

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 9:22 a.m., Friday, October 3, 2008.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Helen L. Stone 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  
                      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:            Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight  
                      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 Thomas due to the surgery scheduled today on her husband. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

Chairman Liakakis said, what I understand is that Harris Odell should be on the way to the Commission meeting.

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**CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSIONERS**

Chairman Liakakis welcomed the following Youth Commissioners attending the meeting: Lauren Cummings, a Senior at Jenkins High School; Korbyn Mingledorf, a Junior at Early College, and Shawn Knight, a Senior at Jenkins High School.

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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 5, 2008, AS FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY. BATTALION CHIEF J. T. DIXON WILL BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, Battalion Chief Dixon, would you come forward and any of the other members of the Fire Department that you would like to bring up with you or just yourself is fine.

Chairman Liakakis said, you know, before I read this proclamation, we know what a great job the firefighters do for our community here. We have the great Fire Department from Savannah that the Battalion Chief is representing today, but many others. We have the Southside Fire Department, the Isle of Hope Fire Department, and other Fire Departments like in Garden City and Bloomingdale and Pooler and also with Port Wentworth. So we really appreciate what they do because we can see that they risk their lives many times when they go out to fight a fire and, of course, with the Savannah Fire Department we have their hazardous material section also which has been responding, not only to the Savannah area but outside into the other municipalities. We really appreciate that.

Chairman Liakakis read the following proclamation into the record:



**WHEREAS**, Chatham County is fortunate to have dedicate firefighters, who are among the very best in the nation---sworn to protect lives and the property of our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, many have fallen in the line of duty and compelling stories of fearless heroism and unparalleled service exemplifies the tremendous work and dedication put forth by firefighters; and

**WHEREAS**, firefighters know no jurisdiction or boundaries. When the call for assistance was heard, Savannah firefighters journeyed to assist and aid victims of Hurricane Katrina; and

**WHEREAS**, all citizens should express respect and appreciation to all firefighters now serving and especially show our respect and appreciation to families of those officers who gave their lives while protecting ours.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Sunday, October 5, 2008, as:

**“FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY”**

in Chatham County and urge all citizens to join as we honor those by virtue of their personal integrity and determination that lost their lives for the protection of lives and property.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 3rd<sup>th</sup> day of October 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Battalion Chief Dixon said, thank you, Pete [Liakakis]. I accept this on behalf of the Chatham County Firefighters Memorial Committee and also remind everybody that this event will take place Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m., at Fire Department Headquarters right here on Abercorn and Oglethorpe, and it is open to the public.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

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**2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 10, 2008, AS WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY. MEGAN WILLIAMS WILL BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Patrick Farrell will do that presentation.

Commissioner Farrell said, all right. It gives me great pleasure to give this proclamation. Commissioner Farrell then read the following proclamation into the record:



**WHEREAS**, water is one of our most necessary resources, sustaining all forms of life; and

**WHEREAS**, dependence upon clean water requires people to take their responsibilities toward good stewardship seriously; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that citizens become involved in protecting the health of their local water bodies, augmenting the efforts of governments and experienced monitoring volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County is concerned with expanding the worldwide educational efforts to make people more aware of the effects of point source pollution from specific discharges, as well as nonpoint sources such as urban and agricultural runoff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham County Commission recognizes and commends the Savannah Chatham County Public Schools, CH2M HILL, the City of Savannah Water and Sewer Bureau, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the International Water Association (IWA) for their commitment to promoting good stewardship of water resources in Chatham County and their efforts to instill a "stewardship mindset" in local citizenry throughout the world.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim October 12, 2008 as:

**WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY**

in Chatham County and endorse the program as an opportunity to bring communities closer to their water bodies, and encourage all citizens to participate.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 3<sup>RD</sup> day of October 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Commissioner Farrell said, and with that I'd like to make this presentation to Ms. Williams and maybe she'll tell us a little bit about the program that they've got in mind for October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Megan Williams said, thank you very much for the opportunity to be here this morning and for supporting this effort. It is the first year that we've organized an event in Savannah, so we really appreciate May Howard Elementary School for allowing us to hold the event out there next Friday, which kept some of the transportation issues to the school down a minimum. We'll just walk across the street to Captain Judy's Fishing Dock, who I'd also like to thank for allowing us to do that, and for your support, Commissioners. My boys, Brooke and Tanner, are third and fourth grade students at May Howard and their principal, Vernon Cole [phonetic], is very gracious to help us organize that next Friday. We hope that by next year we'll have one of these events under our belt and be able to do a larger event, hopefully focusing more on — towards the real Savannah Riverfront, where we know there are some quality issues that hit home to all of us here in the community. So I appreciate all the support in helping us get this off the ground for our first year.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you so much. Would you tell us what time that starts out at May Howard?

Ms. Williams said, we're going to start at one o'clock with some opening remarks about what we're going to do and why it's important. We'll let the third and fourth graders cross the street one at a time to grab a bucket of water, bring the water back to the location where we do very simple tests with these kits that measure temperature, turbidity, PH, and dissolved oxygen in the water. Only as a promotional grassroots effort to educate young citizens as well as others to some of the conditions of the water that affect aquatic life and all of our economic benefits to living close to the water.

Commissioner Farrell said, that's great to get started with the young people to show them how these indicators you're going to measure on Friday are going to, you know, indicate the health of the estuary system that we have right here in Chatham County. So, thank you very much. Now is that open to just May Howard students or is it open to the general public?

Ms. Williams said, I certainly wouldn't want to turn anyone away that's interested in observing and participating. I'll have to give Mr. Cole a heads up. I think we're going to gather in the grassy area there so that we have room for people. So please do come and most importantly keep your eye out for next year where hopefully we'll have it under our belt and we can organize a little bit larger event to get some more community involvement broader than just out in Wilmington Island. I'll also mention that all the results are published on our website so you can look at internationally this event is held from September through October 18<sup>th</sup>, and you can see all over the world students doing the same thing and you can find out what kind of water quality issues are going on across the globe.

Commissioner Farrell asked, do you have that website handy? Ms. Williams said, it is just —. Commissioner Farrell said, you can read it into the microphone because this is going out to the public and folks want to jot that down and follow what you're doing, that would be great.

Ms. Williams said, great. It's pretty easy: [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org), all one word.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, we look forward to next Friday. Ms. Williams said, thank you so much.

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**3. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO CLASS 9 OF THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM.**

Chairman Liakakis asked, do you want to come forward now and those that are, Daniel [Dodd], that are with your

particular program, your staff people, if you would like to have them come forward with you right now.

Mr. Daniel Dodd said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the County Commission. My name is Daniel Dodd. I am with Step Up Savannah's Poverty Reduction Initiative and I'm very pleased to be here to present Class 9 to you of the Construction Apprentice Program. The Construction Apprentice Program, as you all know, originated from the Chatham County Commission and is a public/private partnership between Savannah Technical College Step Up and Chatham County. Amongst many other builders throughout the community, the Homebuilders Association has been very involved in it as well. It's really — I was very inspired to hear the invocation this morning because I thought it was very relevant to the lives that we all live, but especially to the participants in this program. It's interesting, somebody asked me recently — stated that it's a very tough job to be a Director of a Poverty Reduction Initiative in the economic times that we're in. I actually said it's really not about one individual, it's about the community, and this program embodies that. This is a public/private partnership that shows an issue like poverty reduction is about economic development, especially in times of uncertainty, as you stated, programs like this are even more critical. These are individuals looking at improving their circumstances right now if they're working to improve themselves more valuable to their employers or, if they're looking for work, it is critical that they find work and contribute to their households that are feeling a real pinch right now because of the trouble times that we're in right now.

Mr. Dodd said, this class is the largest class that we have. We've got 21 people that are graduating. We are working very early now and the first state of the form-up training and trying to place people with jobs, so it's harder for folks to get the time off to come to something like this. They're really focusing on their job retention keeping their employers happy. I think we've got around 14 of the 21 that are here today to receive their certificates. I would like to acknowledge Jonathan Herrington of [inaudible] Framing. He's offered apprenticeships and jobs to three graduates and to seven of the current students. Over and over again we see builders that are stepping forward. One of the things that we focused on that you all know is trying to place folks within the commercial building projects here in town. The Chief of Police is here and the Police Department has helped us with this, Fellwood Homes West Savannah is helping us place people there, the School District is also stepping up and helping to place folks in some of the commercial projects, and that helps us as far as transportation. You remember in the past we had a real issue with trying to get folks from Savannah out to the areas where CAT doesn't go. Now fortunately that's not such an issue because we're placing folks in downtown Savannah more. So of the 21 that are graduating, 16 are employed and, as I said, they began looking for work. We started to work placing them as soon as they entered the program.

Mr. Dodd said, so with that said, we also have some participants from Class 10 and there's about 28 of them that are enrolled in that program. So the numbers are still increasing. As you said, Commissioner Farrell, when we first started this, focus on quality, focus on really setting the bar high, and we have done that and the numbers are improving as a consequence. In order to get these 21 individuals that are here today, actually 71 people applied for the program for Class 9. Of those 79 [sic] only 38 were accepted and of those 38 only 21 are still standing within the program. So we are setting that bar high and we'll continue to do that, and thank you very much for your support and your vision with this program.

Ms. Tara Sinclair said, good morning. As usual, I feel privileged and proud to stand before you this morning to introduce to you the graduates of Class 9. Chairman Liakakis said, for the record because we're filming this, if you'd identify yourself and your position please so that they can take that down. Ms. Sinclair said, okay. My name is Tara Sinclair and I'm the Program Manager of the Construction Apprentice Program. Before we move with Class 9, I would like to ask some of the members of Class 10 if they would stand to be recognized please. [Applause.] Ms. Sinclair said, thank you.

During orientation, graduates, you were asked to set individual goals. One of those goals were, "I will successfully complete and graduate the Construction Apprentice Program." We had you close your eyes and told you to see it, believe it, and you can achieve it, and today you are here. That's one goal that you can highlight off of your to-do list that you have successfully completed the CAP program. As I call your name, if you would line up following Ms. Williams' direction: DeAndre Davis, Michael Davis, Gabriel Hayes, Freddie Jackson, Thomica Johnson, Jonathan Lang, Stephen Manes, Roland McKay, Frankie Middleton, Angel Moore, DeAngelo Smith, Sergio Solomon, Teon Williams, Justin Wright, and Edward Coleman. In achieving this goal to complete CAP some of you shared that this 16-week program wasn't easy, but you refused to give up. I say to you, that's the attitude to have — don't give up, because anything worth having is worth working for. You also shared that if it were not for the others in the class keeping you motivated, many of you would have failed. I say to you, you now know the importance of teamwork and keeping others motivated. Take this with you on the work site and at home. Some of you felt that the program wasn't long enough, and I say to you: congratulations to those who have re-enrolled at Savannah Technical College to continue your education. We've had five students who've re-enrolled to continue on their training at Savannah Technical College.

Graduates, I also say to you that being responsible and demonstrating commitment is not easy, just like the road to success. It's easy to get discouraged sometimes. It's easy to think that the road is too hard or it's taken too much time or it's just not worth the effort. Commitment is well worth the price in the long run. Not only will your relationships improve in the areas of your life, but people will notice that you have what it takes to succeed. Again, Class 9, congratulations. Daniel [Dodd]?

Mr. Dodd asked, any members of the County Commission would like to come down to present the certificates? [All members came down to welcome the graduates.]

Ms. Sinclair asked, Keller West, would you please join us? Okay, students, as I call your name I need you to proceed to me, okay. Ms. Sinclair called the following names of graduates: DeAndre Davis, Michael Davis, Gabriel Hayes, Freddie Jackson, Thomica Johnson, Jonathan Lang, Stephen Manes, Roland McKay, Frankie Middleton, Angel Moore, DeAngelo Smith, Sergio Solomon, Teon Williams, Justin Wright, Edward Coleman and Keller West.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you, Commissioners. Commissioners, we have a student who would like to come before you today just to kind of share some of her thoughts. Frankie [Middleton].

Ms. Middleton said, hello everyone. I would like to say thank you from the graduating class number nine. Words can't express the gratitude that I feel towards all of you, who dreamed, conceived and birthed a project of such a caliber — conceived a birth — a project of this caliber. I would like to also acknowledge Mr. Dodd, Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Williams for pouring their hearts and souls into believing in us. The CAP program is one that is quite literally taking stones that the builders may reject and possibly off times making them cornerstones in which a solid foundation will be erected. I say just because the transformation from general interest to genuine aspirations has been amazing and is evident in our class size. We are all still here. We came in hoping to acquire a skill and possibly a job, but we are leaving with an outlying for — a plan of longevity. We see possibilities of careers and businesses. I know the CAP stands for Construction Apprentice Program, but to take it a step further I would like to say it also stands for Creating Attainable Possibilities. Thank you.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you, Frankie [Middleton]. Some of our graduates, as Daniel [Dodd] mentioned, were either at work and then we have those who are trying to get off and they're running in. We've had Jimmy Wilson who has joined us and, Jimmy, we'll make sure we present you with your certificate. Commissioners, do you have anything for us?

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'd like to say a few words. First of all, I'd like to say congratulations. I believe this is the largest class that I can remember seeing in the graduation and to that you should give yourself a pat on the back each and every one of you. So, thank you. Going forward, your personal challenge, going forward, is to apply what you have learned in these short few months each and every day on your job because remember you never stop learning and you can never stop improving, and you can only go up if you so make that personal decision. You may not always have your instructors and your classmates to prop you up, but they've got you fired up and primed up and ready to go, but each and every day when you're out there remember to keep the high goals and high standards for yourself and you will go far and you will do well and you'll be able to prosper. The other thing, the reason that this is becoming more and more successful is because of the quality of the workmanship of the graduates that have preceded you, and I challenge you to continue with that high standard of workmanship and reliability on your workforce because that will bring more jobs and more attention to this program and extend opportunities to many, many other people in the future. So how you work out is not only a reflection on yourself, but it is also a reflection on this program and to the opportunities that you will present in the years to come to others because your example will bring much more interest in this program as I see it blossoming and growing and more and more people are coming into and finding out the graduates from this class are highly desirable for employees, and there will come a time when folks will be fighting over which graduates will work for them, and that's a good thing to happen. So, congratulations. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, just a couple of comments. I've been impressed with this program from its inception and I've been impressed with each and every graduating class, but particularly this class. I'm very, very impressed. You — individually and collectively you have an era of self-confidence. Your eye contact is very good. Your handshake is very strong. All these things are very important if you want to succeed in the employment world. I think you've got what it takes and I'm very proud of each and every one of you. Thank you.

Youth Commissioner Lauren Cummins said, I would like to ask for those who are interested in the CAP program, how do they get qualified for this program? Ms. Sinclair said, actually we are recruiting now for Class 9 — I'm sorry, Class 11 and we do have circulation out in the communities along with the Savannah Morning News, but on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at four o'clock we'll start recruiting at St. Pius Resource Center, 705 East Anderson Street. But if anyone who is interested, they can contact my cell, Tara Sinclair, at 913-604-9574.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you. I'm going to echo my Commissioner David [Gellatly]. I must say to all of you all, the uniformity of your shirts stand out with me. That tells me that you all have been together for a while, and your eye contact meant something to me. Your handshake also meant something to me, but as I look at you all, let me remind you that a graduate from a past class two weeks later blew it. I do not want to see a member of this class blow anything. When you put together your sacrifice to do what you have done, you need to take advantage of it and not waste it. Let me say this to you. This team looks so strong, I think if we move it to Washington there wouldn't be no more bailout.

Chairman Liakakis said, I want those in the community that don't know this, that in 2005 when we joined up with the City of Savannah with their Savannah Initiative Poverty Program, that we came on board. But this Commission looking

into the community where we saw that opportunities weren't there for people in our community and especially those on low income or many that didn't have these opportunities, that we put the resources into that program and we did it in 2005, '06, '07 and, of course, 2008 now. But this program we want it to continue because we can see how it makes a difference in our community to give those opportunities to people that might not have had it, and we're going to do everything that we can to support the program, and each and every one of you some have said you should be very proud of yourselves and never ever give up. That's one of the things that you say to yourself. You know, sometimes you might have a setback or something negative going on, but never ever give up because each and every one of you are important — important to yourself and important to this community, and we wish you well and hope that you have many successes and we will continue to do the things because we've got a great Commission that cares about this community and want to make a difference. And we want you to make a difference, too, for each and every one. We are proud of you and may God bless you all. Thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Class 9 of the Step Up Program received certificates for completing the Construction Apprentice Program. Graduates of Class 9 included Joseph Chance, Jr, Edward Coleman IV, DeAndre Davis, Michael Davis, Joseph Gilbert, Gabriel Hayes, Freddie Jackson, Thomica Johnson, Rommie Jones, Jonathan Lang, Stephen Manes, IV, Roland McKay, Frankie Middleton, Angel Moore, DeAngelo Smith, Sergio Solomon, Keller West, Teon Williams, Jimmy Wilson, and Justin Wright.

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**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to at this time recognize a few people in our audience and, of course, Mike Lamb, who is the Mayor of Pooler, Georgia, and is doing an outstanding job. Mike, would you stand up? And, of course, we have Dan Massey, who's the Clerk of Superior Court and has done an excellent job in putting in technology and changing things up there so it's more efficient to our citizens. And then standing next to him we have Chief Berkow with the Metro Police Department, who's doing a good job for crime fighting in our community and putting in a lot of things to make this community, the City and the County, safer and working with other agencies. Chief?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Dan [Massey], that's for you, too. You were the only one that didn't get a clapping.

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**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

**1. SET STATE LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON. (SEE WRITTEN REPORT FROM LEGISLATIVE LIAISON.)**

Chairman Liakakis said, in this Legislative Luncheon is when we meet with all the State Senators — the two State Senators and the State House Members where we go over legislation that we propose to them to bring forth in the State Legislature — with the Legislators and all, and then, Lee [Hughes], and would you come forth to the microphone and talk to us a little bit.

Mr. Lee Hughes said, yes sir. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. The way that we have done this in the past years is to hold your regularly scheduled County Commission meeting and as you adjourn we would have the Legislators come in and share lunch with them and go through with them what our Legislative Agenda is, invite their questions and, of course, encourage their support of our agenda. The election is on November 4<sup>th</sup> and there's a County Commission meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> and then, of course, on the 21<sup>st</sup> as well. At the direction of the Chairman, we're asking that maybe we do that on the 7<sup>th</sup>, would be our first choice, or perhaps the 21<sup>st</sup>. So I'd just ask you to pencil the dates in on your calendar to stay after the Commission meeting for lunch. Is that what you needed to hear, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Alright, thank you very much, Lee [Hughes]. We appreciate that and we appreciate the good job you do in Atlanta and Washington for the Chatham County Commission. Because of your efforts we can see that we've had a lot of successes. Thank you again. Okay, you've got that information on where we will have the meeting with those Legislators. That's really important.

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## VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

### 1. **FLYING PIG FESTIVAL (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).**

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do, I'm going to introduce one of our Commissioners now, who really cares and is a big supporter of farm animals in our community. He does a really good job and he cares and all, and what I'm going to do right now is introduce Commissioner Dean Kicklighter, who is going to talk about the Flying Pig Festival that they have in one of our other communities. Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, wow! That intro just played right into the stereotype of the Westside, doesn't it? Commissioner Shay said, nothing wrong with agriculture. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I tell you what. Well, we are honored today to be in the presence of a flying pig. It's rare, if not the only one anywhere around. At this point I'm going to let — I'm going to call Mayor Mike Lamb to the podium and let him do the honors and take it from there, and as usual I'll just state that we're here for you. We're proud to have this at Triplett Park and whatever we can do to assist, just let us know, and thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lamb said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. It's an honor to be here to introduce this Flying Pig, but first, you know, Pooler's got a history of animals. Y'all may have remembered the Pooler Panther years ago — it was in the paper — and I remember reading about it and never saw the animal. A few years ago I saw the Flying Pig and it's made a big difference in my life, I can tell you that. But anyway it's truly an honor to introduce this Flying Pig and from what I understand this Flying Pig can speak. So I'm going to let this Flying Pig speak to you.

The Flying Pig said, thank you, Mr. Mayor. Chairman Liakakis said, just come a little closer to the microphone. Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for having us here. You know we are fixing to ascend upon the beautiful Triplett Park and if you don't come out there, you're going to miss something. This is entertainment that we're having tonight. We're having two from Nashville and a band from Ft. Lauderdale, and I'm telling you they are great. I hope to see everyone of you here. I know that one in the middle is coming tomorrow and we're looking forward to his coming. Let me see. Nita, where you at? We brought you all a little something, okay. Somebody that lives in Pooler that lives on Teitgen Street. She bakes up a little something for y'all, and I hope you enjoy it. But please come out and see us. We appreciate our Mayor in Pooler, our Council, and we certainly appreciate that Dean Kicklighter, if y'all know who that is. Anyway, we'll be looking for you, here. So keep looking up in that sky 'cause you're going to be seeing that pig fly. Okay? Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, listen. If you would pass that flyer around so that we can see that and, you know, if you would just pass it up here, give it to — over here. Yeah. The Flying Pig said, that is just for tonight and then we have — you know, we have the Womanless Beauty Pageant and we still have some openings if anybody wants to get in it. Okay? That is Womanless Beauty Pageant and that is tomorrow night, and if anybody wants to get in, just let us know and we've got a tons of entertainment, good, good food. We're going to have a Chili Cook-Off between the Guns and the Hoses. Now I know you know who that is, don't you? Do you know who the Guns and the Hoses is? Commissioner Kicklighter said, the police and the fire. The Flying Pig said, the Police Department and the Fire Department. Okay? And, of course, we're going to have the Annual Barbecue Festival, and we've got a Preacher's Cake Baking Contest. So we have a lot of good things.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, who are the acts that will be performing out there tonight? The Flying Pig said, tonight —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Patrick [Shay], will you read that?

Commissioner Shay said, Amanda Hankel [phonetic], who is Ms. Hawaiian Tropic from 2004 will be appearing with Cody McCarver [phonetic], who is the keyboard player for Confederate Railroad, and then later Glenn Smith and the Shadow Creek Band. The Flying Pig said, the Shadow Creek Band is from Ft. Lauderdale. We had them last year and everybody enjoyed them so much that we brought them back. Commissioner Kicklighter said, wonderful.

Chairman Liakakis asked, are you going to at some time either tonight or tomorrow fly — help Dean Kicklighter that you might help him fly around also? The Flying Pig said, certainly. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. The Flying Pig said, I have to tell you Dean Kicklighter is my buddy. Chairman Liakakis said, alright.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Pig, if you will, from all of us and as well as from the Mayor and everyone out there in Pooler, thank a lady named Ann Smith please. She's really the backbone this whole operation and without her I would hate to see what would happen with this festival, and I believe she owns a cake business also and she's known as The Cake Lady, so if everybody likes this stuff up here, feel free to visit her. She does a lot for the community out there and pretty much, we'll say, stays hidden behind things. So thank all of you very much and we look forward to seeing you this weekend, and everybody in the County watching, y'all go out there and check it out.

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

The Flying Pig visited the Commission and invited everyone to attend the Flying Pig Festival at Triplett Park in Pooler, Georgia, October 3 - 5, 2008.

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## 2. “PEEKING BEHIND THE CURTAIN” (COMMISSIONER SHAY).

Chairman Liakakis said, and now we're going to call on another outstanding County Commissioner, Commissioner Patrick Shay, for "Peeking Behind the Curtain."

Commissioner Shay asked, it's a very alluring title, isn't it? When I was reelected last time out, one of the goals that I set for this term as a County Commissioner was that we would increase the efficiency and transparency of our permitting process here in Chatham County, and a lot of the ground work for that had already been set in place, but one of the first things that I found out, Mr. Chairman, was that this disaster that we had with the NovaLIS fiasco and that broken software that we were — well, not we, but the prior Commission was induced into buying by my predecessor, John McMasters, that that software, because it was proprietary and was purchased from a company in Canada that ended up being bankrupt, really kept us from being able to move forward with this program as quickly as we would have liked. But now we're ready to unveil what I think is going to be a very exciting part of our process of making permitting in Chatham County as predictable and as transparent as possible. So, maybe the Manager would like to take it from there.

County Manager Abolt said, if y'all hadn't picked up on it, as always Commissioner Shay, his terms are very intriguing to catch for even us lay people's attention, but peeking behind the curtain," I believe, comes from the Wizard of Oz. So Commissioner Shay told us a long time ago that he'd "get us, my pretty, and your little dog, too." So with that threat, I'm proud to introduce Mr. Bungard and his staff, who will give you a demonstration. If you look at your monitor, you'll be able to see this, but as Commissioner Shay said it so well, there is no secrets and from the standpoint of development and the need to have predictability, when our inspectors also but also engineers are reviewing plans, what they do is real time. So if you as a professional engineer or architect, developer, whatever, wish to know the status of any one development, all you need is a laptop and from that you get to see behind the curtain. I also want to introduce, as Mr. Bungard comes forward, Mr. Cree, who has done so much for us, that you authorized a webmaster position. His talents have taken the intelligence and the creativity of wonderful engineers this County is blessed with and provided the technology that allows the curtain now to be pulled back. But also yesterday evening, with the advise and alert of Mr. Lewis Leonard, I want to recognize Mr. Cree because of what he has done not only for the Engineering Department, he's also done for the Board of Assessors and the program that they've developed that will make available in addition to peeking behind the curtain access to property information and valuation that's long been waited for, and to put a cherry on top of the cake, this program, this application, which is now live, is one of two in contention for a special award from Creative Coast, and we're in running with an equal partner and a friend from the Police Department and the SARIC Program developed by Chief Berkow. But again, with Mr. Cree's help, he's made us civilians look very good, and for that I want to thank him and recognize him for the attention to details and the quality he lends. But now if Mr. Bungard will come forward and we'll pull back the curtain.

Mr. Al Bungard said, well, one big question that's been answered for me, where did the "peek behind the curtain" come from? The Wizard of Oz. Thank you, Russ [Abolt]. I didn't have a clue on that one. Commissioner Shay said, you're the man behind the curtain. Mr. Bungard said, thank you. But I'd like to set the stage a little bit. When I came here in '97 permitting for me was easy on the military base. Everything came through me, you know, and I got here and I sat down with my staff and tried to understand the permitting process. So Greg [Anderson], I remember, was in my office and let's try to float chart this. It didn't take long for my head to hurt going through the MPO and MPC process and then through my department, and everything was done on paper. We were tracking things on Lotus approach. Everything was in a paper file, but to me everything is about benchmarking, accountability and process improvement and continuity of operations. When somebody is not there, how does somebody else find out what's going on and pick up the ball? A lot's happened since 1997, not the least of which is a lot of automation. Some of the stuff we can do today simply wasn't possible in '97: computers, hardware, software. I wasn't going to bring up NovaLIS, but that was a leap forward in the software and how to do this, and so just the tools — digitized plats and linking on the internet, all those kinds of tools. Now we're at a stage of we're doing things electronically. Next maybe electronic permitting, editing plans electronically, all that's in the realm of doable. So what we have now is a system where my staff has been working with it for some time. We internally changed our tracking system. Now we can take that system through the web with the team that I'm going to review. That's all team effort between my staff and I would like to recognize the ICS people, and look into the files that my staff has been using, like the Building Safety and see what's going on. Plan reviews, the comments, what's the developer done, what's his permitting status, what kind of permits are they waiting for from the State, from the Federal Government, the Corps of Engineers, and so forth. So I think it's exciting. I'm going to let the expert, who uses it, stand up and talk through it. I am still technology challenged in many ways. I just like to look for the tools that can be used to make it work. The people on my team have been Vince Grevemberg, our Senior Engineer. He's been here forever. Half the battle is getting what's in Vince's mind into the computer before he retires and I'll add a wealth of knowledge and expertise in this area, Suzanne Cooler, our Development Services Engineer, and Derrick Hillary is the guy who when somebody comes in receives it, logs it in the tracking system and then everybody uses it. On the ICS side it's Drew Cree, our new Webmaster, J. J. Kane, the Senior Systems Analyst, and Troy [sic] Lucento, the Database Administrator. So on that note, I'd like to introduce Suzanne [Cooler] and she can walk you through the system. This is now live on the web. The only caveat is we are converting data files. There is, there are, there may be some bugs, historically. I wasn't going to bring it up but, you know, we took one of yours, Commissioner Shay, and said let's walk through the system, and we found out that there were two in the system. One shows nothing happened for a while and the other that is completed. That is a part of the data conversion and we will work through those systematically. Okay, Suzanne [Cooler].

Ms. Cooler said, good morning. I'm Suzanne Cooler. There are two ways to access the system. You can go directly to it at [engineer.chathamcounty.org](http://engineer.chathamcounty.org) or, thanks to Drew [Cree], we've got a link straight from the [chathamcounty.org](http://chathamcounty.org) website. On the lefthand side you can see that he's navigating to it now. You can search by two criteria: a permit number which is given both to the applicant and to the consulting engineer or by street name or address. This allows access not only to consultants and their engineers, but also a neighbor and property owner, if they want to see what's going on next door to them, they can look it up and say, oh, okay, I see that they have a permit or they don't have a permit, let me call Engineering and complain. We'll look at the first permit number, which is 2008-123, just as an example of a completed permit. You can see the type of data that is returned. In the first section you have general permit information, permit application number, the name, the status of the permit, the application. In the next section you see all the plans and documents that are submitted for this project, the date submitted and whether it was approved. The way the system, our internal system tracks or the way we work our workflow through this system is once the plan is submitted, a task is assigned to a reviewer. So in the next section you see the tasks that were assigned. You can see when it was assigned to the project reviewer and when they completed it or whether the status will be still under review if they're still reviewing it. And keep in mind this is real time data so anytime we update something in our system, it's immediately accessible across the web.

On the next page you can see any attachment we've linked to this project, comments, plans themselves, letters, permits. You can see with this example that we've also had to work through our own processes, workflows, the way we do business. You can see that we used to name documents namely generally comments. Well, that's not easily enough for the public to understand, so you can see at the bottom where we've changed that procedure to be more informative. In this case we have a planned sheet attached. You can see the plan layout, and these are the documents that are being reviewed. This does link us to the MPC in one way in that when their comments are attached to our records, you can view their comments through this page as well.

Following that you can see which permits have been issued and any inspection date, and again that's real time. So if our inspectors go out to inspect a site, they come back and put it in, you get to see the results immediately. That was another process or workflow that we had to work through because our inspectors were not used to using this system. They were used to making paper comments and now we had to coach them into using a computer and electronic systems. Following that you can search by street address. If you want to search Penn Waller, you'll see that same 2008-123. The street addresses are dropped down. That way there's no problem with misspelling of street names. You get a list of all the permits that the Department of Engineering or applications that the Department of Engineering is either reviewing or issuing permits for and choose one that you'd like to see. Are there any questions?

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just have a comment. This is very informative. As someone who used to be involved with the MPC, I had several citizens ask me what happens to an application once it's been approved here. Now they can track it and I think this will be very helpful to our constituents who call us wanting updates on projects and where they stand or what changes have been made, which again I thank you, Commissioner Shay for the transparency part of this because that is the worst fear is when people don't know what's going on. So I think this is a wonderful, wonderful thing and it will be extremely helpful not only to the petitioners or the people that are building the project, but also to the citizens so that they can be updated on a timely manner. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I too would like to thank Commissioner Shay, Al Bungard and all the Engineering staff and the ICS for working together in a spirit of cooperation to achieve important goal and to give a tool to our community to continue the economic prosperity of which the building community brings to this County. So thank you all very much.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yeah, I'd like to thank everyone involved also. You know, so many times new programs that come on line, they are great and they've got all the information you need except for only a few people can read and understand them, and I'd like to congratulate you in looking it over. It's easy to read, it's well laid out, it's logical and certainly all the information is there that you're going to need, and I think that most importantly it's user friendly, and it's out there for all of our citizens and it's a good thing. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much and on behalf of the County Commission we'd like to, you know, really recognize that we have a great engineer with all of his staff, Al Bungard, and Lewis Leonard with the ICS Department that we have seen a lot of innovative and technology things coming from his department, working together and we can see that this is a really good program for our citizens and to make our department more efficient. So, again thank you for the staff. I'll call on Patrick Shay and then call on Korbyn [Mingledorf] and then the County Manager. Patrick [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, it's a giant step forward and I want to thank y'all for the hard work's that involved. You can call my name — all I did was say we needed to do it, and you did all the hard work, and I appreciate that very much. It's also a first step. We also have to get to the point where we link Building Inspections so that somebody's that tracking and wants to know whether the plumbing was inspected on their construction site this afternoon can go and look at that —. Are those already linked?

Ms. Cooler said, if I can point out, at the top of this screen to the far right there here is a link to Building Safety —. Commissioner Shay said, excellent. Ms. Cooler said, you can click there and search similar type data.

Commissioner Shay said, wonderful. I mean, this is going to be a really powerful tool. A lot of the problems that we have out there in our permitting and inspections process result from the fact that the architect and the engineer think that the ball is in somebody else's court when maybe it's in theirs. The plumber thinks that he's gotten his inspections completed, but he hasn't had the way to check back and see whether he had any comments or not. By making this transparent, then everybody has the opportunity to have the same information real time and hopefully, Suzanne [Cooler], it will free you and some of those other folks up to spend time reviewing applications instead of answering questions about where the process is. Ms. Cooler said, I hope so. Commissioner Shay said, yep.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Mingledorf.

Youth Commissioner Mingledorf are there any businesses that want to start [inaudible] program, do you have to [inaudible] plan to the program system? Ms. Cooler said, I'm sorry, I don't understand the business program. County Manager Abolt said, no, two different things. No, ma'am. Ms. Cooler said, I'm sorry. Youth Commissioner Mingledorf asked, if there's a business that wants to start a building program, do they have to like, go through [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, I can answer. This is not a bank that would want to lend money, let's say, to a prospective business where a business plan would be required. It purely monitors engineering and architectural work and where it is. It's two different things. Youth Commissioner Mingledorf said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, you've all been very kind to staff and the compliments placed on staff is well deserved and for that I show appreciation, but I have to tell you without your clarity and direction this would not have happened. There are two events that have occurred in the last about 20 minutes. One was the Construction Apprentice Program and now this. Please understand and take a bow. Both of these are here because of y'all because when you came together four years ago you were very specific in which you wanted done. You also chose not to succumb to the temptation to meddle and you allowed quality people that this County is blessed with to do their job and you're seeing the benefits of it. But it begins and ends with y'all. You're the Board of Directors. You set the policy, you set the goals. We're fortunate to have the clarity in those goals to be able to implement, but it doesn't start without you all and for that, as your Manager, I want to say thank you.

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

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

Engineering staff revealed to the Commissioners a system where anyone who wishes to know what is going on in a project, all that is needed is a computer or a laptop and you can determine the real time data on each project.

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### **3. GEORGIA PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (COMMISSIONER STONE).**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that our Public Relations person, Pete Nichols has already started running these on the government channel. I wanted them to be viewed today not only by the citizens that are watching, but by our fellow Commissioners because I don't know how you all feel, but when you go into the voting — we used to say booth, but it's really not much a booth anymore with the computers — but when you go into the space to vote, it's very confusing to understand some of the these amendments and what they will ultimately mean to your community. So I wanted to have those played, if you all can just bear with me. I think it's about 10 minutes, but I think you will find it extremely informative, because I know that I did. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are they ready to set — okay.

In November, voters like you will have the opportunity to make choices that will affect the quality of life for you and everyone who lives in Georgia. How? By voting on three amendments to our State Constitution. They are the Georgia Forest Land Protection Act, the Infrastructure Development Districts Act, and the Redevelopment Powers Act. The purpose of this video is to explain these three amendments and their enabling act so that you can make an informed choice when you go to the polls.

So, let's start by taking a look at the **Georgia Forest Land Protection Act**. Simply put, the purpose of the act is to preserve Georgia forest lands from development. To keep Georgia from losing its forest lands it will take the help of private landowners. Today Georgia has 23.8 million acres of forest land. More than any other state. But only 7% is owned by the public. Individuals own 72% of the total forest land in Georgia and corporations own 21%. As more people continue to move to Georgia, owners of these forests will come under increased pressure to develop them. Often when development occurs, the value of the nearby forest land increases and this places a greater tax burden on surrounding property owners. Before long, as taxes increase on forest lands, the cost of growing timber may become

more than it's worth. When that happens, growing timber may no longer be viable in many parts of the State.

When wooded land is converted by development, our forests are lost forever. With this lost comes the loss of the forest ecological benefits, such as the preservation of clean water, clean air and wildlife habitats. Economic benefits and recreation opportunities are also lost. If ratified by the voters in November, the Georgia Forest Land Protection Act will help preserve the benefits that forests provide to all Georgians by encouraging forest land owners to keep their land forested. Here's how it will work. Owners of forest land would sign a contract promising not to develop their land for at least 15 years. In exchange, the forest land owners would receive a reduced property tax assessment during the life of the contract. While this also means that there will be a reduction in local property taxes, the law would require the State to replace most of it and ensure any impact on local services is minimized. Georgia's forest land owners are good stewards of the land and dedicated to conservation. But if only 10% of land owners sold their forests for alternative development, Georgia would lose more than 2.4 million acres of forests that might be replaced by new development.

This act will help keep the tax burden lower for private land owners that wish to keep their property forested. For property to qualify for the Georgia Forest Land Protection Act the landowner must have at least 200 acres of contiguous forest land. The property entered into the program cannot be developed for 15 years, even if ownership is transferred during that time. The penalty for breaching the covenant can be as much as three times the amount of the tax savings received on all the property within a single covenant.

The Georgia Forest Land Protection Act provides a more favorable tax climate which encourages owners to preserve their forest land while imposing severe financial penalties on land owners that fail to carry out their commitment to keeping their land forested. As a Georgia resident, you will have the opportunity in November to help reduce the risk of losing more forest lands in our State if you choose to vote in favor of this act.

Commissioner Stone asked, there were three of them. Right?

**The Redevelopment Powers Act.** This act enables local government jurisdiction – county, municipal and boards of education – to form partnerships around community redevelopment. This November the issue of allowing local school districts to participate in tax allocation districts, otherwise known as TAD, is up for vote in Georgia. TADs are created to allow communities to finance redevelopment and infrastructure costs, such as environmental cleanups, streetscape improvements and parks that help encourage new development in blighted areas.

How do TADs work? TAD projects are financed by revenue bonds, which are repaid using the future incremental property tax revenues generated by new investments in the TADs. When the bonds are paid down, usually within 15 to 20 years, the incremental new tax revenues revert to the counties, cities and school boards for discretionary spending. So why is a constitutional amendment necessary? Up until February 2008 local school boards have had the option in participating in TADs and infesting incremental tax revenues in community redevelopment projects. The 2008 Georgia General Assembly put this referendum on the November ballot because disability was successfully challenged in the court. Now it's up to voters to decide if school boards should have the choice to opt in and participate. What it really boils down to is local control. So why would a school board be willing to commit future revenues to finance community redevelopment, even if for only a temporary period? It's simple dollars and cents. When an area is redeveloped, the school system gains an immediate increase in school revenues from the properties surrounding the TAD as the property values in the vicinity increase. Moreover, once the debt is repaid on the TAD project, the school system will receive 100% of the new revenue produced from the school taxes levied on the new development. In other words, when compared to what is generated from the blighted property, the TAD redevelopment will produce substantially more revenues to support the school system.

Without the option for schools to participate in the TAD, the redevelopment and all the future enhancements to school revenues may not occur. Remember what Atlantic Station used to look like? Think back to the long-abandoned old steel mill sight, or recognized Brownfield in midtown Atlanta along I-75. What about the vacant warehouses in blighted areas where Centennial Olympic Park sits today. The creation of TADs provided the ability to subsidize and lure private development previously ignored or plagued by a history of disinvestments. Today Atlantic Station and Centennial Olympic Park are beacons of economic vitality.

According to a study released last Fall by the Liveable Communities Coalition, the abandoned Atlantic steel sight had a tax value of \$7.2 million when the TAD was formed in 1999. Atlantic Station's tax value is expected to rise exponentially by \$591 million when all planned projects are completed. Talk about taking lemons and making lemonade. Similar stories apply to 22 other TAD projects around the State. TADs help local governments attract redevelopments and leverage private investment that may result in new jobs, decreased crimes, new consumer spending and improved economic vitality in the targeted

districts. Tax Allocation Districts, or TADs, are tools that allow local communities to revitalize blighted neighborhoods and turn them into growing areas.

**The Infrastructure Development Districts Act.** Regardless of the steps we take to preserve Georgia's forests, quality development and redevelopment will always be essential to the State's economic growth. The challenge is to make that growth while also preserving the quality of life for Georgia citizens. Many people believe that Infrastructure Development Districts, or IDD, for short, are the answer to controlling growth and ensuring quality development or for providing opportunities for economic development. In November you will have the opportunity to voice your own opinion on this important issue in a statewide referendum on IDD.

The purpose of this part of the video is to give you the information you need to make an informed choice. Here's some background information:

A few years ago the Georgia General Assembly saw the need for a way to finance new infrastructure and take the burden of funding off the taxpayers. The Assembly realized that new economic is both unavoidable and desirable. So it passed the Georgia Smart Infrastructure Growth Act of 2007. This act provided for the future creation of Infrastructure Development Districts. Infrastructure refers to essential items like roads, bridges, water supplies, sewers, street lights, schools, fire stations and parks. An IDD is a district in a specific geographic area that has been designated for new development by local governments. Within an IDD tax exempt bonds can be issued to fund the public infrastructure that forms an essential part of the overall development. The bonds are issued by a public board that oversees the building of the infrastructure to ensure that everything is built to high standards. The bonds are paid for by the individuals or companies that eventually buy the property within the IDD. In other words, the infrastructure pays for itself and none of the cost is passed on to taxpayers. IDDs are not a new concept. Local governments in 17 other states have used this method to attract quality development without burdening taxpayers with the cost. Georgia's legislation has had the advantage of capitalizing on the successes of other states legislation while avoiding the pitfalls. The public board supervising an IDD is subject to the state's laws on open records, open meetings and ethics and has to hold an annual public hearing on its budget and submit a financial audit to the state. The board doesn't have the power to condemn private property nor the authority to pass or enforce laws. This ensures that the public has oversight of every aspect of the IDD. Local governments aren't liable for the debt issued by an IDD. There are built in environmental safeguards. For example, 20% of the development must be green space. All IDD financed amenities, like roads and parks, are open for anyone to use.

The IDD ballot question that you will see in November will ask you this question: Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the General Assembly to provide by general law for the creation and comprehensive regulation of Infrastructure Development Districts for the provision of infrastructure, as authorized by local governments. To put it more simply, the question asks if you are in favor of IDDs or opposed to them.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just felt like that was important for all of us to see that before we vote on these amendments.

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

Everyone viewed a video on three amendments to our State Constitution for (1) the Georgia Forest Land Protection Act, (2) the Redevelopment Powers Act, and (3) the Infrastructure Development Districts Act

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#### **4. LOCAL SALES TAX COLLECTION (COMMISSIONER STONE).**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. One last item here, and if Lee Hughes is still present maybe he could come up. This is something that was discussed at the ACCG level about local sales tax collections and it's just something that I think we ought to pay attention to. It could benefit this County at a time when money is getting tight, and I'm very interested in making sure that we preserve what monies we have to do our job here, and this basically gives the counties the opportunity to collect their sales tax locally and it might help generate revenues to lower our property tax rate. It's just something that I think we need to look at and follow. I don't know how much the Port will get from the State on this or whether this is something they're even looking at, but I do know that it's been very successful in the State of Alabama.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Mr. Lee Hughes.

Mr. Hughes said, Commissioner Stone, I did talk about this earlier. I don't know that I can lend a lot of insight into this. I have heard that there has been discussion about this by ACCG that there are other communities that are in favor of

it. I believe most of the Commission probably is aware that the State's budget woes are pretty scary at this point. They're looking at about a \$1.5 billion revenue shortfall. I heard it suggested yesterday that it might reach as high as \$2 billion, which is almost 10% of their State budget. I've seen in the years that I've represented you the problems that we have with the State not passing down revenue the way that we wish that they would, and this proposal I think for the reason that it's got some legs in the local community is because of that fact. I'll look to the Commission for guidance as to what kind of position the County wants to take on that. I imagine that the Association of County Commissioners will take a position and either lobby for this or be neutral on it. But again I'll just look for your direction on how active to be on it.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I believe that at this moment they're remaining neutral. I think they're waiting to hear from the counties, but the benefits that I heard for this would be that if it's collected locally we don't have to wait for the money to come back from Atlanta. It stays here, it doesn't — Atlanta's portion goes to Atlanta, and also the incentive for local businesses to be in compliance when it's being monitored locally would benefit us. So I think it's something we need to look at and it's something we need to follow, and we'll take your lead on that and just anything that needs to be done.

Mr. Hughes said, Mr. Chairman, the draft legislative agenda that I sent out to the Commissioners is pretty short. This is an example of one of many issues that could become something that the Commission decides they want to put on their legislative agenda. We've talked a little bit in side conversations about the homeowner's tax relief grant. There's going to be an effort to restructure the Department of Transportation, there's going to be a discussion about transportation funding policies. There are some initiatives that have been brought to my attention by the Police Chief for crime locally that you may or may not want to add to your legislative agenda. So I guess my point in all that is that this is one of a number of items to put on a watch list that we could decide to be active on.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, the tentative list that was in our report today, those are the priorities that have been established by our professional staff. Is that being circulated or — to be on this group and how, Mr. Chairman, will we as a body decide what we think our priorities ought to be? I don't think that I agree with the prioritization. I think the issues are probably well defined in the tentative agenda, but I have a different set of top priorities than what I saw on that list. Are we going to get together and talk about that before we meet with the delegation? How are we going to give this man the tool that he needs to go out and hunt?

Chairman Liakakis said, I just want to make sure all of the Commissioners have that information, understand it, and then I'm going to call a meeting so that we have input from the Commissioners because it's important. There might be some that, you know, that's just brought up and it's something that the Commissioners as a whole would not want to, you know, to be aggressive on and to utilize some of those suggestions. So we will be having a meeting on that and bring all the Commissioners in, but we want to just make sure and I'll have our staff to make sure that all of our Commissioners have that, have looked it over, and then we have the input.

Commissioner Shay said, and I think it would be good if Mr. Hughes were with us when we did that because I know from my standpoint I have a tendency to ask for things that he looks at me and says that dog won't hunt, you don't even need to waste a priority on that. He has a better feel for the environment in Atlanta. I don't have much of a feel for it at all. So if we could ask him to sort of sit in as an observer so that he can kind of wave and tell us if we've got a non-starter.

Mr. Hughes said, Mr. Shay, if it's helpful just as background, we have — this has percolated through the staff, the department heads meeting which I attend from time to time. They've been encouraged to come forward if they have any priorities, as well as the larger staff meeting that was held earlier this week, and thus far the ones that you have in front of you are actually two legislative priorities and two funding priorities that are funding carryovers from last year. Again, I was speaking with the Police Chief and he had some good ideas to add to this potentially and you spoke about something that I think is very important that Commissioner Kicklighter raised last year. We should be careful about having too lengthy of a list that involves too many statewide issues. We can take positions to support various issues, but if we have too long of a list, the legislators look at us and their eyes glaze over and we need to be clear on what our priorities are. Commissioner Stone said, absolutely.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, I know that this is your busy times for everyone, particularly the Board, rather than trying to go through a special-called meeting, may I just suggest that my understanding of the next meeting, two weeks hence, will be fairly light. If we could just plan to take part of your time on that agenda, y'all could come prepared and then you could put it together right quick I believe. If that's okay with you, we'll do it in two weeks.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, we'll do it at some time and we can do it after the meeting because to do that during the meeting, you know, to have all that conversation, and we could tie other people up because it could be quite a bit of debate on specific items. We'll get it set up so — in agreement with our County Commission about the time element and when we will do it. Okay, Lee [Hughes], thank you very much.

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

Commissioner Stone requested that the Commissioners give consideration to the issue of collection of the local sales tax which has been successful in the State of Alabama. Commissioner Shay asked when are the Commissioners going to review the priority of the items on the Legislative Agenda. County Manager Abolt suggested that the Commissioners consider holding a meeting following the next Commission.

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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Farrell, seconded by Commissioner Gellatly and unanimously approved, the Board recessed as the County Commission at 10:48 a.m., and reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Following adjournment of the CAT meeting, the Board resumed the meeting at 12:18 p.m., as the County Commission.

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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. **REVIEW OF THE COUNTY'S REGULATIONS REGARDING THE OPERATION OF CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. ALSO, COMPARE THE COUNTY'S REGULATIONS WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH'S REGULATIONS REGARDING CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS.**  
*At meeting of August 22, 2008, item was tabled to next meeting (September 5, 2008) but was not listed on that agenda. At meeting of September 19, 2008, item was postponed pending action from the State.*

Chairman Liakakis said, if there's no — nobody wants to bring that off of the table today, we leave that on.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is purely a parliamentary move. You actually disposed of it last time. It's still on your agenda, but it died. I think one more time I think and it dies.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This action was not removed for consideration by the Board.

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2. **AT MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2008, ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE PURCHASING REPORT, BUT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
D. Reject all bids received for the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal and Westlake R.R. Undercrossing drainage improvement project.	Engineering	N/A	N/A	N/A

Chairman Liakakis said, this item is to reject all bids received for the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal and Westlake Railroad Undercrossing drainage improvement project. Somebody from Engineering, are you going to —. County Manager Abolt said, take it off the table, please sir. Chairman Liakakis said, yes. The first thing we have to do to discuss that is to pull it off the agenda. We need a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Stone said, I move, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor to take this off the table. All in favor signify by going on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

County Manager Abolt said, very quickly this was just lost in a busy meeting two weeks ago. Staff reviewed the bids. We feel that they are too high. We requested at that time that they be rejected. For some reason it was pulled off. Please request a motion to reject bids as recommended by staff on the last purchasing report.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to reject this item. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Stone made a motion to untable this motion for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Farrell moved to reject all bids received for the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal and Westlake Railroad Undercrossing drainage improvement project. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Related to AGENDA ITEM: VIII-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

**ITEM D**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to **reject all bids** received for the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal and Westlake R.R. Undercrossing Drainage Improvements project.

**BACKGROUND:** The Louis Mills/Redgate Drainage Improvement project is part of the SPLOST Drainage Capital Improvement Program. Design work and permitting was completed in 2005. Easements for the project downstream from Garrard Avenue have been acquired. In September 2007, the Board approved an addendum to the consulting engineering contract to combine the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal project with a project to provide a larger sized culvert under the railroad, designed by a different consultant. The railroad culvert project is part of the Westlake drainage improvement project. To bid on the work, the projects were combined as a single construction contract because they are immediately adjacent to one another, and to improve the chances of large contractors having the special expertise needed to construct the culvert under the railroad.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The two (2) projects were combined into a single Invitation to Bid package and bids were opened 19 August 2008. The engineer's estimate of construction cost, canal work, and the railroad culvert work were prepared separately by the two (2) engineering firms and combined by staff for a total estimated construction cost. The following is a summary of the bid results:

Griffin Contracting, Inc. Pooler, GA	\$4,209,613
TIC (The Industrial Company) Savannah, GA	\$4,676,015
E & D Contracting Services, Inc.* Savannah, GA	\$4,957,750

\* WBE firm

2. The responders are local contractors, but each used the same out-of-town specialty subcontractor to perform work related to the culvert under the railroad. Staff notes that quoted unit prices related to the culvert under the railroad were 50% to 100% more than the engineer's estimated costs for the work. Prices quoted for Mobilization were 60% to 200% higher than the engineer's estimate.
3. Staff believes that all bids received were unbalanced (excessive) in regard to the high prices quoted for Mobilization.
4. Staff believes that none of the bids represent competitive prices for the culvert work under the railroad because each bidder proposed the same subcontractor for this part of the work.

5. Construction funding was to be provided from the Louis Mills/Redgate SPLOST fund and the Westlake SPLOST fund, having a total combined unencumbered balance of \$2.7 million. A transfer of \$1.6 million from other sources would be necessary to fund a contract with the apparent low bidder. Other options should be considered including construction of the channel improvements only and re-engineering the new culvert under the railroad.

**FUNDING:** No funds are required for Alternative 1. Funds for Alternative 2 will need to be identified by staff and presented to the Board for approval.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board reject all bids for the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal and Westlake R.R. Undercrossing Drainage Improvements project.
2. To not reject all bids and transfer the extra funds needed from other projects.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to reject all bids when all bids extremely exceed the project budget.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

1. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS: (1) INCREASE REVENUES IN THE FY2008 GENERAL FUND M&O \$4,000,000 FOR TRANSFER OUT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND, (2) INCREASE REVENUES AND CONTINGENCY IN THE FY2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND \$4,000,000 FOR THE TRANSFER, (3) INCREASE REVENUES IN THE FY2008 SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND \$458,470 FOR TRANSFER OUT TO THE BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES ENTERPRISE FUND, (4) ADJUST REVENUES IN THE FY2008 BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES ENTERPRISE FUND FOR THE \$458,470 TRANSFER FROM SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND, (5) TRANSFER \$11,520 FROM FY2009 GENERAL FUND M&O CONTINGENCY TO THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM, AND (6) TRANSFER \$14,400 FROM CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO SALARIES AND WAGES IN THE FY2009 BOARD OF ELECTIONS BUDGET.**

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

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

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the following budget amendments: (1) increase revenues in the FY2008 General Fund M&O \$4,000,000 for Transfer Out to the Capital Improvement Program Fund, (2) increase revenues and contingency in the FY2008 Capital Improvement Program Fund \$4,000,000 for the transfer, (3) increase revenues in the FY2008 Special Service District Fund \$458,470 for Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund, (4) adjust revenues in the FY2008 Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund for the \$458,470 transfer from Special Service District Fund, (5) transfer \$11,520 from FY2009 General Fund M&O Contingency to the Construction Apprentice Program, and (6) transfer \$14,400 from Contractual Services to Salaries and Wages in the FY2009 Board of Elections budget. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**

**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

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

**ISSUE:** To request approval of the following budget amendments: (1) increase revenues in the FY2008 General Fund M&O \$4,000,000 for Transfer Out to the Capital Improvement Program Fund, (2) increase revenues and contingency in the FY2008 Capital Improvement Program Fund \$4,000,000 for the transfer, (3) increase revenues in the FY2008 Special Service District Fund \$458,470 for Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund, (4) adjust revenues in the FY2008 Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund for the \$458,470 transfer from Special Service District Fund, (5) transfer \$11,520 from FY2009 General Fund M&O Contingency to the Construction Apprentice Program, and (6) transfer \$14,400 from Contractual Services to Salaries and Wages in the FY2009 Board of Elections budget.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- (1) The FY2008 General Fund M&O revenues have favorable revenue variances that allow a \$4,000,000 Transfer Out to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund. This action is consistent with the fund balance and capital improvement policies adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The attached resolutions amend the General Fund M&O and CIP Fund for the transfer.
- (2) The Special Service District Fund also has favorable revenue variances in FY2008. A budget amendment to transfer \$458,470 to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund is possible. This will offset a negative variance in building permit revenue. The budgeted expenditures in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund will remain at the adopted level. The attached resolutions increase revenues and expenditures in the two funds.
- (3) A request has been made to provide funds to purchase bus passes for participants in the Construction Apprentice Program. This will require a transfer of \$11,520 from the FY2009 General Fund M&O Contingency. Correspondence is attached.
- (4) The Board of Elections has requested that their board members be paid through the county payroll system rather than through contractual services. A transfer of \$14,400 within the department's budget from the contractual services line item to salaries and wages is necessary to accommodate the request.

**FUNDING:** The budget amendments will establish funding in the General Fund M&O, CIP, SSD, and Building Safety and Regulatory Services Funds for FY2008. Funds are available in the FY2009 General Fund M&O Contingency and Board of Elections department budgets for the transfers.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

**GENERAL FUND M&O FY2008**

Increase revenues and Transfer Out to the Capital Improvement Program Fund \$4,000,000.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND FY2008**

Increase revenues and expenditures \$4,000,000 for the Transfer In From General Fund M&O.

**SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND FY2008**

Increase revenues and Transfer Out to the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund \$458,470.

**BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES ENTERPRISE FUND FY2008**

Increase revenues and expenditures \$458,470 for the Transfer In From the Special Service District Fund.

**GENERAL FUND M&O FY2009**

- (a) Transfer \$11,520 from Contingency to the Construction Apprentice Program,
- (b) Transfer \$14,400 from Contractual Services to Salaries and Wages in the Board of Elections budget.

- (2) Amend or deny the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** State law grants the Board authority to amend the budget during the year as it deems necessary.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board approves Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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**2. TO REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY WELLNESS POLICY.**

Chairman Liakakis said, as you remember, it was presented to us the last meeting. We've had quite a bit of conversation on it. Do any of the Commissioners need to ask anything more since we've gone through it in the past? Okay, then we need a motion on the floor for this Chatham County Wellness Policy to be implemented.

Commissioner Holmes said, so moved. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

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

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, just for the record I would like to thank Mr. Kaigler and his staff for working with the interested parties to make this happen. We're very pleased with it.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Holmes moved to approve the Wellness Policy for Chatham County. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**Thru:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**From:** Michael A. Kaigler, Director  
Human Resources and Services

**Issue:**  
To request Board approval of the Chatham County Wellness Policy

**Background:**  
Chatham County recognizes that our employees are our most valuable asset. It is through our employees that the County is able to accomplish the mission of delivering services to our citizens. When employees are in the best possible health, they are able to provide the best services to our customers. As Chatham County continues to foster a healthy environment for its employees, the Board has expressed a desire to have an official Wellness Policy. This Wellness Policy will serve as the foundation for Chatham County Employee Wellness Programs. A draft policy was presented to the Board at the September 5, 2008 Board Meeting.

- Facts and Findings:**
1. The Board of Commissioners approved the Chatham County Employee Wellness Program in March 2008. The goal of the Employee Wellness Program is to improve the health of Chatham County employees through education, health risk assessments, and disease management programs.
  2. For every \$1 the average company spends on its worksite wellness program, it receives an average return on investment of \$3.40 to \$7.88 (Source: The American Heart Association, 2007).
  3. Through the years, companies have implemented programs such as Managed Care and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) to reduce healthcare costs. While these programs have proven effective, companies are seeking additional ways to continue healthcare cost reduction. As a result, numerous companies have

implemented wellness programs. It is through these wellness programs that companies are reducing healthcare costs by keeping employees healthy.

4. Based on information from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia, 69% of Chatham County's healthcare costs are generated by 20% of the health plan participants. Health data trends show that the high cost of healthcare can be linked to lifestyles. Lifestyle changes in diet and exercise have been shown to decrease the risk of heart attacks, cancer, and strokes. These medical conditions represent the top three causes of death in the United States (Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
5. Most employees spend at least one-third of their day in the workplace. During the workday, employees have an opportunity to assume self-responsibility by participating in the healthy initiatives provided by the Employee Wellness Program. Therefore the workplace is in ideal location to promote health and wellness.
6. Approval of a formal wellness policy will be symbolic of upper level management support for the ongoing initiatives in the Employee Wellness Program. Attached is a copy of the proposed Chatham County Wellness Policy (pages 3-5).

**Funding:**

No funding is required.

**Alternatives:**

1. The Board approves the Chatham County Wellness Policy
2. Provide staff with other direction
3. Board takes no action

**Policy Analysis**

As a policy, the Board of Commissioners strives to provide a healthy environment to enable productive employees. A formal wellness policy will provide the foundation for employee wellness programs which will have a positive impact on the lives of our employees, and our employee's dependents, resulting in a healthier Chatham County.

**Recommendation:**

The Board of Commissioners adopt Alternative 1.

### **Chatham County Wellness Policy**

**Purpose**

Chatham County recognizes that our employees are our most valuable asset. It is through our employees that the County is able to accomplish the mission of delivering services to our citizens. As a result, Chatham County is committed to fostering an environment for healthy and productive employees. To promote this healthy environment, Chatham County will encourage healthy lifestyles, provide prevention and primary care education, and ultimately build a workforce that makes informed decisions regarding its personal health and wellness.

The Human Resources and Services Department has a mission to promote "human effectiveness" by creating an environment which allows and encourages maximum performance among the workforce. It is therefore, the responsibility of the Chatham County Human Resources and Services Department to promote an environment that encourages good health. Chatham County is committed to a long-term strategy for controlling healthcare costs by fostering an environment that encourages and enables employees to adopt healthier lifestyles.

**Policy**

It shall be the policy of Chatham County to create an environment that develops and supports programs designed to enhance the well-being of our employees. The County shall establish worksite wellness initiatives to address chronic disease prevention, healthy eating, physical activity, obesity, stress management, and tobacco cessation. The resulting wellness policy shall likely provide a positive impact not only on the lives of our employees, but also on the lives of our employees' dependents, resulting in a healthier community.

**Administration**

The Human Resources and Services Director or designee shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation and evaluation of the wellness policy.

### **Components**

Wellness Coordinator: Under the supervision of the Benefits Manager and the Human Resources and Services Director, this person is responsible for creating the Worksite Wellness infrastructure.

Wellness Team: The wellness team is comprised of employees from various departments that meet formally to determine the goals, objectives, and implementation of strategies to encourage healthy behaviors at the workplace. The wellness team also advocates for policy change and helps to create health-friendly work environments.

### **Policy Guidelines**

1. Creating an Employee Worksite Wellness Infrastructure
  - a. Measurable wellness goals shall be included in the Worksite Wellness Strategic Plan.
  - b. Financial Resources for Wellness Activities: Worksite wellness programs will utilize available resources within the Chatham County Budget.
  - c. Computer Access: Chatham County agencies, to the extent possible, will make computers and email accounts available to employees in order to facilitate health education and increased participation in employee wellness programs.
  - d. Communication and Promotion: Chatham County will promote wellness initiatives through the use of the intranet, newsletters, brochures, and flyers.
  - e. Liability Issues: Chatham County shall address liability issues depending on the nature of the wellness activity. Wellness activities usually occur outside of work hours. Participation in wellness programs is voluntary, and therefore the County is not liable for injuries sustained to employees during their participation in these activities.
2. Supporting Employee Participation in Wellness Activities
  - a. Incentives from Chatham County: Chatham County may provide employees with incentives for participating in wellness activities. This does not extend to offering pay for performance. Guidelines will specify value limits and approval criteria for awarding incentives.
  - b. Wellness-related vendors: Chatham County policy will allow service providers, such as weight management programs to offer programs to employees at the worksite during non-work hours.
3. Increasing Employee Levels of Physical Activity in the Workplace
  - a. Activity Space: Designation of space for wellness activities, including exercise, in County-owned and leased office space is permissible and encouraged.
  - b. Corporate Gym Memberships: Chatham County will contribute a monthly portion toward gym membership fees for employees who choose to attend a gym that has partnered with Chatham County.
4. Increasing Access to Healthier Food in the Workplace
  - a. Vending and Food Service: Chatham County will make available healthy snacks/foods at catered events, in vending machines, in cafeterias, and in snack bars.
5. Reducing and Managing Stress in the Workplace
  - a. Stress Reduction and Management Training: Training on stress reduction will be provided annually to managers and supervisors to improve their supervisory skills and to reduce conflict and stress in the workplace. Additionally, this training shall be offered to employees who want to improve their time management and stress reduction skills.
  - b. Breaks and Lunchtime: Chatham County shall ensure that employees are receiving time for lunch and for appropriate breaks from repetitive and stressful work functions during the workday to help prevent stress and injury.

- 6. Supporting Tobacco Cessation
  - a. Chatham County adopted a smoking policy that was effective June 1, 1990. Smoking is therefore prohibited throughout Chatham County Government facilities, except in designated smoking areas identified by signs.
  - b. Tobacco Cessation Resources are available through the Chatham County Employee Assistance Program.

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Liakakis said, under Action Calendar we have Items 1 through 7 and under 7 we have A through Q. You've all been given that information. Do we have any items that you would like to hold out? We need a motion on the floor for approval.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to approve all the items on the Action Calendar. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve Items 1 through 7-Q, both inclusive. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter 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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2008, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 19, 2008. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 11, 2008, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2008.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period September 11, 2008, through September 24, 2008, in the amount of \$5,404,676. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

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**3. REQUEST FROM LEROY WILLIAMS, DEVELOPER FOR SUNNY ESTATES, FOR THE COUNTY TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION WARRANTY**

**AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, INITIATE THE WARRANTY PERIOD AND  
CREATE A NEW STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT RATE DISTRICT.  
[DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the request from Leroy Williams, developer for Sunny Estates, for the County to record the subdivision plat, accept the subdivision warranty agreement and financial guarantee, initiate the warranty period, and create a new streetlight assessment rate district. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

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

**ISSUE:** To record the subdivision plat for Sunny Estates, accept the subdivision warranty agreement and financial guarantee, initiate the warranty period and create a new streetlight assessment rate district.

**BACKGROUND:** The developer, Leroy Williams, requests that the County record the plat, accept the subdivision construction agreement, initiate the warranty period and create a new streetlight assessment rate district for Sunny Estates.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Sunny Estates is a single-family residential community located on Grove Point Road. This phase consists of 28 lots on 7.20 acres. Water and sanitary sewer are owned and maintained by the City of Savannah.
2. The required site improvements are complete. They have been inspected and found to be without fault.
3. The developer has submitted a letter of credit issued by Darby Bank (LOC #269) in the amount of \$191,740, which is 50% of the cost of the paving and drainage improvements.
4. Georgia Power will install nine streetlight for Sunny Estates. The initial annual assessment per lot will be \$65. The developer is responsible for the streetlight costs during the warranty period.
5. An Environmental Site Assessment was previously conducted on the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance. No environmentally unsafe conditions were found on the site.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To record the subdivision plat for Sunny Estates, accept the subdivision warranty agreement and financial guarantee, initiate the warranty period and create a new streetlight assessment rate district.
2. Do not approve the request.

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commissioners adopt Alternative No. 1.

District 6

**PREPARED BY:** Suzanne Cooler

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**4. TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH MICROSOFT CORPORATION TO ALLOW CHATHAM COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN A PILOT RECORDS MANAGEMENT PROJECT COORDINATED BY ACCG.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement with Microsoft Corporation to allow Chatham County to participate in a pilot records management project coordinated by ACCG. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

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

**ISSUE:** To authorize the Chairman to sign an Agreement with Microsoft Corporation to allow Chatham County to participate in a pilot records management project coordinated by ACCG.

**BACKGROUND:** ACCG is sponsoring a project with Microsoft for a pilot project in records management using Chatham County as an urban participant and Dawson County as a rural participant. The project will be to install and configure Microsoft products to improve the storage, access and retrieval of important electronic government documents.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Microsoft is providing software and providing services from a consultant for this project.
2. The project must be complete by December 31, 2008.
3. At the end of the project if the Microsoft solution is better than the one we currently use, the County has the option of purchasing the Microsoft products.
4. In determining the desirability of purchasing the Microsoft products, ICS will determine the cost of migrating the existing electronic documents to a new environment.

**FUNDING:** N/A at this time.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** The Commission has been involved and supportive of this initiative early in the conceptual phase via ACCG.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Participate in the Project.
2. Decline to participate.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative #1.

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH EACH PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY FOR THE COUNTY-WIDE CANAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve that the Board enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with each participating municipality for the County-wide Canal Maintenance Program. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-5**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

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

Issue: Request Board approval to enter into an Inter-governmental Agreement with each participating municipality for the County-wide Canal Maintenance Program.

Background: In 1997 the Board determined a need for a county-wide drainage maintenance program to assist the various municipalities with maintenance of the major canals within their city limits.

Facts and Findings:

1. In October of 2004 the Board entered into an Inter-governmental Agreement with each participating municipality for canal maintenance. The 2004 agreements have expired. As a result, staff is requesting the Board to renew our commitment to provide this service by entering into another agreement with each municipality.
2. The maintenance program is a three part program that consist of: 1- canal cleaning to remove silt, vegetation, and debris; 2- spraying herbicide to reduce the aquatic growth; and 3- mowing canal right-of-ways. Any additional or supplemental maintenance is the responsibility of the municipality within their jurisdiction.
3. Staff has presented the agreement to each of the seven participating municipalities with the only exception being the Town of Vernonburg who does not have any canals. To date, staff has received executed agreements from the following municipalities:
  - City of Bloomingdale
  - City of Garden City
  - City of Pooler
  - City of Port Wentworth
  - Town of Thunderbolt
  - City of Tybee Island
4. The City of Savannah has not provided staff a signed agreement nor have they expressed a willingness to enter into an agreement in years past. However, the County continues to provide the service.

Funding: Funds are budgeted annually for the program from the M&O General Fund.

Policy Statement: An Inter-governmental Agreement is required for services provided within municipalities.

Alternatives:

1. Board approve to enter into an Inter-governmental Agreement with each municipality for the County-wide Canal Maintenance Program.
2. Board not to approve request and provide staff with other direction.

Recommendations: Board approve Alternative #1.

All Districts

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**6. TO REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CREATE THREE (3) RECORDS TECHNICIAN POSITIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approval the creation of three (3) Records Technician positions in the Administrative Services Department. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**

**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

**FROM:** Michael A. Kaigler, Director  
Human Resources and Services

**Issue:** To request Board approval to create three (3) Records Technician positions in the Administrative Services Department.

**Background:**

With the ever increasing number of records from the County's operations, the addition of the Judiciary and District Attorney's records, storage, management, and retrieval responsibilities, the Administrative Services Department is in need of three (3) additional positions in the Records Management Division. The opening of the Garden City facility and the additional square footage provided, dictates increased work loads and an effective balance of responsibilities among employees.

The significant additional responsibility for records from the Judiciary and District Attorney's Office dictates the need for a smoother and more effective operational system regarding the security and sensitive nature of these records. In an effort to effectively meet these responsibilities, additional employees are needed.

**Facts and Findings:**

1. The Temporary Pool has historically provided employees for the department to assist with daily workload and storage moving projects. The Temporary Pool's budget for FY '09 (and beyond) is not capable of accommodating the increased need for the Records Division.
2. The hiring of three (3) Permanent Records Technicians in the Records Division is necessary to the overall effectively operation of that division relative to the storage, retrieval, and security of the County's records.
3. The relocation of Administrative Services to Garden City increases the need for dependable staff who can work with minimal supervision and operate County vehicles.
4. These positions will enhance the additional services required by the sensitive nature of the Judiciary and District Attorney records.
5. Funding for these positions was included in the approved FY '09 Budget.

**Funding:**

The source of the funds for this action is the Maintenance & Operations Budget for Administrative Services (#1001580). The funds have been placed in Salaries and Wages (Obj. Code: 51.11.001).

**Alternatives:**

1. The Board authorize the creation of three (3) Records Technician positions.
2. The Board not approve the creation of three (3) Records Technician positions.
3. Provide staff with other directions.

**Policy Analysis:**

Personnel changes to add positions requires approval of the Board of Commissioners. In the past, the Board of Commissioners has approved resource enhancements to departments where a need has been demonstrated and these enhancements maintain the delivery of services to the citizens of Chatham County at adequate and efficient levels.

**Recommendation:**

The Board adopt Alternative 1.

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Change Order No. 6 to the annual contract to provide various paper and chemical supplies to recognize manufacturer's imposed price increase	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Paper Chemical (WBE)	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
B. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms for logistics response and support services during a hurricane	CEMA	Garner Environmental Services, Inc.	Varies by service	CEMA
C. Professional engineering services contract for the water and sewer feasibility study	Water and Sewer	EMC Engineering Services, Inc.	\$24,000	Water and Sewer
D. Change Order No. 3 to the annual contract for temporary labor services to recognize a price increase	Public Works and Park Services	Staffing Companies, Inc.	\$9.21 hour	•SSD - Public Works
E. Change Order No. 3 to the annual contract for daily janitorial services for the Tag Office sub-station and the Frank Murray Community Center to increase daily service	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	R.I.T. Janitorial Services (MBE)	\$7,560	•General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner - \$2,835 •General Fund/M&O - Frank Murray Community Center - \$4,725
F. Change Order No. 1 to the construction contract for Southbridge Blvd. at Dean Forest Road for additional services	Engineering	Coastal Grading & Rental, Inc.	\$18,258	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Southbridge Blvd.
G. Extend two (2) leases for three (3) modular office buildings for 24 months with option to extend on a month to month basis	Public Works and Park Services	Williams- Scotsman, Inc.	\$57,096	•SSD - Public Works - \$44,182 •General Fund/M&O - Park Services
H. Parcel price increase for right-of-way acquisitions	Engineering	Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc.	\$5,000 per parcel	SPLOST (1985-1993), (1993-1998), (1998-2003), (2003-2008) - Land Bank (2008-2014) Road and Drainage Projects
I. One (1) used Ford Explorer and authorize a trade-in of a vehicle	Public Works and Park Services	Fairway Lincoln Mercury	\$15,995	Solid Waste Restricted Funds
J. Seven (7) used vehicles and authorize trade-in of seven (7) vehicles	C.N.T.	•Fairway Lincoln Mercury •Grainger Honda •Chatham Parkway Toyota	•\$28,099 •\$22,696 •\$37,249	CIP - Vehicle Replacement
K. Two (2) Ford Crown Victoria vehicles	SCMPD	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$45,200	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement
L. Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract to provide oil and lubricants to recognize an increase in pricing	Fleet Operations	Stubbs Oil Company	Varies by item	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
M. Printing, inserting and mailing of the 2008 non-mortgage tax bills	Tax Commissioner	Diversified Companies, LLC	\$13,750	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
N. Spacesaver Filing System	C.N.T.	Walter Hopkins Company (State Contract)	\$24,579	Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.
O. Extend terms of personal services agreement	Special Projects	George Bowen	\$75 per hour	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction
P. Utility vehicle for Citizens Service Center	Sheriff	Scott Equipment	\$10,500	DSA Series 1999 Bonds
Q. Rescind the award of a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria vehicle and approve the purchase of a 2008 Ford Taurus	District Attorney	J. C. Lewis Ford	N/A	No additional funding required

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to approve Items 6-A through 8-Q, both inclusive. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-7 A thru Q**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

**FROM: MICHAEL A. KAIGLER, DIRECTOR**  
**HUMAN RESOURCES & SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF BIDS**

**ITEM A**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to issue Change Order No. 6 to the Annual Contract with Paper Chemical Supply Company, of Savannah Georgia to provide various paper and chemical supplies for various departments within Chatham County to recognize manufacturer's imposed price increase.

**BACKGROUND:** On 11 May 2007, the Board approved the award of an annual contract with automatic renewal's options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Paper Chemical Supply Company.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- Paper Chemical Supply Company has recently provided a notification of a price change associated with the manufacturer's imposed price increase due to the escalating costs in energy, transportation, packaging and raw material. As a result it has raised the price of the item listed below. Paper Chemical Supply Company has provided documentation to support the manufacturer's price increase.
- Staff believes Paper Chemical Supply Company's request for the County to contractually recognize the manufacturer's price increase to be fair and reasonable.
- New price will be as follows:

Item:	Description	Old Price	New Price
9.	Liquid Bleach, Austins JAC-372	\$7.98	\$8.94

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Various  
SSD- Various

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- Board approval to issue Change Order No. 6 to the Annual Contract with Paper Chemical Supply Company, of Savannah Georgia to provide various paper and chemical supplies for various departments within Chatham County to recognize manufacturer's imposed price increase.

2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve change orders for documented material price increase when they are initiated by the manufacturer.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
READ DEHAVEN

#### **ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms for Logistics Response and Support Services for Chatham County Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) with Garner Environmental Services, Inc., of Houston Texas to provide a full range of Logistical and Staff Support after a natural disaster.

**BACKGROUND:** CEMA is required by FEMA to have hurricane preparations in place during the hurricane season.

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

1. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was properly advertised and mailed to 16 firms, two (2) proposals were received and opened on 21 August 2008.
2. The proposals were distributed to and scored by an evaluation committee. The evaluation committee did not deem it necessary to conduct firm interviews. Please refer to the matrix on page 19 for scoring details. Responses are as follows:

DRC Emergency Services Mobile, AL	50.4 Points
Garner Environmental Services, Inc. Houston, TX	81.0 Points

3. After thorough analysis, staff believes the proposal received from Garner Environmental Services, Inc. offers the best value to the County.

**FUNDING:** As needed, if mobilized due to disaster.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual contract with automatic renew options for four (4) additional one (1) year term for Logistics Response and Support Services for Chatham County Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) with Garner Environmental Services, Inc., of Houston Texas to provide a full range of Logistical and Staff Support after a natural disaster.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve services to the low responsive, responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
READ DEHAVEN

#### **ITEM C**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award a \$24,000 professional services contract to EMC Engineering Services, Inc., for engineering services for the Water and Sewer Feasibility Study.

**BACKGROUND:** The County Manager asked staff to solicit engineering services to study the feasibility of serving portions of the unincorporated areas of the County with water and sewer services.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Any plans or creative visions to expand potable drinking water services within Chatham County have now been trumped by Georgia Environmental Protection Division’s (EPD) Coastal Georgia Water and Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion, June 2006. The plan identifies Chatham County as a “Red Zone” area. It restricts groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridian Aquifer to withdrawal amounts that occurred in 2004 and it reduces actual withdrawals by at least an additional five (5) million gallons per day by the end of 2008. This ultimately means that EPD will not issue a new permit to withdrawal groundwater from the Upper Floridian to operate a public drinking water system in Chatham County nor will they allow a permit holder to expand their withdrawals. However, EPD will consider pumping from the Lower Floridian Aquifer and endorses the expanded use of treated surface water.
2. Staff solicited the services of an engineering consultant registered as a Georgia Professional Engineer with significant experience in drinking water strategies in the Chatham County area particularly in the area identified as the “Red Zone” by EPD.
3. A Request for Quote was issued and supplied to several qualified local engineering firms that have the expertise for this type of project. Four (4) quotes were received on 10 September 2008. The quotes are as follows:

EMC Engineering Services, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$24,000
Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co. Savannah, GA	\$25,000
Port City Design Group, LLC Savannah, GA	\$26,500
Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$43,772

4. EMC Engineering Services, Inc. has experience in utility planning and have knowledge in drinking water strategies for the local area. Staff believes the quote from EMC Engineering Services, Inc. to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** Water & Sewer Fund  
(5054400 - 52.39001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award a \$24,000 professional services contract to EMC Engineering Services, Inc., for engineering services for the Water and Sewer Feasibility Study.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low responsive, responsible bidder.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
READ DEHAVEN

**ITEM D**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order 3, in the amount of \$9.21 per hour, to the annual contract with Staffing Companies, Inc., of Savannah, for temporary labor services for Public Works and Park Services.

**BACKGROUND:** On 18 February 2005, the Board approved a temporary labor service contract with Eastern Personnel Services, of Savannah.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. On 16 November 2007, the Board approved Change Order 1 to increase the hourly bill rate from \$7.23 to \$8.21. On 07 December 2008, the Board approved Change Order 2 to change the contract name from Eastern Personnel Services to Staffing Companies, Inc.
2. The temporary labor provided by Staffing Companies, Inc. serves to facilitate hand ditch and median maintenance for Public Works and curbside collection for Solid Waste.
3. This change order is a result of the increase in the Federal Minimum Wage that went into effect on 24 July 2008. Staffing Companies, Inc. has to increase their hourly bill rate from \$8.21 per hour to \$9.21 per hour.
4. Staff believes the cost of \$9.21 per hour for temporary labor services to be reasonable and fair. In addition, staff supports the effective date of 28 July 2008 for the increase.

**FUNDING:** SSD - Public Works  
 (2704100 - 52.39001)  
 Solid Waste  
 (5404501 - 52.39001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to issue Change Order 3, in the amount of \$9.21 per hour, to the annual contract with Staffing Companies, Inc., of Savannah, for temporary labor services for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to issue Change Orders to essential service contracts to recognize changes in the Federal Minimum Wage.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order 3, in the amount of \$630 per month, to the annual contract with R.I.T. Janitorial Services of Savannah, to increase the scope of services to increase daily janitorial services for the Tag Office Sub-Station and the Frank Murray Community Center.

**BACKGROUND:** On 20 July 2007, the Board approved a janitorial services contract with R.I.T. Janitorial Services, of Savannah.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Staff requested a price quotation from R.I.T. Janitorial Services to increase daily janitorial services from two (2) to three (3) days per week for the two (2) locations listed below.
2. R.I.T. Janitorial Services, quoted staff an additional fee of \$630 per month.

Tag Office Sub-Station	additional \$236 per month
Frank Murray Community Center	additional \$394 per month

3. Staff believes the additional cost of \$630 per month to increase daily janitorial service to be fair and reasonable.
4. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (07-20-07)	\$14,400/Year
Change Order 1 (11-16-07)	\$30,600/Year
Change Order 2 (7-25-08)	\$ 2,250/Year
Change Order 3 (Pending)	<u>\$ 7,560/Year</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$54,810/Year

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Tax Commissioner - \$2,835/Year (1001545 - 52.21301)  
General Fund/M&O - Frank G. Murray Community Center - \$4,725/Year  
(1005530 - 52.21301)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of Change Order 3, in the amount of \$630 per month, to the annual contract with R.I.T. Janitorial Services of Savannah, to increase the scope of services to increase daily janitorial services for the Tag Office Sub-Station and the Frank Murray Community Center.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to issue Change Orders to essential service contracts to recognize changes in scope of services.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

**ITEM F**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Summary Change Order 1, in the amount of \$18,258, to the construction contract with Coastal Grading & Rental, Inc. for the construction of improvements on Southbridge Boulevard at Dean Forest Road.

**BACKGROUND:** On 25 April 2008, the Board approved a construction contract in the amount of \$347,225 with Coastal Grading & Rental, Inc. to reconstruct Southbridge Boulevard at Dean Forest Road. The project is complete.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The construction contract included lump sum and unit price line items with estimates of quantities needed to construct the project. Final quantities for unit price items are based on measured quantities used. This summary change order reconciles several line items (primarily asphalt and curbing).
2. The scope of work was also expanded in two (2) areas. The GDOT required additional asphalt base within the right of way of S.R. 307 that was not in the original scope. Additional milling and asphalt overlays were needed to tie into the intersection with Wedgefield Crossing.
3. Contract history:

Original Contract (4-25-08)	\$347,225
Summary Change Order 1 (Pending)	<u>\$ 18,258</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$365,483

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003 - 2008) - Southbridge Boulevard  
(3234220 - 54.14001 - 32356187)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of Summary Change Order 1, in the amount of \$18,258, to the construction contract with Coastal Grading & Rental, Inc. for the construction of improvements on Southbridge Boulevard at Dean Forest Road.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve change orders necessary for the completion of projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM G**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to extend two (2) leases for three (3) modular office buildings for 24 months with option to extend on a month to month basis with Williams-Scotsman, Inc., for office space for Public Works and Park Services for \$4,758 per month, \$57,096 per year.

**BACKGROUND:** Public Works and Park Services occupy four (4) Williams-Scotsman, Inc., modular office buildings for Administrative and field operations office space. The most recent lease (4<sup>th</sup> unit) approved on 11 July 2008 is due to expire on 31 December 2008 and in all probability will require renewal if use is continued.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Williams-Scotsman, Inc., has been providing leased office space since 2002, which Public Works and Park Services continues to occupy for daily operations. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes a new permanent facility. Construction is not under way and will not in all likelihood be completed for at least two (2) or more years.
2. As information or an option for the Board, the cost to outright purchase these three (3) original units would cost \$ 168,552. A two year-continued lease, not including breakdown and removal, will total \$ 114,181.

**FUNDING:** SSD - Public Works  
(2704100-52.23101) - \$ 44,182  
General Fund/ M & O - Park Services  
( 1006100-52.23101) - \$ 12,914

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval to extend two (2) leases for three (3) modular office buildings for 24 months with option to extend on a month to month basis with Williams- Scotsman, Inc., for office space for Public Works and Park Services for \$4,758 per month, \$57,096 per year.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide operational facilities for County Departments and their employees.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

**ITEM H**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to increase the per parcel cost to \$5,000 to the current contract with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., for Right-of-Way Acquisition.

**BACKGROUND:** A right-of-way consultant is necessary in order to acquire parcels of property needed to implement road and drainage projects. On 19 October 2007, the Board approved a one (1) year extension, which expires 31 October 2008, and the option of automatic renewals for an additional three (3) years.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Due to their many years of professional service and their large amount of experience as the right-of-way consultant for the County, staff believes that it is in the best interest of the County to continue the contractual agreement with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc.
2. As stated in the current contract, Moreland Altobelli Associates reserves the right to increase the per parcel rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The current contract provides that the single fixed rate of \$4,850 per parcel of right-of-way acquired can be adjusted with the increase not to exceed the published CPI by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
3. Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., waived any increase, based on the CPI, to the per parcel rate for the one year extension to the current contract (2007-2008). After the one (1) year

extension, they reserve the right for a price increase based on the CPI, as stated in their current contract.

4. Due to rapid escalation in fuel and other commodity costs over the last year, Moreland Altobelli Associates is exercising their option to increase the per parcel cost from \$4,850 to \$5,000. This increase falls well within the published CPI by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (1985-1993), (1993-1998), (1998-2003), (2003-2008)  
Various Road and Drainage Projects

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve to increase the per parcel cost to \$5,000 to the current contract with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., for Right-of-Way Acquisition.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to allow price increases based on the published CPI by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
ESTELLE BROWN

**ITEM I**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approvals of the \$15,995 purchase of a used 2007 Ford Explorer and authorize the trade-in of a 1999 Ford Taurus from Fairway Lincoln Mercury for Public Works.

**BACKGROUND:** The purchase of this vehicle will replace one that is beyond economic repair. (See attached memo on page 20)

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Staff has a standing request with the local car dealership for “good” used vehicles. When a vehicle is located the dealership contacts Fleet Operations.
2. Fairway Lincoln Mercury informed staff they had a used 2007 Ford Explorer. The Fleet Manager and a representative from Public Works believe the total cost of \$15,995 to be fair and reasonable.
3. The cost of the Ford Explorer is \$17,995. The trade-in amount offered to Chatham County for the 1999 Ford Taurus is \$2,000. The net purchase will be \$15,995.

**FUNDING:** Solid Waste Restricted  
(5404510 - 54.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approvals of the \$15,995 purchase of a used 2007 Ford Explorer and authorize the trade-in of a 1999 Ford Taurus from Fairway Lincoln Mercury for Public Works.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary vehicles to the using departments.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM J**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$88,044 purchase of seven (7) used non-typical replacement vehicles for C.N.T. from three (3) local dealerships and authorize the disposal of seven (7) vehicles that will be used as trade-ins.

**BACKGROUND:** C.N.T. has approved funding to replace 13 vehicles through the CIP, Police Merger. These vehicles are no longer suitable for department operation. The trade-in will simplify disposal and maximize the available funds.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. To meet C.N.T.'s urgent needs, staff faxed quotes to only the local car dealers that normally respond to bids and gave them one (1) week to respond with faxed pricing. Specifications required each firm to submit pricing on one (1) or more vehicles. This provides C.N.T. with maximum flexibility in selecting the vehicles best suited for their needs.
2. Three (3) local dealerships responded as requested. Fairway Lincoln Mercury offered two (2), Grainger Honda offered two (2), Chatham Parkway Toyota offered three (3).
3. The Fleet Manager and representatives from C.N.T. visited each dealership to inspect each vehicle.
4. The vehicles selected were:

Fairway Lincoln Mercury (2)	\$36,199
Grainger Honda (2)	\$40,196
Chatham Parkway Toyota (3)	\$55,749
Less trade-in	(\$44,100)
<b>Total Purchase</b>	<b>\$88,044</b>

**FUNDING:** CIP - Fleet Replacement Vehicles  
(3503222 - 54.22001 - 3503065Z)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of the \$88,044 purchase of seven (7) used non-typical replacement vehicles for C.N.T. from three (3) local dealerships and authorize the disposal of seven (7) vehicles that will be used as trade-ins.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of replacement vehicles for law enforcement activities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM K**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$45,200 purchase of two (2) 2009 Ford Crown Victorias for the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department from J. C. Lewis Ford.

**BACKGROUND:** These units will replace units that are worn out beyond economic repair. (See attached memo on page 21)

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Board previously approved at their 24 August 2007 meeting, annual pricing for the purchase of 2008 Ford Crown Victorias.
2. The low responsive offer, J. C. Lewis Ford, has agreed to honor the pricing with the same terms and conditions.
3. Staff believes the total cost of \$45,200 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacements  
(3233200 - 54.22001 - 3236063B)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of the \$45,200 purchase of two (2) 2009 Ford Crown Victorias for the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department from J. C. Lewis Ford.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide necessary vehicles to the using departments.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM L**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1, not to exceed an 18% price increase to the annual contract for Oil and Lubricants with Stubbs Oil Company with all other terms and conditions of the contract remaining the same.

**BACKGROUND:** On 26 August 2005, the Board approved to “piggyback” off of the City of Savannah’s solicitation for oil and lubricants. The contract was awarded to Stubbs Oil Company to provide the oil and lubricants for Fleet Operations.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. There are a number of market factors impacting prices of lubricating oils and greases such as higher base oil prices primarily due to higher crude costs, as well as higher additives and packaging costs across the industry.
2. The overall price increase not to exceed 18% will be applied to each of the various oils and lubricants at the time of purchase.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations  
(100 - Fleet Inventory)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1, not to exceed an 18% price increase to the annual contract for Oil and Lubricants with Stubbs Oil Company with all other terms and conditions of the contract remaining the same.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to increase contract pricing when it is within the best interest of the County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

**ITEM M**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of \$13,750 sole source for printing, inserting, and mailing the 2008 non-mortgage tax bills with Diversified Companies LLC for the Tax Commissioner’s Office.

**BACKGROUND:** The process involves programming as well as the actual labor of printing, inserting and mailing tax bills.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Diversified Companies is capable of this programming, but also receives support from Manatron, the vendor for Chatham County's tax collection software, due to their close physical proximity.
2. Staff believes the total cost of \$13,750 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Tax Commissioner  
(1001545 - 52.11001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of \$13,750 sole source for printing, inserting, and mailing the 2008 non-mortgage tax bills with Diversified Companies LLC for the Tax Commissioner's Office.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve purchases for the using departments for the mailing of tax bills.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM N**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$24,579 purchase of a Spacesaver Filing System, off the State of Georgia contract, with Walter Hopkins Company, for C.N.T.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board approved, at their 5 September 2008 meeting, the use of confiscated funds for the purchase of this filing system. This filing system will provide security and accessibility.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The purchase of this filing system will replace an outdated vertical filing cabinets that cannot be locked. Staff contacted Walter Hopkins Company, Marietta, GA, a state contract vendor, to obtain information and pricing.
2. Walter Hopkins Company sent a representative to C.N.T. to evaluate the system and make a recommendation. The recommendation will allow for C.N.T. to have approximately three (3) times the present capacity for filing with high security.
3. Walter Hopkins Company quoted, off State of Georgia contract, a total cost of \$24,579 for the Spacesaver Filing System. Staff believes this price to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.  
(2103222 - 54.25001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$24,579 purchase of a Spacesaver Filing System, off the State of Georgia contract, with Walter Hopkins Company, for C.N.T.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve purchases for the using departments off the State of Georgia contracts.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
GLORIA SAUGH

**ITEM O**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to extend the professional services contract with George Bowen for an additional two (2) years for a not to exceed cost of \$65,000.

**BACKGROUND:** At the 19 October 2006 meeting, the Board approved a personal services agreement with George Bowen as part of a plan of action for managing more than 180 capital projects with a value in excess of \$325 million. The Board agreed to expedite projects by contracting with retired government and specialist employees to assist with project management responsibility.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Board approved a contract two years ago with George Bowen for an amount not to exceed \$65,000. The contract needs to be extended another term for a similar amount.
2. George Bowen previously served as the Deputy Superintendent for the Board of Education. He came highly recommended based on his previous background, especially in managing the school construction program and in serving as an U.S. Air Force officer handling large and complex projects.
3. Mr. Bowen's specific scope of work focuses on the day-to-day responsibility for the Courthouse project. With the departure of the Special Projects Coordinator, he assumed responsibility for the project during design and construction.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003 - 2008) - Courthouse Construction  
(3234980 - 52.12003 - 32360427)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to extend the professional services contract with George Bowen for an additional two (2) years for a not to exceed cost of \$65,000.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** Georgia law and *The Chatham County Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual* provide authority for the Board to enter into agreements for personal service agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_

CHRIS MORRIS

**ITEM P**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$10,500 purchase of a utility vehicle for the Citizens Service Center from Scott Equipment.

**BACKGROUND:** Off-duty police officers provide security at the Citizens Service Center, which stretches over eight acres and includes four different buildings with offices. A utility vehicle enables security to cover the area more efficiently and effectively.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Sheriff's Department developed specifications and requested bids from five different vendors. Of the six, only two submitted bids on the specified gasoline cart (or equivalent), as follows:

Scott Equipment Savannah, GA	\$10,500
Landings Golf Car Center Savannah, GA	\$10,850

- 2. Scott Equipment provided the lowest responsible bid and can provide delivery within an acceptable time frame (same as other bidder).

**FUNDING:** DSA Series 1999 Bond - Citizens Service Center - Buildings  
(3601565 - 54.13011 - 36031107)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of a \$10,500 purchase of a utility vehicle for the Citizens Service Center from Scott Equipment.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** Georgia law and *The Chatham County Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual* provide authority for the Board to award contracts.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
TOM DRANE

**ITEM Q**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to rescind the award of a new 2009 Crown Victoria in the amount of \$22,600 and to purchase a new 2008 Ford Taurus in the amount of \$21,473 for the District Attorney's Office from J. C. Lewis Ford.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board approved at their meeting of 27 June 2008, the purchase of a 2009 Crown Victoria for the District Attorney's Office from J. C. Lewis Ford.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. Due to the vehicle not being built to specifications, J. C. Lewis Ford informed staff they could offer the County a new 2008 Ford Taurus for immediate delivery. The Fleet Manager and a representative from District Attorney's believe the total cost of \$21,473 to be fair and reasonable.
- 2. While J. C. Lewis Ford did offer to reorder the 2009 Ford Crown Victoria, the District Attorney's office accepted the offer for the 2008 Ford Taurus. (see attached pages 22-24)
- 3. The purchase of the 2008 Ford Taurus will result in a savings of \$1,127.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval to rescind the award of a new 2009 Crown Victoria in the amount of \$22,600 and to purchase a new 2008 Ford Taurus in the amount of \$21,473 for the District Attorney's Office from J. C. Lewis Ford.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide necessary vehicles to the using department.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
ESTELLE BROWN

PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
PURCHASING AGENT

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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.

None.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

- 1. **THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION IS REQUESTING APPROVAL OF A TEXT AMENDMENT TO UPDATE SECTION 9.2.4 IN THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT THAT ADDRESSES THE RIVER CORRIDOR PROTECTION ACT. MPC FILE NO. F-080107-37787-1 TEXT AMENDMENT.**

Chairman Liakakis asked, anybody here to discuss that? Okay, you have the information in your packet that was delivered to all of the Commissioners. Do we have a motion on the floor to approve that text amendment?

Commissioner Gellatly said, motion to approve. Commissioner Holmes said, second.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the request of the Metropolitan Planning Commission for approval of a text amendment to update Section 9.2.4 in the Community Assessment that addresses the River Corridor Protection Act. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: XII-1  
AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

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

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:  
The Metropolitan Planning Commission is requesting Approval of a Text Amendment to update the section in the Community Assessment that addresses the River Corridor Protection Act. MPC File No. F-080107-37787-1**

**ISSUE:** Update the Community Assessment *Section 9.2.4 Protected Rivers and Corridors* to reflect most current State of Georgia policies.

**BACKGROUND:**  
The statute that is informally known as the *Mountain and River Corridor Protection Act* (O.C.G.A. 12-2-8) authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to develop minimum standards for the protection of river corridors (and mountains, watersheds, and wetlands) that can be adopted by local governments. The Act is administered by the Environmental Protection Division. All rivers in Georgia with an average annual flow of 400 cubic feet per second are covered by the Act, except those within the jurisdiction of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act.

- FINDINGS:**
- 1. The Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center prepared a Regional River Corridor Protection Plan for counties within their jurisdiction. The Plan describes

the ten local governments and the associated rivers that are affected by the River Corridor Protection Act, and puts forward a regional plan for the protection of river corridors. The plan provides for construction of road crossings, acceptable uses of river corridors, maintenance of a vegetative buffer along the river for a minimum of 100 feet from the river's edge (residential structures are allowed within the buffer zone), timber production standards, wildlife and fisheries management, recreation, and other uses.

2. Adoption of language addressing the River Corridor Protection Act is required in local comprehensive plans. The Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan (Community Assessment) approved in 2006 includes Section 9.2.4. *Protected Rivers and Corridors*. There have been additions and minor changes to the Plan since this section of the Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 2003. The most significant change is the addition of the Ogeechee River to the **Table 9.1 Impaired Listed Waters Within Chatham County** (Mercury in fish) and the additional impairment (Fecal Coliform) in the Savannah Harbor.
3. The Chatham County Zoning Ordinance *Section 4-10 Development Standards in Protected River Corridor (P-R-C) Districts* incorporates applicable regulations and standards outlined in the revised River Corridor Protection Plan. The Zoning Map includes the protected areas and no changes are required to the text or map.
4. The MPC is working with the Natural Resources Protection Commission and Hunter AFF/Fort Stewart to acquire land along the Ogeechee River Corridor. Acquisition of the land will serve to preserve the integrity of the natural corridor, provide recreational area, and reduce residential density in an area that is affected by the heavy weapons firing range across the river in Fort Stewart. Because Federal and State Grants are an integral part of the acquisition, adoption of the latest version of the River Protection Corridor Plan will demonstrate the County's attentiveness to the Plan.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Take no action.
2. Revise the Community Assessment to reflect the latest version of the Plan.

#### **POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Chatham County is committed to preserving its natural resources by making available the latest and most accurate version of plans to protect these resources.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The MPC and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend: 1) Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan – Community Assessment; 2) Repeal **Section 9.2.4. Protected Rivers and Corridors** in its entirety.

PREPARED BY: Jim Hansen, AICP, Director  
Development Services

AUGUST 19, 2008

Gregori Anderson, Director  
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

*Note: Underlined text reflects proposed text and strike-through reflects deleted text.*

#### **Protected Rivers and Corridors**

River corridors are the strips of land that flank major rivers in Georgia. These corridors are of vital importance in that they help preserve those qualities that make a river suitable as a habitat for wildlife, a site for recreation, and a source for clean drinking water. River corridors also allow the free movement of wildlife from area to area within the state, help control erosion and river sedimentation, and help absorb floodwaters.

The River Corridor Protection Act, informally known as the Mountain and River Corridor Protection Act (O.C.G.A. 12-2-8) authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to develop minimum standards for the protection of river corridors (and mountains, watersheds, and wetlands) that can be adopted by local governments. The Act is administered by the Environmental Protection Division and oversees all rivers in Georgia with an average annual flow of 400 cubic feet per second, except those within the jurisdiction of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act. Some of the major provisions of the Act include: requirements for maintenance of a 100-foot natural vegetative buffer on both sides of rivers; provisions that the guidelines set out in the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act must be followed; and local governments must identify river corridors in land-use plans developed under their respective comprehensive planning acts.

The Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center prepared a Regional River Corridor Protection Plan for counties within their jurisdiction. The Plan describes the ten local governments and the associated rivers that are affected by the River Corridor Protection Act, and puts forward a regional plan for the protection of river corridors.

The Plan provides for construction of road crossings, acceptable uses of river corridors, maintenance of a vegetative buffer along rivers for a minimum of 100 feet from the river's edge (residential structures are allowed within the buffer zone), timber production standards, wildlife and fisheries management, recreation, and other uses. Chatham County is one of the ten coastal counties affected by the River Corridor Protection Act and therefore, as required, has adopted a Regional River Corridor Protection Plan for portions of the Savannah and the Ogeechee Rivers. ~~Map 9.7 identifies the river corridor areas within Chatham County that have been protected under the River Corridor Protection Act.~~

As mandated by the Protection Act, each River Corridor Protection Plan shall address, at a minimum, the following considerations with regard to river corridors:

- The plan shall consider the effect of activities in the river corridor on public health, safety, welfare, and the private property rights.
- The plan shall consider any characteristics of the river corridor that make it unique or significant in the conservation and movement of flora and fauna including threatened, rare, and endangered species.
- The plans shall establish the local government's policies regarding such flora and fauna rather than identifying specific sites containing such species.
- The plan shall consider the effect of any activities within the river corridor on the function of the protected river and river corridor including the flow and quality of the river water, erosion, and shoaling of the river bed or margins, and the navigability of the river.
- The plan shall consider the effect of activities in the river corridor on fishing or recreational use of river corridors.
- The plan shall consider whether the effects of activities in the river corridor are temporary or permanent in nature and, if temporary, the length of time of the impact.
- The plan shall consider the preservation of significant state historical and archaeological resources (defined as properties on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) within the river corridor.
- The plan shall consider the effect of activities within river corridors on immediately adjacent sensitive natural areas. The plans shall establish the local government's policies regarding such adjacent sensitive natural areas rather than identifying specific sites.

Chatham County previously adopted the minimum standards proposed by the River Corridor Protection Act and then amended its land use regulations to provide adequate protection. The City of Savannah had no protected rivers within its jurisdiction, thus no standards were implemented by Savannah.

This River Corridor Protection Plan provides for the maintenance of a natural vegetative buffer except as otherwise provided herein. The River Corridor Protection Plan does not prohibit the building of single-family dwellings, including the usual appurtenances, within the buffer area, subject to the following conditions:

1. The dwelling shall be in compliance with all local zoning regulations.

2. The dwelling shall be located on a tract of land containing at least two acres. For the purposes of these standards, the size of the tract of land shall not include any area that lies within the protected river (that is, for tracts of land that include portions of a protected river, the area between the river banks can not be counted towards the two acre minimum size).

3. There shall be only one such dwelling on each two-acre or larger tract of land.

4. A septic tank or tanks serving such a dwelling may be located within the buffer area.

5. Septic tank drainfields shall not be located within the buffer area.

Within a river corridor, industrial and commercial land uses existing prior to the promulgation of a River Corridor Protection Plan are exempt from these criteria provided that:

1. Industrial and commercial uses of river corridors shall not impair the drinking quality of the river water; and

2. Industrial and commercial activity within the river corridor shall meet all state and federal environmental rules and regulations.

Except as expressly provided for under the section of this criteria (dealing with single-family dwellings within the river corridor), septic tanks and septic tank drainfields are prohibited within river corridors.

This River Corridor Protection Plan provides for the construction of road crossings and utility crossings of river corridors, provided that construction of such road and utility crossings meet all requirements of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, and of any applicable local ordinances on soil erosion and sedimentation control.

This River Corridor Protection Plan provides the following acceptable uses of river corridors, provided that such uses do not impair the long-term functions of the protected river or the river corridor:

1. Timber production and harvesting, subject to the following conditions:

a. Forestry activity shall be consistent with best management practices established by the Georgia Forestry Commission; and

b. Forestry activity shall not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.

2. Wildlife and fisheries management activities consistent with the purposes of O.C.G.A. 12-2-8.

3. Waste-water treatment.

4. Recreational usage consistent either with the maintenance of a natural vegetative buffer or with river-dependent recreation. For example, a boat ramp would be consistent with this criterion but a hard-surface tennis court would not. Parking lots are not consistent with this criterion. Paths and walkways within the river corridor are consistent with this criterion.

5. Natural water quality treatment or purification.

6. Agricultural production and management, subject to the following conditions:

a. Agricultural activity shall be consistent with best management practices established by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission;

b. Agricultural activity shall not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended; and

c. Agricultural activity shall be consistent with all state and federal laws, and all regulations promulgated by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

7. Other uses permitted by the Department of Natural Resources or under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Handling areas for the receiving and storage of hazardous waste are prohibited within river corridors. Port facilities are exempt from this criterion provided that:

1. Port facilities shall meet all federal and state laws and regulations for the handling and transport of hazardous waste.

2. Port facilities handling hazardous waste shall perform their operations on impermeable surfaces having spill and leak protection systems as prescribed by the Department of Natural Resources. (Note: this is the same criterion as set in the Department of Natural Resources Criteria for Water-Supply Watersheds for facilities which handle hazardous materials.)

Other restrictions include:

- Hazardous waste or solid waste landfills are prohibited within river corridors.
- Other uses unapproved by local governments shall not be acceptable within river corridors.
- The natural vegetative buffer shall be restored as quickly as possible following any land-disturbing activity within the river corridor.
- Except as noted within the Chatham County or City of Savannah code, all construction within the buffer area shall be prohibited.

As previously noted, the maintenance of a 100-foot natural vegetative buffer, often referred to as a “riparian buffer”, on both sides of any protected river is required under the River Corridor Protection Act. Similarly, under the State of Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act, one provision requires that land-disturbing activities shall not be conducted within 25 feet of the banks of any State waters, thus mandating a riparian buffer 25 feet in width.

Riparian buffers are of particular importance to the overall protection of water quality and habitat, especially within the Lowcountry and coastal areas of Georgia. Scientific research and documentation cite many reasons for riparian buffers, including: a) to reduce the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff in order to protect the hydrological profiles of the surrounding waterways; b) to reduce the sediment and pollutants going into the open water; c) to provide upland wildlife habitat areas and; d) to help maintain the in-stream temperatures provided by the shade within the tree canopy of the buffer system.

The primary effect of the buffer on, not only the waterbody, but the overall watershed as well, is to reduce non-point source pollution from the human activities upstream from the riparian area. Runoff water filtered through a well-maintained buffer zone carries fewer nutrients, chemicals and sediment into the waters and helps to protect the natural profile of the shoreline. For example, studies show that a minimal buffer of 35 feet will often remove over 60 percent of sediment and pollutants before they enter the water, thereby greatly reducing the detrimental impacts to the area.

With this in mind, in 2001 the MPC set forth development standards in the Island’s Area Community Plan for Chatham County’s Oatland, Talahi, Whitemarsh, and Wilmington Islands that established a minimum riparian buffer of 35 feet, 30 percent of which may be altered by pruning and selective clearing for access and to maintain view corridors. Such practices as these result in reduced stormwater runoff essential for environmental protection and flood control; buffering adjacent neighborhoods, and enhancing community appearance.

Under related environmental protection measures, section 303(d) of the 1972 Clean Water Act mandates that all states develop lists of impaired waters within their jurisdiction. By definition, these impaired waters do not meet water quality standards even after jurisdictions have installed the minimum required levels of pollution control technology to reduce point sources of pollution. The law requires that these jurisdictions establish priority rankings for waters on the lists and develop total maximum daily loadings (TMDLs) for these waters. A TMDL specifies the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards and allocates pollutant loadings among point and nonpoint pollutant sources. By law, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must approve or disapprove lists and TMDLs established by states. If a state’s submission is inadequate, EPA must establish the list or the TMDL. EPA issued regulations in 1985 and 1992 that implemented section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act - the TMDL provisions (40 CFR Part 130, section 130.7).

As of 2007, there are 445 waterbodies on the 303(d) list for the State of Georgia and 46 of these areas fall within the Chatham County region that are listed on the State’s 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies. They are Casey Canal, Hayners Creek, Little Ogeechee River, Ogeechee River, and the Savannah Harbor. These four six Chatham County sites all fall within the Ogeechee Coastal and Lower Savannah Watersheds.

The following table shows a complete breakdown of the areas as well as the specific reason for the impairment.

Table 9.1: Impaired / 303(d) Listed Waters Within Chatham County (2007)					
WATERBODY NAME	WATERBODY TYPE	STATE BASIN NAME	WATERSHED NAME	LOCATION	303(D) LISTED IMPAIRMENTS
Casey Canal	Stream/ Creek/River	Ogeechee	Ogeechee Coastal	Chatham County	Dissolved Oxygen; Fecal Coliform; Fish Consumption Guidance (Dieldrin)
Hayners Creek	Stream/ Creek/River	Ogeechee	Ogeechee Coastal	Chatham County	Dissolved Oxygen; Fecal Coliform; Fish Consumption Guidance (Dieldrin)
Little Ogeechee River	Stream/ Creek/River	Ogeechee	Ogeechee Coastal	Chatham County	Fecal Coliform Dissolved Oxygen
Ogeechee River	Stream/ Creek/River	Ogeechee	Ogeechee Coastal	Black Creek to Richmond Hill (Bryan/Effingham /Chatham Co.)	TWR: Trophic-Weighted Residue value of mercury in fish tissue
<u>Savannah Harbor</u>	Estuary	---	Lower Savannah	<u>Chatham County Hwy 17 to South Channel</u>	Dissolved Oxygen
<u>Savannah Harbor</u>	<u>Estuary</u>	---	Lower Savannah	<u>Chatham County SR 25 (old Hwy 17) to Elba Island Cut</u>	<u>Fecal Coliform</u>

**DATE:** AUGUST 19, 2008

**TO:** CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION

**FROM:** METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

**SUBJECT:** MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

**PETITION REFERENCED:**

Text Amendment to the Tricentennial Plan  
**RE: Community Assessment, Section 9.2.4 Protected Rivers and Corridors**  
 MPC File No. F-080107-37787-1

**MPC ACTION:**

Approval of a text amendment to update the section in the Community Assessment that addresses the River Corridor Protection Act.

**MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of a text Amendment to update the section in the Community Assessment that addresses the River Corridor Protection Act.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 9+ Chairman

Jon Todd, Chairman  
 Shedrick Coleman, Secretary  
 Michael Brown  
 Ben Farmer  
 Lacy Manigault

Robert Ray, Vice-Chairman  
 Russ Abolt  
 Douglas Bean  
 Timothy Mackey  
 Adam Ragsdale

**VOTING FOR MOTION**

Jon Todd  
 Robert Ray  
 Shedrick Coleman  
 Douglas Bean  
 Russ Abolt  
 Michael Brown  
 Ben Farmer  
 Lacy Manigault  
 Timothy Mackey  
 Adam Ragsdale

**VOTING AGAINST MOTION**

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

\*Susan Myers  
 \*David Hoover  
 \*Stephen Lufburrow

**FOR APPROVAL: 10      FOR DENIAL: 0      ABSTAINING: 0**

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Thomas L. Thomson*

Thomas L. Thomson  
 Executive Director

/cbm  
 Enclosure

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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: October 3, 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>
21 Microsoft software licenses	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$4,847	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Weather tracking website renewal	Mosquito Control	WSI	\$3,660	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Demolition of a concrete ceiling in the basement of Montgomery Street courthouse	Special Projects	Advanced Concrete Cutting	\$4,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction
Cut/remove oak tree which fell on wires, vehicles, fences and street	Public Works and Park Services	Sharp Tree Service	\$3,875	SSD - Public Works

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
300 ton of GABC stone	Public Works and Park Services	Carroll & Carroll	\$5,625	SSD - Public Works
200 copies of policy and procedure manual	Detention Center	Print Shop of Savannah	\$3,962	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center

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### 3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

#### ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Status reports were attached for review.

**AGENDA ITEM:** XIII-3 Roads  
**AGENDA DATE:** October 3, 2008

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

**FROM:** Leon Davenport, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

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

**BACKGROUND:** Based on letters dated September 16, 2008, from the GDOT, the GDOT will not work on any County sponsored projects except for the Truman Parkway, Phase 5.

#### FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. Property acquisitions are complete. Possession of all properties will be finalized on October 14, 2008. Expect to be ready to certify right of way by the end of October. Except for removing docks from the Vernon River and removal of a few items and fence along White Bluff Rd, demolition required for ROW certification is complete. Utility relocation agreement with Georgia Power was approved by the Board on September 5, 2008. The Final Field Plan Review (FFPR) is pending scheduling by the GDOT. Construction funding in the State TIP is programmed for FY 2010.

2. Diamond Causeway.

a. The GDOT is pursuing a design/build contract in FY 2009 to construct a two lane high level bridge over Skidaway Narrows to replace the bascule bridge.

b. On July 25 the Board approved a contract to construct a traffic signal with turn lanes at State Park Road and to widen the section of roadway from the existing traffic signal at Lake Street to State Park Road. The NTP was issued August 27, 2008. The scheduled completion date is April 6, 2009.

3. Local Roads.

a. Troy Street, Catherine Street, Adeline Street, Thomas Avenue, Billings Road, Elmhurst Road, Beechwood Road, Ridgewood Road. Being designed for paving.

b. Intersection improvements at Little Neck Road and US 17. Board approved a construction contract on July 25. The NTP was issued August 18, 2008. The scheduled completion date is January 25, 2008.

c. Bond Avenue, Betran Avenue. Bond Avenue ROW acquisitions are complete, drainage may be modified which will not affect ROW. Waiting on legal opinion to continue on Betran Avenue.

d. Brandy Road, Pyeland Avenue. Final right of way and construction plans are complete. ROW acquisition is underway. Anticipate award of construction contracts by the end of the year.

e. Wright Avenue, Fenwick Avenue. Under design.

f. Intersection improvements on Chatham Parkway at Veterans Parkway and Garrard Avenue. Being designed to install traffic signals at the interchange and at the intersection.

g. Intersection improvements on King George Blvd. at Grove Point Road. Being designed to install turn lanes and signalize the intersection.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.

Districts: All

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Drainage**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

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

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

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

**FACTS AND FINDING:**

1. Pipemakers Canal. The Pipemakers Canal extends from Bloomingdale to the Savannah River (over 13 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, flood control structures to reduce tidal influence, bridges and culverts. Channel improvements downstream 1.4 miles from I-95 were completed in 2000. Construction of a sluice gate structure and channel improvements from SR 21 to the Savannah River (about 1.4 miles) were completed in 2005. Design of canal improvements downstream from the Airport to SR21 are complete. The US Army Corps of Engineers permit for channel improvements downstream of I-95 is approved. Right of way acquisition is underway.

2. Hardin Canal. The Hardin Canal extends from Bloomingdale to Salt Creek near US 17 (over 12 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, bridges and culverts. Several years of delay resulted from objections by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A project to replace culverts under SR 307 with bridges is designed. Right of way acquisition is underway. The goal is to have the project under construction in 2009.

3. Conaway Branch Canal. The Conaway Canal extends from Bloomingdale at US 80 to Pipemakers Canal (about 1.6 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and larger culverts. Except for revisions to comply with changes in State laws on soil erosion and water quality, the design is complete. Negotiations are underway to secure the final parcel of right of way for the project.

4. Little Hurst Canal. Improvements consist of constructing a new culvert under the railroad east of SR 21. Work is underway to acquire easements and rights of way, and to acquire permits for construction. Design will commence after accomplishing these tasks.

5. Wilmington Park Canal. The Wilmington Park Canal extends from North Cromwell Road to the the Wilmington River (about 1.4 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and culverts. Construction of new culverts with tide gates

at Wilmington Park Road was completed in 2002. Design is underway to widen and stabilize the channel in the area of Wilmington Park Road.

6. Kings Way Canal. The Kings Way Canal extends from the Kingswood Subdivision to Whitefield Avenue (about 0.7 mile). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and culverts. Phase 1 was completed in 2005 as a part of the construction of Truman Parkway. Phase 2 is under construction and is scheduled to be complete in early 2009.

7. Village Green. This project constructed an outfall canal and provided access for canal maintenance. Project is substantially complete as of October 2008.

8. Dundee Canal. This project improves the tidegate structure and concrete headwalls. The project is under construction and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2008.

9. Louis Mills / Redgate Canal. The Louis Mills and Redgate Canals are tributaries to the South Springfield Canal. For construction, this project was combined with the Westlake project to replace the culverts under CSX railroad. On September 19, 2008 the Board approved rejecting all bids.

10. Ogeechee Farms Area. The Ogeechee Farms project includes improvements to canals and culverts. Phase 1 was completed in July 2005 (piping about 0.2 mile of channel south of Vidalia Road and replacing a road crossing at Waynesboro Road). Phase 2 includes improving about 1.2 miles of channel and culverts (under roads and at Hodges Airport), and providing maintenance access. Design continues. Rights of way and easements must be acquired for construction.

11. Fawcett Canal. The Fawcett Canal serves the Georgetown area. The drainage system includes a network of open channels, culverts and storm drain pipes. Lagoons managed by the homeowners association are a functional part of the system. Phase 1 (completed in 2002) involved about 1.4 miles of canal widening and new tide gates at Grove Point Road. Improvements to the lagoons were completed in 2005. Construction is underway to replace storm drain pipes along Red Fox Drive to relieve flooding at White Hawthorn Drive.

12. Quacco Canal. The Quacco Canal extends from the Little Ogeechee River to the Regency Mobile Home Park (about 4 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, larger road culverts, and providing access for maintenance. Completed work includes enlarging the US 17 culvert. Removal of the rice box structure at the outfall is substantially complete. Design to improve road culverts along Quacco Road and construct channel improvements to protect the Regency Mobile Home park is complete. Right of way acquisition is underway.

13. Norwood Drainage Outfalls. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance. Four outfalls along Norwood, between Skidaway Road and Lester Avenue are being considered for improvements. Current work involves engineering work to identify potential improvements and define project scopes.

14. Golden Isles. The project involves improving the storm water collection system to relieve the severity and frequency of flooding within the community. Phase 1 was completed in 1997 (channel improvements and larger storm drain pipes between Blue Heron Drive and Golden Isles Way). Phase 2 (replacing driveway crossdrains and improving roadside ditches) is now complete.

15. Henderson/Gateway. Drainage is provided by the Little Neck Canal and the Henderson Branch Canal (combined length about 2 miles). Development of the subdivisions led to increased rates and volumes of storm water runoff which the canals cannot handle. Design is underway to replace culverts at Little Neck Road, at Henderson Oaks Drive and at a golf path crossing.

16. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. Design is underway to replace two culverts and a storm drain pipe at Beaulieu Avenue. County Attorney assistance to secure a temporary right of access agreement with a property owner to correct a ditch drainage problem is pending.

17. Grange Road Canal. The project to relieve flooding extends from Pipemakers Canal to north of Grange Road (about 1.8 miles). The original concept identified the need for an outfall to the Savannah River within the unopened right of way of Grange

Road. In 2007, the GPA requested that the right of way be abandoned for a container berth expansion. Staff is working to coordinate the County's needs for drainage improvements with GPA's needs to expand.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.

Districts: All

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

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

A status report was attached for review.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

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

**ISSUE:** Provide Board a status update on RAP

##### **BACKGROUND:**

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

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

1. FY 06 staff was able to accomplish the following:
  - In-house renovation of Lake Mayer's Restrooms
  - Installed new infield mix for Ambuc Park, L. Scott Stell, and Charlie Brooks Park
  - Installed new backstop and foul line fencing for Ambuc Park
  - Hired nine Maintenance Workers
  - Replaced the scoreboards at Ambuc, L. Scott Stell, and Charlie Brooks Park
  - Replaced all roofs at Memorial Stadium
  - Purchased three new vehicles
  - Purchased material for the renovation of the restroom at Ambuc Park
  - Painted the exterior of the concession stand at L. Scott Stell, and Ambuc Park
  - Contracts were awarded to replace the roof on the large pavilion at Lake Mayer, and reconstruct/resurface eighteen tennis courts
2. FY 07 staff completed the following:
  - All eighteen tennis courts were renovated or re-constructed.
  - Tom Triplett Park Bridge is completed
  - Frank W. Spencer Boat Ramp - Renovation is completed and the restrooms were re-opened
3. FY 08 staff completed the following:
  - Westlake Neighborhood Park - Playground Equipment installation is completed.
  - Lamarville Neighborhood Park - Playground Equipment installation is completed.
  - Salt Creek Complex - Playground Equipment installation is completed.
  - Replacement of the pavilion at Grey's Subdivision is completed
  - Replacement of the pavilion at Runaway Point Park is completed
  - Replacement of the fence at Memorial Stadium is completed.
  - Repaired bridges at L. Scott Stell that connects park with playground/picnic area.
  - Replacement of light wiring for tennis courts at Lake Mayer is completed.

- Kings Ferry Pavilions Roofs were completed the end of July.
  - Lake Mayer - Re-roofing of Restroom, Boathouse, Administration Building is completed.
  - Ambuc Sports Lighting - Installation of new lights is now completed.
4. Status of CIP project recently approved by the Board:
- Fred Thompson has been assigned as Project Manager to manage CIP projects for Park Services.
  - Turners Creek Boat Ramp parking lot paving - Engineering is currently working with a consultant for design.
  - Kings Ferry Park - New Restrooms design in progress
  - Installation of the playground equipment at Hodge-Turner-Young is expected to start 9/29/08.
5. RAP improvements identified in Park Services operating budget for FY 08.
- Jim Golden Complex backstop replacement -Field layout provided by Chain Baseball and an engineer was hired to revise the plans to bid out.
  - Change water source at the Soccer Complex - Design completion is pending.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Board Information Only

**[All Districts]**

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**5. TO PROVIDE THE BOARD INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW \$4 GENERIC MEDICATION PROGRAM.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached for review.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-5****AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**

**To:** Board of Commissioners

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

**From:** Michael A. Kaigler, Director  
Human Resources and Services

**Issue:**

To provide the Board information on the implementation of the new \$4 generic medication program.

**Background:** At the September 19, 2008 Board meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved the implementation of a new drug benefit that will allow employees to be reimbursed for \$4 or \$10 generic medications from Kroger, Rite Aid, Target, Walgreens or Wal-Mart.

**Facts and Findings:**

1. Various retail establishments have programs where individuals can purchase a 30-day supply of generic medications for \$4 or a 90-day supply for \$10 without any additional costs to the health plan.
2. Based on data from Blue Cross Blue Shield, the coverage cost to Chatham County for a generic medication under the current prescription plan is \$17.00. Blue Cross Blue Shield has estimated that for every prescription filled under the

new program, the County could save \$13.00 per prescription and the prescription would be free to the employee.

- 3. Blue Cross Blue Shield is exploring the possibility of restructuring the current prescription benefit to allow employees to use their Blue Cross Blue Shield medical card to purchase specified generic medications without a co-pay. Chatham County will only be charged \$4 when the employee receives a prescription under this program. This process will allow electronic tracking for multiple purposes such as verification of benefits, fraud prevention and disease management. If Blue Cross Blue Shield can adjust their system to allow this change in benefit, this plan should be implemented by November 1, 2008.
- 4. If Blue Cross Blue Shield cannot adjust their system to handle the new generic program, a process will be developed where County employees will be reimbursed at the end of each month upon providing receipts to Human Resources. This plan would also be implemented by November 1, 2008.
- 5. A formal communication plan will be developed upon establishment of the program and the Board will be provided with quarterly reports on savings associated with the plan.

**Funding:** No additional funding required. Any funding for implementation and reimbursement will come from the health plan.

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

**Recommendation:** This item is for informational purposes only.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Stone and seconded by Commissioner Holmes, the Board recessed at 12:30 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:58 p.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**1. COASTAL AREA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to appoint Mr. James Drake, Jr., to the CADD Board with a term to expire October 1, 2011. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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**2. RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMISSION**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to confirm the appointment of Mr. Meddy Settles to the Resource Protection Commission by Chairman Liakakis with a term to expire June 40, 2009. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay, Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Thomas were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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**APPROVED:** THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

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

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