

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., Friday, April 25, 2008.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Farrell introduced James Taylor, Principal of Calvary High School, who gave the Invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
 Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
 Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District Seven
 Helen L. Stone, District One
 James J. Holmes, District Two
 Patrick Shay, District Three
 Patrick K. Farrell, District Four
 David M. Gellatly, District Six

Absent: Harris Odell, Jr., District Five

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

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

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES OF CHATHAM COUNTY/UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Thomas, as Chairman and Vice Chairman, would you please come down for presentation.

Mr. Van Johnson said, good morning, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, ladies and gentlemen, we want to thank you so much for your funding and your support of the Chatham County's Management Development Program. We realize that it was an intentional effort on your part to ensure that our employees remain among the best skilled and best trained individuals in our community and that is only done through constant training. We certainly know that in the times where sometimes budgets are hard, training is the first thing to go, but certainly you have made the conscious choice to continue to invest in our workforce by allowing us to continue to bring the best practices to our community, to our employees through this Management Development Program.

We bring to you, if we were to talk about this in terms of recipes, we have a recipe for an absolutely wonderful program. The first it takes the funding and support of this program by the County Commission and then it takes some soldiers, some individuals who are willing to make the sacrifice to help make this happen, and you know these individuals. Many of them you see every single day. One fixes everything that needs to be fixed in Chatham County. One counsels us in case we are incarcerated. Two help us resolve issues on the Chatham County version of the People's Court. One person endures the County Manager. One person trains law enforcement officers. Two help our children in trouble. One chases drug dealers. One helps keep our Sheriff organized. One provides recreation for our citizens. One works for the highest court in the land in Chatham County. One helps prepare applicants for public service through Chatham County. Add to that understanding and support of department heads because certainly their work decreased during their time and during their investment over this last year. In fact, many of their workloads increased, but yet you had to have support of department heads, and then add to that a dynamic, exciting instructor who we've been blessed half of the last three years and you have a set of seasoned, well-informed, well-educated, energized, public professionals ready to make a difference not only to the departments being served but in ultimately the County that we all serve. So I'm very, very pleased to present these 19 graduates to you, our Class of 2008 in the Management Development Program, and I guess we'll have —, Gordon [Maner] would you like to come up and say good morning? Mr. Maner said, sure. Mr. Johnson said, well sure, come on up.

Mr. Gordon Maner said, thank you, Van [Johnson], and Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. It's one of the greatest things about my job is I get to come out from Athens to visit the County Commissioners to award certificates and I know that most of you all will be in training on Saturday at the County Commissioners conference, and on Tuesday I will be presenting a certificate to Commissioner Stone. All of you have been actively involved in training over the years and you're to be congratulated, not only for your own education and improvement, but also for the staff of Chatham County.

Mr. Maner said, I just want to say a couple of words about our instructor that you had here. Franzelle Pertilla is one of our star performers. She's on the adjunct faculty at the Carl Vinson Institute at UGA and one of our stars and finest instructors. So I know that your people have been in good hands with her and I want to congratulate each one of them as they receive their certificates today. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson said, and we want to — I mean, since we have her here in town, because we know she's busy all over the world, but Franzelle Pertilla, the dynamic instructor and sometimes I've heard slave master, of the 2008 class is here and we want to welcome her. Franzelle [Pertilla].

Ms. Pertilla said, I'm going to ask Gordon [Maner] to come back up, too, just for a second, but Chairman Liakakis, Commissioners, Mr. Abolt, Mr. Kaigler, Mr. Johnson and everyone who's joined us today, thank you for allowing me to say a few words. It's been my pleasure each and every time the program has occurred to represent Carl Vinson Institute of Government in facilitating this. It's really about leadership and without leadership from the top supporting us, we really would not be able to do such a fantastic job as Mr. Johnson has described. There have been some people also who supported us along the way and they're in the room, and I'm just so pleased and it's important for me just to acknowledge them. We have, and I'd never met Sheriff Al St. Lawrence, but Sheriff St. Lawrence, I just wanted to acknowledge him. We had our commencement speaker, Commander — where's Commander Harris? Oh, you're over here. Commander Harris gave our commencement speech yesterday and these are folks each step along the way we've engaged more of County personnel and leaders again to show the class that leadership supports you. We also have Captain McBurney and Major John Wilcher, who supported us yesterday as well. Also, Crystal Cooper, Ms. Cooper is in the room. Thank you again. We've heard so many good things about you, and is Ms. Cramer here? Part of what you need to know about what makes this program successful is that we engage leaders from the County Manager's department heads to talk about what they do to give the group exposure and to give them a sense of what they can aspire to and basically to have a better understanding of the system. And, of course, Mr. Kaigler and Mr. Johnson leads us and we work in concert to guide the program along the way.

If I have missed any acknowledged, I do apologize. I just want to be brief, and last but not least, I just really thank the class for trusting me and you cannot be a leader without a follower, and to the class an announcement that you don't know, but in order to sharpen my leadership skills, I've just been invited to participate in Leadership Atlanta. Many of you know that's a coveted organization that you're not invited in, but I'm there and I want to continue hopefully to come back and to help them in learning what leadership needs to be about.

One final thing. You see the projects on the screen, but for the sake of time we're going to bypass that because I know Gordon [Maner] will be taking care of that. I want to share something with you and since these were not my words, give the class an opportunity to speak on this briefly. Carla, if you would just come up and just share with the audience, this is a part of her project and it was so moving to me I don't want to try to reinvent the wheel. If you can just briefly step up and share why you wrote these wonderful words.

Ms. Carla Kicklighter said, well, when Ms. Pertilla told us how we were to present our final project, I felt like that I need to include in my project acknowledgments. I am probably the oldest participant of this class this year, but in keeping with the phrase "You're never too old to learn," I just wanted everyone to know what this opportunity has meant to me. So I stated:

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for realizing the importance of professional management development training for managers and supervisors. A special thank you goes to my Court Administrator, who allowed me the opportunity to take this court; to my teammates for their assistance in creating the procedures manual, which was my project; to my classmates who participated in each and every class, and most of all, to my mentor extraordinaire, Ms. Franzelle Pertilla, who is truly a gifted facilitator.

Ms. Kicklighter said, I would just like you all to know that this has been a life-changing experience for me, and I thank you very much.

Ms. Pertilla said, and you know the final note, just a bit of humor, this success has — we want to take a little bit of this credit with the Carl Vinson Management Development Program, but I want to mention to you that we've had four promotions in our class. Lawrence — when I call your name, if you would stand. Lawrence Wright, Herb Harley, Pamela Green Scott and Russell Smith. We just want to take a little bit of credit. If you could just give them a round of applause. Last but not least there are many families who've supported them, you know, doing their homework and their assignments, et cetera. We want to mention that we have had the birth of one baby, Herb's grandchild, been with us from day one, and there's one baby on the way, Danielle Hillery, if she's still standing or sitting. Alright. Thanks you once again.

Mr. Maner said, we can't take credit for the babies, but promotions we'll take. You saw on the screen earlier there were some projects. Each person is required to do a project, a process improvement project, if you will, something that will produce a measurable change for the county, and one of the things that I'm fond of saying is that we're not in the business of providing training; we're in the business of improving local government. And I think that's an important way to look at it because if you're just providing training, then all you're doing is educating people. We want them to apply the skills to make themselves and make their county more effective and more efficient. So that's a big part of what we're doing. Up on the screen you'll see some of the projects. The net outcome of the — the projected net outcome of these projects, the impact on the county is about \$1.1 million. If they're all implemented fully, that should be the impact. So if you look at training as an investment, that's a pretty good investment for the amount of money you paid for the training. With that I'll turn it back over to Franzelle [Pertilla] and you'll have a chance to look at these as you get back to your monitors.

Mr. Johnson said, thank you, and we certainly commit in the Employee Services and Training Division to continue to seek out programs and services that will provide quality outcomes such as the ones that we are witnessing today. If you would please come up. Gordon [Maner], Franzelle [Pertilla], as well. We'll start from here.

Climmie R. Ancrum, Facility Maintenance & Operation. He's not here? Okay, we'll have to get it to him.
Cassandra T. Barnwell, Sheriff's Department
Pamela K. Blake, Magistrate Court
Lawanda N. Ferguson, Magistrate Court
Pamela L. Green-Scott, Sheriff's Department
Herbert T. Harley, Sheriff's Department
Brenda D. Kennedy, Clerk of Superior Court
Carla R. Kicklighter, Juvenile Court
Stephanie D. King, Sheriff's Department
Emory L. Lanier, Public Works & Park Services
Lawrence A. Lanier, Public Works & Park Services
Libby M. LeTourneau, Juvenile Court
Takiyah A. Martin, Human Resources & Services
Anthony D. Russell, Public Works & Park Services
Russell A. Smith, Counter Narcotics Team
Nancy C. Wheless, Sheriff's Department
Andrea J. Williams, Administrative Services
Lawrence D. Wright, Sheriff's Department

Mr. Johnson said, I believe that's all of the certificates that we had. We didn't miss anybody, did we? County Manager Abolt said, there's one more. Mr. Johnson asked, there's one more? Mr. Manager?

County Manager Abolt said, ladies and gentlemen, you know when you have a close member of your family that matriculates — I guess that's the right word —, you have a special sense of pride. All the folks you've met so far are family, but there's one that's extremely close family though, and that's the presentation that the Chairman and Dr. Thomas are going to make. I will say before the graduate comes up here, to the more keenly observant, you will note that she's actually graduating for two.

Chairman Liakakis said, Danielle Hillery.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, would you make the other presentation please.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, the Commissioners of Chatham County by virtue of the authority vested in them, and on the recommendation of the County Manager along with members of Grassy Knoll Productions, have conferred the degree of Masters of Motherhood, MOM, Danielle Hillery Bush [sic], having successfully completed the required nine month endurance, this 25th day of April, 2008.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, we come in momentarily, let's have the graduate acknowledge her recognition with the understanding that after she makes her comments, there will be something else that's going to occur. So be good with your remarks, Danielle [Hillery].

Ms. Hillery said, I should have known something was up. But first of all I'd like to thank the Board of Commissioners for providing this opportunity for employees to go through this program, and it's been a very interesting and learning experience for me, and I'd like to also thank Mr. Abolt for sparing me out of his office to allow me to take advantage of this opportunity. It's been a pleasure. I've enjoyed my facilitator and enjoyed working on my program. And, again, I should have known something was up because he did ask me to get some family members and my husband in the audience, but I do appreciate both awards and thank you again for the opportunity.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, just stand by Danielle [Hillery] and I'll call on the County Manager right now for another presentation.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Thomas was going to do this, but in her stead for the moment to keep the agenda moving, I'll make this presentation. Ms. Graduate, would you please come forward. Ms. Hillery said, I think y'all are going to make me go into labor. County Manager Abolt said, I don't know which size this is supposed to go on, but —. Again, if you'll note —. [NOTE: At this point the graduation hat fell off.] Ms. Hillery said, uh oh. County Manager Abolt said, wow, wow, wow. We'll pick it up. County Manager Abolt said, put it on your head. Ms. Hillery said, thank you very much.

Mr. Johnson said, now we do not offer a Masters in Mommyhood. Maybe there might be something in a [inaudible] market that you might want to try. We want to thank you so much again. Nancy, I believe you have a presentation.

Ms. Wheless said, we all got together and we wanted to thank you first off, since you love Savannah so much — she really does. She's the biggest advertisement for the City of Savannah and Chatham County. We gave her a picture of the fountain in Frosyth Park. Ms. Pertilla said, thank you. Ms. Wheless said, and because you love Starbucks Coffee so much, a gift certificate to Starbucks and a plaque from everyone here. "In honor of your leadership, encouragement and commitment and supporting the Chatham County Management Development Program, 2008 Class." Ms. Pertilla said, thank you. Ms. Wheless said, we'd like to thank you for being one of the best teachers, mentors and cheerleader. She's a wonderful cheerleader for every student that we have and no one is overlooked, and we wanted to thank you for that. Ms. Pertilla said, thank you very much. Thank you, Class.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. And I'd like to thank, you know, the University of Georgia with their educational programs they have and, of course, our congratulations again to all of the graduates of this program because we know that getting this additional information, that you'll be able to give better services to the citizens of Chatham County, and that's good that you have this now. And again, on behalf of the Chatham County Commission, to each and every one of you, thank you again and for your participation and the great things that you do for the citizens of Chatham County.

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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Liakakis said, before we go on now, what I'm going to do is recognize two of our Chatham County Youth Commission members who are representing our Youth Commission today, and that's Shawn Knight, who represents Jenkins High School, and Meredith Stone, who represents Jenkins High School.

Commissioner Shay said, Johnson – Johnson High School. I'm fortunate to have two high schools in my district, actually three, and she's from Johnson High School.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

2. RECOGNITION OF CALVARY DAY SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM (COMMISSIONER FARRELL).

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll call on Commissioner Farrell for the presentation of this item.

Commissioner Farrell said, at this time I'd like to read a proclamation for the Calvary Day School High School Girls' State Champions, State of Georgia, 2008. We'd like to recognize the Coach, Jackie Hamilton, and Ronald Canady, Assistant Head Coach, at this time.


The County of Chatham
Georgia
Proclamation

WHEREAS, girls' basketball has never enjoyed more popularity than it does at the present time and today the Chatham County Board of Commissioners take great pride in congratulating the girls' basketball team that has gained attention across the state, the Calvary Day School Cavaliers; and

WHEREAS, Calvary Day School began its girls basketball program in 1973 in the GISA (Georgia Independent School Association) under the coaching leadership of Ralph Finnegan who now serves as the school's headmaster. Coach Finnegan coached their team to eight region championships and was runner up in the state three times; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Calvary joined the GHSA (Georgia High School Association) and played for the state championship in 1994. Since joining the GHSA, they have won 4 region championships; and

WHEREAS, this season, the Calvary girls' basketball team won the Savannah Holiday Classic Christmas Tournament and on March 8, 2008, after defeating five top-notched, very competitive teams, the Calvary Cavaliers became the 2008 State Champions and finished their season with a record of 27-5.

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

CALVARY DAY SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

for winning the 2008 State Championship and applaud its head coach, Jackie Hamilton and assistant coaches, Ronald Canady and Brett Nastasi, for their skills and leadership making it possible for the team to achieve this high honor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 25th day of April 2008.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Commissioner Farrell also presented a proclamation to each of the players and a Chatham County medal. We want to start with Brittany Tuten, Katie Covington, and we'd like to recognize Elisabeth Dekle although she couldn't make it today, Natalie Paris, and Karie Shay though she is absent today, Anna Moody, Sarah Hewitt, Tiffany Poole, Madison Burke, Emily Carter, Sonny Canady, and Jessica Crisler.

Commissioner Farrell said, let me give all these young ladies a great big hand.

Ms. Natalie Paris said, we're like to thank you for letting us be here today and it was an honor to represent Chatham County.

Mr. Hamilton said, thank you very much. We do appreciate this honor and it is an honor, and we're just proud of our team. They put in a great deal of effort and we're proud of them as players and as students, and just thank you again for the honor.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We appreciate Calvary Day School and the great educational institution that it is, and of course we congratulate again all of the players and winning that State championship is great. And one of the great things that we see in our community, when we have participants and athletics in our community that many of those students go and rise to higher heights in their lifetime and we don't see negative generally — we do not see negatives about the students that participates in athletics. Again, thank you and congratulations.

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3. REPORT ON THE 2008 YOUTH COMMISSION ANNUAL TRIP.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll next call on Van Johnson, who is the Director for the Chatham County Youth Commission, to give us a discussion on the annual trip and, of course, we know a number of years ago the first Youth Commission in the entire country was started by none other than our Vice Chairman Dr. Priscilla Thomas, and she has been a booster and moving this program along for many, many years, and we thank her and, of course, the latest activities that occurred during the trip. Van [Johnson], if you would give us that information.

Mr. Johnson said, thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, again Commissioners. Good morning again. Certainly on this Sunday when you welcome the County Commissioners from Georgia from all over the State here, we know as usual the Chatham County Youth Commissioners will be in place. Certainly, they have served as goodwill ambassadors for you and for Chatham County as individuals come from all over the place. As you know, because of your support, we are now in our 16th year of providing quality youth programs. As we look across the country, we see individuals now and communities now that are creating youth commissioners and we're finding by and large many of them are coming from Dr. Thomas' vision and your awesome support over the last 16 years. We recently found out we had a new youth commission on board in Cass County, North Dakota. The county seat is Fargo and they have used the Chatham County model. We also know that DeKalb County is actively pursuing the Youth Commission model as well as is Albany, Georgia, and Newnan, Georgia, which we were able to attend during Saturday in Atlanta.

Mr. Johnson said, this annual trip was like none other. We try to create every year any awesome experience because we know that if you're able to change a child's experience, if you get a chance to change their exposure, you get to change the outcomes and we realize that our young people, just as those that were featured here from Calvary, represent Chatham County's best. But more importantly, most of the young people in Chatham County, those who are going to school, that are obeying their parents, those that are obeying the law and doing the things they're meant to do, to pile up 50 some odd young people and take them on a very, very long bus ride is certainly no small feat. However, Dr. Thomas was there with us and even arranged for Mr. Thomas to be able to go, and I don't know how that happened, but usually when Dr. Thomas asks you to do something, they just do it. We were also blessed to have the Summer Bonanza Program, our sister program, as well aboard. We had the opportunity to provide experiences and exposures that many young people just think about, they just dream about. Certainly, we had a preview of the brand new what's called Newseum. It's a museum of news that is in Washington, DC. As a matter of fact, when we got there, Dr. Thomas, it was not even open yet and it had not opened until, I believe, this month. So we had a behind-the-scenes tour of this brand new exhibit, and it's really wonderful to talk about news from all over the world.

We had the opportunity to go to the National Mall, of course, and take our young people to where Martin Luther King stood in 1963 when he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Now certainly with the 40th anniversary of his death, that makes it even more significant to our young people. We had the opportunity to take them to the Vietnam War Veteran — War Memorial where they had the opportunity to talk with Vietnam veterans from all over the country about their experiences and how it's relevant for them and the challenges they face today. We had the opportunity to take them to Arlington National Cemetery where they were able to watch the changing of the guards and, certainly, we know that it is an extremely solemn ceremony, but our young people had the opportunity to see it up close.

We had the opportunity to visit with the Prince Georges County Youth Commission, a creation of the Chatham County Youth Commission, and we had a wonderful time there in Prince Georges County and they treated us for the second year to dinner, and when young people from all over the country get together it's a pretty exhausting time for most of us.

The next morning we saw many of you at the National Association of Counties Annual Legislative Conference where the young people were the subject, if you will, or the guest of honor at a special session dealing with youth obesity. As you know, Chairman Liakakis has been working with the National Association of Counties in their effort to combat childhood obesity. So, again, it was just a wonderful experience. We moved from Washington down to Philadelphia, had the opportunity to see the Liberty Bell and Constitution Hall, and moved from there to New York City where they always enjoy going and seeing the Statue of Liberty, going to Ground Zero, and certainly going to Yankee Stadium, the most hallowed place of sports ever, and I think that's even more significant because when you look at the news, just very recently the Pope — Pope Benedict, who was in town, went to Ground Zero and he went to Yankee Stadium. So again, our young people had the experiences that you have been able to provide them they'll take with them for the rest of their lives.

So I'm very pleased to bring Mr. Shawn Knight of Jenkins High School, who's going to give his perspective of the trip and we ask you to watch the monitors as well.

Youth Commissioner Knight said, good morning everyone. My name is Shawn Knight and I attend Jenkins High School and I'm a Junior. I'm just going to do a basic recap of what Mr. Johnson said but just more in details. Okay. On our trip we attended the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia where over 290,000 servicemen and their family members rest on their 624 acres of Virginia land across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial. During the tour of the cemetery we saw Cape Cod stones that framed the eternal flame at the grave of President John F. Kennedy. Also one thing that I learned that I would like to point out is that no matter what rank or station, whether decorated hero or unknown, belongs a place of honor.

After the cemetery, we went to Philadelphia where we saw — excuse me, I'm sorry. After Philadelphia we went to New York where we saw the Statue of Liberty on Staten Island and also while coming back we went to Ground Zero where we saw pictures of victims from 9-11. Later that night we went to Juniors Restaurant located in Brooklyn, New York. After dinner, we attended a Broadway show called "Hairspray" where I met Tevin Campbell, the R&B singer.

The next day we toured the old Yankee Stadium where we saw famous statues and templates of famous baseball players, such as the late Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson. Also, during the tour we went into the player's locker room to get an inside look at what it's like in a professional baseball environment. And another indirect thing that Mr. Johnson stated was that the Pope was there Sunday celebrating his birthday.

Departing from New York, we went to Potomac Mills Outlet in Woodbridge, Virginia, to do some shopping and to grab a bite to eat before leaving back to Savannah. And I would like to thank the Chatham County Commissioners for supporting us and helping the Youth Commissioners have our year-to-year trips. Thank you.

Youth Commissioner Stone said, good morning. My name is Meredith Stone. I am a sophomore at Sol C. Johnson. During our annual youth commission trip we visited several sites and attended some events. One of our first stops of the trip was National Association of Counties Legislative Conference. They're concerned about childhood obesity and wanted to hear about it from a youth's perspective. While we were there, we also met Bob Love, a basketball player that was on the Chicago Bulls. We gave them several ideas and reasons why kids don't find it imperative to exercise or eat right, and they were exceedingly impressed.

That same day we rode to Philadelphia and we visited the Federal Reserve Bank. They had an exhibit called, "Money in Motion." It was a very interactive exhibit and challenged both my peers and me to listen carefully and read carefully as we passed through the displays. I especially remember the display about forged money. We saw the Liberty Bell. This was my first time ever seeing it in person. The first thing I noticed about it was a large crack and I was informed that the crack was there because they had rung it. We had an opportunity to visit the gift shop; however, because I was already running low in money that day, I didn't buy anything.

We got back on the bus and headed to our next destination, singing songs and all trying to out-harmonize each other. By the way, what a river of sound. I would like to, on behalf of the Youth Commission, thank the Commission for providing the opportunity for us to attend. I would also Dr. Thomas and Mr. Abolt, the County Commissioner [sic]. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson said, thank you again on behalf of these young people and certainly their parents. Certainly, you get a lot of repeating requests for funds and funding from many groups, but I certainly remind you that the Youth Commission is your arm. It is a creature of you, it exists because of you and because of your support, and if it was not for you, there would be no Youth Commission. But I will tell you that your colleagues again, all over the country, are watching. They're looking, and they're applauding the effort that you're putting forth here in terms of our young people. This is a proactive thing. This is an opportunity for you to put money in experiences that young people will have for the rest of their lives. I remind you that our oldest Youth Commissioners are now in their 30's and I'm finding out — yeah — and now they have families of their own. So certainly the best crime prevention program is a very proactive youth program, and you are doing what you can through the Chatham County Youth Commission. So I want to thank again Dr. Thomas again for her vision and for her steadfastness and being a part of these young people's lives. Certainly, Mr. Abolt, always continuing support. Mr. Kaigler of my staff and as well Ms. Allen, Ms. Smalls, Ms. Martin. Mr. Pete Nichols, who could not go this particular time but certainly provided support from here in Savannah. And again, we just want to continue to provide exciting outcomes for our young people. Thank you so much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Van [Johnson]. We know that have been in many, many successes because of the Chatham County Youth Commission and hopefully we'll continue for many, many years to come, and that we will always have a Chatham County Youth Commission because we see what happens in their later lives, that we don't have the negatives that usually come out sometimes when we have young people. And, of course, we would also like to thank Dr. Priscilla Thomas for the outstanding vision that she had and the things that she has done along with the County Commissioners in the past and this Commission for supporting the Chatham County Youth Commission.

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4. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP TO MS. EDITH PRINCE.

Chairman Liakakis said, she [Ms. Edith Prince] was unable to be here today, so what we will do, we'll make that presentation at the next meeting.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FACILITY GROUP CONTRACT.

Chairman Liakakis said, last Friday afternoon, after the last April 11th Commission meeting, the County staff was informed by representatives of the Facilities Group, the design firm which is presently negotiating with County staff for the contract to design the detention center, that there were criminal and civil matters pending, making serious allegations against the company and several of its executives, which have now stepped down for their position in the company. Staff notified me on Monday morning and I directed staff to immediately review and provide information that could be shared with the rest of the Commissioners and Sheriff for review. I might add that the staff was already in the process of attaining such information. We received information pertaining to these allegations on Monday afternoon and on Tuesday, after discussing this with the County Commissioners, I directed the County Manager to place this on the calendar to be dealt with at the next available County Commission meeting. The Sheriff was out of town on training. I called him and spoke with him about this particular matter, and he also stated to me that he would like the Commission to address this right away.

The criminal allegations arise out of a three-year FBI investigation concerning a troubled development project in Mississippi and asset an attempt by individuals within the company to make monetary contributions with the intent to influence and reward a public official concerning obtaining a contract. It also contains counts of mail fraud alleging fraudulent overstated and inflated cost billing. There is also a separate civil lawsuit by the State of Mississippi concerning incurring costs and failing to pay the \$1.7 million above the guaranteed maximum price.

I will make no comment pertaining to the merits of these allegations. Nevertheless, the criminal allegations raise grave concerns in which one cannot ignore in that there are also issues as to the company's performance under its contract.

The detention center project is the largest project in the history of the County and can ill-afford to start off on the wrong foot. A project of this size will take several years to complete. A lot can happen during the process of construction. The County does not need to be in the middle of the design and have the design team have an adverse legal decision that could impact their performance ability on this project.

Additionally, we do not know what the future may hold as to the resolution of these allegations, but we do not need to place the County in the position of possibly having to deal with consequences of an adverse outcome for this company. Without judging the merits of the allegations, all of us have to recognize the serious nature and possible consequences of this matter and must reach our own decision.

As soon as I received that information on that Monday morning, is when I contacted our staff people and to proceed on this right away.

I will now entertain a motion at this time from any of you that the County should direct staff to terminate negotiations pertaining to the design contract with Facilities Group and direct staff to proceed to negotiate scope and fees for design with the most qualified firm recommended by the evaluation committee.

I would also entertain as part of that motion that staff be directed that the small business and economic outreach program portion of the design contract be separated from the overall design contract, and that the local partners of the Facilities Group design team be allowed to participate in requests for proposals and be eligible for selection should they be deemed the most qualified.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second.

Commissioner Farrell said, call the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, the question has been called for on this particular motion. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell made a motion that the County direct staff to terminate negotiations pertaining to the design contract with Facilities Group and direct staff to proceed to negotiate scope and fees for design with the most qualified firm recommended by the Evaluation Committee and that the Small business and Economic Outreach Program portion of the design contract be separated from the overall design contract, that local partners of the Facilities Group design contract, and that local partners of the Facilities Group design team be allowed to participate in requests for proposals and be eligible for selection should they be deemed the most qualified.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**1. COMMISSIONER SHAY'S REPORT ON ICLEI SUMMIT (COMMISSIONER SHAY).**

Chairman Liakakis recognize Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fellow Commissioners, some of you probably noticed that I wasn't at the last meeting. I was at that time at a summit that was being held in Italy of an organization that is abbreviated ICLEI. It's basically a league of cities that are working together to try and find ways to become more energy and resource conservative and thereby deal with some of the problems that they're experiencing in Europe at the summit that I was attending, but the organization is also — has affiliations in North America and throughout the world.

One of the things I wanted to report to you briefly was that while I was there I was expecting to hear the word "green" about a hundred thousand times and it didn't come up once. I was expecting to hear about the LEED certification program that I so, you know, greatly advocate here and it didn't come up. In the European community they are dealing with the very real consequences of what they term "climate change." They didn't say global warming, they said climate change because they are experiencing very violent changes in their climate in Europe and they recognize that the only component of climate change which they have the opportunity to influence would be in reducing the amount of energy that they consume, the amount of resources they consume and ultimately the amount of carbon that they put into the atmosphere.

One of the things that I learned from listening to their presentations was that we really need to be very careful about measuring. In our budget, for example, we are very careful to measure everything in terms of dollars, as well we should. Our taxpayers pay their property tax bills in dollars. But we should also be measuring how much energy we consume, for example. We should be measuring our budget in kilowatt hours and gallons of diesel fuel and gallons of water so that we will know how much we're using and then be able to use that as a base line going forward in presenting a budget, for example, that might want to try and reduce our consumption of electricity or other types of fuel in the future. We won't be able to know if we're making any process if we don't start the work of measuring very carefully.

Another thing that was present over and over again by these European communities, and something that's very much of note that could be used by this community, the subject of renewable energy. Some examples, there are large cities in Sweden that are now firing up all of their electricity operations from renewable resources like wood. They have large forests there, they can cut down the wood, they can use the heat from the wood for home heating and other products and, of course, slowly the forests are able to regenerate. Another example is biodiesel. We had a presentation from the Mayor of the City of Graz in Austria — that's G-r-a-z — and they run their entire public transit system on biodiesel almost all of which is recycled from cooking oil that is produced in their community. They started the program because they wanted to divert the cooking oil from their waste stream. It was messing up the sewage treatment plants. They started collecting the oil and they said, "Well, gee whiz, now that we're collecting the oil maybe we ought to try and do something with it." They went out then and found a private company that was willing to collect all the recycled cooking oil, reprocess it — basically filter it — and then the end product is actually a perfect substitute for carbon diesel. They can put it right into the same equipment that they had purchased for carbon diesel, had to change out a few hoses and so forth on the equipment.

Another big thing was the photovoltaic, the solar panels that we hear so much about. There are cities in Germany that used to be entirely focused on the mining and production of coal, and because of the depletion of that resource, they are now rebuilding their entire infrastructure around solar energy. In a northern Germany that's more of a task than it is in Savannah, Georgia, because the sun doesn't shine quite as often as there.

So I learned a lot from these experiences and I'm going to provide for you guys a report — it won't be long — of the full measure of those experiences. The thing that struck me the most as I was returning back here is that it's really all about conservation, you know, the idea of being conservative with the resources that we do have, and there are a lot of things that we can do. I know Commissioner Stone has taken the lead on some of the issues in regard to water conservation. That's a very, very good example of those kind of things, and I'd also like to thank all of you while I was

gone for taking a first step in beginning to explore the idea of recycling in the unincorporated area. I wasn't able to vote with you in favor of that, but I wanted to certainly express my support for that and my pleasure that we're moving forward with that.

Recycling waste and methane, the byproduct that comes from landfills when we sort of bury our garbage, are both very, very vital to our ability to protect our environment on a going-forward basis. So I will make note in closing that I got a communication this week — I believe you all must have, too — from Waste Management, the company that is going to be operating the private landfill here in Chatham County, and they are very interested in participating with us in helping to develop a program that will not be burdensome to our people that we serve, but which would recycle a lot of the garbage and then also the waste methane. One of the things that I learned while I was over there is that methane, when it's released into the air, is many, many, many times more violent to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide is. So methane is a very virulent substance when it's released into the atmosphere. So there are a lot of win/win possibilities.

I learned a lot, I enjoyed my stay while I was there. I did not ask for you Commissioners to pay for me to go to Europe. I was going there for pleasure myself. I took the time while I was there to learn more, and I would be happy to share any of my experiences at great length with you at some other time. So I just wanted to make that report to you. Thank you so much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Commissioner Shay, and that was very good, not only going and taking your vacation time, but taking off from your vacation time to learn about this because it's important that we come together and do what we can. We know these fuel prices that we have now are going sky high and that's not fair to the citizens of this County or the entire country because many people are burdened with these high prices now, and it's causing a lot of negatives to them and we can see how it's affecting our economy. So hopefully we can put things in place and use some of those things that, Patrick [Shay], that you were talking about that we can institute that in this country like the cooking oil.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay gave a report on his attendance at the ICLEI Summit in Italy.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

- 1. * BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST PRESENTED IN A PETITION FROM FOUR EAST CHATHAM NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS WHICH REQUEST A REALIGNMENT OF THE UNINCORPORATED FIRE SERVICE PLAN TO TRANSFER THEIR SERVICE PROVIDER FROM THE SAVANNAH FIRE DEPARTMENT TO THE SOUTHSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT. At meeting of March 21, 2008, item was tabled to April 25, 2008, meeting.**

Chairman Liakakis said, I need a motion on the floor to take that off of the table.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, since I made the motion to table it and while I was busy learning about energy conservation, I know that this matter was held in abeyance, and I want to thank the members of the neighborhood associations for their patience in the meantime, but I'd like to make a motion that we remove this from the table and consider it today. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, we have a motion on the floor to take it off the table. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. What I'd like to do is do we have any of the neighborhood associations here today? Or members?

Mr. Tom Mahoney said, we have some — I'm Tom Mahoney, for the record. I represent Causton Bluff, who is the largest I think of the associations. We do have the president and some former officers from the association. There may be some other associations represented here today, I'm not aware of them.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, then we'll hear from you for the Causton Bluff area, and if any of the residents there would like to speak out or are you speaking out for all of them, Tom [Mahoney]? Mr. Mahoney said, yes, I am, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, go ahead. Mr. Mahoney said, for the directors and for the residents. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Mr. Mahoney said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, as I've stated, I'm Tom Mahoney, Jr., for the record. This is a petition before you by four neighborhood associations seeking to change their fire service provider from the City of Savannah to the Southside Fire Department. Mr. Monahan outlined for you at the last meeting where this matter was tabled. The way that this all came about from fire districts back in the late 1980's. As I mentioned, I represent Causton Bluff and will speak for them. Bill Thomas, the president, is here and we also have some additional former officers and we have the finance committee chairman here, Earl Crew.

Let me emphasize first that there's absolutely no dissatisfaction, no displeasure, no unhappiness with the personnel, with the highly-trained professionals, with the service or with the equipment of the City of Savannah Fire Services. The Homeowners Associations, however, governed by their boards of directors, have a fiduciary responsibility to all of their members and in that fiduciary responsibility is to achieve the best service for the lowest possible cost to the homeowners. Causton Bluff has 164 dwellings, 112 of those are referred to as cottages and 52 are free-standing homes. The population is somewhere between 300 and 500 citizens in the unincorporated area. The nearest City of Savannah Fire Service facility is 2.3 miles from the Causton Bluff gate. The nearest Southside facility is 2.5 miles from the gate. Due to the type of traffic and the type of route that those two services would have to provide to get to Causton Bluff, I submit to you that the response time is about equal and about the same.

The method of charging rates, however, is what is not the same. The City of Savannah has traditionally put the value of the residence and the value of the land in trying to determine what rate to charge a homeowner. The Southside Fire Department does not include the value of the land, which cannot be destroyed by fire, in considering and establishing their rates. The Southside has an accident rate of \$407 per year. The City of Savannah has no maximum rate, but I will state that since the last meeting when this matter was first presented to you, the City of Savannah has agreed that in some instances they will place a cap of \$500 of certain of the residences. That still will make the service higher if it continues to be maintained by the City of Savannah. The typical rate at the present time in the cottages ranges from \$348 per year to \$761 per year and the maximum rate the Southside has is \$407 and the rate for the cottages with Southside would be \$299 per year.

The City has indicated that if you decide to make this change, that there could be some delay in fire service protection being provided if the bridge were raised for a vessel to go through and that service could be delayed somewhere between 10 and 15 minutes. I would submit to you that the average time — we have checked with the County on this — for the bridge to be raised and lowered runs somewhere between three and five minutes. The County also has a policy that is in place, and has been in place for some considerable period of time, that once the bridge is notified that emergency services are en route, the bridge remains in a downed position to allow that emergency traffic to supercede and oversee the vessel that may be en route trying to go through the bridge. That may all be a moot situation because I have learned last evening, and I will defer to Chief Wesley Meadows of the Southside Fire Department to give you further details on this, that Southside has a signed contract that will allow it to begin construction of a new fire service completely with personnel on site at all times, constructed at the intersection of President Street and the Elba Island Road, which is about one-half mile from the gate. This new station, provided by Southside with state of the art equipment and personnel, will be almost at the front door of the Causton Bluff neighborhood and of the other neighborhood associations, and the bridge won't be involved.

Mr. Mahoney said, so, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this is simply a petition seeking fairness and equity. Again, we don't have any complaints against the City of Savannah except the complaint in the way they established their rates, and we believe these citizens are entitled to not only good fire protection, but fiscal responsibility being served and by giving them the better rate by going with the Southside Fire Department. I appreciate your time in allowing this presentation to be made. I'll be glad to try to answer any questions that any of you may have.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any questions? Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, at the meeting about a month ago this item was tabled and my question is, to give more time for the citizens and the existing fire protection service to talk some more, has there been any change in the position of the residents that brought this petition to us four weeks ago, five weeks ago? Mr. Mahoney said, no sir, Mr. Commissioner. The residents still wish to go with the Southside, and that's the feedback that has come to the board of directors of the association. Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, there are three other neighborhood associations. The Bluff, Emerald Pointe and Runaway Point. Are there any residents here from those areas? Would you come forth please. State your name and what area you're from.

Mr. Wayne Jones said, good morning. My name is Wayne Jones and I'm the president of the Runaway Point Association. We definitely concur with the — with what the gentleman just stated out, and there's about 88 to 90 homes in our subdivision. And since I've moved into the Runaway Point Subdivision, our fire protection has went up from \$77 to \$230 a year. So we definitely wanted to make this change.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Anybody else from Emerald Pointe or The Bluff today? State your name and the area please, sir.

Mr. Bill Thomas said, my name is Bill Thomas and I'm president of the Causton Bluff Owners Association. The members of The Bluff are not here nor of Emerald Pointe, but we have been in conversations with the presidents or their board of directors and they are in agreement and they have asked us to state that basically their position is in agreement with ours. I only really have two points. That was one. The other one is that we really have — I want to reemphasize what Mr. Mahoney said. We have no complaints whatsoever with the Savannah Fire Department. They are a tremendously professional group. We feel exactly the same about Southside. So it really is a matter of economics to us and that's basically it.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you. Anybody else, any comments? Chief Meadows said, Mr. Chairman? Chairman Liakakis said, yes.

Chief Meadows said, I'm Wesley Meadows and I'm the Chief/General Manager of Southside Fire Department. I concur with what they said, too. But I do want to bring somewhat up to you that just transpired. We've been working on it for quite some time. We have just signed a contract with Southern LNG to provide fire protection to them in the future starting May 1st of this year. It is a very in-depth contract. It's going to be beneficial to the community, beneficial to Southern LGN and it's something they feel strongly about, and I would encourage you to support us in this endeavor. We will be building a fire station. It will house up to four engines, up to eight personnel. We'll staff it as we've staffed our others, and we will continue to respond and we'll also have a First Responder Unit available there. We'll respond for the Emergency Medical end until the ambulance of choice is there. We do ask that you support us and we feel like we have a very good position to do, and Southern LNG is real strong with us, too. We thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Chief Meadows, the new fire station — I know because I'm in this business how long it takes to design and build a project — but is the idea that you would begin immediately with the pursuit of the design and construction of that facility? Chief Meadows said, yes. We will be placing a fire engine and personnel on scene May 1st — next week. Commissioner Shay said, oh, I see. Okay. Chief Meadows said, and we'll be placing — have a place for them to stay overnight for their quarters while we design and complete the station. Hopefully, we will have it up within 12 to 18 months. Commissioner Shay said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Anybody else?

Mr. Chris Morrill said, thank you, Chairman and Commissioners, and again thank you for giving us this opportunity to have some time to meet with the neighborhood associations. We were able to meet with all of them. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself. Mr. Morrill said, oh, I'm sorry. My name is Chris Morrill. I'm the Assistant City Manager with the City of Savannah, and this is our Fire Chief, Chief Middleton. We did have an opportunity to meet with three of the four neighborhood associations. The other one we exchanged emails and phone calls but weren't able to get together to present to them this level of service that we provide. And yesterday City Council adopted a revenue ordinance amendment that capped our fire service fees at \$500. Now that is more than Southside's cap of \$407, and for us the quandary is that our citizens pay an average of \$500 and they pay the full value of their house and land for their fire services that's included in that 12.5 mills that they pay for services. We didn't think it was fair to our residents to provide a service outside the City at a lower rate. So what we did is we provided the same rate. Now our rate is higher than Southside and the reason is because we have fully-staffed fire stations, we have five within five miles of that area, and we would immediately dispatch any structural three engines, a ladder truck, a rescue vehicle, a battalion chief, and a safety officer. We went through those services with them. I understand that it comes down to a financial issue. I think for \$50 or \$100 they would prefer to save that money.

Our larger concern today is the issue of the liquid natural gas facility. There are very few of those on the east coast. We believe this change in fire service from us to Southside could have major impacts both on unincorporated residents and our on City neighborhoods. We saw in the Powell-Duffryn fire that when that happened, it was our mainly low income neighborhoods that were disrupted. They had to evacuate. We first heard of this this morning. I would ask that before you move on this, give us an opportunity to understand the real impact it will have on our citizens. It is true that liquid natural gas facility wanted to pay less for fire services. We suggested that they pay three mills as every other industry up and down the river pays us right now if they wanted to save some money. We weren't willing to do that. We didn't think it was fair because of the impact in particular that facility could have on our entire community. The reality is Savannah has a Hazardous Materials Team. We have the advanced equipment and training. We should be serving that facility. It's what's right for the community. So we ask before you make such a major change that could have an impact both on your neighborhoods and our neighborhoods, please give us an opportunity to determine the impact. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Any questions for Chris [Morrill]? Okay. Alright. Thank you. Chairman Liakakis recognized Mr. Mahoney.

Mr. Mahoney said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, with all deference to the City of Savannah, this matter was before you on a petition for the neighborhood associations and it was tabled to allow for additional information to be furnished and additional information to come from the City of Savannah. The City of Savannah has not changed their methodology of establishing the rates for these communities. They have put a cap on it. These citizens still desire to switch to the Southside where they feel like they can get comparable, the same type professional service, the same type response, and the issue of the Elba Island matter that the City now wishes for you to defer this petition

to discuss Elba Island, I submit is a slightly different thing for you to do. If you decided to allow Elba Island to come out of that district, you would have to consider a whole new resolution to be passed to allow them to switch from the City of Savannah to the Southside Fire Department. That's not what's before you today, but that's an issue simply to establish and show to you that there's going to be a brand new station facility that's going to be closer to Causton Bluff and to these other neighborhoods that are asking you for the change in the providers today. That's what's before you and we would urge you to go forward and grant that relief.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Attorney Mahoney, if for some reason, and I don't suspect this is going to happen, but if for some reason there was a decision not to change the fire district in regards to the LNG Plant, and that, therefore, perhaps impacted Southside in regards to their ability to be able to locate prior trucks in the immediate vicinity. Does that change in any way the feeling of the residents? That was something you seemed to be not concerned about, was not a condition of your wishing to change a month ago? Mr. Mahoney said, well, we didn't know about it a month ago. We new there were discussions going on and I think I can answer you, Mr. Shay, on the basis of the residents in the communities would still expect and want to go with Southside because we have counseled with them, we've listened to them, the boards have listened to them. Each association is empowered Causton Bluff to speak for them with the exception of Runaway Point, and the gentleman was up here today saying they want to go with Southside. So I don't think it really makes any difference. It makes a difference from response time if the new facility is built, but we believe response time and the bridge are all issues that we can accommodate the residents and get the service from Southside from its present location.

Commissioner Shay said, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, as I read what's before us today, it seems to be to revise the prior district in regards to Causton Bluff, The Bluff, Runaway Point/Marsh Point, and Emerald Pointe. It doesn't mention Elba Island or the LNG facility in what's before us today. So I don't think it's appropriate for us to conflate the two issues and make them into one. If we're going to change the fire district, and I suppose that is our responsibility in regards to the Elba Island issue, then I suspect we should hear from the folks at Elba Island just like we're hearing from the folks at Causton Bluff Neighborhood Association today. I would want to know, as the Assistant City Manager has point out, that there was a clear understanding of how anything would be managed out there because, you know, this area is both industrial and surrounded by a lot of residential neighborhoods that would be gravely impacted by any incident that would happen in that area. So what I would like to suggest is that we vote on the matter that's before us today and then ask that in regards to the LNG Plant and any change of the fire district associated with Elba Island, that we take that up as a separate matter after a lot more consultation and a lot more information.

Chairman Liakakis said, come forth please.

Mr. Thomas said, Bill Thomas again, Causton Bluff. May I add one thing? Mr. Shay — Commissioner Shay said, yes. Mr. Thomas said, my understanding is that the fire protection service that is provided to Elba Island now does not fall under the same ruling that was made back in the late 80's with the County so that the County doesn't have anything to do with that. Elba Island I understand can make their own decision as to who they want to have for fire protection. Now you may correct me — Mr. Pat Monahan said, not true. Mr. Thomas said, well, okay then, I'm sorry. Let me say one more thing. Excuse me. That was my understanding. If that's wrong, I apologize, but I've been out there at Elba Island and I've seen them demonstrate what happens when their gas burns. It burns very slowly, it is not very explosive, and I'm not real concerned about it. If I were I wouldn't live there, but if they were to have a major incident out there, a huge fire or something like that, I can't imagine the Savannah Fire Department not responding as they and every other fire department did when we had this problem with the Sugar Refinery. So I don't see that that's a problem with respect to what would happen. Surely Savannah Fire would respond.

Commissioner Shay said, you represent the association and the point that I'm after is regardless of whether the contract changes for the protection and management of Elba Island, you still want to make the change. Is that correct? Mr. Thomas said, we certainly do. Commissioner Shay said, okay, thank you. Mr. Thomas said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Patrick Monahan, Assistant County Manager.

Mr. Monahan said, Mr. Shay is correct. What's happened since the County adopted this plan in 1988, the County has never heard one petition on the fire district plan, and suddenly within a three-month period the County hears three. I talked to the plant manager at Elba Island and I explained to him the situation probably three or four months ago and they're confusing two issues. One, there's a constitutional amendment which sets up industrial areas throughout Chatham County, particularly along the Savannah River. If an industry is within an industrial area, by State law, by the Constitution that industry must contract with the City of Savannah. There's no choice. Elba Island is not within that district. So that means that Elba Island, the LNG Plant is not obligated to contract with the City; however, the Commission establishing the fire district plant for the unincorporated area still has jurisdiction. So Elba Island must make the petition to this Board if it wants to switch from a fire service provider, which is now currently Fire Service District 6, which is served by the City of Savannah. So my thought was that for these unincorporated residential area at The Bluff, Causton Bluff, Runaway Point, Emerald Pointe, Blue Heron — I believe that's the other one — those would become Fire District 6A and served by Southside. Now if Elba Island wants to come in, Elba Island needs to petition this Board and then the Board would have to amend the resolution similar to what it's doing today.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move forward with a motion that we make the change that has been requested by the residents of the Causton Bluff Neighborhood Association, The Bluff, Runaway Point, Emerald Pointe and presumably Marsh Point, an association with Runaway Point, to redistrict the fire district such that they can obtain their fire protection in those areas only from the Southside Fire Department. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. It's time for discussion. Come forth.

Mr. Morrill said, I'm sorry. Chris Morrill again. If I could make one more statement. As the gentleman from The Bluff or Causton Bluff said, if there is a fire, the City of Savannah will respond but I guess they don't feel like they should pay for that. My concern it is an equity issue. Our City taxpayers fund a first-class, one of the best fire departments in the nation and it's available to help throughout this County, and for something like a liquid natural gas plant to try to save money to simply get out of the district, knowing that the Savannah Fire Department is going to be there anyway, is a gross inequity and unfair. I think you would see that for all of our city residents and your constituents.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if I may, welcome the City of Savannah of what's been going on against the Westside for years. Talking First Responders, in this industrial protected zone that the Assistant Count Manager was referring to, most of those areas are on the Westside and they responded to first and foremost in the charges led by all of the Westside Fire Departments, who in turn get thrown a little tiny reward of something every blue moon. One of those companies or the ports or somebody may give them a little bit of money while the entire time the City of Savannah now I understand is collecting, what, three mills per. Wow! Those Westside cities are the responders and then if it's huge I'm sure Savannah would then come on in. But, you know — and I understand and appreciate your job, but it's amazing to me. When I was Mayor of Garden City we doubled the city through an annexation. We looked at fire protection plans. At that point it was more feasible for us to cover the entire area that we annexed by privatizing our fire services with the Southside and Garden City actually paying the bill for each property owner than it would be for us to try to put another volunteer fire department in. So, you know, you talk finance, you talk high taxes, property taxes and all, and what really amazes me about the City of Savannah is, you know, if you want to reduce fire — you want to reduce taxes, here's two things you could drop it just like [snap]. This would take longer but you could privatize fire service for one. They do an excellent job for a lot less money. Number two, recently I stood in front of the Mayor and Council and told about garbage pickup. Basically, they could privatize garbage pickup in the City of Savannah and save their residents half the money they're paying. They are currently paying, I believe the City Manager said, between \$22 and \$24 per household to remove the residential waste, when you have private haulers out there that will pick up the garbage twice a week for like 12 or 14 bucks a month. But, again, that was shunned. We have fire protection out there that could be performed at half price, so the financial aspect of it all is a moot point because there's options out there and, you know, I agree. I understand exactly what you said. I get the point of what your initial thought is, is all: we're going to come anyway. Yeah, you would, but the whole Westside has been shafted since time began on that because they are the responders and y'all come if there's something just, you know, thank God, what happened at the Sugar Refinery recently does not happen often. Thank God. So the other ones are responded to mainly by all the West Chatham fire departments who get no money from anyone out there, and, you know, welcome to the reality of the rest of the municipalities in Chatham County, and I think we need to move forward and let the citizens, because the City of Savannah chooses to put higher prices on their citizens, does not mean that it's right for us to allow our citizens to pay our prices when there's options out there for them to pay less.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, well, for the 30,000 odd constituents that I have in the City of Savannah, I think it's — and I'm one of them — you know, I'm getting my money's worth and I appreciate the fact that the City of Savannah provides the excellent services they do. I in my motion was reading from the alternatives we were presented with and as I re-read the letter of petition, I forgot to mention Blue Heron Bluff, which was also one of the people that signed onto the letter. So in my motion, if the seconder will accept it as a friendly amendment, I would like to add Blue Heron Bluff. Commissioner Farrell said, accepted.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to back Commissioner Shay up that the vote for the East Chatham Neighborhood Associations needs to be separate from any discussion about LNG and what they are going to do going forward with fire protection. Having said that, I'll call for the question.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what was the motion? To approve what? Commissioner Shay said, to approve the fire district being amended so that Causton Bluff, The Bluff, Runaway Point, Marsh Point, Emerald Pointe and Blue Heron Bluff could switch from the City of Savannah's Fire Service to the Southside Fire Department because that's what they have expressed an interest in doing.

Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to make a comment right now. We've got good fire departments. The Southside Fire Department is a good fire department, Savannah Fire Department is a good fire department, but one of the things to know is the Savannah Fire Department has the hazard-mat team, which are well-trained and they, everything that something happens, not only in the unincorporated area, but they go to the other districts where they've had chemical releases or something on the highway and they have done an excellent job, and they did do a great job out there because they brought the most equipment to the Savannah Sugar Refinery. I see Clayton Scott, represented the County there for CEMA, people right on board, but as —.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, is that an industrial protected zone or not? Mr. Morrill said, it is not. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no. Well, thank you. And Westside would come respond the same for Savannah, if needed. Mr. Morrill said, and Savannah has spent about \$200,000. Commissioner Kicklighter said, very good.

Chairman Liakakis said, and just to let you know, a lot of thought went into this because this is the breakdown on the ledger because the County, what we do is we're the ones that because it was set up in 1988, we set up the districts and these here, for example, you see Georgetown, Grove Point, Southside Fire Department, it's all in here. The Seventh District, which is now the Southside Fire Department, in here, but anyway a lot of thought went into this and the question really, because a number of us got a number of calls from the people in those particular areas and they said that the City, they talked to them, but they still felt that because of this situation that they wanted to go with the Southside Fire Department. I thank both the City of Savannah and the Southside Fire Department. We appreciate what you do to protect the citizens in the City and the County.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman.

County Attorney Hart said, the question has been called and the vote should be taken. Commissioner Shay said, it has been. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I though we already did. Chairman Liakakis said, we've already voted. County Attorney Hart said, all right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. I want to state they're great also, a lot of great people. If they ever did privatize, I'm sure all the great firefighters would be hired by the private company because I would never say anything —.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go ahead, Wesley [Meadows], because we've got a big —.

Chief Meadows said, I realize you've got a lot going on, but I've got a couple of questions here. I have a contract to start providing fire protection May 1st for Elba Island. Now it's strange to me that now we're going to — after all these years of protecting it, they're going to do a study to see what the damage is. It looks like that study would have been done from day one. We have done a study. The other thing is because we have this contract, is it possible — and I don't know the protocol here — is it possible for you to make a motion to go ahead and favor this for our protection pending a petition from Elba Island requesting to where, if they requested, it would take place immediately.

Chairman Liakakis said, Jon [Hart], you know, on that —.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I mean, I understand the dilemma that Southside Fire Department finds itself in. They're under contract to somebody who hasn't taken time to come here and ask us to be a part of that decision. That is an interesting and difficult place for you to be, but we can't I don't think in good conscience change the fire district on a motion that is by the fire provider. We need for the property owner to come forward. Chief Meadows said, I'm not asking to [inaudible], Mr. Shay. Commissioner Shay said, what I'm saying is when that facility comes forward to us and says we're interested in making that change, that would be the appropriate time for us to move on it. I think it would be premature for us to do what you want to do, even though I certainly sympathize with the dilemma.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Monahan is correct. There is going to have to be a petition, but as far as Southside is concerned or Elba Island folks are concerned, you know, you're talking about the delivery of a service. Two private parties still have the right to contract with each other and certainly on an interim basis, okay, and I don't think the County Commission has the power to prevent private contracts. So is Southside and Elba Island is interested in going forward on an interim basis pending a petition and the ultimate outcome, you know, so be it. Long term there may be issues, if it, you know, was denied for a change of shift, if we came back and said, no, we're not going to amend the fire district. Then there may be implications that would have to be addressed, fire some serious thought. On an interim basis I don't believe we, as a County Commission, have the power to stop private contracts.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead Patrick [Monahan].

Chief Meadows asked, may I make one more statement? Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Chief Meadows said, it doesn't matter if there were 20 fire trucks and 400 firefighters at the Sugar Refinery. When you have a catastrophic breakdown such as that, the outcome would have been the same. So it doesn't matter —, it's when you get there if you can get there before it occurs, and that's what we'd like to do is be there two minutes before the fire happens or an emergency occurs, but it just doesn't happen, when we have a catastrophic breakdown, there's not anything any fire department can do to prevent that.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Mr. Monahan.

Mr. Monahan said, I did want to point out, it's just not a matter of adopting a resolution with legal boundaries, but we also have to recode the 911 system, because if a resident calls and it's not recoded, then the call is going to be transferred over to City of Savannah or Southside. So that's the reason — it's more on the LNG Plant. Of course, if there was an accident there, everyone would know it, but if someone makes an emergency call, we need to — the 911 dispatch needs to be able to notify the proper agency, and that's why it's more than just legal boundaries. There's a notification process that goes along with it which means that's why we have to probably it will be another 30 days before we get that recoded for those East Chatham neighborhoods.

Commissioner Farrell said, if I understand right, Elba is one customer and one entity. It's not a neighborhood of multiple —. Mr. Monahan said, no, but if there's an accident, they dial 911 and that gets transferred to the dispatch center. The dispatch center knows because it's within the City of Savannah service area that the City of Savannah is to be called, so even though Southside might have a contract, that doesn't mean anything to the 911 call center. Commissioner Farrell said, my point is how much trouble could it be to change one 911 —? Mr. Monahan said, you can't change it unless the Board says to change it. Commissioner Farrell said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's do this. You know, we can go on and on with this, but to change right now without — I understand about the contract and all, but we need to be — to follow some, you know, positive area right now. We've already changed it and voted that the Southside Fire Department will take over and there will be 6A in the fire district, but this situation with the Elba Island, this is my personal opinion, that we should wait and go through the proper procedure and then we can pass that and go from there once we get there. You can still do as what the Attorney was saying, but right now I think it's right for us to wait and go through that procedure and then we'll go from there.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to remove this item from the table for consideration by the Commissioners. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter were not present.]
- b. Commissioner Shay moved to grant the petition from Causton Bluff, The Bluff, Emerald Pointe, Runaway Point and Blue Heron Bluff to transfer their fire service provider from the Savannah Fire Department to the Southside Fire Department by realigning the fire districts and creating Fire District 6A. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Related to **AGENDA ITEM: VIII-1**
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

Mr. Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission
124 Bull street, Suite 210
Savannah, GA 31412

April 24, 2008

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Please forgive the length of this letter, but you have been given erroneous information concerning Southside Fire/EMS and its possible response to the Causton Bluff-Runaway Point area. Chief Middleton of Savannah Fire wrote you a letter (March 18, 2008) containing several points which need to be corrected. In order to simplify this matter for you, below is a list addressing each concern raised.

1. The Economics: It is true that this is the central issue to the citizens living in the unincorporated area at or around Causton Bluff and Runaway Point. The City says that they are now reviewing the way they calculate subscription payments for fire protection in the unincorporated areas of the County. In other words, they admit they may have been overcharging for their services. Question is, will these same citizens now get a rebate for this past overcharging? Southside Fire meanwhile has always charged based on what only the structures are worth not the dirt. Even so, the City has stated that their cost per household throughout the City now averages \$500 per year. Southside's highest rate is \$407 per year. Our average per household is even lower.

2. The Drawbridge: Chief Middleton states "shifting fire service as proposed will have serious safety implications for the affected area." He claims that "residents could suffer a 10 to 15 minute delay" if the drawbridge were open. On what facts is this based? According to Chatham County Public Works, the drawbridge can be lowered in three and one-half minutes (3.5 min). We know this to be true because we have been running fire and medical units from the Montgomery area to Skidaway Island for 30 years. A simple call to the bridge tender has always kept the bridge ready for emergency ground traffic. Why would the assumption be made that this is difficult to handle? Furthermore, for 17 years Southside Fire covered the Causton Bluff-Runaway Point area (before the fire district boundaries were changed) with no drawbridge problems hampering a response. Mr. Pablo

Vasquez of Chatham's Public Works has stated that in all his years as bridge supervisor emergency ground traffic has not been stopped by water traffic at a drawbridge in Chatham County. Their policy is that as soon as the bridge tenders are notified of emergency ground traffic, the bridge is kept in a down position. We do not see the drawbridge as a problem.

3. The Water Supply: Chief Middleton states that the water system in the area is not "City-owned and considered unreliable." Yet the City fire department has run calls to this area and, according to residents, has used those same hydrants. The water system in the area is owned by Chatham County. Just because it is not "City-owned" does not make it unreliable. Second, Southside has tested the hydrant system in the area and it is more than adequate with some hydrants flowing above 2000 gallons per minute: clearly reliable. Third, Savannah Fire has no water tankers to supplant any water system should either the City's or any other water system fail. If Savannah Fire has known and considers the water system "unreliable", then why haven't they provided tankers for water supply? Southside Fire has five(5) water tankers. Fourth, the nearest hydrant outside the Causton Bluff area is, as Chief Middleton states, down President Street Extension. In fact, it is eight-tenths($\frac{8}{10}$) of a mile down President Street (4,224 ft.). Since each fire truck carries approximately 1200 feet of supply hose, this means that Savannah Fire will have to commit at least four(4) fire engines just to reach this hydrant and have the pumping capacity to reach the front gates at Causton Bluff. How many minutes will this take: beyond the 10-15 minutes the City claims for the drawbridge? Since the City's stated response is three(3) engines to a structure fire . . . who's fighting the fire while they are all laying hose lines for water?

4. NFPA Standards: Chief Middleton is mistaken in saying that NFPA (the National Fire Protection Association) standards are requirements. They are consensus standards agreed upon by the fire service and manufacturers but not legally enforced unless adopted. He also fails to mention that Volunteer firefighters are included in NFPA standards and are counted as meeting the "requirements". Speaking of volunteers, every municipal and county-based fire service in Chatham County employs volunteers except for the City of Savannah. In Georgia, 67% of all firefighters are volunteers saving the taxpayer over \$600 million (and that's with a statewide average salary of \$30k/yr – if benefits are included this figure jumps to \$750 million). It is clear that most fire departments in the State and Chatham County believe volunteerism is best for their communities and their taxpaying citizens.

5. Fire Response: Again, some corrections are needed. Chief Middleton failed to mention that Southside sends any and all available medical units (can be as high as 18 personnel) only as needed to a fire scene. Southside can do this because our personnel are cross trained as EMTs and Firefighters: if you are doing rescues, medical knowledge becomes important. Second, we own six (6) ladder trucks and roll them as needed to structure fires. It needs to be understood that a large ladder truck is not useful on structures of two(2) stories or less. In fact, such a vehicle on twisting suburban streets prevents easy access to the scene for other emergency vehicles and personnel. We understand why Savannah Fire feels the need to send a ladder truck to multi-story buildings in downtown Savannah. However, doing so in suburban Chatham County is not only useless, but a waste of a \$750,000 piece of equipment. Southside rolls a service unit/rescue truck carrying everything a ladder truck carries except the 100 foot ladder which is not needed at a 20 foot structure. For structures three(3) stories or greater, or for large commercial complexes (all of these are structures which could benefit from a ladder truck), Southside rolls its ladder trucks as well as its service /rescue units. Chief Middleton may have been misinformed about our procedures and the ladder trucks we own.

6. Personnel: Chief Middleton states that "it is impossible to determine what each call requires at the time of dispatch." This is not completely true. If it were, then Savannah Fire would roll all their standard structure fire resources to an electronic fire alarm call and they do not do so. The simple fact is that standard priority and EMD dispatching as practiced by Southside Fire does give our dispatchers the ability to talk with concerned citizens and determine through standard operating procedures what personnel resources are needed. Second, he fails to list our Assistant Chief of Fire Operations and our Divisional Chiefs who respond to all structure fire calls. Southside responds at an appropriate level based on the type of call we receive as do most fire departments.

7. Mutual Aid: The purpose behind fire department mutual aid is to help provide resources for each other during catastrophes, such as the Sugar Refinery, or during times when extenuating circumstances or extra help is needed: to provide all resources for all possible "what if" events is beyond the scope of any fire department. Witness the events of September 11, 2001. the largest fire department in the nation, New York FD, needed

outside resources. Budgeting for 4% of the fire department events is an over burden on the taxpayer when 96% of all fire calls can be handled with one fire engine and two personnel. Thus the need for mutual aid between departments is recognized and required by federal guidelines. In Chatham, all fire departments have mutual aid agreements and, yes, we do count on each other. Is Savannah Fire now implying that they cannot be counted on? Third, Chief Middleton is mistaken in saying that Southside cannot handle more than one incident on the Islands. We handle multiple incidents on a regular basis, but we are smart enough to know that with our large resources we still will need mutual aid occasionally: New York FD recognized this, and so do we.

Thank you for your time and patience. We know that you have stated the question of the Causton Bluff-Runaway Point area is not the competencies of the two fire departments but what is best for the citizens of the area. My only purpose for this letter was to correct the misleading impression given by Savannah Fire concerning Southside Fire. If you have any question for me, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

/s/ Wesley A. Meadows

Wesley A. Meadows
Chief / General Manager

cc: Chatham County Commission

~~AGENDA ITEM: X-13~~
~~AGENDA DATE: March 21, 2008~~
AGENDA ITEM: VIII-1
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

ISSUE:

To present a petition from four East Chatham neighborhood associations which request a realignment of the unincorporated Fire Service Plan to transfer their service provider from the Savannah Fire Department to the Southside Fire Department.

BACKGROUND:

In 1988, the then-Board of Commissioners adopted a Fire Service Plan for unincorporated area Chatham County. The plan organized unincorporated Chatham County into 12 fire service districts to avoid competition among fire service providers and improve the delivery of service by ensuring all parts of unincorporated Chatham County received fire protection. By agreements with fire departments, the Board designated that an individual fire department could serve an area exclusively. In exchange, the fire department received exclusive privileges to sell subscriptions to individual property owners within that district.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The homeowners associations of Causton Bluff, The Bluff, Emerald Pointe and Runaway Point have petitioned the Board for a change in their fire service provider (see attached letter). Since 1989, the City of Savannah Fire Department has served the East Islands area, including the neighborhoods which initiated the petition, as part of Fire District #6.
2. The homeowners associations cite cost concerns in their request to transfer from service by the City of Savannah to Southside Fire Department. While both departments sell fire service plans to individual homeowners based on the value of property, a key difference remains in how each determines value. The City of Savannah bases the cost of service on the value of the land and improvements (home), which is the same manner as it bases service to city customers (also in a manner in which Chatham County levies taxes for services). In comparison, Southside Fire Department bases the cost of fire service on just the improvements (home) and excludes value of land. In addition, the Southside Fire Department caps its fire service fee to a maximum amount.

3. The 1988 Fire District Plan assigned the Savannah Fire Department to serve District #6, which includes unincorporated East Chatham County, because of the area's proximity to the Pennsylvania Station, which has moved to Capital Street. While the Southside Fire Department also has a station in proximity (U.S. 80 on Whitemarsh Island), some expressed concern about whether the opening of the Causton Bluff Bridge would delay any emergency response from the west.
4. While insurance rates for individual homeowners can sometimes differ based on the fire department, the insurance rate for coverage whether the City of Savannah or Southside Fire Department would not be significantly different.
5. To change the fire district plan would require the Board to amend the legal description for District 6 by resolution (likely creating District 6A since the change would not affect other areas within District 6 served by Savannah).
 - 5a. The Board would also need to discuss whether to include Elba Island as part of the new sub-district assigned to Southside Fire Department.
 - 5b. In addition, any change would require recoding emergency responders in the 911 Plan.
6. While the Fire District Plan has remained unchanged (adopted in 1988, and amended in 1990 with the merger of Southside and Seventh District), staff in the past few months has also received two other inquiries—Elba Island and an area on Whitemarsh Island. These remain pending further action by petitioners.

FUNDING:

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board direct staff to realign Fire District #6 in unincorporated Chatham County to enable service to unincorporated East Chatham County by Southside Fire District. This action would include a revision in the legal description of the service district and re-coding the 911 Plan.
2. That the Board direct staff to realign and create Fire District 6A in unincorporated Chatham County to enable Southside Fire Department to serve Causton Bluff, The Bluff, Runaway Point/Marsh Point and Emerald Point. This action would include a revision in the legal description of the service district and re-coding the 911 Plan.
3. That the Board take no action and keep Fire District #6 intact.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Home rule provisions under the Georgia Constitution authorizes counties to provide fire services. The Board exercises discretion in the delivery of services and determines whether service can be structured according to a contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Board consideration.

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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. **BOARD CONSIDERATION OF COUNTY PARTICIPATION IN A GRANT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AWARDED TO THE SAVANNAH-CHATHAM METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE RELATED COUNTY COST OF \$79,941.**

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 Odell and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety awarded to the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and the related cost of \$79,941. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present.]

Agenda Item: IX-1
Agenda Date: April 25, 2008

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

ISSUE: Board consideration of a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety awarded to the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and the related cost of \$79,941.

BACKGROUND: The Intergovernmental Agreement between Chatham County and the City of Savannah for police services does not provide definitive guidance in relation to cost sharing on grants. Exhibit A of the agreement does provide that Grant funded expenses may be included in the cost sharing formulas under the contract. The City of Savannah is currently seeking the County's participation for a grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The SCMPD was awarded a grant in the amount of \$186,600 from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for the period October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. This grant is referred to as a "HEAT" grant. The grant does not cover the full cost of the program.
2. The total unfunded portions of the HEAT grant is projected to be \$279,514. Of this amount, the County is asked to contribute 28.6% or \$79,941.

FUNDING: Funding is available in the Special Service District – Police Department.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The rate of 28.6% applied for the County's cost share of this grant is consistent with the rate specified in the contract for the Traffic Unit cost center.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) Authorize payment to the City of Savannah of up to \$79,941 for the County's participation in the grant with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety,
- 2) Provide other direction.

RECOMMENDATION: For Board Consideration.

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2. REQUEST BOARD CONTINUE THE LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TURNER-HODGE-YOUNG COMMUNITY CENTER LOCATED ON SHIPYARD ROAD IN THE MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY BY APPROVAL OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 TO REPLACE THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND MAKE NECESSARY REPAIRS TO THE BASKETBALL COURT AT THE CENTER.

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

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I make that motion, but I also want to, as I said in the pre-meeting, thank the staff. This is greatly needed in the area. It serves Pinpoint, it serves the Montgomery and it serves the Beaulieu residents, so I'm just very, very excited about this and I appreciate it. 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, Odell and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the item passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the request to continue the long-standing partnership with the Turner-Hodge-Young Community Center located on Shipyard Road in the Montgomery Community by approval of an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to replace the playground equipment and make necessary repairs to the basketball court at the Center. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2**AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008**

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

ISSUE:

Request Board approval for the continuation of a long-standing Partnership with the Turner-Hodge-Young Community Center located on Shipyard Road in the Montgomery Community.

BACKGROUND:

The Turner-Hodge-Young Community Center opened its doors on May 9, 1949 and has since been sustained by membership dues from the residents of Montgomery, Pinpoint and Sandfly communities and most recently a grant from the Hodge Foundation. The Partnership Agreement was signed in the early 1970 the purpose of establishing a special self-help project program provided assistance to the community in securing equipment for all of these communities to utilize. In 2003 the Board approved the removal of the playground equipment because it was old and no longer safe to use. Funds at that time were not available to replace the equipment.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Turner-Hodge-Young Community Center opened its doors on May 9, 1949 and has since served the communities of Montgomery, Pinpoint and Sandfly.
2. County staff has maintained all of the equipment to include the basketball court.
3. Board approved in 2003 the removal of the unsafe playground equipment, but because funds were not available, the equipment was not replaced.
4. Staff will work with a vendor(s) to determine the structure size base on available space. When this is completed, a request to aware will be submitted.
5. The President of the Turner-Hodge-Young Community Association of Montgomery, Inc has formally requested the County to remove and replace the playground equipment and basketball court and goals.

FUNDING:

Recreation - 1006100 - 54.25001 - Other Equipment

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Boards continue the long-standing Partnership with the Turner-Hodge-Young Community Center located in the Montgomery County.
2. That the Board approves an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to replace the playground equipment and make necessary repairs to the basketball court.
3. That the Board not approve Alternatives 1 & 2.
4. Provide staff with other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Board action is required to authorize staff to continue to partner with a private non-profit organization and make improvements to property not under county ownership.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopts Alternatives 1 & 2.

[District 1]

RWD:al

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3. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM JIMMY AND SANDI JENKINS FOR VARIANCE TO OBTAIN A PERMIT FOR A REPLACEMENT POTABLE WATER WELL.

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, good morning. What's before you this morning is a request for a variance for a replacement well at the stated address. The County Well Ordinance requires that if a piece of property fronts on a right-of-way that has a government water supply in front of it, they're required to tie into it; however, there are provisions that in the ordinance based upon modifications to that ordinance a number of years ago gave the opportunity for a homeowner to request a variance of that provision if the well is a replacement well of an existing. The existing well on the property dates back to 1955. Apparently, that well has gone bad and is the residents requesting to replace that well with a new well. We've gotten, as stated in the staff report, we've talked with the City of Savannah. They've identified what their fees would be to tie into that water system, and the petitioner has also submitted documentation on what the cost would be. The ordinance does give you latitude to provide the variance or not. The staff recommends board consideration.

Chairman Liakakis asked, to consider to issue the variance? Mr. Anderson said, that is correct, sir. County Manager Abolt said, you want to take testimony before you make any decision.

Mr. Jimmy Jenkins said, hello. My name is Jimmy Jenkins, the one petitioning for this. I have a well that has gone — the potable water anymore. My property line is 280 feet, I believe it is, from the road and then another 100 feet you have to cross across a driveway, concrete driveway and then another 265 feet to the house. We've been on well water for our whole life and we like the taste of it and we also — the expense of it of doing a well versus having to tap all the way in down to the road is why we're asking for this to be okayed.

Chairman Liakakis said, our staff has recommended this. Do we need a motion on the floor.

County Manager Abolt said, no sir, no sir. Staff gives you board consideration. Staff does not have discretion. You have to take testimony and then based on what you hear from the appellant, you have to make your decision. Chairman Liakakis said, alright.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, how much money would it cost to tap into the City and how much, I know it's in the report but just — to tap into the City versus getting a new well?

County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to the applicant because there's — his numbers are those that he asked the contractor.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, sir, if you can roughly. Mr. Jenkins said, well, I had a contractor give me a price for what it was going to take. He came up with a price of \$20,000, but that's —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, to do what? Mr. Jenkins said, well, he's going to have to cut my driveway all the way down. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, to tap into Savannah's water? Mr. Jenkins said, yeah, and then come across with it another hundred feet and cut through my concrete driveway and repatch that. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, and that's not even the tap-in fees, right? Mr. Jenkins said, no, I don't think the tap-in fees were not enormous. My wife called about that and I think they were \$350 or \$400 for the City to tap-in, but it's after that. It's after that it's expensive. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to approve.

Chairman Liakakis said, hold it.

Commissioner Farrell said, I looked into this in a little more detail and apparently there's a — the casing under the old ordinance that we had in Chatham County required that we use metal and, of course, in '55 there was no PVC, but through the wisdom of this Board, we have updated our ordinance so that there is the possibility that PVC casing could be used and this problem wouldn't occur again. So with the benefit of technology, the only reason he can't fix this well is because the casing has corroded 85 feet below the surface and because they've been on this well water all their life and they feel like that it's less probability of getting contamination from another source because they have closer control of their water, I'm going to make a motion that we grant this opportunity to put the new casing in. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just had one question and I feel certain that it's already been answered, and this is to the staff. This has met the requirements for EPD? I know that for a while the regulations on new wells was getting tighter.

Mr. Anderson said, and they are getting tighter, but this — certainly our ordinance is in line with EPD. You have the discretion to grant this variance for a replacement. Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, if I may state one thing. I understand the investment a city puts in or whoever puts in to get the water lines out there, and it is really standard that you pretty much mandate people to tap in, but this is really a huge amount of money at \$20,000 to run the lines. So that's why I definitely supported it. It's just a very different situation from what would be considered normal when water lines are ran by a place. So that's a residence \$20,000, I think that's the right thing to do.

Chairman Liakakis said, that's good in there because the information that our staff gave us, you know, in that it conforms to what you're saying. Okay, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Mr. Jenkins said, thank you. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to grant the request from Jimmy and Sandi Jenkins for a variance to obtain a permit for a replacement potable water well. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR BUILDING SAFETY & REGULATORY SERVICE

ISSUE

Request for a variance to obtain a permit for a Replacement Potable Water Well

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. Due to the collapse of the existing well casing and the contamination of the potable water, a replacement well permit application was submitted.
2. Through the plan review process, it was determined that City of Savannah water was available within the right-of-way fronting the subject property.
3. Section 15-612(4) of the Chatham County Well Ordinance allows for the issuance of variance for replacement wells verses tying into a government-owned water system.
4. Discussions with the Bureau Chief, City of Savannah Water Bureau indicates that the cost to the owner for access to City water would be a meter fee of \$455.00 and a water capacity fee of \$900.00. The cost to bore under the road would be paid by the City.
5. This proposal is to replace an existing well and not to increase the number of wells.

FUNDING

Not applicable

ALTERNATIVES

1. Grant the requested variance in order to install a replacement potable water well.
2. Deny the variance.

POLICY ANALYSIS

Section 15-616(1) of the Chatham County Well Ordinance requires that connection be made to government-owned water systems, if it is located within a certain distance from the residence or available within the public right-of-way abutting the property.

Section 15-612(4) allows the Board of Commissioners to grant a variance to the requirements of Section 15-616(1) for replacement wells that become contaminated.

Section 15-62(6) in determining whether a hardship exists the Board of Commissioners shall not base their action strictly on economic reasons claimed by the applicant but shall review all the evidence presented.

According to the owner's Well Contractor, the tying into the City water main would be a major undertaking due to its location in the right-of-way and the obstacles of the site. The challenges of the connection to the main translates to an elevated cost estimate.

The City of Savannah Water Bureau Chief indicates that the City would run service to the owners property at the City's expense. The City would tap into the main, bore under the road, set the meter and bring service to it. The owner would be responsible to pay the \$455.00 meter fee and the \$900.00 water capacity fee to the City.

The Bureau Chief also indicated that the cost to saw cut, trench and repair the asphalt and concrete driveways appeared to be a bit high. Since the water piping was at the 1 1/2" diameter, it was his opinion that it could be bored under the driveways and save the cut, trench and repair costs.

RECOMMENDATION
Board Consideration

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4. MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING BOARD SELECTION. (NOTE: COMMISSIONER ODELL UNAVOIDABLY CANNOT BE PRESENT AT TODAY'S MEETING AND BECAUSE OF HIS LEADERSHIP IN THIS MATTER STAFF SUGGESTS THAT YOUR SELECTION BE DELAYED TWO WEEKS.)

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Harris Odell, as you know, brought this up and he has requested that if we could table this to the next meeting because he's out of town.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to table. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the table and a second. Go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to table the management engineering board selection until May 9, 2008. Commissioners Stone and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

~~Related to AGENDA ITEM: IX-4~~
~~AGENDA DATE: April 11, 2008~~
AGENDA ITEM: IX-4
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

TO: R.E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Michael Kaigler, Director of Human Resources and Services

RE: Staff evaluation of QBS 08-5-4 Consulting Services to Evaluate Efficiency of Various County Departments (Management Engineering)

Interviews were held April 10, 2008, with all four "Short Listed" consulting firms. The results, along with the proposed scores, are as follows:

FIRM	Proposal Score (100pts. Possible)	Interview Score (30 pts. Possible)	Total Score (130 pts. Possible)
TATC Consulting Bethesda, Md.	94	282.2	122.2

Matrix Consulting Group Palo Alto, CA	88.4	25.4	113.9
MGT of America, Inc. Tallahassee, Fl.	84.2	26	110.2
Capital Principals, LLC Atlanta, Ga.	81	24.8	105.8

As stated by the scores, TATC Consulting is the highest ranking consulting firm. Once a top rated firm is selected, staff will negotiate fees for anticipated services. The firms are prepared to make a brief appearance before the Board and answer questions at tomorrow's Commission meeting.

~~AGENDA ITEM: IX-4~~
~~AGENDA DATE: April 11, 2008~~

DATE: April 9, 2008
TO: Chairman and Members of the Board
FROM: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
SUBJECT: Special Reminder, Management Engineering Interviews at the Conclusion of Friday's Meeting

Ladies and gentlemen, you may remember that this Friday, we have scheduled interviews of firms who are vying to serve as "management engineers" as described by Commissioner Odell over the last many months. You indicated, during your pre-goals session meeting, that you wanted to interview and select from a short list.

Staff will have the firms ready to answer your questions, and make a brief presentation. With four firms competing, I would estimate it would take about an hour of your time. It would appear best to have this at the end of your agenda Friday after all other business is complete, and before you go into Executive Session.

The interviews will be in the Commission Chambers.

REA:dbh

Attachment

cc: Reese White, Director, Internal Audit
Michael A. Kaigler, Director, Human Resources and Services
Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

~~AGENDA ITEM: IX-2~~
~~AGENDA DATE: March 21, 2008~~
~~AGENDA ITEM: IX-4~~
~~AGENDA DATE: April 11, 2008~~

ITEM J

ISSUE: To provide the Board a recommended "Short List" for (Management Engineering) Consulting Services to Evaluate Efficiency of Various County Departments and schedule interviews with the top rated firms.

BACKGROUND: Staff was requested to create and release a Quality Based Selection (QBS) Request for Interest and Qualifications package for (Management Engineering) Consulting Services to Evaluate Efficiency of Various County Departments.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. On 30 January 2008, eight (8) of the ten (10) firms that attended the mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference, held 15 January 2008, submitted proposals. At that time, proposals were distributed to all the members of the evaluation committee. The proposals were scored by the committee members. After the scores were calculated, it was determined that the "short list" would consist of the four highest scoring firms.

- 2. The Board has expressed interest to interview the short-listed firms. Staff recommends the short-listed firms provide a brief presentation to the Board during the 11 April 2008 Commission meeting. On 10 April 2008, the evaluation committee will hold and score interviews with the four (4) firms. The committee’s recommendation will be submitted to the Board prior to the 11 April meeting.
- 3. The “Short List” for this project, in no particular order, is as follows:
 - Capital Principals, LLC
Atlanta, GA
 - Matrix Consulting Group
Coral Springs, FL
 - MGT of America, Inc.
Tallahassee, FL
 - TATC Consulting
Bethesda, MD

FUNDING: No funding required at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Approve the “Short List” as provided by staff and schedule interviews with the four (4) top rated firms at the 11 April 2008 Commission Meeting.
- 2. Approve the “Short List” as provided by staff and schedule interviews with the four (4) top rated firms at another time.
- 3. Provide staff other direction.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL /s/ Read DeHaven
READ DEHAVEN

=====

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 9 and under 9 we have A through P, and Commissioner Dean Kicklighter on 9-B, he would like to hold that item off. Is there any other request to take anything off at this time? Alright, we need a motion on the floor to approve all the items 1 through 9-P without voting on Item B under 9.

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

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve Item 1 through Item 9-P, except Item 9-B. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2008, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 11, 2008. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 3, 2008, THROUGH APRIL 16, 2008.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period April 3, 2008, through April 16, 2008, in the amount of \$9,616,806. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

=====

3. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PRESCRIBED FIRE. SEE ATTACHED COMMENTS FROM RANGER TY HAYMAN OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY FORESTRY UNIT AND SOUTHSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF WESLEY MEADOWS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to adopt a resolution in support of prescribed fire as a land management/public safety tool in the prevention of wildfires and reduction of liability and loss of property. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]



IN SUPPORT OF PRESCRIBED FIRE

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Commission recognizes that the use of prescribed fire provides multiple ecological and economic benefits to safety tool in the prevention of wildfires, reduces the liability and loss of private property and saves lives while it acts as a preventive measure saving taxpayers the cost of local government public safety and fire fighting officials from responding to wildfires which consume valuable tax resources, and

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a land management/public safety tool in the prevention of wildfires, reduces the liability and loss of private property and saves lives while it acts as a preventive measure saving taxpayers the cost of local government public safety and fire fighting officials from responding to wildfires which consume valuable tax resources, and

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a priority in the implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan to improve wildlife habitat, it assists both public and private land managers in perpetuating fire-dependent ecosystems, its dependent game and non-game species and is a tool in managing endangered species,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a valuable tool used by land managers, timber growers and the Georgia Forestry Commission in reducing hazardous fuels, reducing the risk of destructive wildfires, preparing sites for both natural and artificial forest regeneration, improving access and controlling detrimental insects and sivicultural diseases, and

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly passed the Right to Burn Act in 1992, defining prescribed fire as, "Prescribed burning means the controlled application of fire to existing vegetative fuels under specific environmental conditions and following appropriate precautionary measures, which causes the fire to be confined to a pre-determined area and accomplishes one or more planned land management objectives or to mitigate catastrophic wildfires," and

WHEREAS, many rural economies are dependent on the use of prescribed fire to manage for game species such as Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkey and Bobwhite Quail, whose hunting economy is vital to the State of Georgia, and

WHEREAS, prescribed fire helps keep Georgia's forests healthy and those forests, in return, provide clean air and clean water,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire practitioners contribute to the air quality of Georgia as healthy forest contribute vital ecological services as "air shed contributors."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Commission supports the appropriate and continued use of prescribed fire in Georgia, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chatham County Commission supports the Georgia Forestry Commission and Georgia Department of Natural Resources to continue to provide educational and technical assistance to landowners in an effort to recognize the benefits listed above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chatham County Commission urges Air Quality Regulators to work closely with all state agencies and landowners in a fair and balanced approach to smoke management.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this 25th day of April, 2008.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman, Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

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4. REQUEST FROM HGBD, ENGINEER FOR THE KONTER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, TO END THE TWELVE-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD, ACCEPT THE DEDICATED IMPROVEMENTS AND STREETLIGHTS AND RELEASE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FOR SALT CREEK LANDING, PHASE 2. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the request from Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung for the Konter Development Company, to end the twelve (12) month warranty period, accept the dedicated improvements and streetlights and release the financial guarantee for Salt Creek Landing, Phase 2. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

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

ISSUE: To end the twelve-month warrant period, accept the dedicated improvements and streetlights and release the financial guarantee for Salt Creek Landing, Phase 2.

BACKGROUND: Konter Development Company, through their engineer, HGBD, requests that the County end the twelve-month warranty period, accept the dedicated improvements and streetlights and release the financial guarantee for Salt Creek Landing, Phase 2.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Salt Creek Landing is a single-family residential community located on Cottonvale Road. This phase consists of 66 lots on 17.88 acres. Water and sanitary sewer have been accepted by Consolidated Utilities. Paving and drainage will be maintained by Chatham County.
2. The required site improvements are complete. They have been inspected and found to be without fault.
3. Upon acceptance, Chatham County will be responsible for ownership and maintenance costs associated with streetlights in this subdivision. The estimated annual cost for the streetlights is \$2,574.
4. The developer requests the County release the bond issued by The Savannah Bank in the amount of \$371,080.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To end the twelve-month warranty period, accept the dedicated improvements and streetlights and release the financial guarantee for Salt Creek Landing, Phase 2.
2. Do not approve the request.

POLICY ANALYSIS: This action is consistent with the subdivision regulations regarding project close-out.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 7

PREPARED BY: Nathaniel Panther

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**5. REQUEST FROM KERN-COLEMAN, ENGINEER FOR HARBOR FOREST DEVELOPMENT, LLC, TO END THE WARRANTY PERIOD AND RELEASE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE FOR HARBOR FOREST OFFICE PARK.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the request from Kern-Coleman, Engineer for Harbor Forest development, LLC, to end the warranty period and release the financial guarantee for Harbor Forest Office Park. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5

AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE: To end the warranty period and release the financial guarantee for Harbor Forest Office Park.

BACKGROUND: Harbor Forest Development, LLC, through their engineer, Kern-Coleman, requests that the County end the twelve-month warranty period and release the financial guarantee for Harbor Forest Office Park.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Harbor Forest Office Park is a private business office park on Dean Forest Road. The subdivision consists of 6 lots on 3.87 acres. Water and sanitary sewer are maintained by the City of Savannah. Paving and Drainage is maintained by the Harbor Forest property owners.
2. The required site improvements are complete. They have been inspected and found to be without fault.

3. The developer previously submitted a performance bond in the amount of \$181,800 and requests this bond be released.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To end the twelve-month warranty period and release the financial guarantee for Harbor Forest Office Park.
2. Do not approve the request.

POLICY ANALYSIS: This action is consistent with the subdivision regulation regarding project close-out.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 7

PREPARED BY: Nathaniel Panther

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE SALE OF TIMBER INCREMENTALLY BY NEGOTIATION FROM THE COUNTY WETLANDS MITIGATION BANK PROPERTY FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE LITCHFIELD PLANTATION (PIN 1-1033-02-001). [DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the sale of timber incrementally by negotiation from the County Wetlands Mitigation Bank property formerly known as the Litchfield Plantation (PIN 1-1033-02-001). Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-6

AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

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

ISSUE: To approve the sale of timber incrementally by negotiation from County Wetlands Mitigation Bank property formerly known as the Litchfield Plantation Tract (PIN 1-1033-02-001).

BACKGROUND: The 494 acre tract was acquired by the County in December, 2002, to develop a wetlands mitigation site for County drainage and road capital improvement projects. On March 14, 2003, the Board approved the sale of timber by sealed bid to the highest bidder. On November 16, 2007, the Board approved the sale of timber by negotiation on two small areas.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. In 2003 it was anticipated that timber would be removed from about 60 acres in order to "create" the wetlands component of the wetlands banking mitigation plans. Some of that area was required to remain a buffer along I-16 and the area was excluded from the restrictive covenants. About 50 acres remained to be cleared of all timber. In the meantime, the sale of dirt was approved from the "wetlands creation areas". Adjacent to the two borrow pits from which dirt was being sold there were small areas that had to be cleared to expand the pits and more effectively deal with de-watering and sediment control. The pines in these areas were not significant for sale by sealed bid.
2. The timber was sold by negotiation with a timber harvester. That area is already being reclaimed to create jurisdictional wetlands in accordance with the Banking Instrument approved by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The previous report indicated that it was staff's intent to solicit sealed bids to sell the timber from the balance of the two remaining larger "creation" areas.
3. The Georgia EPD Surface Mining Unit notified staff that the County was not exempt from the State requirement to obtain a Surface Mining Permit because the dirt being sold is no longer being used on GDOT projects. In reviewing the requirements of the Surface Mining Act and regulations, staff determined that it is best not to clear cut the entire

creation areas (i.e clear cut by sealed bid) at one time because of erosion and sediment control. The permit application is being reviewed by the EPD.

4. According to Georgia Farm Bureau's September 2007 survey for south Georgia, the price per ton ranges from \$3 to \$9 for pine pulp, from \$13 to \$19 for chip-n-saw, and from \$33 to \$38 for saw timber. The maximum tonnage for a timber trailer rig is 30 tons. Based on discussions with timber harvesters and surveying the creation areas, most of the remaining pine is pulp.

5. The proceeds from the sale of the timber are being returned to the 1998 - 2003 SPLOST to offset the wetlands bank development costs.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. That the Board authorize the continued sale of the timber incrementally by negotiation from the County Wetlands Mitigation Bank.
- 2. That the Board not approve the sale of timber by negotiation.

FUNDING: Revenue producing.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The timber may be sold in accordance with O.C.G.A. 50-16-144 by the proper governing authority.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Alternative No. 1.

District 6

Prepared by A.G. Bungard

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7. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER AND RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2008. PETITIONER: SCOTT PRATT, D/B/A BARBARA JEAN'S RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 138 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the petition of Scott Pratt, d/b/a Barbara Jean's Restaurant, located at 138 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for transfer and renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2008. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

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

ISSUE

Request for transfer and renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2008, Scott Pratt, d/b/a Barbara Jean's Restaurant, located at 138 Johnny Mercer Blvd.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Pratt requests approval for transfer and renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

- 1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.

2. The returned application was reviewed by Regulatory Services. The County Fire Inspector inspected the site for compliance with the commercial kitchen requirements and approved the facility.
3. This application is in compliance with all requirements.
4. The applicant has been notified of the hearing date and time.

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 4

We verify that the attached report and attachments are complete and correct as to form.

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Assistant Chief Willie Lovett

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT (CUMULUS PROMOTIONAL SPONSOR) FOR A YOUTH RALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26, 2008, AT DAFFIN PARK. ALSO ENCLOSED IS A STAFF REPORT EXPLAINING THIS YEAR'S RALLY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve a Hold Harmless Agreement (Cumulus Promotional Sponsor for a youth rally scheduled for April 26, 2008, in Daffin Park. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-8
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
ISSUE: Approval of Hold Harmless Agreement for Youth Rally

ISSUE:

Request Board approval of Hold Harmless Agreement for Youth Rally scheduled for April 26, 2008 at Daffin Park.

BACKGROUND:

Cumulus Broadcasting, LLC requested the County approve the Hold Harmless Agreement for the youth rally scheduled for April 26, 2008 at Daffin Park, a copy of which is attached.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

The attached Hold Harmless Agreement has been requested by Cumulus Broadcasting, LLC, which is a promotional sponsor for the youth rally scheduled on April 26, 2008 at Daffin Park.

FUNDING:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Approve Hold Harmless Agreement for youth rally scheduled for April 26, 2008 at Daffin Park.
- 2. Do not approve Hold Harmless Agreement for youth rally scheduled for April 26, 2008 at Daffin Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative No. 1.

LGC/jr

**HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT
Cumulus Promotional Sponsor**

Chatham County hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless to the extent provided by law, Cumulus Broadcasting, LLC, radio station(s) WEAS, their parent and subsidiary companies, affiliates, members, directors, officers, employees and agents (the "Cumulus Parties") from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from or in connection with the acts or omissions of Event Organizer, its agents, employees, affiliates or representatives, or any products or services provided by Event Organizer, its agents, employees, affiliates or representatives, in connection with the Youth Rally event being held on April 26, 2008 at Daffin Park in Savannah, Georgia.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

Signed by: _____

Name, Title: _____

Date: _____

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9. 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. Annual professional services contract with automatic renewal options for two (2) additional one (1) year terms for the "as required" instruction and supervision of youth under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	Janet Skipper	Varies by service	Supervision fees collected by Juvenile Court
B. Construction contract for the intersection improvements at Southbridge Blvd. and Dean Forest Road	Engineering	Coastal Grading and Rental, Inc.	\$347,225	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Southbridge Blvd.
C. Annual software support for the court system program	I.C.S.	Papcon Consulting (Sole Source)	\$42,000	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
D. Annual maintenance agreement on the network switches	I.C.S.	Entre Solutions (MBE)	\$59,730	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
E. Six (6) portable digital radios	Detention Center	Motorola (Sole Source - State Contract)	\$19,263	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
F. Construction contract for the Kings Way Canal Drainage Improvement	Engineering	Sandhill ALS Construction, Inc. (MBE)	\$518,509	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Kings Way Drainage
G. Contract for the re-roofing of five (5) picnic shelters	Parks and Recreation	MOPAC Plant and Building Services	\$56,457	•CIP - Parks and Recreation - Kings Ferry - \$14,871 •CIP - Parks and Recreation - Salt Creek Boat Ramp - \$13,871 •General Fund/M&O - Recreation - L. Scott Stell Park - \$27,715
H. Technical surveillance equipment	C.N.T.	Saul Mineroff (Sole Source)	\$41,280	Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.
I. Technical surveillance equipment	C.N.T.	DTC Communications (Sole Source)	\$40,410	Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
J. Radio equipment and supplies	C.N.T.	Savannah Communications (Sole Source)	\$13,800	Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.
K. Handguns, shotguns and related accessories	C.N.T.	Ed's Public Safety, Inc.	\$15,170	Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.
L. Ammunition	C.N.T.	Precision Delta Corporation	\$11,540	Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.
M. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Walthour Canal Culver Replacement project for adjustments to the final price	Engineering	E & D Contracting Services, Inc.	\$4,264	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Walthour/Offshore Road project
N. Warning devices for law enforcement vehicles	Fleet Operations	West Chatham Warning Devices	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various •CIP - Fleet •SPLOST
O. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year term for Professional Audit Services	Finance	Karp, Ronning and Tindol	\$122,000	General Fund/M&O - Audit Contract
P. Contract approval and authorization to proceed with Part A of the Courthouse design-engineering	Special Projects	PSA Dewberry with Barnard Architects	\$370,360	•SPLOST (2003-2008) •SPLOST (2008-2014) - Courthouse Renovation

As to Items 9-A through 9-P, except Item 9-B:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve Item 9-A through Item 9-P, except Item 9-B. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

As to Item 9-B:

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I pulled 9-B off, basically I want the public to know that the entrance at Southbridge has been in — it's in pretty bad shape because it was built, the reports in there, on a type of a soil base that's really not any good for a road with when you have an abundance of traffic. So I just want the people to know that this will actually improve the area by going in, digging everything up, putting a new base in, repaving the entrance and exit, and not only that, this will add a two-lane exit going out of there and not to mention back in, I guess it was sometime in the recent past, we approved the red light going in that area. So this will be major improvements and really should help the situation as far as trying to get in and out of there in the mornings and evenings and it will definitely be nice, and I just wanted all of them to know that and I appreciate all of you supporting and appreciate the staff.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to approve. Go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Farrell moved to approve Item 9-A through Item 9-P, except Item 9-B. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Item 9-B. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
 On first reading, presentation by MPC staff and discussion only by Commissioners will be heard.
 Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

1. **THE PETITIONER, DANA BRAUN (AGENT FOR RICK HOLLANDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RIVERVIEW HEALTH), IS REQUESTING TO REZONE PROPERTY AT 6709 AND 6711 LAROCHE AVENUE FROM AN R-1/EO (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL-ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) TO A PUD-M-15/EO (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT MULTI FAMILY 15 UNITS PER NET ACRE ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS DENIAL OF THE PETITION AS PRESENTED AND APPROVAL TO REZONE THE PROPERTY TO AN ALTERNATE PUD-M-10/EO (PUD-M-10 – 10 UNITS PER NET ACRE – ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY) CLASSIFICATION. MPC FILE NO. Z-080312-00048-1
 THE PETITIONER HAS ALSO SUBMITTED A PROPOSED MASTER PLAN FOR THIS SITE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDEVELOPING THE EXISTING NURSING HOME. MPC FILE NO. M-080312-00048-1
 [DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

AGENDA ITEM: XI -1
AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2008

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

Legal Notice Agenda Heading

The petitioner, Dana Braun, (Agent for Rick Hollander, Executive Director Riverview Health) is requesting to rezone the subject property from an R-1/EO (Single Family Residential-Environmental Overlay) to a PUD-M 15/EO (Planned Unit Development Multi Family 15 units per net acre Environmental Overlay) classification. The MPC recommends **Denial** of the petition as presented and **Approval** to rezone the property to an alternate PUD-M-10/EO (PUD-M-10 – 10 units per net acre – Environmental Overlay) classification. MPC File No. Z-080312-00048-1. The petitioner has also submitted a proposed Master Plan for this site for the purpose of redeveloping the existing nursing home MPC File Number M-080312-00048-1.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. **Public Notice:** All property owners located within 200 feet of the petitioned site(s) were notified of the rezoning petition. Also, the petitioner held a neighborhood meeting with the surrounding property owners on Tuesday, February 26, 2008. The petitioner also met with Elizabeth Scott, chairman of Bacon Park Neighborhood Association on Thursday, March 6, 2008. According to the petitioner, the neighborhood meeting was well attended and those in attendance did not voice opposition to the proposed development, including Ms. Scott.
2. **Site:** The subject site is 32.16 acres in size and is presently comprised of two existing lots. The site is presently occupied by a nursing home complex consisting of two separate structures with multiple attached wings, a chapel, a maintenance facility, and a detached single family structure.
3. **Request:** The petitioner requests that the site be rezoned to a PUD-M-15 zoning classification in order to redevelop an existing nursing home complex. The redevelopment will be implemented in several phases to accommodate the need and will include new nursing home and related uses as well as limited and full

service congregate care facilities. The adjacent land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject property include:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Zoning</u>
North	Single Family Residential	R-1/EO
South	Single Family Residential	R-1/EO
East	LaRoche Avenue	
	Vacant Land	R-1/EO
	Salt Marsh	C-M [1]
	Single Family	R-1/EO
	Residential Townhomes	R-1/EO
West	Single Family Residential	R-1/EO
	Vacant Land/Single Family	PUD-IS/EO [2]

[1] C-M – Marsh Conservation

[2] PUD-IS/EO – Planned Unit Development Institution/Environmental Overlay

4. **Zoning History/Existing Development Pattern:** The subject site and properties in close proximity have not been rezoned within the last 30 years with the following exceptions:

- a site located on the east side of LaRoche Avenue across from the petitioned site was rezoned from an R-1 classification to its present P-R-3 classification on October 17, 1980 (MPC File Number 80-5129-C)
- Wylly Island and associated hammocks, located on the east side of LaRoche Avenue south of the petitioned site was rezoned from an R-1 classification to its present P-R-3 classification on June 29, 1983 (MPC File Number 83-6138-C)
- the adoption of the rezoning associated with the implementation of the Southeast Chatham County Community Plan in April, 2003 which established the Environmental Overlay district on all properties in the petitioned site and general area

The development pattern along LaRoche Avenue is primarily low density single family residential. The most recent developments along LaRoche Avenue, including the adjacent property to the north of the petitioned site have been conventional single family subdivisions.

5. **Environmental Overlay (EO) District**

The purpose of the Environmental Overlay (EO) District is to establish supplemental standards to bolster those currently in the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance in order to protect and enhance community character; provide for safe and orderly development; and, protect environmental quality, especially the estuarine system that surrounds the community.

6. **Existing R-1-A/EO Zoning District:**

- a. **Intent of the R-1-A/EO District:** According to the zoning ordinance, the R-1-A/EO district is intended to “create an environment in which one-family dwellings, and certain non-residential uses are permitted in order to promote stability and character of low-density residential development with adequate open space.”

A maximum density of 3.5 units per net acre of residential land is permitted in this district.

- b. **Allowed Uses:** The uses allowed within the R-1-A/EO district appear in the attached chart.

- c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the R-1-A/EO district appear in the attached table (Table 1).

7. **Proposed PUD-M-15/EO Zoning District:**

- a. Intent of the PUD-M-15/EO District: The Zoning Ordinance does not provide an intent for this district. However, the definition states that under this district, various types of residential uses shall be permitted with an overall net density not to exceed 15 units per net acre.
- b. **Allowed Uses:** Multi-family dwellings, including townhomes, apartments, condominiums, two-family dwellings, single family semi-detached dwellings, single family detached dwellings, and some institutional and business uses under certain conditions.
- c. **Development Standards:** The development standards for the PUD-M-15 district vary depending upon the type of development. For instance, single family detached residential must be developed in accordance with the R-1 (Single Family Residential) district standards. Duplexes must be developed in accordance with R-2-A (Two Family Residential) district standards.

8. **Land Use Element:** The Tricentennial Plan Future Land Use Map designates the subject property as Civic/Institutional. Approval of the zoning map amendment would be consistent with the Future Land Use Map.

9. **Transportation Network:** The property is accessed from LaRoche Avenue, an existing paved public road with a 60 foot right-of-way (at this location). However, the majority of LaRoche Avenue is a 30 foot right-of-way. LaRoche Avenue is a two lane road with no curb and gutter. According to the Street Classification Map Number 1 of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, Section 4-6, LaRoche Avenue is classified as a secondary arterial roadway. The 2004 average daily traffic count for LaRoche Avenue from DeRenne Avenue to Norwood Avenue was 9,300 vehicles.

10. **Public Services and Facilities:** The property is served by the Chatham-Savannah Metropolitan Police Department, Southside Fire Department and by City water and sewer. The subject site is served by the Chatham Transit Authority. The nearest bus stop is located at the existing entrance drive into the nursing home facility.

11. **Alternate Zoning Option**

PUD-M-10/EO (Planned Unit Development - Multi-Family Residential – 10 Units Per Net Acre/Environmental Overlay). Rezoning the site to a PUD-M-10 classification would accommodate the proposed nursing home and congregate care facility and establish a density that would be more in character with the predominate low density single family residential development in the general area.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (PUD-M-15/EO classification or PUD-M-10/EO)

- 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 R-1/EO classification to a PUD-M-15/EO classification.
2. Deny the petitioner's request.
3. Approve an alternate PUD-M-10/EO classification

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The proposed rezoning is consistent with Chatham County's Future Land Use Plan. The proposed PUD-M-15 classification would allow the redevelopment of the existing nursing home that would significantly update the facility in terms of aesthetics and services and would also allow the expansion of assisted and limited assisted housing that would better serve the community at large. However, the requested PUD-M-15/EO zoning classification permits a much greater density than is needed and should be denied in favor of to a PUD-M-10/EO classification. The alternate zoning district would allow the redevelopment of the nursing home facility as planned and would maintain a density that would be more in keeping with the surrounding single family neighborhoods.

RECOMMENDATION: The MPC and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend Denial of the petitioner's request to rezone the property from an R-1/EO (Single Family Residential–Environmental Overlay) classification to a PUD-M-15/EO (Planned Unit Development Multi Family-15 units per net acre – Environmental Overlay) classification as submitted, and recommended Approval to rezone the property to an alternate PUD-M-10/EO (PUD-M-10 – 10 units per net acre – Environmental Overlay) classification.

PREPARED BY: Jim Hansen, AICP, Director
Development Services

APRIL 1, 2008

Gregori Anderson, Director
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Table 1: Comparison of Development Standards for the Existing R-1/EO Zoning District, Requested PUD-M-15/EO Zoning District, and Recommended PUD-M-15/EO Zoning District

	R-1/EO District	PUD-M-15/EO	PUD-M-10/EO
Minimum Lot Area	<p>(Per Dwelling Unit) One-family detached 6,000 S.F.</p> <p>One-family attached, semi-detached N/A</p> <p>Two-family detached N/A</p> <p>Multi-family N/A</p> <p>Non-Residential None</p>	<p>(Per Dwelling Unit) One-family detached 6,000 S.F.</p> <p>One-family attached, semi-detached 1,200 S.F.</p> <p>Two-family detached 3,000 S.F.</p> <p>Multi-family 1,800 S.F.</p> <p>Non-Residential None</p>	<p>(Per Dwelling Unit) One-family detached 6,000 S.F.</p> <p>One-family attached, semi-detached 1,200 S.F.</p> <p>Two-family detached 3,000 S.F.</p> <p>Multi-family 1,800 S.F.</p> <p>Non-Residential None</p>
Minimum Lot Width	<p>60 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential None</p>	<p>One-family detached 60 feet</p> <p>One-family attached, semi-detached 18 feet</p> <p>Multi-family 100 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential None</p>	<p>One-family detached 60 feet</p> <p>One-family attached, semi-detached 18 feet</p> <p>Multi-family 100 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential None</p>
Front Yard Setback	<p>50 feet (Corridor Buffer)</p>	<p>50 feet (Corridor Buffer)</p>	<p>50 feet (Corridor Buffer)</p>
Minimum Side Yard Setback	<p>One-family detached 5 feet.</p> <p>Non-Residential 15 feet</p>	<p>One-family detached 5 feet</p> <p>One-family attached, semi-detached, Two-family detached, and Multi-family 10 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential - 15 feet</p>	<p>One-family detached 5 feet</p> <p>One-family attached, semi-detached, Two-family detached, and Multi-family 10 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential - 15 feet</p>
Minimum Rear Yard Setback	<p>25 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential 30 feet</p>	<p>25 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential 30 feet</p>	<p>25 feet</p> <p>Non-Residential 30 feet</p>
Maximum Height	<p>36 feet</p>	<p>As Approved by MPC</p>	<p>As Approved by MPC</p>
Maximum Building Coverage	<p>40 percent</p>	<p>As Approved by MPC 60</p>	<p>As Approved by MPC 60</p>

Maximum Density	5 units per net acre	15 units per net acre	10 units per net acre
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DATE: APRIL 1, 2008
TO: CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION
FROM: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
SUBJECT: MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

PETITION REFERENCED:

Rick Hollander, Executive Director, Petitioner
 Riverview Health and Rehabilitation Center, Inc., Owner
 Dana Braun, Agent
 6709 and 6711 LaRoche Avenue
 MPC File No. Z080312-00048-1

MPC ACTION:

Denial of the petitioner's request to rezone the subject property from an R-1/EO to a PUD-M-15/EO.
Approval to rezone the subject property to an alternate PUD-M-10/EO.

MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Denial of the petitioner's request to rezone the subject property from an R-1/EO to a PUD-M-15/EO.
Approval to rezone the subject property to an alternate PUD-M-10/EO.

MEMBERS PRESENT: 8 + Chairman

Jon Todd, Chairman	Robert Ray, Vice-Chairman
Susan Myers, Treasurer	Russ Abolt
Michael Brown	Douglas Bean
Stephen R. Lufburrow	Lacy Manigault
Adam Ragsdale	

VOTING FOR MOTION

Jon Todd
 Robert Ray
 Susan Myers
 Russ Abolt
 Michael Brown
 Douglas Bean
 Stephen Lufburrow
 Lacy Manigault
 Adam Ragsdale

VOTING AGAINST MOTION

***ABSENT OR **FAILING TO VOTE**

**Shedrick Coleman
 **Freddie Gilyard
 **Ben Farmer
 **David Hoover
 **Timothy Mackey

FOR APPROVAL: 9 **FOR DENIAL:** 0 **ABSTAINING:** 0

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas L. Thomson

Thomas L. Thomson
 Executive Director

/cbm

Enclosure

MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present R-1/EO zoning classification to a PUD-M-10/EO zoning classification

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point located on the centerline of LaRoche Avenue, approximately 270 feet north of its intersection with the centerline of Nottingham Drive, thence proceeding in a southwesterly direction along a line South 81 degrees 00 minutes West for a distance of approximately 2148 feet to a point, thence northerly along a line North 00 degrees 39 minutes West a distance of approximately 905 feet to a point, thence southeasterly along a line South 86 degrees 47 minutes East to its intersection with the centerline of LaRoche Avenue, thence in a southerly direction along the centerline of LaRoche Avenue back to the point of beginning.

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

PIN 1-0363 -01-001, 002

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XII. SECOND READINGS

1. **THE PETITIONER, TIM WALMSLEY (AGENT FOR BASHLOR PROPERTIES, LLC) IS SEEKING TO REZONE A PORTION OF A LARGER TRACT OF LAND AT 5657 OGEECHEE ROAD TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) APPROVED RADIO TOWER SITE. WHEREAS THE SITE IS CURRENTLY DESIGNATED ON THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AS SUBURBAN SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION/ UTILITIES DESIGNATION IS ALSO SOUGHT. MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL. (County Manager has directed that the Mosquito Control department head approve any necessary lighting once a development plan has been submitted.)
MPC FILE NO. Z-080116-00017-1
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Commissioner Stone said, I would request to abstain from this vote because this property, adjoining property belongs to a relative of mine and I would like to avoid any appearance of any impropriety. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Commissioner Stone said, I don't know if you have to vote to —.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me — I want to ask a question. Go ahead.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we recuse Commissioner Stone at her request. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone did not cast a vote; Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Yes, go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if I may, I believe that a gentleman that owns property in the general area is here to speak and I'd like to call him up if he's in the audience. Can you come forward and state your name please, sir?

Mr. Bill Johnson said, I'm Bill Johnson and my wife actually owns the property next to the Bashlor. It is my — what I object to in reference to this is the lighting of this, these towers. The towers themselves I do not find objectionable, but the lighting of them, what type of lighting, what impact that's going to have on that neighborhood, I really want to be very careful and I'll ask y'all to be specific about what type of lighting y'all approve of this. I understand the County Manager's objection to not having a lighted tower, although there are no other lighted towers in this area, but this property means a great deal to us and to keep it from being negatively affected would be of great concern to us. So, and I guess any future development out there and the people who are already there, so — and I'm confused about how many — I only asked for 10 acres to be rezoned and when I heard the Commissioner adjust it, he said the entire property and I'd like a clarification of that, if possible, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Mr. Johnson asked, do you have any questions of me? Chairman Liakakis said, just a minute. The question that he just asked about that or should we ask —. County Manager Abolt said, I suggest

you have your staff presentation first. I'd like to comment on illumination and my position. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Alright, MPC staff. Thank you very much and you can — why don't you sit up front in case you'd like to ask another question.

Mr. Jim Hansen said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. Jim Hansen, MPC, for the record. This is a petition seeking to rezone approximately 11.4 acres, a tract which is contained within a larger 26-plus acre parcel. We are only — the petitioner is asking only to rezone a portion of his property. The purpose, as has been stated by the Chairman in his opening, is to place a radio transmission tower facility on this site because of the nature of the transmission, there will be a total of six towers to be located each tower to be 144 feet in height. As to the question of lighting, there is no requirement contained within our ordinance today, nor is there a requirement by the FAA to light towers at a height below 200 feet. Thus the petitioner did not seek nor did the MPC require from a staff perspective that those towers be lit. The discussion that ensued at the MPC and their recommendation was for approval of the rezoning did center upon whether or not these towers should be lit. The County Manager made a request that the Mosquito Control head be informed of and be in fact required to pass on whether or not the towers should be lit. I believe that Mr. Walmsley, who will follow me representing the petitioner, will address these issues. They are or have made arrangements to light, if necessary, those particular towers, but I'm sure he will want to. As you know, much of the land along the Ogeechee frontage is commercial in nature. In fact, this particular property is located on the property owned by the Bashlor group who's front end, if you will, establishment is known as Seeker Gardens. This will be located approximately 800 feet south and east of Highway 17 at the rear portion of their site. The only access to the site will be through the Seeker Gardens property itself. Again, Mr. Chairman, the staff at MPC have recommended approval of both the rezoning and the amendment to the general plan, which will take this particular property from its current Residential classification to the Transportation, Communications and Utilities designation, whose uses are rather limited. As is indicated, it is used for public purposes of transportation, communications and utilities.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. This, again, is the zone change. My very specific position which was approved in my motion by the MPC had to do with the development plan. I want to highlight something that's very significant. If you look at page eight of the staff report from MPC, they have been and with nothing faulting them, but they have been regularly contacting Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield to determine whether or not the location of the towers and illumination, or a lack thereof, would be a problem. That is being in my mind seriously neglectful of Mosquito Control, which as we all know, in addition to killing bugs, flies at night to get bad guys for the Police Department and on the Westside, and the Sugar Refinery is a good example, they have our chopper in the great people that fly it to carry water buckets. If you look at their findings, the MPC staff report findings, number eight, item eight, they're saying, well, Stewart and Hunter say there's no need for it, so in effect don't worry about the illumination. I have since instructed Mr. Thomson to ensure that any tower — any towers — going up in unincorporated Chatham County, and I would hope for the entire County, would also allow Dr. Lewandowski to make that decision. Now that decision would be predicated upon a serious danger. If you look at page twenty-one, and though I fly in choppers I don't fly them, but all of us who don't fly them might appreciate the visual, the photograph — it's a little bit dark now — on page twenty-one and you see that spread of towers and you remember less than a year ago you had the Pooler Fire Department that came before you to present a special award to Dr. Lewandowski, Scott and the other folks that were apart of making that fire go out quicker because they had water buckets. I do not want any of our employees up there doing what they should be doing to save life and property that might in effect horribly hit one of those six towers and not only lose their own life, but possibly the lives of those on the group. Very simply.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'm quite familiar, as I know all the Commissioners are, you know, on this thing with our Mosquito Control because they have, you know, a small plane plus helicopters and all of that, and what could happen is because they come low-lying, in a low-flying area, that won't those — any of the aircraft that's in that area around, and I want you to know what the County Manager is talking about. Not lighting up the entire structure, but just put a blinking light, like you see that really doesn't cause any problem generally.

Mr. Johnson said, it's the blinking light that we object to — if it was just a solid, small solid light that would give aircraft the ability to see it but not be intrusive on the surrounding area. If you put a strobe light up there, it draws so much attention to that area that it actually is just such a negative impact on the surroundings. And this is what I objected to. There was no specification as to what type of lighting — whether all six towers had to be light, just maybe one or two of them. Go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, please. That will come later. You're approving a zone change. I just raised my hand at MPC and said going forward I want Dr. Lewandowski to have the say on this. When the specific development plan comes in, that's when we'll talk about that. That's what Dr. — what MPC will talk about, and when Dr. Lewandowski will make the recommendation. He may not be as cautious, he may not be as opinionated as I. His files may say it's no big deal or they can put a light on it. That's not the issue here. The issue is that we have a flaw in the way in which we allow towers to go up in this County. We're two-thirds there. I want to make it a hundred percent and I want Mosquito Control to have their say.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, when the lighting plan does come forward one of the things that you could consider it's not that difficult to put deflectors on lights so that the light doesn't go down to the ground, it only goes horizontal or above. So, I mean, you could be worked out and I'm sure you'll monitor this and follow this as it comes through the process, but I don't want you to think that you have to compromise your ability to have, you know, a clear view of the night sky by the concern that the County Manager has that somebody taking off in a helicopter with a big water bucket because they're trying to put out a fire somewhere might run into the tower. We can have our cake and eat it too on this one, I think.

Mr. Johnson said, I totally agree with that, but I just wanted to bring it to the Commissioners' attention that that needed to be addressed before and not after.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I understand and respect the thought behind the Manager's recommendation, but I live in an area where I really don't even know how far away the tower is. It has to be miles away from my actual house, but it has one of those blinking strobes on it and it seems like when it's cloudy for some reason I guess because I guess the clouds act as a reflector, but it's like lightning going off around my house and the things miles away. And, Russ [Abolt], I know, I know — County Manager Abolt said, but we're not there yet. Commissioner Kicklighter said, what I'm trying to do is get there with this before this is approved. In an effort to protect the public, the surrounding property owners and the values of their properties, because that's everyone's basic right is the highest and best use of your own property, so by granting this giving one gentleman, group, whatever, their highest and best use, we need to be careful not to lower everyone else's highest and best use that surrounds it. I'm happy to hear that the gentleman does not oppose a solid light. You can see a red light on top of a tower and that's not blinking. And if they don't oppose that, you know, that's good, but we'll let you —

Chairman Liakakis said, all we're going to go for the zoning. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm not finished, but I'll let him — Chairman Liakakis said, the zoning is the only issue that we have on here today.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but what I warn for this — you know, we look at downtown Savannah, the historic beautiful place, and we have all of the outlying areas around it, you know, and that's naturally where the land is, the vacant undeveloped land, we need to really watch out for the — I don't know a better word that eye pollution in the area. Towers are ugly enough by themselves. Some counties and cities have gone to extreme measures to make them actually put towers up that look like, you know, things other than a regular tower. I'm not suggesting that at all, so settle down. I'm not suggesting that at all.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's do this so that we can move on.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, let's hush. If I could finish please. Chairman Liakakis said, that's what I mean. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I appreciate it. Anyhow, I would like to see us be careful and not jump out here and allow something with just any recommendation that comes at the whim of Mosquito Control because I'll tell you when they're flying with water, they're going to go down, pick up the water from one site, and they're going to fly at a height to whatever's on fire, I would suggest, over 140 feet but whatever the limit is where you don't have lights, where the Federal Aviation Administration does not require you. If they're in a hurry, fly at a level above, you know, where you know you're not going to run into a pole, and, you know, it's really that simple and they can study — rather than polluting the area visually for everyone around, you know, I think it would be a little bit better for Mosquito Control to be well aware of where every tower is in the area and know it like clockwork and avoid them. Avoid them, and, you know, that's a little easier than messing up visually areas of this County. So, you know, I would like to see us approve — allow these people to put the towers there, and which I'm just proud to hear they're not objecting. A lot of people object from people putting towers next to their property, but they're not even doing that. I would just like to — let's move forward. I will make a motion at this point to actually approve the request but with the condition that there will be no lighting requirements in excess of the Federal Aviation Administration's requirements.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Manager — Commissioner Gellatly said, I second that. County Manager Abolt said, first of all, you're just dealing with the zone change. I do not place in front of you safety issues that you make a policy issue on whether or not, you know, it's good or bad. I think you have a responsibility to make sure that everybody in the air knows where these are and it isn't just — please understand it just isn't the water. Look at page twenty-one and look at that proliferation of towers. Put yourself in the position of a person flying that chopper, you're up not in this case in putting water on a fire, but it's in the middle of the night and you're hunting the bad guy for the Police Department. You actually have to go through a slalom course there of those towers, and it's not right. It's not right. I've been up with the chopper pilots. They're very brave people, and I mean that very sincerely, but when they're under a mission they must focus on a lot of stuff and the last thing in my mind they should ever have to be worried about is what their memory might tell them they think there's a tower up there. It doesn't work that way, but again the County Commission is not asked to make that decision today.

Commissioner Farrell asked, could I get some clarification? We're being asked for a zone change but we're not being asked, or there's going to be an opportunity to future vet this lighting issue before this project actually goes forward? County Manager Abolt said, to MPC, yes sir. The development plan comes in, yes sir. Commissioner Farrell asked, and who will ultimately vote on —? County Manager Abolt said, the MPC. Commissioner Farrell said, — the lighting arrangement.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I would amend my motion to allow any recommendation from Mosquito Control to be approved or denied by this body on the lighting of that tower. County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if —. County Manager Abolt said, no sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, you know, I don't do this hardly ever. I don't think that as the policy makers at your level should be making safety decisions. If there's a question of life safety to helicopter pilots, that's not a political decision. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Russ [Abolt], with all due respect, you made a decision on your own here that is not a part of any of our policy. County Manager Abolt said, no sir. What I —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is not Chatham County policy and I mean that with all respect to you. County Manager Abolt said, what I did was I saw a major hole in the way in which the MPC was reviewing the desirability of towers going up in the County. It was very single-purpose asking Hunter and Stewart. Hunter and Stewart are not the only place in which choppers come up and down. I'm also very protective of this County and this County Commission and our staff. We have a very active responsive Mosquito Control operation that could just kill bugs and that's all we'd ever ask of them. On their own, through their initiative, they're doing things with the Police Department, they're doing things to fight fires. We have to be respectful of that. That's all I'm saying, but I humbly submit to you that at your level if it's a safety issue and there's a lighting requirement, that requirement will be imposed not arbitrarily but based on certain standards, but it should not be in my opinion given to you all at your level to make a policy decision on what's safe and what's not.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, the policy decision would be that — to change the our current policy on allowing towers. That policy needs to be changed and voted on by this body before a recommendation can go through that changes the whole policy. In other words, that should be a separate thing on our agenda that states that any towers in the future are subject not only to the Federal Aviation Administration's recommendations or whatever, but also in addition to that, approval and recommendation by the Mosquito Control. That's not currently in the policy and can't be done without a change by this body.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter], let me ask you this. You just made, you said add amendment, do you want to retract the lighting until it goes back over there? That's what Patrick Farrell was talking about. As to approve the zoning, which is on here today, and not have the lighting is what he was saying? Is that what you were saying?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I will — I would — I would amend it to not retract all of that, but to state that the whatever light is — if deemed necessary, shall not be flashing. Because that's the concern of the area and that is visually worse.

Chairman Liakakis said, I think the comment was made about deflecting that light, you know. Even if you had a flashing light, and if you put something there to deflect it, as was just said, is that —, you know, the light wouldn't be coming down on people.

Assistant County Attorney Lisa Colbert said, with all due respect on that, I just think that the process for the site plan, site development plan approval, which will go through the MPC process, this resident will have an opportunity to speak, Mosquito Control will have an opportunity to speak, Hunter Army Airfield, if need be, will have an opportunity to speak, and then that decision, if there is some dissatisfaction with that, it will come back before this body to make any adjustments for approval or deny and I think that might be the better procedure. Right now the only thing before this body is the zoning petition, or the rezoning petition.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, now we have a concern here about waiting to go through the MPC and we have a motion right here that he wants — what he would like to do and it's been seconded now to go on this because Dean [Kicklighter] has brought out a point about the flashing lights and all of that, and so we've got two discussions here about that light. So the right thing to do right now is to vote either with or without what Dean [Kicklighter] just said and make a different motion so that we can move on. Go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is in my district, Mr. Chairman, and you have people here and, okay, first of all it already the Federal — FAA, they do not require lighting at all. These people, and let's all put ourselves if this was our district and our citizens, they're not even asking us not to rezone the property, they're not asking us not to allow the towers, all they're asking — and they're not even asking us not to allow some type of lighting. All they're asking is for it to not flash. Can we give them a break and me a break and — I mean, let's — if a light's needed, let's put it there, but just not let it flash. That's really pretty simple. It exceeds the FAA's requirements, it pleases everyone and, you know, personally — and this, I know, will sound smart-alecky, but if a helicopter pilot crashes into a pole that's lit up, then he shouldn't be flying a helicopter. I mean, we put the light there. There's lights on all kinds of towers that's not flashing that's red lights sitting on top of them.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead — wait a minute, go ahead. Let him finish please. Go ahead, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, there's lights on towers all around that they do not flash. The people aren't asking for much in the area. You know, we can throw out safety and policy and all that stuff, which is wonderful because there's genuine concerns from the Manager, but the fact is this by far exceeds any requirements of the FAA, which is over the safety of the people flying. So safety, throwing it out to make, you know — he didn't throw it out to make anyone feel bad, but I don't feel bad because whatever we do here with the light is by far exceeds the FAA's require-

ments and these people here, the property owners, they're not opposing and, you know, we should grant the approval and simply state that if lighting is needed that it can't flash. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I amend my motion to state that.

Ms. Colbert said, Mr. Chairman, I'm just concerned regarding the motion because what's on the agenda today is not related to approval of the development plan. That is to come at a future time. The only thing on the agenda today is the question of approval of the zoning request.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, then my motion is to approve everything and striking the portion where it says, "County Manager has directed that the Mosquito Control department head approve any necessary lighting once the development plan has been submitted," because if it's not a part of it, then it's right there in writing so it needs to be removed if it's not a part. Ms. Colbert said, with all due respect, I don't know that that is calling for any action of this body today. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's a directive that needs to be removed. Either it's a part of it or it's not a part of it.

County Manager Abolt said, that's just for your information. That's all it is, but I can issue the directive.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, I suggest that we vote on that proposal that he just presented and I will support that.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, the one with the non-flashing —. Commissioner Farrell said, no, let's just vote on the one that you said a second ago where we strike the words of the County Manager and vote on the zoning and then it goes to —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, I'll amend my motion to state that. Commissioner Gellatly said, I'll amend my second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright your motion is, let's make sure we get it straight. Commissioner Kicklighter said, to approve this, but remove the words, "County Manager has directed that the Mosquito Control department head approve any necessary lighting once the development plan has been submitted." Chairman Liakakis said, okay. I mean, that can come up at the —.

County Manager Abolt said, the Board has directed it. I mean, that's just for your information. You can take it away, but the direction stands because that's what I've asked.

Commissioner Farrell said, I call —.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me just say this, just one second so that we can move on. Right now what you're saying is the lighting or the development plan will come up and then it will come — and then the MPC will go with that. Correct? Other than what was said about the other? Ms. Colbert said, that's correct, Chairman, from a due process standpoint I'm concerned because the petitioner was not put on notice from this agenda item that this was going to be addressed today. The only issue is the rezoning application and denial or approval of the MPC's recommendation regarding that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and that's fine. All we need to do is what we have the authority to do and that's great. We remove that portion. If the MPC has whatever they have, then so be it but this part is off and not under what we are going to do.

Commissioner Farrell said, call the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, question has been called for. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was recused from voting; Commissioners Holmes, Odell and Thomas were not present.] Commissioner Kicklighter said, being it's taking so long, I'll announce this for the Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, she's recused herself. Okay. We've approved what was just said and that's it and it goes through the development and we go from there. Mr. Hansen said, correct. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Mr. Johnson said, I appreciate the help. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Shay moved to recuse Commissioner Stone from voting on this issue because the adjoining property belongs to her relative. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone did not cast a vote; Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the petition of Tim Walmsley (Agent for Bashlor Properties, LLC) seeking to rezone a portion of a larger tract of land at 5657 Ogeechee Road to allow the construction and operation of a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved radio tower site, approving the requested Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the future Land Use Map from the suburban single family residential category to the transportation/communication/utilities category, and striking any reference that the County Manager directed that the Mosquito Control department head approve any necessary lighting once a development plan has been submitted. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried

unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Stone was recused from voting; Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2

DATE: April 25, 2008

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>
One (1) Dell Poweredge server	Detention Center	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$8,200	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
One (1) atomizer and motor for fixed wing adulticide airplane	Mosquito Control	Micronair (Sole Source)	\$2,624	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Five (5) tasers with cameras for Court Services	Sheriff	DGG Taser, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$6,537	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
Ethanol conversion tank cleaning at four (4) locations	Fleet	Petroleum Services Group	\$3,000	Fuel Management Program
Six (6) Dell Latitude laptop computers	CEMA	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$8,307	CIP - CEMA
Trailer skirting for new modular office units	Special Projects	Atlantic Coastal Homes, Inc.	\$5,395	CIP - Juvenile Court
Four (4) tasers with cameras and 250 training cartridges	Detention Center	DGG Taser, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$9,535	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
100 educational workbooks	Juvenile Court	Correctional Counseling, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$2,560	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
One (1) GPS unit for SAGIS analysis	Special Projects	Landmark Systems	\$5,158	Land Bank Authority
20 office chairs	Assessor	Kimball International	\$7,369	General Fund/M&O - Assessor
Awning for Juvenile Court complex	Special Projects	Coastal Canvas	\$4,456	CIP - Juvenile

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Two (2) Motorola portable radios for security at ANG building	Special Projects	Motorola Communications (State Contract)	\$7,668	Bond Fund - ANG Property
One (1) Dell Poweredge server	Sheriff	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$8,200	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
One (1) Motorola portable radio for security at Building Safety	Special Projects	Motorola Communications (State Contract)	\$3,134	Bond Fund - ANG Property
Engineering report mandated by EPD for Sharon and Dillon landfills	Solid Waste	W.P.C.	\$9,691	Solid Waste Management
Five (5) Dell desktop computers	Juvenile Court	Dell Marketing	\$6,501	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Shay and seconded by Commissioner Farrell, the board recessed at 11:35 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:09 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. CHATHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to appoint Mr. Don Waters to the Chatham County Hospital Authority to serve until October 24, 2013, filling the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of William Dowling. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved 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 Stone and Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2008

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION