to the public hearing.
2. **Site:** The subject property is 0.97 acres in size and is located on the east side of Chevis Road. The proposed boundaries of the historic property will follow the existing parcel boundaries, the same as originally deeded to the church in 1891.
3. **History:** New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church was built in 1893 on land originally part of Wild Heron Plantation. It was one of three African-American historic churches to serve the Burroughs community of Chatham County. The church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 8, 2001, and has been identified as a historic property in the Historic and Cultural Resources section of the Comprehensive Plan.
4. **Designation Criteria:** As per the criteria set forth in the Chatham County Historic Preservation Ordinance, Section IV.D., the church meets the Criterion A as an outstanding example of a structure representative of its era and Criterion D as a site of aesthetic interest that continues to contribute the cultural and historical development and heritage of the county.
5. **Zoning:** Designation as a Historic Property will add a Zoning Overlay to the property, changing it from R-A to R-A-HO (Historic Overlay).

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the ordinance to designate New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places.
2. Do not approve the ordinance to designate New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places.

#### **POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The purpose and intent of the historic preservation ordinance is to establish a uniform procedure to provide for the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of areas having a special historical, cultural, or aesthetic interest or value. Designating New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a Historic Property furthers the intent of the ordinance.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Preservation Professional and the CCHPC recommends Approval of the adoption of the ordinance to designate New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places as follows:

**ENACT**

**NEW OGEECHEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
HISTORIC PROPERTY DESIGNATION ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE A HISTORIC PROPERTY WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED COUNTY, TO PRESCRIBE THE BOUNDARIES OF SUCH HISTORIC PROPERTY, TO REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FROM THE CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION PRIOR TO ANY MATERIAL CHANGE IN APPEARANCE OF THE PROPERTY, TO ESTABLISH DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN STANDARDS, TO BE SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FO THE COUNTY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**MPC NO.:** DP20070314-01-1

**Petition of:** New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist church

**Recommendation:** To add Overlay Zoning from R-A to R-A-HO

**P.I.N.:** 1-1004-0004-003

CCHPC recommends adoption of the ordinance to designate New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church as a Historic Property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places and ad Historic Overlay to the existing zoning.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at a point located on the centerline of Chevis Road approximately 2706 feet north of its intersection with the centerline of Hill Road, thence proceeding in a northerly direction along the centerline of Chevis Road a distance of approximately 100 feet to a point, thence northeasterly along a line North 64 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East a distance of approximately 445 feet to a point, thence southeasterly along a line South 26 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East a distance of approximately 100 feet to a point, thence southerly along a line South 64 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West back to the point of beginning.

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**3. AMENDMENT TO THE REVENUE ORDINANCE FOR FEE AND RATE INCREASES AS PROPOSED WITHIN FISCAL 2008 BUDGET FOR BUILDING**

**PERMITS, WATER AND SEWER CHARGES, LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ORDINANCE AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

**AGENDA ITEM: XI-3**

**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**DATE:** May 21, 2007

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager

**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

**ISSUE:**

Amendments to the Revenue Ordinance for fee and rate increases/decreases as proposed within the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget for Building Permits, Water and Sewer charges, Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance, and the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

**BACKGROUND:**

Board approval is required to make any changes to fees and to the revenue ordinance.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Since its inception, the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund has not been self-sustaining. Building permit fee increases are proposed in the Revenue Ordinance Article T, Section 1 as follows:

<u>Residential</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Construction Valuation	\$80 per sq. ft.	\$80 per sq. ft.
Permit Fee Rate	\$4 per thousand	\$6 per thousand
<u>Commercial</u>		
Construction Valuation	\$100 per sq. ft.	\$100 per sq. ft.
Permit Fee Rate	\$6 per thousand	\$7 per thousand

2. The Water and Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund and has a proposed long-range capital improvement plan for system improvements. The last water and sewer rate increase occurred in July 2005. To offset cost increases in fund operations as well as meet the needs identified within the plan, the following rate increases are proposed to the Revenue Ordinance Article W, Sections 2, 3, and 4:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>Water</u>		
Water per unit usage over 20 units	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.53
Water Tap-in	\$ 247.50	\$ 400.00
<u>Sewer</u>		
Flat Rate Sewer Only	\$ 59.18	\$ 65.10
Base Sewer Rate	\$ 27.41	\$ 30.15
Sewer per unit usage (20 units)	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.42
Sewer per unit usage over 20 units	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.81
Deposit Sewer Only	\$ 62.70	\$ 100.00
Sewer – Special Flat Rat	\$ 946.90	\$1,041.59
Sewer – Special Deposit Flat Rate	\$ 110.00	\$ 120.00
Sewer Tap-in	\$ 247.50	\$ 300.00

The water rate for up to 20 units (0 – 2,000 cubic feet) of usage will remain unchanged at \$0.33 per unit (100 cubic feet).

3. The Engineering Department proposes the following changes to the Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance within the Revenue Ordinance Article R, Sections 1 and 2:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Single Family Residential	\$290 per lot	\$450 per lot
Commercial & Multi-family	\$500 base charge, plus \$400 per acre (minimum \$700)	\$6,000 base charge, plus \$1,000 per acre (minimum \$7,000)
*Single Family Residential and Commercial & Multi-family Site Plan Re-review		25% of original fee, required to be paid prior to starting 4 <sup>th</sup> review and each subsequent review
*Changes to Approved Site plans (if requested <u>prior</u> to field implementation of the proposed changes)		25% of original fee
*Changes to Approved Site plans (if requested <u>after</u> field implementation of the proposed changes)		50% of original fee
*Single Family Residential Re- inspections		\$200 per inspection, required to be paid prior to scheduling re- inspection of a previously failed inspection
Commercial & Multi-family Re- inspections	\$100 per inspection beginning with the	\$200 per inspection, required to be paid prior

	3 <sup>rd</sup> inspection	to scheduling 3 <sup>rd</sup> inspection and each subsequent inspection
Arborist Plot Plan Review	\$50 each	\$50 each
Arborist Lot Tree Re-Inspection	\$50 per inspection beginning with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> inspection	\$50 per inspection, required to be paid prior to scheduling 2 <sup>nd</sup> inspection and each subsequent inspection
ESA Waiver Requests	\$100	\$200
Single Family Residential Water and Sewer Plan Review (inside municipalities only)	\$80 per lot	\$80 per lot
Commercial & Multi-Family Water and Sewer Plan Review (inside municipalities only)	\$200 base charge, plus \$125 per acre (minimum \$300)	\$200 base charge, plus \$125 per acre (minimum \$325)
Plat Reviews, Minor S/Ds & Re-combination plats	\$100 per review	\$200 flat
Plat Reviews, Major	\$50 per lot	\$100 per lot
*As-Built Plan Re-review		25% of original fee, required to be paid prior to starting 2 <sup>nd</sup> review and each subsequent review
*NDPES Fees		\$40 per acre

4. The Metropolitan Planning Commission proposes the following changes and additions in the Revenue Ordinance Article U, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 6 to their fee structure to more accurately reflect the cost of doing business:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Map Amendments	\$2,300 + 50/acre	\$3,500 + 50/acre
Text Amendments	\$2,300	\$3,000
Board of Appeals		
Residential	\$ 300 + 120	\$ 500 + 120
Commercial	\$1,060 + 120	\$1,180 + 120
Minor Subdivision Revisions	\$ 475	\$ 600
Final Plats		
Minor	\$1,200 + 150/lot	\$ 900 + 150/lot
Major	\$1,200 + 150/lot	\$1,350 + 150/lot
Preliminary Plans	\$1,225	\$1,300 + 25/lot
Master Plans	\$1,300 + 10/lot	\$2,500 + 25/lot
Sketch Plans	\$1,000 + 35/lot	\$1,750 + 25/lot
Site Plans	\$1,155 + 155/acre	\$ 750 +50/acre
In Inspections Dept	\$ 155	\$ 155
Addresses	\$ 150	\$ 250
Development of Regional Impact	\$ 775	\$ 775

*Continuance Fee	\$ 200
*Re-review Fee (initial application includes 2 reviews)	\$ 200
*Post Approval Revisions	\$ 200
*Neighborhood Meetings	\$ 400

\* = New Fees

**FUNDING:**

Approval of these increases will be incorporated into the 2008 fiscal year budget.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board of Commissioners approves rates and fees for County activities.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the fee increases\decreases and additions as proposed above.
2. Disapprove or modify the request.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Alternative #1.

Prepared by: Cheryl N. Deariso, Assistant Finance Director

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

**1. THE PETITIONER PHILLIP MCCORKLE, AGENT (FOR JOE C. SIKES, OWNER) IS REQUESTING THE REZONING FROM AN I-H (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A P-B (PLANNED BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.  
MPC FILE NO. Z-070329-41568-1  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Liakakis said, we have information on that that has been distributed. I'd like a motion on the floor for approval.

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

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the petition of Phillip McCorkle, agent (for Joe C. Sikes, Owner) requesting the rezoning from an I-H (Heavy Industrial) zoning classification to a P-B (Planned Business) classification. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: XII-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**THRU: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

**FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

The petitioner Phillip McCorkle, Agent (for Joe C. Sikes, owner) is requesting the rezoning from an I-H (Heavy Industrial) zoning classification to a P-B (Planned Business) classification. **The MPC recommends approval.**  
**MPC File No. Z-070329-41568-1**

**ISSUE:**

At issue is a request to rezone approximately 19.8 acres of land from the existing I-H (Heavy Industrial) zoning classification to a P-B (Planned-Business) zoning classification.

**BACKGROUND:**

The subject property, located generally at the northeast corner of Bourne Avenue (State Route 307) and State Route 21 (Augusta Road in Garden City), is currently undeveloped. Presently zoned for light industrial uses, the site has had an industrial zoning classification since the inception of zoning districts in the early 1960's. There has been no rezoning in the immediate vicinity in recent years.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:****1. Existing Development Pattern:**

The subject parcel is currently vacant. The development pattern in the immediate area is a mix of commercial and industrial uses including trucking yards and restaurants.

The land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject property include:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Zoning</u>
North	Vacant	I-H
East	Industrial/Vacant	I-H
South	Highway 307 and Commercial	I-H
West	Highway 21 and CSX Railroad	City of Port Wentworth

## 2. Existing I-H Zoning District:

- a. ***Intent of the I-H District:*** According to the Zoning Ordinance, the purpose of the I-H district is to "...create and protect areas in which industries, which are not permitted in other districts, can be permitted."
- b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed in the I-H district are shown on the attached chart
- c. ***Development Standards:*** The development standards for the I-H district appear in the attached table (Table 1).

## 3. Proposed P-B Zoning District:

- a. ***Intent of the B District:*** According to the Zoning Ordinance, the purpose of the B district is to "...create and protect areas in which heavy commercial and certain industrial-like activities are permitted."

***Intent of the P District:*** According to the Zoning Ordinance, the purpose of the P district is to "...provide areas within which comprehensive development Gregori Anderson, Director of Building Safety & Regulatory Services plans shall be prepared for review by the MPC or MPC staff in order to secure an orderly development pattern. Such districts are considered [overlay] districts and the uses permitted in such districts are those uses permitted in the zoning district which they overlay."

- b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed in the B district are shown on the attached chart.
- c. ***Development Standards:*** The development standards for the B district appear in the attached table (Table 1).

## 4. Land Use Element: The Tricentennial Plan Future Land Use Map designates

the subject property for heavy industrial usage. The Tricentennial Plan defines this land use category as areas supporting uses that are involved in the large scale production of finished or semi-finished products from raw materials and that may produce noise, odor, dust, and waterborne contaminants measurably above ambient levels. Such uses may also require intensive truck traffic and outdoor storage. The proposed use and zoning is consistent with the Future Land Use Map designation.

5. **Transportation Network:** The site is bounded on two sides by State Highways, Georgia 307 and Georgia 21. Access to the site could be available from either roadway. The most recent data available indicates an average daily traffic count of approximately 36,000 on State Route 21, and an average daily traffic count of approximately 10,000 on State Route 307.

Public transit service is available along State Highway 21.

6. **Public Services and Facilities:** At present, water service is provided from private wells and waste water is disposed of through a private septic system. Police protection is provided by the Metropolitan Police Department; fire services are provided by the Port Wentworth Fire Department.
7. It is the petitioner's intent to develop a full service truck stop on the subject property. Located at the intersection of two state highways near the entrance to the Savannah Ports facilities, the site is aptly suited for the intended use. Although considered an intensive use, the current Chatham County Zoning Ordinance allows truck stops to be located only within the Agricultural-Tourist (A-T), Tourist-Business (T-B), and Business (B) zoning classifications.
8. The proposed "P" district designation requires that the development plans for the site be subject to MPC and/or MPC staff review and approval. The use must meet the appropriate development standards of the "B" district, and any change to the use allowed must be reviewed by the MPC and/or the MPC staff.

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

1. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would create traffic volumes, noise level, odor, airborne particulate matter, visual blight, reduce light or increased density of development that would adversely impact the livability or quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

2. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would adversely impact adjacent and nearby properties by rendering such properties less desirable and therefore less marketable for the type of development permitted under the

current zoning?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

- 3. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate a type or mix of vehicular traffic on a street or highway that is incompatible with the type of land use development along such street or highway?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

- 4. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate greater traffic volumes at vehicular access points and cross streets than is generated by uses permitted under the current zoning district to the detriment of maintaining acceptable or current volume capacity (V/C) ratio for the streets that provide vehicular access to the proposed zoning district and adjacent and nearby properties?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

- 5. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would require a greater level of public services such as drainage facilities, utilities, or safety services above that required for uses permitted under the current zoning district such that the provision of these services will create financial burden to the public?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

- 6. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would adversely impact the improvement or development of adjacent and nearby properties in accordance with existing zoning regulations and development controls deemed necessary to maintain the stability and livability of the surrounding neighborhood?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

- 7. Will the proposed zoning district permit development that is inconsistent with the comprehensive land use plan?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Approve the petitioner's request to rezone the property from an I-H classification to a P-B classification.

2. Deny the petitioner's request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The proposed zoning is consistent with the Future Land Use Plan and will create a district that allows uses compatible with and similar to the existing development pattern of the area. It is not expected that the proposed zoning will negatively impact the existing or surrounding properties.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The MPC and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend **APPROVAL** of the request to rezone the subject property from an I-H (Heavy Industrial) zoning classification to a P-B (Planned-Business) zoning classification.

**PREPARED BY:** Jim Hansen, AICP, Director  
Development Services

April 17, 2007

Gregori Anderson, Director  
**BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES**

**Petition of Phillip McCorkle**  
**MPC File No. Z-070329-41568-1**

MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present I-H (Heavy Industrial) to a P-B (Planned Business) zoning classification.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Beginning on a point located at the intersection of the centerline of Bourne Avenue and the easternmost right of way of Highway 21, thence proceeding northerly along the easternmost right of way of Highway 21 a distance of approximately 1984 feet to a point, thence easterly along a line North 57 degrees 09 minutes 21 seconds East a distance of approximately 158 feet to a point, thence continuing easterly along a line North 71 degrees 32 minutes 56 seconds East a distance of approximately 302 feet to a point, thence southerly along a line South 18 degrees 27 minutes 04 seconds East a distance of approximately 579 feet to a point, thence northeasterly along a line North 71 degrees 50 minutes 38 seconds East for a distance of approximately 388 feet to a point, thence southerly along a line South 18 degrees 27 minutes 04 seconds East a distance of approximately 645 feet to a point, thence along a curve to the right having a curvilinear distance of 147 feet, a chord bearing North 01 degrees 34 minutes 18 seconds West, and a radius of 250 feet to a point, thence along a line South 15 degrees 18 minutes 28 seconds West

to its intersection with the centerline of Bourne Avenue, thence westerly along the centerline of Bourne Avenue back to the point of beginning.

The property is further identified by the Property Identification Number:

P.I.N 1-0817 -01-001 (Portion)

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**2. TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE TO MODIFY THE DEFINITION OF “YARD” TO ACCOMMODATE THE LOCATION OF AIR-CONDITIONING COMPRESSORS. NOTE: SECOND READING WILL BE DEFERRED TO JUNE 8, 2007. [UNINCORPORATED AREA.]**

County Manager Abolt said, that’s going to be deferred to June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes, but I’m going to read it. Text amendment to the County Zoning Ordinance to modify the definition of “yard” to accommodate the location of air-conditioning compressors. Since we do not have the people here for that and the next meeting is June 11<sup>th</sup> as opposed to June 8<sup>th</sup>, we defer that to June 8<sup>th</sup> [sic]. Do we need a motion on that? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Second reading is deferred until the next meeting, which will be held on June 11, 2007.

**AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-2~~**  
**AGENDA DATE: ~~May 25, 2007~~**

**AGENDA ITEM: XII-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2007**

**INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: May 4, 2007  
TO: R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
SUBJECT: Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

We have a staff report on the agenda for next Friday for a text amendment to the zoning ordinance pertaining to set back issues. Upon review of the Zoning Ordinance, this probably should have technically been referred to the MPC before it is enacted upon.

Since we have already advertised first reading for this Friday, I intend to request that the first reading occur and ask for a referral from the Board of Commissioners to the MPC for their staff recommendation prior to the next Commission meeting on May 25, 2007. In this manner, we will be in technical compliance with the ordinance, and do not have to re-advertise and delay enactment.

This is a request which has been worked out between Building Safety & Regulatory Service and the Home Builders that should be a great assistance in clarification for the zoning administrator. I see this as a non-controversial item.

RJH/dc

cc: Chairman Pete Liakakis and Board of Commissioners  
Gregori Anderson, Director of Building Safety & Regulatory Services

## **INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: May 4, 2007

TO: Tom Thomson, Director of MPC

FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

SUBJECT: Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

Thanks to the efficiency of Jim Hansen, it has been brought to our attention that a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, which has been placed on the Commission agenda for Friday, May 11, 2007, should have technically been referred to the MPC before it is enacted upon by the Board of Commissioners.

Accordingly, attached hereto is a copy of the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for review.

It should be noted that the amendment request has been worked out between Chatham County Building Safety & Regulatory Services and the Home Builders Association and; therefore, I see this as a non-controversial item. Also, since the subject has already been advertised for first reading at the May 11, 2007 Commission meeting, it is my intent to request that the Board of Commissioner's refer the matter to the MPC for recommendation by the next Commission meeting on May 25, 2007. By doing this, we will be in technical compliance with the

ordinance, and will not have to re-advertise and delay enactment of the amendment.

Thank you very much for your assistance. Should you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

RJH/dc  
enclosure

cc: R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
Gregori Anderson, Director of Building Safety & Regulatory Services

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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**

**DATE: May 25, 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>
Poweredge server	ICS	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$5,667	General Fund/M&O - ICS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Xerox production laser printer - high volume with three (3) year on site warranty	Superior Court Clerk	Florida Micro, LLC	\$7,057	General Fund/M&O - Superior Court Clerk
Engine hoist stand	Mosquito Control	Red Barn Machine, Inc.	\$2,890	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Ag-Nav GPS system	Mosquito Control	Ag-Nav, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$5,295	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Six (6) computers with monitors and four (4) year next business day on site support	Mosquito Control	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$9,231	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Display board including case-to-podium conversion kit and four (4) box style literature holders with flexible header graphics	Mosquito Control	E2 Exhibits and Displays	\$3,095	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Sunstrand hydraulic motor - includes credit for remanufactured motor	Mosquito Control	Allen Hydraulics	\$3,772	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Sex offender tracking software	Sheriff	Ryte Byte, Inc.	\$8,000	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
12 Glock semi automatic pistols - includes trade-in of 12 Smith and Wesson pistols	Sheriff	Smyrna Police Supply (State Contract)	\$3,250	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
System upgrade for current Quartermaster system to include new hardware, software, setup and conversion	Sheriff	Data Access Systems, Inc.	\$9,150	•General Fund/M&O - Sheriff - \$4,575 •General Fund/M&O - Detention Center - \$4,575
19 - 19" monitors with four (4) year warranty and 13 video cards	Assessor	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$8,196	General Fund/M&O - Assessor
HP Office laser jet printer	Finance	Payformance Corporation	\$3,525	General Fund/M&O - Finance
Four (4) computers with monitors and four (4) year next business day on site support	Voter Registration	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$5,712	General Fund/M&O - Voter Registration
60 - 50lb bags mole cricket bait	Parks and Recreation	Lesco, Inc.	\$9,028	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Cleaning of Juvenile Court's HVAC duct system	Juvenile Court	Servpro of Savannah	\$9,615	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Test and inspect fire extinguishers, fire alarm detection systems and fire sprinkler systems at Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	Simplex Grinnell	\$5,107	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Annual maintenance renewal on "Call Link" and "Work Director" software	Public Works and Park Services	Cartegraph Systems, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$9,504	SSD - Public Works
Two (2) Arcview single user license installation	Public Works and Park Services	ESRI, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$2,700	SSD - Public Works

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Ten (10) h.p. sewer pump with guide rail attachment	Water and Sewer	PDA, Inc.	\$4,645	Water and Sewer
Vinyl upholstery for workout benches	Weightlifting Center	Taylor Upholstering	\$2,950	General Fund/M&O - Weightlifting Center
Annual maintenance and licensing of TaxSpeak software	Tax Commissioner	Web Speak (Sole Source)	\$8,700	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
GIS setup for the County's property tax credit card payment	Tax Commissioner	Binary Business Ltd.	\$3,747	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Repair parts for grinder	Solid Waste	The Trading Company	\$4,586	Solid Waste
Repair parts for grinder	Solid Waste	Consolidated Disposal Systems	\$3,596	Solid Waste
Cisco network infrastructure	Finance	Entre' Solutions (MBE)	\$8,810	CIP - Finance - Hurricane Preparedness
Provide asphalt turn out adjacent to SR204 spur which serves Skidaway Narrows access road	Engineering	E & D Contracting	\$9,200	CIP - Engineering - Skidaway Narrows
Prepare additional exhibits and coordinate with the County and GDOT on the potential widening median alternative	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$7,500	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Whitfield Avenue Widening Project

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Supplemental engineering services to update traffic study	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung	\$9,930	SPLOST (1993-1998) - White Bluff Road Widening Project
Cisco network infrastructure	SPLOST	Entre' Solutions (MBE)	\$2,580	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Odell and seconded by Commissioner Thomas the board recessed at approximately 11:30 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at approximately 11:44 a.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM OF LAURA BELLINO FOR DAMAGES TO HER VEHICLE (JONATHAN HART).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve a motion to settle the claim of Laura Bellino in the amount of \$13,057.39 for damages to her vehicle caused by a County vehicle being operated by Solid Waste employee, James Cooper. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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**APPROVED:** THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION