

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 26. 2009.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Liakakis introduced the Reverend Benny Mitchell, who gave the Invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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

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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. 2008-2009 YOUTH COMMISSION GRADUATION CEREMONY.**

Chairman Liakakis said, we've got in fact a couple of good, really great ceremonies today, and the first one, of course, is our 2008-2009 graduation class from our Youth Commission, and we've got the number one Youth Commission in the entire country. In fact, since Priscilla Thomas, Commissioner Priscilla Thomas came up with the idea and the Commission joined, their have been many cities and counties around the country that have set up their own Youth Commission because they see how good the one is in Chatham County and, of course, the City of Savannah also has Junior Youth Council also. And what I'd like to do right now is call on Commissioner Priscilla Thomas and then also that we're going to have Van Johnson, who's done an excellent job as the Director of the Chatham County Youth Commission. If they will start the proceedings.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my great honor to have with us this morning the graduation — graduating class of the 2008-2009 Youth Commission here to present them and to give you some words of wisdom our Director Van Johnson. Mr. Johnson.

[NOTE: The presentation began with a short video of the Youth Commissioners' visit to Washington, DC, and New York City.]

Mr. Van Johnson said, good morning, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, ladies and gentlemen. Certainly today is a very exciting day in Chatham County because we often talk a lot about graduations and we talk about what graduations and we talk about what graduations mean to our collective community, but also here in Chatham County we also consider it commencement, which means that it's the beginning of something new, something big, not only for the Chatham County Youth Commission, but through your vision of the Construction Apprentice Program.

What can I say about the Chatham County Youth Commission. Every year it gets better, every year it gets bigger, every year our impact is larger, every year these young people expand their horizons — every year. They are out in the community, throughout our collective nation, showing individuals that again Chatham County is the epicenter for youth involvement, youth development and youth empowerment. And that's been through the vision of Dr. Priscilla Thomas, who now almost 17 years ago had this vision of bringing young people to the forefront of our community, and Commissions such as yourself and those before you have wholeheartedly embraced this concept and the results are more and more evident. As a matter of fact, truth be told I realized the evidence of just that impact when during a Parent Orientation we had one of our former Youth Commissioners, Rizza Palmares, who came and addressed our parents, and if you did not know, she was recently — she became the first Asian-American female to be the President of the Mercer Law School student body, right here from Chatham County. And she said, quite eloquently, that if it was not for the Youth Commission, her choices would have been different. So as we know today is a day of budget adoption and we talk about where to put our monies and where to put our best efforts, but I certainly submit to you that among the many things, the wonderful things that you do, if you look out in front of you, the faces of those that are young and those that are a little older, that you're making an impact by helping them to help themselves, and I think totally when it's all said and done, our character and our community is just a whole lot better.

I definitely thank Dr. Thomas for all that she has done for us and what she continues to do in terms of her vision and her guiding light to us. To all of you for the work that you all do and the way you embrace these young people. When I speak across the country in places that are trying to do youth commissions and youth councils, one of the interesting things is that some of your colleagues will say, "You mean they actually talk to the kids?" Yes, you actually talk to the kids. It just seems kind of ludicrous to them that that type of relationship would exist, but I think that you all are creating a new definition of cool by helping to grow your own leaders. To Mr. Abolt for his unwavering support of the Youth Commission from the very beginning, to my Director Mr. Kaigler, to my advisors that have helped me to help manage this process of almost 50 young people every year, Ms. Debra Allen, Ms. Takiyah Martin, Ms. Marilyn Rodriguez, and then our graduate advisors, Ms. Taquaa Saleem, Ms. ZaDonna Slay and Mr. John Hawkins, our Public Information Director Mr. Pete Nichols. Let's give them a round of applause [Applause.] for the work that they do because if it was not for them, we would not be where we are right now.

Also, the schools from public and private throughout this community who not only recommend these young people for service. They also fully support their service by excusing them for every minute that they are out of school, and you'll hear about some of those wonderful results. And absolutely, positively the parents, the parents that we're very pleased to give, some of them back too. We're happy that now hopefully that they are better people, that they are better students, and they are ready for the next step because we've had the opportunity to be a part of their village for just a little while. So would all of our parents please stand, parents and loved ones of all of our Youth Commissioners. Parents, all these happy people. We thank them, don't we?

And also we're very pleased to have with us — each class gets better, and we are currently now working on our next class of Youth Commissioners, and they are our candidates and they are here watching today. So all of our candidates stand, people who want to be Youth Commissioners. We have some of them as well. Give them a round of applause. [Applause.] They have to earn their way onto the Chatham County Youth Commission and they are planning on doing that during this Summer.

If you would, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, if you'll come down at this time and we will make the graduation presentations. Because of the — their's a scheduling quirk in our school year, and because of that many of our young people are already starting college. They got out one week and the following week they were on their way starting college. So we're very excited about that.

Our chairperson has already started college. She is on a much deserved vacation, and I think we gave her a break for that and she is Sheray Franklin. She graduated from Savannah Arts Academy and she will be going to Oklahoma City University. She's been with us for three years. I think her parent is here. Come on up.

Our vice chair is Desirae Suggs, who's been with us for three years, and this young lady I remember some years ago called me incessantly so she could become a member of the Youth Commission. She is going to Union University. Desirae Suggs.

We're going to ask if the parents will come up because obviously this is your honor as well. We want the parents to share in this too.

Ms. Monique Pal is not with us. She is our fourth Youth Commissioner to make it to a U. S. Military Academy. She received a full ride to the United States Air Force Academy and she is there training as we speak. So her sister is here to pick up her award.

Mr. Shawn Knight is a young man I've known since he was a little boy and now he is a grown man, or he thinks he is, but he has been with us now for three years and he is on his way to Bethune Cookman University.

Lauren Cummings is a legacy member with us. Her big sister Danielle was also on the Youth Commission. She graduated from Jenkins High School and she is going to Georgia State University.

Erica Green has been with us for three years. She graduated from Beach High School and she's going to Valdosta State University. I know her grandmother is here.

Asia Calhoun graduated from Beach High School. She's been with us two years. She was a salutatorian with her class, and she is going to Claflin University. And she missed being a valedictorian by what, .02 something. We were trying to push it up, but it didn't work.

Brandi Chaney has been with us for three years. She graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and she is going to Valdosta State University.

Angela Coleman graduated — she was with us two years. She graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and she is going to Paine College.

Rajan Dulamal graduated from Benedictine Military College and he is already at Mercer University, and I believe his entire family is not here, so we'll present that to him.

Jamesha English was with us for three years. She graduated from St. Andrew's and she is already at Agnes Scott College.

Keyuanna Green was with us for two years and she graduated from Jenkins High School. She will be going to Georgia Southern University.

Samone Hagins graduated from Jenkins High School. She's been with us for two years and she is going to Howard University, and I believe her Auntie is here.

Kendra Johnson graduated — or Ticia [phonetic] as her friends call her — has been with us for two years. She graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and she is going to Albany State.

Sherelle Jones has been with us for two years. She graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and Sherelle is going to Georgia State University.

Priscilla Peay has been with us for three years. She graduated from St. Andrews, and she will be going to Valdosta State University.

This young lady, I do want to take a moment to say something about her. I'm going to tell her business because I think it just shows you want an awesome program that we have here in Chatham County. When Kathryn Pinckney, Kathryn Pinckney was in an alternative school. Kathryn Pinckney was expelled from school for some issues that she had, and we told her that if she wanted to work, we would help her to work. Well, Kathryn Pinckney graduated from Groves High School valedictorian of her class and she is going to the University of Georgia. We are not interested in any excuses.

Shaniqua Purvis graduated also from Groves High School and she's been with us for three years, and Shaniqua is going to Georgia State University.

Byron Spellman was with us for two years. He graduated from Jenkins High School and he'll be right here at Savannah Technical College. And Byron thinks he's the coolest Youth Commissioner. He's a legion in his own mind.

And last, and certainly not least, JaLisa Williams, graduate from Johnson High School. She's been with us for two years, and she will be going to the best college in the world, Savannah State University, where you can get anywhere from here. JaLisa had to go to Cleveland, Ohio, so she's — to represent Savannah in a National Top Teens of America. That's where she is.

Ladies and gentlemen, 2008-2009 Chatham County Youth Commission graduates. [Applause.] Please have a seat at this time.

I wanted to mention again that our chairperson could not be here, but she wanted to use this opportunity to at least give some greetings, and so we wanted to arrange that to make that happen at this time.

Chairman Liakakis said, as we can see from the Chatham County Youth Commission what a wonderful opportunity to that. See, all of them are going to college or universities and all, but since this idea and vision came from Commissioner Priscilla Thomas, we have had hundreds of the graduates and the majority of them, almost all of them, have gone to a university or college. Many of them now have — some of them have their own business, a number of them are very successful in their endeavors that they have, and we're really glad that this County Commission can sponsor them because we see that a number of lives have been turned around and, as was mentioned by Van Johnson about the turnaround of one specific graduate and it's great that we have this Chatham County Youth Commission, and when they go to Washington, DC, many of the senators or house members meet them on occasion and they've been interviewed by the major networks in the country. So it's a terrific thing that we do have this Chatham County Youth Commission, and I'd like to thank Priscilla Thomas, Commissioner Thomas and also Van Johnson, and all of those, the mentors and those that work with the staff and all to help and put them in the right direction because we see wonderful things happening in our community. Van [Johnson].

Youth Commissioner Shaniqua Purvis said, good morning, County Commissioners, public officials, my fellow Youth Commissioners, family, friends and guests. It is with great pleasure that I appear with you today. For some, this is your third time and for others only your first, but through it all we have come a long way. We have been through a nice retreat, countless sighs and the wrath of Alderman Johnson. In the midst of all the excitement, we have lived by our five core values: respect, success, affluence, integrity, and leadership. Respect — We give even though it is as youth it is not often received. Success — What we strive for. Influence — The result of our leadership. Integrity — Which is in some cases the road less traveled. And Leadership — What we are best at.

When thinking of what you should remember from the Chatham County Youth Commission, I realize we are the cream of the crop. We are future public offenders, public officials, commissioners, CEOs and entertainers. We are the individuals our peers look to for advice. So with this in mind, I leave you with advice, but even more importantly, memories. I advise you to follow a path that will bring you much success keeping in mind that this may not guarantee affluence. In addition, lead a life that is suitable for generations to follow. But now for memories. Remember our rained out youth rally that turned into a mud party, or even our one hour shopping spree in Times Square, or the gummies at every meeting. Even the cold hands that left our pockets to wave on the Today Show, and let's not forget the random girl that danced at the Capitol, which happens to be the same random girl who came to Daffin Park in a floor-length prom dress.

I leave you with memories. Fond memories of the times we've spent together and of the times we'll be remembered as family. Graduates of the Youth Commission, congratulations. But I'm sure you can join me in saying: Once a Youth Commission, always a Youth Commissioner.

Youth Commission Desirae Suggs said, good morning. My name is Desirae Suggs and I served as vice chair during the last year. The Chatham County Youth Commission has provided me with the greatest [inaudible] of what my true potential really is and the shy is not the limit. Personally, I think all of the graduates of this great whole [inaudible] will continue our pursuit of excellence long after Youth Commission and into our adulthood. We have had the distinct opportunity to have traveled, experienced, planned and enjoy. On behalf of the graduates of the Chatham County Youth Commission we would like to thank Chairman Pete Liakakis and the Board members of the Commission for funding us in tough economic times, advisers for always being guiding lights in our lives, especially Dr. Thomas for birthing a vision and impacting so many lives. Without your significant contributions to this community, many of us would not have blossomed into great people who have a desire to serve and improve our lives and the lives of others. Therefore, on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, we would like to present you with a token of our sincere appreciation. [A bouquet of roses were presented to Dr. Thomas.]

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you so very much. This was totally unexpected, and I do accept these on behalf of the Chairman and the Board of Commissioners for their loyal support throughout the years, and I know that you will continue to support these young people. I don't know what else to say other than the fact that I am just so proud and overwhelmed and I bid you God's speed.

Ms. ZaDonna Slay said, good morning, the Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the Year Award is named after one of our very own, who I had the pleasure of serving with, who left us much too soon in 2004. We have had the pleasure of presenting this award every year to the youth commissioner who in the opinion of their peers exemplifies the very best that the Youth Commission has to offer in terms of respect, success, influence, integrity and leadership. Here to present the 2009 Brandon Brown Youth Commissioner of the Year Award is Brandon's mother, Ms. Sadie Brown.

Ms. Sadie Brown said, good morning. Before I present this award, let me — Chairman Liakakis said, come to the microphone. We want everybody to hear you. Ms. Brown said, before I present this, I'd like to say to the Commission, what you do here for the young people is everlasting. I hope this program continues for years to come — for years to come. The reason why I'm saying that, this past year at the Classics, Florida A&M honored a young man, the first young man they ever paid tribute to in the history of Florida A&M University, and that young man was Brandon Brown. At the Classics they did a 30-minute presentation highlighting his years both here at Youth Commission and all of the other organizations that he was a part of. And also, Van [Johnson], I want you to know, we didn't tell you, but you and ZaDonna [Slay] in the memorial also. And I would like to present the Brandon Brown Award to — you may have to help me with the last name — Samantha Schikowski.

Ms. Brown said, I just love it when y'all come up so happy to get this. Also, Brandon's nickname was "Little Tiger." Every time you rub this little foot here, think of him as a baby.

Youth Commissioner Kathryn Pinckney said, hello. Our next recipient we can only best describe through a video. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself. We want everybody to know your name because this is being filmed today. Youth Commissioner Pinckney said, I'm sorry. Good morning, I'm Kathryn Pinckney.

Mr. Johnson said, Kathryn [Pinckney] is here to introduce the winners of the 2009 Beverly M. Whitehead Award. The Beverly M. Whitehead Award is in memory of Chatham County's Human Resources Director who, as many of you know, was instrumental in helping Dr. Thomas formulate the Youth Commission. As a matter of fact, took it on as a staff option when Dr. Thomas and Mr. Abolt came to her with the idea. So when she left us in 1998, we found a way to be able to remember her and we say her name every year to recognize the person, persons or organizations that have helped further the cause of youth in this community through the Chatham County Youth Commission.

Youth Commissioner Pinckney said, our first recipient we can only best describe through a video. [A short video from TV newscasts including such statements as "Darius Weems is facing the challenge of a lifetime, a deadly disease, but as he copes, he and his friends are setting an amazing example and teaching lessons in life." His goal in making a film entitled "Darius Goes West" was to raise \$17,000,000 for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.] Youth Commissioner Pinckney said, it is my pleasure to present the 2009 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to Darius Goes West. Here to receive this award on behalf of Darius [Weems] and the crew is Ms. Marty Johnson, who was instrumental in the development of Darius Goes West.

Ms. Marty Johnson said, let me just take this opportunity to say to everybody Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is the number one genetic killer of young males in the United States of America. These young people took it on because they all became friends and wanted to do something great. As you saw in the film clip, their goal is to raise \$17,000,000. They are well over the \$2,000,000 mark at this point. A lot of it is because of our Youth Commission bringing it to Savannah and helping them sell DVDs. This group of young people were a part of a program that I was involved with when I worked in Athens, Georgia, and I can't tell you how much that group reminds me of the Chatham County Youth Commission. I don't think we do enough to say good things about all the good young people in our community that are out there striving every day. As many of you know, I'm the Civic Center Director. I see these young people in our building probably on average 25 to 50 times a year representing Chatham County. Always growing up, watching them become more outgoing every time they step into the building and you guys should be really proud of how they represent you. Thank you all and thank you. You guys buy your DVDs for Darius Goes West. [Inaudible] know about it.

Chairman Liakakis said, Marty [Johnson], hold on just a minute. A number of you know Marty, as she mentioned, she's the Director for the Savannah Civic Center. She's done an outstanding job over the years, but she's also a community activist, always helping and things and especially people coming to the Civic Center and reaching out to do things in the community, so on behalf of the County Commission, Marty, we thank you for all the things that you do.

Youth Commissioner Asia Calhoun said, good morning. My name is Asia Calhoun. Our second recipient is one of our strongest supporters of the Chatham County Youth Commission and of youth in Savannah, Chatham County, in general. While she is quiet, she is also firm with lots of ideas. It is because of her efforts that the Chatham County Youth Commission became affiliated with Darius Goes West. We love her and it is our pleasure to present the 2009 Beverly M. Whitehead Award to Ms. Marty Johnson.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's it, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. What I'd like to do right now is introduce the incoming officers for this coming year for the Chatham County Youth Commission, and as I call your name, will you stand up as I call your name. Tilly Isaacson is the Chairperson-Elect. Samantha Schikowski is the Vice Chairperson-Elect, and we have on the end Meredith Stone, who is the Secretary-Elect.

While we thank all the graduates today, we appreciate you and the things that you'll be doing in the future and, of course, to all of those that are involved. Thank you very much.

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## **2. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO CLASS 11 OF THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next on board we have the presentation of certificates of Class 11 of the Construction Apprentice Program, and this has been a program that the Chatham County Commission started in 2005. We've seen a lot of successes with this. Many of them go through the Savannah Technical College. They get their training for work skill and then, of course, Step Up, the apprentice program people work to get them jobs in our community and offer them opportunities that might not have been there for them. So we really appreciate all of the staff people and, of course, all of those apprentices who are here today because you are great. We want you to know we wish you many

successes in the community. So what I'd like to do is call on Daniel Dodd, who heads up the program, and his other staff members that might be here today for the presentation.

Mr. Jim Stephenson said, Mr. Chairman, Daniel [Dodd] is out of the country taking a well-deserved break, and my name is Jim Stephenson, Chairman of the Board for Step Up Savannah, and I'm delighted to be here in his place today. We certainly want to thank the Chatham County Commission for partnering with Step Up for this very important program that's in place to help reduce poverty in Chatham County and the City of Savannah, and it's been a great program and we're already up to the 11<sup>th</sup> graduating class, and before we turn into that graduating program I'd also like to recognize the 12<sup>th</sup> class of the Construction Apprentice Program that's here with us today, and they're going through life skills. So if y'all would stand and be recognized. [Applause.] Mr. Stephenson said, I'd like to turn the program over to Tara Sinclair and she'll take us through the graduation. Thank you very much.

Ms. Tara Sinclair said, good morning, Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Tara Sinclair and I am the Program Manager for Construction Apprentice Program. As always it is a pleasure to stand before you this morning in recognizing the 11<sup>th</sup> class of the Construction Apprentice Program. Class 11 actually assisted us with implementing two goals. The first goal was to extend the program to 26 weeks no longer than 16 weeks, and this is to add on a last component through Savannah Tech. The second goal was to volunteer with at least three community projects, and they've completed two.

Today we have 15 students that will be graduating; however, we do have three that wasn't able to be here today. Two also acknowledged Chief Berkow, Major Long and their staff for trusting the CAP program to renovate two of their projects this year for them. Chief Berkow, are you still here? Okay, well, we would like to acknowledge him for that.

On a different note, to date Ms. Williams and I have brought before you about eight graduating classes, and here's just a brief update on Classes 4 through 9. The men and women that I would acknowledge are employed with the same companies when they graduated the program, which for us speaks much success. These students aren't here, but this is just information for you. Class 4 graduated in June of 2007 and we have Wallace Bell, who's still with R&R Electric, Brian Garner, who just received his Associate's Degree from Savannah Tech in Electrical Construction. Class 5 graduated September '07 and we have Carla Siebert, who's still employed with Bradley Electric, Wallace Douglas, who's also still employed with Rico Strong Construction [phonetic]. Class 6 graduated December 2007. Kelvin McGert, who's employed with Chatham County, Terameka Worthy, who's still employed with Trinity Electric. Class 7 graduated March 2008. Reginald Green works as an independent contractor and Michael Priester is actually a lead man on a crew on Fort Stewart. Class 8 graduated 2008. Charles Wilheit is a maintenance supervisor in an apartment complex and he also serves on the Step Up Board. Kareem Tanksley is currently employed with the Housing Authority of Savannah. Class 9 graduated September 2008 and we have Frankie Middleton, who's also working as an independent contractor, and Frankie is Ms. Frankie Middleton. Class 10 graduated December 2008 and we have Benjamin Love, who works with EIC on the Sustainable Fellwood Project, and then we have Daniel Benella [phonetic] with B&B Contractors.

I decided to share this information with you so that you will know that we do have a follow-up process. We track our students for a year. Even once that year is over, students are constantly contacting us and we continue to provide job contracts along with interviewing skills. Whatever their need is, we try to address that.

But without further ado, I would like to present to you the 11<sup>th</sup> graduating class of CAP. As I call your name, would you please form a line behind me. Torian Adger, Anthony Dudley, Michael Eady, Robert Heyward, Michael Hopkins, Keven Jeffries, Eric Johnson, Hosea Miles, Jean Richards, Lamont Sams, Ricardo Sellers, and Torrence Thornton. Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, I present to you the 11<sup>th</sup> graduating class of CAP.

We have two students who would actually like to share a few words on the experience with CAP. First we'll have Torrence Thornton.

Mr. Thornton said, good morning, Commissioners. First, I'd like to thank the County and Savannah for the CAP program for giving us an opportunity, a second chance, and it's a pleasure that my voice be heard to a lot of overseers of the program, Director Ms. Sinclair, Ms. Williams, and the graduating class of number eleven. When we started this class, she said, look to your left and look to your right, and those who you see are not going to be there until the end. Well, the ones you see up here endowed to the end and we learned a very good trade. We learned how to do blueprints, we learned how to form concrete and stuff like that. So I would say it was a pleasure for us to do this, and it was a pleasure for y'all because — an opportunity because some of us haven't graduated since high school and it's given us a second chance. As the songwriter said, thank God for a second chance. I'm going to thank y'all for a second chance too.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you, Torrence [Thornton]. We'll have Keven Jeffries.

Mr. Jeffries said, when I first came here from Atlanta, Georgia, in October, I was unemployed. Someone introduced me to Ms. Sinclair and the CAP program, and since then I've learned various new skills that have taken me to places that have been shutting in my face since I've been here. And now I'm gainfully employed and striving to go forward. Thank you.

Ms. Sinclair said, now we will present the certificates. The Commissioners who wish to join us, please come forward. [Certificates were presented to the following students.] Ms. Sinclair said, Torian Adger, Anthony Dudley, Michael Eady, Robert Heyward, Michael Hopkins, Keven Jeffries, Eric Johnson, Hosea Miles, Jean Richards, Lamont Sams, Ricardo Sellers, and Torrence Thornton. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, we want all the graduates of the Apprentice Program to know we wish you many successes and all. We're glad that we were able to give you this opportunity and may God bless all of the graduates from Chatham County Youth Commission and also the graduates from the Step Up Apprentice Program that the County has. Thank you all. Jim [Stephenson], thank you for filling in for Daniel [Dodd] today. Mr. Stephenson said, you're welcome.

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## **VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

### **1. ALARM ORDINANCE (CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS AND COMMISSIONER FARRELL).**

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we'll resume the meeting. Now, we had quite a few visitors and all with us today, and under Item VI, Alarm Ordinance, and Commissioner Farrell and I were concerned about this. I'm quite familiar with the Alarm Ordinances, especially the one that the City has, and I'd like to all on Commissioner Farrell to speak on it and then I'll say a few words.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently we became aware of the lack of uniformity between the City and the unincorporated area in the burglar alarm, false alarm situation, and I think this gives us an opportunity today to bring the two areas under one set of guidelines and rules throughout the unincorporated area and the City of Savannah so it's easily understood by the citizens, and what this will help to do is to eliminate some of the false alarms where we're using precious resources from our Metro Police Department for chasing ghosts, if you will. So with this ordinance, we hope to make our Metropolitan Police Department more efficient in fighting crime by spending less time chasing false alarms.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, because you might have gotten information from the news media at one time in the City of Savannah there were over 26,000 false alarms and there were over 95 — 98% of those false alarms — alarms were false and it tied up the resources of the police department. Sometimes they would be there an hour or two and it could be one or two police officers, and that reduced the safety of our citizens. So we're recommending today, Commissioner Farrell and I, that we have the staff bring to us and adopt the same ordinance for false alarms that the City of Savannah has because using that same alarm, it's easier for the Metropolitan Police Department to be able to handle those alarm calls that they have, and I'd like a motion on the floor now that we direct the staff to bring forth that information so that we might adopt the City of Savannah's false alarm ordinance.

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

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

Commissioner Odell said, just for clarification. We are adopting the City of Savannah's ordinance, which means that it will be set down for first reading and go through the normal? County Attorney Hart said, correct. It's —. County Manager Abolt said, it's directing staff, sir. Commissioner Odell said, that answers my question.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I just wanted, you know, to be very clear on it. We're going to adopt their ordinance word for word so you don't have police officers out there having to see which one they're enforcing? Commissioner Farrell said, absolutely.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. It will make it more efficient and all. County Attorney Hart said, substitute words, yes.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll just state quickly that when I was Mayor of Garden City we enacted a similar policy and it helps really cut down on the false alarms. So it's a good thing.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Let's go on the board . The motion carried unanimously.. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Farrell moved to direct staff to bring to the Commission for adoption the same ordinance for false alarms that is enforced by the City of Savannah. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

None.

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**VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS**

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

None.

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS: (1) GENERAL FUND M&O A) TRANSFER OF \$3,200 FROM MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES TO OVERTIME IN THE ICS BUDGET, B) TRANSFER OF \$4,200 FROM TRAVEL TO TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES SALARIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE BUDGET, C) TRANSFER \$78,000 FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO UTILITIES, D) TRANSFER \$150,000 FROM PANEL OF ATTORNEYS TO COUNTY ATTORNEY, E) TRANSFER \$215,000 FROM THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, F) TRANSFER \$150,000 FROM THE CNT BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, G) TRANSFER \$200,000 FROM THE MOSQUITO CONTROL BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, H) TRANSFER \$138,000 FROM THE TAX ASSESSOR'S BUDGET TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, I) TRANSFER \$5,000 FROM ICS, \$96,000 FROM COMMUNICATION AND \$43,000 FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO TRANSFER OUT TO CIP, J) AND TRANSFER \$4,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO CLERK OF COMMISSION FOR BOOKS, (2) AMENDMENTS TO THE CIP FUND TO: A) RECOGNIZE A TRANSFER IN FROM THE GENERAL M&O FUND OF \$847,000 AND INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS \$359,000 FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT, \$150,000 FOR MARINE PATROL GRANT MATCH, \$200,000 FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL EQUIPMENT, \$138,000 TAX ASSESSOR'S SOFTWARE, AND (2) IN THE CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND A) APPROPRIATE \$20,000 FOR THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, B) APPROPRIATE \$40,000 FOR THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM.**

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

Commissioner Odell said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Any discussion? Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Farrell moved that the Board approve the following: budget transfers and amendments: (1) General Fund M&O a) transfer of \$3,200 from Management Consulting Services to Overtime in the ICS budget, b) transfer of \$4,200 from travel to Temporary Employees Salaries in the Construction Apprentice budget, c) transfer \$78,000 from Community Outreach to Utilities, d) transfer \$150,000 from Panel of Attorneys to County Attorney, e) transfer \$215,000 from the Clerk of Superior Court budget to Transfer Out to CIP, f) transfer \$150,000 from the CNT budget to Transfer Out to CIP, g) transfer \$200,000 from the Mosquito Control budget to Transfer Out to CIP, h) transfer \$138,000 from the Tax Assessor's budget to Transfer Out to CIP, i) transfer \$5,000 from ICS, \$96,000 from Communication and \$43,000 from Administrative Services to Transfer Out to CIP, j) and transfer \$4,000 from Contingency to Clerk of Commission for books, (2) amendments to the CIP Fund to: a) recognize a Transfer In from the General M&O Fund of \$847,000 and increase appropriations \$359,000 for Records Management, \$150,000 for Marine Patrol grant match, \$200,000 for Mosquito Control equipment and \$138,000 Tax Assessor's software, and (2) in the Confiscated Revenue Fund a) appropriate \$20,000 for the Metropolitan Police Department, and b) appropriate \$40,000 for the Counter Narcotics Team. Commissioners Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:** To request approval of the following budget transfers and amendments: (1) General Fund M&O a) transfer of \$3,200 from Management Consulting Services to Overtime in the ICS budget, b) transfer of \$4,200 from travel to Temporary Employees Salaries in the Construction Apprentice budget, c) transfer \$78,000 from Community Outreach to Utilities, d) transfer \$150,000 from Panel of Attorneys to County Attorney, e) transfer \$215,000 from the Clerk of Superior Court Budget to Transfer Out to CIP, f) transfer \$150,000 from the CNT Budget to Transfer Out to CIP, g) transfer \$200,000 from the Mosquito Control Budget to Transfer Out to CIP, h) transfer \$138,000 from the Tax Assessor's Budget to Transfer Out to CIP, i) transfer \$5,000 from ICS, \$96,000 from Communication and \$43,000 from Administrative Services to Transfer Out to CIP, j) and transfer \$4,000 from Contingency to Clerk of Commission for books, (2) amendments to the CIP Fund to: a) recognize a Transfer In from the General M&O Fund of \$847,000 and increase appropriations \$359,000 for Records Management, \$150,000 for Marine Patrol grant match, \$200,000 for Mosquito Control Equipment, \$138,000 Tax Assessor's Software, and (2) in the Confiscated Revenue fund a) appropriate \$20,000 for the Metropolitan Police Department, b) appropriate \$40,000 for the Counter Narcotics Team.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The ICS Director has requested a transfer of \$3,200 within the departmental budget for overtime.
2. The Construction Apprentice budget requires additional funds for temporary employees. A transfer of \$4,200 from the travel line item within the budget will provide the funding.
3. The Utilities budget requires additional funding for utilities. A transfer of \$78,000 from the Community Outreach budget will provide funding.
4. The County Attorney's budget requires additional funds for salaries and attorney fees. A transfer of \$150,000 from the Panel Attorneys budget will provide funding.
5. The Clerk of Superior Court is requesting a transfer of \$215,000 from the departmental budget to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Funds will be appropriated for Records Management. A resolution is attached.
6. A grant match of \$150,000 is needed for Marine Patrol. A transfer from CNT to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund provides funding for the grant match. A resolution is attached.
7. The Mosquito Control Director has requested a transfer of \$200,000 from the departmental budget to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund. The Funds will be appropriated for an amphibious excavator. A resolution is attached.

8. The Tax Assessor has requested a transfer of \$138,000 from the departmental budget to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund. The funds will be appropriated for software changes. Correspondence and a resolution are attached.
9. The ICS Director has requested a transfer of \$144,000 from departmental budgets (ICS \$5,000, Communications \$96,000 and Administrative Services \$43,000) to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund. The funds will be appropriated for Records Management. Correspondence and a resolution are attached.
10. The Clerk of Commission has requested a \$4,000 transfer from contingency for minute books.
11. The Chief of Police has requested an appropriation of \$20,000 of Confiscated Funds for a motorized barge. Funds are available in the Confiscated Special Revenue Fund for the request.
12. The Counter Narcotics Team Commander has requested an appropriation of Confiscated Funds in the Amount of \$40,000 undercover work. Funds are available in the Confiscated Revenue Fund for the request.

**FUNDING:** Funds are available in the General Fund M&O Contingency, the ICS, Construction Apprentice, Community Outreach, Panel of Attorneys, Clerk of Superior Court, CNT, Mosquito Control, Tax Assessors, Communication, Administrative Services and Confiscated Revenue budgets for the transfers. The budget amendment will establish funding in the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

**GENERAL FUND M&O**

- a) transfer \$3,200 from Management Services to Overtime in the ICS budget,
- b) transfer \$4,200 from travel to Temporary Employees Salaries in the Construction Apprentice budget,
- c) transfer \$78,000 from the Community Outreach budget to the Utilities budget,
- d) transfer \$150,000 from the Panel of Attorneys budget to the County Attorney's budget,
- e) transfer \$215,000 from the Clerk of Superior Court budget to Transfer Out to CIP,
- f) transfer \$150,000 from the CNT budget to Transfer Out to CIP,
- g) transfer \$200,000 from the Mosquito Control budget to Transfer Out to CIP,
- h) transfer \$138,000 from the Tax Assessor's budget to Transfer Out to CIP,
- i) transfer \$5,000 from ICS, \$96,000 from Communications and \$43,000 from the Administrative Services budgets to Transfer Out to CIP,
- j) transfer \$4,000 from Contingency to the Clerk of Commission budget.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND**

- a) recognize a Transfer in from the General M&O fund of \$847,000 and increase projects as follows: \$359,000 for Records Management, \$150,000 for Marine Patrol grant match, \$200,000 for Mosquito Control equipment, and \$138,000 for Tax Assessor's Software.

**CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND**

- a) transfer \$20,000 from Police Contingency for a motorized barge,
- b) transfer \$40,000 from CNT Contingency for the purchase of evidence and information.

- (2) Amend or deny the request.

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

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

Prepared by: Estelle Brown

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## 2. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL FUND M&O.

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Ms. Cramer and I will take you through this. Obviously, you've had great discussion on it. There's a sequence to your actions today should you choose to adopt an overall spending plan of \$550,000,000, and we ask that you consider it in the fashion shown. Your first motion would be to adopt the M&O General Fund of the County.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion. I'm going to read through some amendments to the proposed budget. I'll try and hold my discussion on the reasoning behind the proposed amendments to a minimum in hopes of obtaining a second and seeing if we can have further discussion going forward. But I would propose that we amend on the revenue side Line item 34.17270, IDC Special Service District, that is the Indirect Cost Allocation of the administrative function for the Special Service District, to increase that to \$5,000,000. That \$5,000,000 represents 18% — 18.6% of the general government expenditure for the Special Service District and is exactly equal to the percentage of the cost of general government overall to the cost overall of the M&O. So 18.6% represents parity between the two functions to our two different governments. I would like to amend on the spending side —.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Shay], excuse me a minute. Did you want to vote on each one individually or all of them combined so that everybody fully understands it. Commissioner Shay said, I am presenting this as a combined motion. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Shay said, the second item is on the bridges, Line Item 10.04230, to delete from the M&O budget \$717,962. The maintenance of bridges that are located in the Special Service District should be included in the Special Service District budget, and I can explain more reasons later on.

Number three, Line Item 10.05530, Murray Community Center, deleting from the M&O budget \$118,379 for the same reason — a community center in the Special Service District should be paid for out of the Special Service District budget.

Line Item 10.09952, that would be an increase to the line item for CAT Teleride to an amount of \$1,891,549, representing an increase of \$100,000 in recognition of the fact that CAT Teleride is trying desperately to reach out to those that are outside the three-quarter mile mandated FTA limit to be able to provide services to them.

On Line Item 10.05110, Health Department, an increase of \$300,000 in that department's expenditures to \$1,615,750 in recognition of the fact that we've asked the Health Department to assist in a lot more service provision to the underinsured and indigent health care situation in Chatham County and also now the fact that the State of Georgia is reducing funding and services for the mental health component.

The next one is Line 10.06500, the Live Oak Public Library System, an increase of \$300,000 to a total of \$6,944,772 in recognition for the fact that there is a new library that we have commissioned that will be opening during the year. That library is going to be one of our new flagships, and we need to increase that at least that modest amount in order to be able to make sure that we can actually open the doors.

The last item doesn't have a line item. It's not in our budget right now, but it's for Tybee Life Guards, an increase expenditure of \$100,000.

Commissioner Shay said, if all of those items are adopted, that would be a net budget savings to the M&O of \$4,168,000 more or less, and I would propose that that amount be returned to the M&O taxpayers with a corresponding millage rate rollback. The rollback would equate to approximately .36 mills throughout Chatham County. Every Chatham County taxpayer would get a rollback rate of .36 mills. This would represent a reduction in taxes in the M&O.

Commissioner Holmes asked, that's your motion? Commissioner Shay said, yes. Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, there's a motion on the floor and a second. I don't know, I'm looking at faces over here and many of the Commissioners have that question mark right now and looking —, they didn't understand quite all of it. Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, I would have liked to have seen this before right now, but the question that I have is what is this going to do to the Special Service District? It can't absorb this.

Commissioner Shay said, well, the Special Service District is the next item on the budget. I have a proposal for that budget which would balance the SSD budget with a slight millage rate increase, but it would actually be less than the .36 rollback in the M&O so that SSD taxpayers would also in the net have a reduction in their property tax millage overall if you combine the SSD and the M&O budget, but the main feature is that, you know, we need to go ahead and recognize that having a budget which budgets only \$867,000 for the cost of administering an entire municipal

government that we call the SSD is, you know, ridiculously a small amount. We, up here as Commissioners, I would say approximately half of all the things that we undertake to vote on before this Commission are items which affect the residents of the Special Service District only. We just had an example. I think it's a very good idea that we would conform the Special Service District ordinance to that of the City of Savannah for the burglar alarms. That is something that the County Manager, the Finance Director, the County Attorney, they're all going to have to provide work in order to be able to do that and yet in our budget the \$867,000 that's allocated as a transfer in from the Special Service District represents a very, very tiny fraction. On top of that in the Special Service District budget that is next up on our agenda, there is not any money on the expenditure side to fund that \$867,000. So there's no revenue projected out from the Special Service District to fund this amount. If we do it fairly, what we say is that 18.6% of the cost of administering the Special Service District's government services provided by County Commissioners, Clerk of Commission, County Manager, Finance Department, Purchasing, County Attorney, Communications — I could go on and on, that those services would be properly allocated, then the Special Service District ought to be paying and reimbursing the M&O for those services. At 18.67% that's \$5,000,000.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, so you're proposing a millage increase to the Special Service District on top of an \$85 dry trash fee that was just implemented. Do I understand you correctly? Commissioner Shay said, I will propose that, I think, in the next budget item when it comes forward. But the net, if this were adopted, would be a millage rate reduction to all the members of the Special Service District and to all the members — all the residents of Chatham County. Commissioner Stone said, well, I sure would have like to have seen your numbers before this meeting today, but I think this is a very unfair thing to do right here in this meeting when we're trying to pass a budget to be shifting numbers that none of the Commissioners have had an opportunity to digest or to look at on top of the fact that this \$85 dry trash fee was implemented at the last meeting, and I find this very difficult to absorb at this time.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, oh, no, no. I'll yield to someone from the Special Services.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I want to just commend you for thinking outside the box because clearly we're in times that we need that. And I like the first part of the rollback and I understand that it actually would be as far as a true tax increase, your proposal would actually still get the unincorporated area a reduction, and if you keep in mind that the Commission previously passed that fee. I mean, it's still a reduction overall. I'm still really not understanding or I didn't quite catch — I believe I caught all of your proposals as far as the bridges minus \$717,000 from the M&O budget, the — everything, but I didn't quite understand the first one you said. What did you say on the very first one you said. What did you say on the very first —?

Commissioner Shay said, the very first thing is that on the revenue side in the M&O budget right now there's a line item for \$867,000 of a transfer in from the Special Service District for the cost reimbursement for the administration of that entire government — \$867,000. Unfortunately, on the expenditure side in the Special Service District in the budget that's been proposed, the next budget upcoming, there is no expenditure from SSD so there is no revenue backing that up to the M&O at this point.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. One other one was the Health Department. How much would your proposal increase that budget? Commissioner Stone said about \$300,000 from the allocation that's currently proposed. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis asked, is that it, Dean [Kicklighter]? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes sir, and I don't want to be misleading. I actually think there's quite a bit of merit to the proposal, but I don't want to mislead because I won't support the SSD budget even in it's current form without the changes and everything, so — but I commend you on thinking outside the box.

Commissioner Odell said, congratulations, Pat [Shay]. Mr. Abolt, you heard the proposal? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and what is your opinion and advise for —? County Manager Abolt said, the advise and obviously the very interesting thing Commissioner Shay has come up with, you have to consider both budgets. If you want to give him the opportunity and the reason this is somewhat limiting in the current form is that in the past there's a sequent to adopting a budget, but I think because of the moment and the consequence that even before you were to vote on this, you'd want to see whatever proposal might be there on the SSD; and then if questions linger, then you have the option of a continuing resolution. But I don't think it's fair to Commissioner Shay or to y'all to get something of this consequence and not see the other part of it, which is the SSD budget.

Commissioner Odell said, I tend to agree and, Mr. Chairman, is there any way that we could table this portion, not vote on the M&O budget, and look at Pat's proposal as far as the SSD. Commissioner Shay said, I'd be happy to present it to you, if you'd like. Commissioner Odell said, [inaudible] balance, but ultimately the SSD will pay less taxes.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, don't inhibit your discussion based on the way the agenda is. I think you might want to —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you mean amend the agenda. County

Manager Abolt said, no, I'm just saying, unless the Chairman disagrees, let Commissioner Shay talk about the SSD realizing when you finally act on it, you'll be acting in sequence. We have to do —, I apologize. We have to do things because of State law. We're doing things in sequence, but I don't want that sequence to inhibit your discussion. My suggestion would be obviously the biggest issue at this juncture, if I'm listening correctly, what is the proposal on the SSD? So you might want to [inaudible] that presentation by Commissioner Shay, not act on it, and then go to SSD realizing that if you agree with everything Commissioner Shay has, we'll bring you back and you can adopt each budget individually, or if you want more information you can go to a continuing resolution.

Chairman Liakakis asked, James [Holmes], do you want to say —?

Commissioner Holmes said, let me ask you a question. If this doesn't pass, can we come back and amend the budget under this? County Manager Abolt said, you can always amend the budget, sir. The only thing you have to be concerned about, and the Commissioner hit it on the head, you have to adopt a balanced budget. Remember the previous Commission made a serious mistake in adopting a budget that was imbalanced, so the real issue would be when all this is finished presentation, whether Ms. Cramer and I can say, knowing what we know about it, whether or not the budgets are balanced. So I think in fairness to Commissioner Shay, I would urge you to listen to whatever is coming forward on SSD.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Patrick [Shay], if you will make your presentation on the SSD budget now.

Commissioner Shay said, I'll do that. Skipping ahead to what may come up in an agenda item later on, what I would propose in the SSD budget would be in Line Item 27.01595, the IDC or indirect cost allocation to the general fund, that that would be increased to \$5,000,000 from the zero dollars that is currently in the proposed budget. Again, that reflects an 18.65% cost of administrative services allocation that is equal to what the cost of those same services are in relationship in proportion to that of the M&O.

Commissioner Odell asked, you're just spreading across?

Commissioner Shay said, what I'm doing is I'm making the Special Service District pay it's fair share of the cost of all the people that you see at that table and everybody else that provides staff resources to the Special Service District so that they can decide what to present as a budget for example. Okay? I also would increase Line 27.04100, Public Works, in the amount of \$717,962 for bridges so that the bridges would be properly funded by the Special Service District rather than by countywide. Let me explain briefly. There are many, many rights-of-way that are in Chatham County that are located in other municipalities that are more heavily traveled than those of the two bridges. In my district, DeRenne Avenue comes to mind, DeRenne Boulevard, certainly White Bluff another example. I think you can think all of us of many roads in Chatham County that are more heavily traveled than those that are being maintained by the municipal governments in which they are located.

Commissioner Shay said, the next thing is that there is no budget item currently, no line item description, the F. G. Murray Center, an increase of \$118,379 to properly allocate a community center that is located in the Special Service District to the Special Service District budget.

I would also propose an increase of \$100,000 so that we could fund a study of how we can resolve this strange arrangement that we have of a Special Service District government that is failing. I mean, we all understand that this government from a financial standpoint is like the Titanic. It's sailing straight for an iceberg. When we look at the projections from the Finance Department, we know that from those projections that within two years the Special Service District will be under water, it will be insolvent, and within four years we are looking at something on the order of a twelve to fifteen million dollar deficit. Now, we're not allowed to run deficits, so you see that unlike businesses that can declare a bankruptcy, governments can't. We have to be willing to admit that the Special Service District government is no longer functional. It's no longer able to keep up with all of its services and what we've been doing in the past is just transferring in money from M&O to plug all the holes in that budget. That's not fair to the people of Thunderbolt, that's not fair to the people of Savannah who pay for those same services with their municipal taxes as well.

What this would mean would be a net increase to the SSD unincorporated area budget, an increase of \$5,936,341. That would be offset with a drawdown of the remaining projected fund balance of \$4,520,860 and a millage rate increase for the balance of \$1,416,000, plus or minus, that would represent a .31 millage rate increase in the SSD, which of course if you took the savings from M&O would mean that those folks in the SSD would actually be paying less property tax millage rate in aggregate on their property than they do at the present time.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Linda [Cramer], you being our financial chief and also adviser, did you get most of this. I know it was kind of put out. How do you think this will affect us at this point?

Ms. Cramer said, I do think that we need to have a healthy discussion about SSD going forward and how we're going to resolve the issues there. I'm not sure depleting the existing fund balance immediately is a good way to go. It makes me uncomfortable certainly that those cash reserves or those reserves would not be there, but I know Commissioner Shay is looking at the fact that in the next two years we're going to pull it down anyway. So I would — personally, I'd like a little chance to study this, but, you know, that's up to y'all to make that determination.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, not taking away from Ms. Cramer, this obviously creates innovation and creativity at the junction when important decisions can either be made or can be deferred. You have the option of either allowing a brief recess for Ms. Cramer and I to go over the numbers. My main concern is two in number. One, we do not want to advise you to create an imbalance and, number two, and this is driven by what Commissioner Shay references would be a millage increase in the SSD, I would need to bring into that recess discussion Sheryl Snider and her folks because we have to advertise for that. I think, as you know, we're up against the calendar on that right now. But again my suggestion would be let Commissioner Shay finish his presentation, allow Ms. Cramer either in a recess the opportunity a chance to look at the numbers again, and incorporate in this case Mr. Hart and Ms. Snider, to see whether or not just the mechanics of the millage rate increase could be done today. So I need more time and I need at least 15 or 20 minutes.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Pat [Shay], it brings to mind the scene in *Forest Gump* where he put together those rifles and the Sergeant says, "Gump, you are a genius. That's absolutely brilliant." I think this is absolutely brilliant, but I'm not certain of two things. One is it's a lot to digest in one meeting and I'm unprepared to render intelligently as to accept or reject. I think it has merits. I think it's a plan that everyone will love, but I just don't think that we have enough information at this time to make the decision. That's one thought, so I'm going to be looking to table these and looking at a continuing resolution at another point. The second thing is that I'd like to know in the meantime if we deplete the fund balance and we have municipal bonds outstanding, how does that influence or impact our bond rating and whether or not — I'm sorry.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may on that, I'm just conferring with the Finance Director, I interpret Commissioner Shay's motion as applies to SSD to deplete the SSD fund balance. Correct? Commissioner Shay said, that's correct. County Manager Abolt said, so I'm not trying to make light of what you've talked about, when we go forward and issue bonds, usually they're in the category of general fund, and Wall Street would be looking at the general fund. I think that the gravity of the innovation that we talked about is if you choose to follow it, it's imperative that we deal with the SSD. I think that — this motion beyond the obvious innovation of it would require fairly early on in this next budget year a detailed explanation of what the SSD is about, what this Board of Directors wishes to do, but this will make it the topic for early to Fiscal 2010.

Commissioner Odell said, but — I'm not yielding the floor yet. I realize your comments on the SSD fund balance. Let's assume that there is insufficient information at this point for us to go forward. Would not a continuing resolution —. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, — be the option? County Manager Abolt said, no question about that. The only time — and I think I know the answer — would be, please not because of the budget, but because of the millage hears that are coming up, I need a tad bit of time, 10-15 minutes, to recess to talk to Attorney Hart, Ms. Cramer and Ms. Snider because the first option would be just to instruct us to advertise based on this, and then you could always move the millage down, but the mechanics of the millage as opposed to the mechanics of the budget, what drives my recommendation. Yes, you can handle the budget on the continuing resolution, but I'm not prepared at this juncture is to give you a response as to the mechanics of raising the millage and what advertising must take place.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. So, what we've got is two irresistible forces. We don't have — looking at the Commissioners, I do not think that we are ready to vote on this. In that we are not ready to vote on this and we must go forward financially, then —.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Chairman, if I may. What you can — and I want to make sure all members of the Board will hear these — what you can do, and I want some time again to meet with those people that are going to make this work, you could advertise for a millage rate increase. You would not have to implement that. That would preserve your option, but we're flat up against a deadline to get a digest to Atlanta and for a millage rate to be adopted in two weeks. So if there is sentiment to keep all options open at this juncture, yes, you can approve what amounts to Agenda Item #5, which is a continuing resolution. Then you would give me 10 or 15 minutes recess to talk to Jon [Hart], Linda [Cramer] and Sheryl [Snider] to find out what the mechanics of the advertisement for a millage rate increase. So a week from Tuesday, when you have your scheduled two public hearings and then your final at the next meeting of the Board, you would have the ceiling set and you can say, yes, the millage rate increase in the SSD is this, and you would act on it then.

Commissioner Shay said, and there would also be a corresponding millage rate reduction —. County Manager Abolt said, yes. It's all —. Commissioner Shay said, they need to know, and both of those are — give you concern.

County Manager Abolt said, I just need time to confer with those smart people about [inaudible]

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone] and then Patrick [Farrell]. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, let me go — take them because they've had up their hands a long time. Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I think that Commissioner Shay has definitely given us some food for thought, as I stated earlier my concern is bringing it here at the eleventh hour. I have talked with Commissioner Shay about the future of the SSD, and we agreed to get some information. Gwinnett County has just gone through this and possibly with the help of some of their — their County Administrator, their Finance Director, and

some assistance from the Carl Vinson Institute, we could gather some helpful information. I realize that that's not going to help us right now, but I'm talking about going forward. But I guess my main concern is what is really hurting Special Service District budget is the police merger. In looking at the numbers that I've been provided with, between the City and the County, the cost of policing combined with the City and the County has gone up in the last four and a half years \$23.2 million, and that's \$9,000,000 for the County and \$17.5 million — excuse me. The City is now at — was at \$30,000,000 free merger, the City is now at \$43.7 million and the County is at \$17.5 million, and that's just a lot for the Special Service District to absorb. So I don't want to jump into something, and I'm not saying, Commissioner Shay, you did not put a lot of effort into this, I'm just a little nervous about looking at something on the day that we're supposed to be approving a budget with all of these changes, but none of us have had the chance to absorb.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I have a question for the County Manager. County Manager Abolt said, sure. Commissioner Farrell asked, if the recommended budget were adopted today, going forward there was a number of issues brought up, could the budget in the future after some consideration, could it be amended to start incorporating some of these proposals? County Manager Abolt said, sir, the answer to your question if the decision were just budget, yes. I think at the moment because of the consequence of the recommendations, you'd probably be better advised to do a continuing resolution. That is not what bothers me at this juncture. A millage rate issue is the driving force on this whole thing, and I just need a few moments, if that's the way you wish to go, and I'm not talking about delaying the budget — you may do that or do whatever you wish —, but you've heard Commissioner Shay say tied to this is a millage rate adjustment, and I've got to have more time, quiet time, with Jon [Hart], Sheryl [Snider], and Linda [Cramer] before I advise you. A few minutes is all I ask.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'm going to make a selection on that. Go ahead and finish, Patrick [Farrell].

Commissioner Farrell said, the other statement I'd like to make to all the folks in the Special Service District, our budget is not failing. We've got an incredible amount of fund balance built up over the last four years. Does it need adjusting, does it need improvement? Yes, doesn't every budget, but I don't think there's the gloom and doom in my opinion. One of our sticking points financially is the funding strategy for the Metro Police, and that is, if left unchecked, then I believe all the dire predictions that we've heard today and at other times will come true and be true, but I am hopeful that those financial perspective on that will be resolved in the near future. So, and the second thing and the last thing I'd like to say today is I would not be prepared to vote in the affirmative for all these changes without doing my homework and having a close study of what's going on. So if this does come up for a vote today, I would not be in favor of it simply because I have not had the time to adequately study each of these different complex proposals and what the unintended consequences and consequences of each action would be. So that's what I have to say on that today.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me preface my statement by saying that we didn't get to this point today by accident. It's been coming a long time. It's been rolling, rolling, rolling, and it's going to keep rolling until we make some adjustments somewhere along the line. Former Commissioner Joe Murray Rivers used to tell us about, warn us about fund balance and all of that. I'd like to thank Commissioner Shay for all the hard work that you've put into this. It isn't easy trying to do what you're trying to do, but let me ask you a question. What you are trying to do in terms of the M&O and SSD, does this have to do with bring parity along the lines there as far as the SSD is concerned.

Shay 07-10-2009 /st

Commissioner Stone said, I wouldn't say parity because they are two different governments of different size, but equity I think is a better word. The idea is that instead of being the State of Chatham, which is our M&O budget, and this other budget that we struggle to give a name because everybody gets confused and we say, well, the County is going to do this and the County is going to do that, the unincorporated area Special Service District needs a name and if we pass the budgets that have been proposed today I would say that the name of that institution needs to be the welfare state because the M&O State of Chatham budget subsidizes that budget with millions of dollars of free services that are provided by these people and others within our government to the Special Service District.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay, then I think that, you know, given the information that we have, I too would like to have just a little bit more time to absorb what has been put before us this morning, but I do like a lot of what you have said and we really need to be serious about what we come up with so that further down the road we won't get more and more into what we are trying to get out of.

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do right now then is ask for a motion — of course, we can hear this — a motion on the floor to give the County Manager and a number of his staff people this time element so that they can give us —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, may I speak first? Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Yeah, go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two wrongs definitely does not make a right and I agree that the structure of paying for services has been flawed since I've been on here and I assume for many, many years before that. I agree with you, Commissioner Shay, that the appropriate persons receiving services should pay for services and you made the comment about the welfare area or something to that effect because the County subsidizes the SSD budget and the entire County does as far as the unincorporated areas, and in certain areas I agree that that's true that

the entire County does subsidize certain portions, but I would offer at this point that those unincorporated area residents are now by far, I mean, really subsidizing crime fighting efforts for the City of Savannah on their backs. Dr. Thomas made the comment that we did not get here by accident. I agree. We got here when this County Commission — not this Commission, but the previous County Commission — voted to approve a very flawed structure of a police merger. The concept of the merger itself is very good if the previous Commission would have approved a merged department that actually was feasible as well as structured properly with the proper oversight where those residents would not have taxation without representation, which they now have because we do not control their police department — the City of Savannah does — and they can't vote anyone in or out of office in those areas.

Having said that I believe all should pay for their services everywhere, I don't think we can solve the problem in one bite. I think it would be best to move through the current proposals that the Manager has on the table and give directive to them to start moving in a direction to have the appropriate areas pay for their services, and the reason I say that is because although the numbers presented shows a .31 increase now for the — I believe it would roll over to the SSD, which is for the unincorporated areas — if you take into consideration that the \$85 fee that was passed recently, had that been in the form of a millage rate, that would have been equated I believe to a .35 mills is what the breakdown was, so what's happened is basically by passing the current proposal you're in a sense actually passing a .66 mill increase for the unincorporated area. I believe that once we get ourselves straight and we achieve the goals that we need to achieve to straighten out the status of our police merger, I believe that we will save the residents of the unincorporated areas millions of dollars and at that point I believe that those residents could easily pay for the areas of service that you've stated.

Now an argument in support of the merger, which I agree because I was a supporter of a merger but just not the structure that was actually passed, is that we all live in the area, we need a police department, because we go to Savannah, you know, everyone around, so yeah they're — everyone is pitching in, but these unincorporated areas residents are really sacrificing because their budget went from \$7,000,000 for police services to over — well, \$16,000,000 requested in four years, and the unincorporated area residents are now with the current proposal even, without taxing them more, actually reduces their services and yet they are still paying more. So I wholeheartedly agree that people need to pay for their services no matter where, but before we stick these unincorporated area residents with more fees, I believe that we need to do our jobs and reduce the current fees that they're subsidizing for the crime fighting in Savannah. So I would respectfully ask — and again I believe this is great and I admire the thinking, the concept, but I just do not believe at this time we can put that burden on the unincorporated area residents because they are carrying that huge burden of subsidizing crime fighting on their backs right now at a cost of more than double of what they were paying before. So I would ask y'all to move forward with what's on the table and then in the future let's direct Mr. Abolt and let's come up with a goals because it will not be solved overnight, just like the police merger is not going to be solved overnight but, you know, we have hopefully here a few more years here all of us and I think we can solve it, everything, but doing it right now, this minute, would be very unfair for the unincorporated area residents.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, maybe I can pull us off the horns of a dilemma that I've created. There's a motion and a second. Why don't we vote on it — County Attorney Hart said, you've got three choices. Either vote on the motion, withdraw the motion, or somebody make a motion to table to bring it back at a time certain. Commissioner Shay said, okay. If we vote on it, then if it passes then we'd certain need a recess so that they can figure out what this means in terms of the numbers. If it fails, then we go on and try and see what the next idea is.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what's the motion? Commissioner Shay said, the motion is what I read, that the M&O budget amendments would be a total of — a net savings of \$4,168,000 plus or minus and those savings would be returned to the M&O taxpayers with a corresponding millage rate rollback and that is done by making the Special Service District transfer in \$5,000,000 for the cost of administering that government and also paying for the bridges and Frank Murray Center and so forth. It would also include, just so you understand, an increase of \$100,000 to CAT Teleride, an increase of \$300,000 to the Health Department, an increase of \$100,000 / to the library system, and \$100,000 for Tybee lifeguards. [sic] 07-10-2009 /st

Commissioner Kicklighter said, point of order, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Attorney, am I to understand that we can't actually vote on this because the millage rate was not advertised in this manner? County Attorney Hart said, you can vote on it. That's not what I said. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I was hoping that's what you actually said. County Attorney Hart said, there's a pending motion on the floor. Okay? Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. County Attorney Hart said, that motion either needs to be disposed of, withdrawn —.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I speak the problem that I have with voting on this period? Mr. Shay, it's brilliant and I commend you for the political maneuvering — it's actually brilliant maneuvering — is you will have us on record voting for the first one, which is the M&O, not to rollback taxes, but that is tied with a tax increase to 70,000 people, which it's brilliant and I commend you on that portion of it. But I want the public and the citizens to know in the area at this point that, yes, I'm all for giving a rollback, dropping the millage rate, but the money's not going to fall from the sky to cover the unincorporated area, and It's not right for those folks at this point to subsidize a tax rollback for everyone. And — thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. I started to say something. What I'd like, you know for us to do for the County Manager and his staff to get together and come back and give us some information. Then we can vote on this if the Board so sees fit. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, may I say one more thing? Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute, let me finish because it's really important because, you know, we can vote one way or the other, and we have some confusion right now. Everybody doesn't fully understand it. We grasp it. Patrick [Shay] has come up with some ideas that we need to look at, but at this particular point we need to have the County Manager, the County Attorney, the Finance Director and his other staff people just meet for a short period of time —. County Manager Abolt said, 15 minutes. Chairman Liakakis said, take a 15 minute break.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

One other thing before you go in the office, I would like to see when you come back, I would like to see the salary of every department head combined on one sheet of paper and the reason why is I ran a city, one of the largest cities — because it sits next to Savannah it seems small — the entire budget was \$6,000,000. We had 12,000 people population, and I don't believe that \$5,000,000 of administrative services would actually be utilized in the unincorporated areas. I believe that's excessive and a sign of the bloated government that we sit up here and allow to exist.

Chairman Liakakis said, that's not going to help us at those particular point. What we need to do is let them go, bring it back so that we can intelligently make a decision and not add these things to it.

County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. The recess is not to — it's real important for all of us — the recess is not to talk about the specifics of the budget. As I said, you can handle that either today or in a continuing resolution. This is driven by millage, so I need time to speak with these folks to talk about how we would deal with advertising for a millage increase.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I just ask one question, Mr. Chairman? I think we should and we must allow Mr. Abolt, Jon Hart and Linda Cramer to meet and answer Russ's [Abolt] questions. We're obligated to do that. But what I'd like for us to do is, when Russ [Abolt] is out, Pat Monahan sits in, and when Jon [Hart] is out, Lisa Colbert sets in. There's some things on the agenda rather than our pausing for 15 minutes that we can track through. If your designee will come here, then you all can go out, take your time and come back and we will not handle anything crisis [inaudible], but there's some things on the agenda that we can do in that 15 minutes.

County Attorney Hart said, I would like a motion to table for the purposes of recess and reconvene the motion. There's a question of whether you can recess when a motion is pending. You can table the motion for a time certain, which will be after the recess, which gets us to where we want to be.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to table until after the 15 minute recess. Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Odell asked, are you all going to substitute for the people? Chairman Liakakis said, no, we're recessing now. Let them do that. It's not going to take but 15 minutes because we might need to ask the County Attorney something or the County Manager and they're in the meeting. Commissioner Thomas said, but he's saying that we can go on with other things.

A brief recess was taken at 11:18 a.m., for the County Manager to meet with certain staff to review the amendments presented by Commissioner Shay, and was reconvened at 11:24 a.m.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Mr. Manager, you met and what is your information for us at this point?

County Manager Abolt said, okay, yes I will. Whatever official recognition — you're back in session now, and please bear with me. I will describe a strategy and if misspeak, I will ask those around me who contributed to this to immediately correct, but the strategy is driven by a desire to give you maximum flexibility as it applies to setting the millage. This is the strategy that I outlined for you. Number 1: You could amend your already adopted hearing schedule and move your first and second hearing on this from the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, which is a Wednesday. That would allow you to adopt a millage rate on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, at which time you would have your third hearing. Those are legal steps required to deal with the millage rate. Further, after you amend your schedule of hearings, your advertisement would be as follows. You would advertise just the current M&O rate which becomes a ceiling, so if there is any action when you adopt the budget subsequently to reduce the millage rate in the M&O that gives you flexibility. On SSD, again driven by a ceiling, you in effect would on those hearing dates advertise for a millage increase in the SSD. Now Ms. Cramer and I, though we have complete confidence in Commissioner Shay, would like to set the ceiling a tad higher, so our recommendation is you would advertise for an SSD millage increase of .5 realizing these are ceilings. Once you set the ceiling, you predetermine what your choices are, but without that ceiling you are limited. So to give you maximum flexibility, as what I heard and you heard from Commissioner Shay as it applies to millage, first step: reschedule your two public hearings now set for the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, move those to Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. One would occur at 9:30 in the morning and the other would be at 6:00 at night. You would take

final action as you would had already scheduled on the — excuse me. You would take final action on the 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding that. The advertisement would be very specific. It would set forth the ceiling for M&O, which is the current millage rate, and it would set a ceiling for SSD of .5. That gives you maximum flexibility — increase, I'm sorry — an increase of .5. When it comes to the budget itself, which is not as consequential as what I've just described for you, Ms. Cramer and I would recommend that you just adopt a continuing resolution on M&O and SSD only and then act on the balance of the budget. Those are your choices.

Chairman Liakakis said, so — well, what you're saying to table it? County Manager Abolt said, you've got two different —. Chairman Liakakis said, no, I mean, just pass the resolution? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, yes sir. I don't want to be flip, the budget issue can be handled after you deal with the millage rate issues because if the millage rate issues aren't sufficient to give you that flexibility, then in effect what Commissioner Shay has proposed is not workable within the current millage structure and the requirements of State law to advertise.

County Attorney Hart said, and if you want to adjust the millage rate, you're locked in. Go ahead and deal with it. You want to keep that schedule.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, and then Jon [Hart] has to advise you —, Attorney Hart has to advise you as to parliamentary procedures, but if you want to get to where you want to be and consider further and allow further consideration on what Commissioner Shay has given you, then you have to follow what I've just described as it applies to the strictures of advertising for the millage adjustment.

Commissioner Thomas said, question. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> that you're proposing, that's for another meeting? Chairman Liakakis said, that's the regular. County Manager Abolt said, you already have a scheduled Board meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We moved that back from that Friday because many of you will be at NACo. You already have an advertisement a scheduled Board meeting for Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July. Chairman Liakakis said, pull the microphone a little closer to you so that we make sure that we can hear you. Commissioner Thomas said, [inaudible] because it messes up my schedule.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. So the parliamentary thing, Jon [Hart], so everybody fully understands it to go from — to go in sequence now.

County Attorney Hart said, you can vote on the motion. Chairman Liakakis said, we vote on his motion now. County Attorney Hart said, vote on his motion, or somebody could make a make to table it, but staff's going to need direction to do all these things we're going to do because somebody's going to have to give us direction to go forth and advertise a millage rate increase and a millage rate decrease.

Commissioner Odell said, but we're talking two separate things. We're talking millage rate and we're talking budget, and I guess the gist of the Chairman's question is we have Commissioner Shay's motion —. County Attorney Hart said, for the budget. Commissioner Odell said, right, which we have to resolve, but that's independent of the millage. County Attorney Hart said, right. Commissioner Odell said, procedurally —. County Attorney Hart said, to do that you're going to have to — procedurally you need to deal with the motion, one way or the other. Commissioner Odell said, and the options on the motion is we can vote on it, we can table it. If we table the motion, do we likewise table the subject matter of the motion? County Attorney Hart asked, the budget?

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can their be another motion? County Attorney Hart said, yes, there can be another motion, sure. Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to table. Commissioner Stone said, second.

Commissioner Shay said, point of order. I think we're already tabled until this recess is over. So I would make a motion first that we untable and then you can make your motion, Dean [Kicklighter]. County Attorney Hart said, correct. You're correct. Commissioner Shay said, so I move that we take this iftem that I have proposed off the table because the recess has ended. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to table that motion. County Attorney Hart said, need a second. Commissioner Shay said, time certain. County Attorney Hart said, are you going to add two weeks from now. We need it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, because I can make a motion to approve the M&O budget as is right afterwards, right? As recommended. County Attorney Hart asked, to cover both M&O and SSD? Commissioner Shay said, parliamentary — I don't think you can just make a motion to table something indefinitely. County Attorney Hart said, you need a time certain. We need to bring it back in two weeks. Commissioner Kicklighter said, but then if done so, if tabled for two weeks, can we still make a motion to approve the M&O as presented by staff? County Attorney Hart said, I understood your motion was for M&O and SSD, raise one and lower the other.

Commissioner Shay said, no it wasn't. The motion that I made was for the M&O amendments and then I was asked to explain how those were balanced, and so I explained what I intended to issue and will still issue as a motion when we get to the Special Service District budget. Commissioner Kicklighter, if you'll make your motion to table my M&O motion for two weeks, if another motion that passes the budget in the meantime succeeds, then it's a moot point, but I'll —.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, so I can make another motion? Okay. I make a motion to table for two weeks. Commissioner Stone said, second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I now make a motion to approve the —.

Chairman Liakakis said, no, you can't. You have to vote on it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm sorry. I got excited that we might have figured out a way here. Chairman Liakakis said, alright, let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Cramer mentioned — did you hear my explanation about the millage so you have the benefit of that? I realize that is not the subject of —? Commissioner Kicklighter said, no sir, and I honestly don't need an explanation because it's not appropriate right now. We need to move to approve forward with the current budget proposal.

Commissioner Farrell asked, do you have a motion you want to make? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to make a motion to approve the M&O budget as proposed today by staff. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Commissioner Odell said, discussion. Chairman Liakakis asked, any discussion? Commissioner Odell said, yes, yes, discussion. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Commissioner Odell said, if we approve the M&O budget as presented, it makes the consideration by Commissioner Shay moot. Commissioner Thomas said, moot. Exactly. Commissioner Odell asked, is that a true statement, Mr. Hart? County Attorney Hart said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, so if we vote against this motion, we leave all of the options open? We don't forestall the options of — considering a valid proposal.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, because you can't bring up the same motion —.

County Attorney Hart said, other than the fact that we don't at that point have in place the mechanism for us to advertise to do the things that was contemplated should Commissioner Shay's motion be followed.

Commissioner Odell said, I know, but we can in addition to the alternative offer a continuing resolution. County Attorney Hart said, correct, you could. Commissioner Odell said, and give directions to staff regarding the advertisement. County Attorney Hart said, yes.

County Manager Abolt said, before you leave today it is incumbent upon you to provide what you want to do budget-wise after midnight on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, point of order. Would it not have to be a person that voted on the prevailing side would have to bring it back up? Because if you lose a motion, you can't bring it back up; the prevailing side has to bring it back up. Right? County Attorney Hart said, correct. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Again, I think Commissioner Shay's idea in general is good, but I think that we've had months of advertising here and I think this is the appropriate way to go at this point, and we should move forward but not in one huge step to straighten out the problems, and it is clear the problems is not the unincorporated area, residents not pay enough. It's clear that they are paying way too much for police services, and as soon as we get priorities on this part of it, we need to move forward. But gouging them further at this point is not going to solve a problem. Standing up for them because they pay too much for their police services will solve the problem. So I ask all of you, many were not involved with the flawed merger agreement to finally stand up once and for all today for those people who are subsidizing crime-fighting costs and give them a break and burst this first part through and let's move forward to correct other problems in the future.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Farrell] and then Patrick [Shay].

Commissioner Farrell said, I can see both sides of our discussions today; however, I will be voting in favor of the current motion on the floor because it's one that's been studied and looked at for months, but that's not to rule out that going forward that we can't look more closely at what side of the ledger certain cost allocations go to. So that's what I have to say.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, the motion to adopt the M&O budget that's been proposed by staff and that we've had a chance to study recognizes eight hundred and some thousand dollars — let me get back to my notes here — \$867,627 for the cost of administering that entire Special Service District government to be transferred in. One of the things that I pointed out is that in the Special Service District budget upcoming there is no expenditure that funds that cost to the M&O. I just want to bring that up, that's all. I'm happy to vote and let's go ahead and —.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, point of clarification also. In the current M&O budget proposal, is a pay increase in that now or not? County Manager Abolt said, there's never been a pay increase. Commissioner Kicklighter said, whatever you call it. Is that in there still or now gone.

County Manager Abolt said, the discussion over money set aside, nonreoccurring revenue, is in this year's budget. It will lapse into fund balance. That's what will happen to it.

Chairman Liakakis said, there's no bonus to begin with. County Manager Abolt said, no. That's a gross misunderstanding.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I call for the question. Commissioner Odell asked, let's restate the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve the M&O budget as presented by staff.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me ask you a question, Dean [Kicklighter], before you do that. We can still come back and go over for amendments to the budget, correct, now to go to things that Commissioner Shay brought up? County Manager Abolt said, in this can't you cannot have it both ways, sir. You can make line item adjustments, but as I heard Commissioner Shay's proposal, it's driven by the millage and so it's not an issue now of adopting the budget, which you could do if it were not tied directly to a millage rate. We can handle the millage rate reduction, but you would have to advertise, if I understand what Commissioner Shay said, a tax — a potential ceiling tax increase in the SSD. That's the pinchpoint. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Alright.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, call for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, call for the question. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Shay moved to amend the M&O as outlined in a net budget savings of \$4,168,000 more or less, with the amount of savings to be returned to the Chatham County taxpayers, which would amount to a corresponding millage rate rollback of .36 mills throughout Chatham County. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion.
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to table Commissioner Shay's motion for two weeks. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.
- c. Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to approve the M&O budget as presented by staff. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:**  
 To adopt the FY2010 budget resolution for the General Fund M&O.

**BACKGROUND:**  
 Chatham County is required by law to adopt balanced annual budgets for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project length budgets can be adopted for Capital Improvement Funds.

- FACTS AND FINDINGS:**
- (1) A public hearing was held during the Chatham County Commission meeting held on May 22, 2009. Copies of the proposed budget were made available in the Finance Department as well as at all Chatham County branches of the Live Oak Public Library.
  - (2) By law, Chatham County is required to wait one week after the public hearing before adopting budget resolutions. Budget adoption was advertised on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in the *Savannah Morning News* for adoption on Friday, June 26, 2009.
  - (3) If the proposed budget is not adopted on June 26, 2009, the Board must revise the budget calendar and re-advertise the budget adoption at least one week prior to adoption in accordance with state law.

- (4) County taxes are applied to the Chatham County Stephens Day Value shown in Box 6 on the Assessment Notice, not the Market Value shown in Box 5. The Chatham County Stephens Day Value has remained unchanged for nine years.
- (5) Budget resolutions for the Special Service District and other funds are attached to separate staff reports.

**FUNDING:**

Funding sources are identified in the budget resolution. Detail is on file in the Chatham County Finance Department.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board adopt the FY2010 budget resolution for the General Fund M&O.
- (2) That the Board amend the proposed General Fund M&O budget and adopt an amended resolution.
- (3) That the Board provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law requires that annual budgets be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project-length budgets should be adopted for Capital Projects Funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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### **3. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND.**

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a motion on the floor. We've got a request to adopt the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution for the Special Service District.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second. Do we have any conversation?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes sir. I want to make it clear to the public because I believe there's been some media advertising or something to the effect of this budget that's being passed today on the SSD does not and is not the deciding factor of whether or not the unincorporated residents will pay a garbage pickup fee. That was decided in a past meeting, so this is not the decision for that. That was done and approved previously. This is the budget which will provide services that were previously approved and to continue other services. So this budget does not contain a increase decision. It's already been decided.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I just again will point out that the Special Service District budget that's been proposed and that is about to be voted on does not have the revenue out budgeted to reimburse the M&O for the ICD [sic].

Ms. Cramer said, right. What we did last year, you may recall, in December we moved the indirect cost allocation expense from a separate line item in the SSD into the Records Court budget, and the reason for that was we felt that there were some direct charges that were being administered by the general fund to Records Court that were not included in that cost center. We share the Records Court cost with the City of Savannah. We are in discussions with them about the direct cost that we put into that line to, you know, make sure that they agree or disagree or whatever so we can work through the process with them on the cost-sharing of the court. I think the confusion comes in when we did that on the general fund side, we didn't re-label the revenue item from indirect cost allocation. It's more like a direct cost allocation at this point. So that's where the balance is in the SSD budget. It is true though that by doing that we are not charging the administrative cost, the indirect administrative cost from the general fund over to the SSD.

Commissioner Shay asked, so the Special Service District would then be paying zero dollars to the M&O for all the administrative cost that this government provides to them under this budget? Ms. Cramer said, that's true and that was just a budget move. We did not have available funds in the SSD to pick that up, so we made a decision to go with the direct charge approach.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Helen [Stone]. Commissioner Stone said, I yield at this time. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll state, unincorporated area residents, you should still sleep good at night because you're paying probably \$4,000,000 too much for your police services, so if you feel bad about everyone helping you with your administrative services, sleep well because you're by far being blown away by the amount of money you're paying to help fight crime in other places. You know, I understand and I do agree it needs to be straightened out. Two wrongs never makes a right, but in this case definitely is the appropriate thing to do. The unincorporated area residents at this point cannot shoulder any more taxes or weight on their back because they're about to fall over from all of the weight of subsidizing the crime fighting throughout the area. So sleep good. Don't feel bad. We need to straighten this out, but now's not the time because we need to correct the major problem that we've created for you unincorporated area residents and collect the amount of monies you're paying for your police services, and at that point you'll be able to actually afford without losing everything that you've gained throughout the years of your working, and then we can talk shifting it where it needs to go. But we need to correct the problem of the past before we create another problem for you unincorporated area residents, and again I like the concept — I really do because the appropriate people should pay for their services, but we have left them out there paying a lot more money than they should be paying for one thing, and they cannot afford to bear the cost of other things at this point. So we need to straighten the first problem and, I agree, we need to move forward and fix the second.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll yield to Pat Shay, if I could be —.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I don't wish sleeplessness on anybody. I do want to point out that my constituents that live in Thunderbolt under this arrangement are subsidizing the government of the Special Service District because they have a disagreement with the City of Savannah over paying for policing in the unincorporated area. So I don't think anybody in Thunderbolt should lose sleep over it either, but just remember that you are losing some of your M&O tax dollars so that you can subsidize policing in the unincorporated area. That's all.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Jon [Hart], I've just got a question for you. If we assume that SSD does not pay its fair share of administrative cost and that administrative cost in fact is being paid by M&O, assuming those facts to be true, comparing that with a gratuitous clause, are there any concerns that give no concern, are there any things that procedurally we need to do especially for those — for that circumstance? County Attorney Hart said, I don't have a gratuity problem dealing with government money staying within the government, okay. Commissioner Odell said, but you're looking at one section funding another section. Rather than catch you off guard in a public meeting, I would personally as an attorney like to have that research and have a written opinion based on the facts, which Sybil [Tillman] can give you. I'd like to know that. That gives me some concerns. I know that things do not always wash out because I have people in my district who don't own a car, who ride CAT, whose funds go to build highways and bypasses in districts that won't allow CAT to be out there. So I understand those separate differences, but for this situation that gives me some concern. County Attorney Hart said, well, the County has pretty broad powers setting up the Special Service District and I'll be glad to do that. Commissioner Odell said, and at some point what ultimately we're getting to, we're going — special service districts are about as unique as a two-headed snake. I mean, it is unusual. Whatever got us here and I don't believe in casting blame, because blame is not a substitute for solution. We've got a problem that we've got to deal with and the problem is that we're going to be — if we were a business, because of factors which this Commission is not to blame, we're almost insolvent. That gives me some concern for long term, and I'd like to be able to tell my constituents every day what they want to hear, but telling them what they want to hear is not a substitute for telling them what they need to hear. And what we need to be telling them is, and I applaud Pat [Shay] for his proposal. I'd like for us to look at that over time and study it and come up with a long term solution so that this is not a continuing problem.

Chairman Liakakis said, Priscilla [Thomas] and then the County Manager.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to mention for the purpose of the constituents that I represent as well, particularly those that are not in the SSD, that I have gotten, I mean, just oodles and oodles of emails from time to time, they too have been taxed and are continuing to be taxed for roads and some other stuff, and they have great concerns for those, and they too can't afford it. So I want them to understand that when I represent the constituents that I do, I try to do it across the board, not only just from my district but what is good for the entire County. So having said that,

I just want to make sure that my constituents also understand that we're trying to do the best that we can in terms of straightening out whatever problems that we have.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I first want to applaud you for what I believe is a most significant discussion I've hear about budget in memory. The County Commission has been beat up, as has staff, but that's unimportant, because of a total misunderstanding with Special Service District. As Commissioner Odell said so well, and this in my travels and work elsewhere, the Special Service District is a very unique entity and most counties throughout the United States of America there is no such thing as a special service district. You have services rendered. Yes, they may or may not apply within the city, but they're countywide, but all city residents pay for them. There's no special service district. Over time the Special Service District has gotten beat up. We're not — in this case we — the Special Service District is not entitled to any lost revenue. Every time this County Commission or your predecessors deal with the cities in Chatham County, we come up and say, well, give us something more for M&O to compensate for the fact that 77,000 people in this second largest city have received no benefit from LOST, and we never end up with what I would call equity. You have in effect an M&O break and breaks for the cities, but not for SSD. Now staff and Commissioner Shay hit it right on the head. Periodically we've tried to make some compensation, be it charges for overhead, whatever, so that the SSD kind of gets by from year to year, but the SSD budget is in serious trouble. I think this opens the door for what we talked about a few weeks ago to reevaluate the Special Service District. It pains me when I read an editorial in the morning's paper that in spite of the number of times the Chairman and I explain to the editorial board there is a difference between the County's total budget and the SSD, it's all put into one big pot. And we talk about things that are happening in the M&O which have no relevance at all, no relevance at all. You have a \$550,000,000 budget in front of you. The SSD budget is \$28,000,000. You have taken all this time and energy, well spent, to deal with \$28,000,000 over a budget that exceed a half a billion dollars. That's not right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I understand definitely what you're stating about representation. I submit that I represent five cities as well as one of the largest unincorporated areas out there, but I have no problem at all — although I have five cities that I have to answer to — I have no problem looking them in the eyes and voting — and voting for what the right thing is to do and after explaining and having the opportunity to explain, there's no doubt in my mind that constituents throughout this County do not and will not hold anyone accountable for doing the right thing. The right thing at this point is understanding some of what our Manager, Mr. Abolt, stated. There's plenty of areas in which everyone pays but they're not necessarily receiving benefits. He didn't state this part, but Chatham Area Transit, one example, unincorporated areas pay. There's many, many, many areas throughout the unincorporated areas of Chatham County that there's not a bus within miles, but they still pay. That's those residents paying for bus services for others. So, you know, if we go tit for tat on everything, however, if we need to just look at everything, but there's things such as annexations that taking place right now, that have been taking place where various cities are going in, they're annexing the valuable taxable properties and they're leaving the roads, not annexing the roads and they're leaving those roads for the unincorporated area residents to pay for, and it's at their expense that they're having to maintain the roads in which the cities are reaping all of the benefits. It's — definitely we need to look at it. It will not be solved, like I said, over night. The right thing to do at this point is continue and move forward. It will be solved and courage is shown in the future it could be solved pretty quickly.

The Sheriff is still working on numbers right now of what he could patrol the unincorporated areas for. It's going to be millions less. The reason the unincorporated area had its own police department that they paid for before was for stingy micro-managing reasons that past commissions wanted to be able to control the police department. Out of all the counties in Georgia, very few have a police department specifically for the unincorporated areas. The Sheriff himself patrols the area that are unincorporated that's not in a city, and the Sheriff as a benefit, looking at a benefit on this, the Sheriff can be held accountable by the people living in the unincorporated areas. They would have elected representation running their police services in which they do not have now. Currently they're paying millions more than they were paying for their police services four years ago, and they have no elected representation because Michael Brown runs their police department. So we have something coming soon, and again it's because — because I requested it. We will have the numbers that the Sheriff can patrol the unincorporated areas for. It's going to be millions less, and those citizens will have elected representation. Yes, I see Chamber members shaking their heads out in the audience because if you separate it, it will put true crime statistics back in place. I know that the unincorporated area residents were sacrificed at their expense to dilute the overall crime stats area, but diluting stats is not going to help me not get shot in the downtown area. It's not going to help anyone. So, yes, they're nice and they're diluted now and the unincorporated area residents are paying double the amount for that, but there's a way to keep a merged department if some people out there with some influence ask the City of Savannah to do the right thing, drop the price and allow the residents of the unincorporated area to have some true elected representation on there instead of just continuing to support and shake your heads at this flawed agreement, which is truly flawed. I wish that our Chamber and our media, our entire media would jump on the boat to doing the right thing. We can have the same final solution of what we need to better protect the area, but it needs to be done in the right manner. And, you know, again I've been in politics for quite a while now and I'll be honest, I don't give a damn if I get voted out tomorrow, but I'm going down doing the right thing period, and the right thing is to flat out straighten this flawed merger out and quite messing the unincorporated area residents over. They're subsidizing crime fighting right now. It's not fair and these proposals we have in front of us now is talking about increasing their expenses further. It's tearing 70,000-plus people to pieces, and again I was an original — I didn't say I said it before — but I was an original supporter of a merger agreement. We need to merge, we need the merged department if we can help, but we do not merge and give the house away and give the elected representation away and take all of the unincorporated area, their services that

they once received and either charge them a fee for it now on top of their taxes or and slash all their other services to nothing, shift more cost over on them. I'd be forming my own city so quick it would be ridiculous.

And again I encourage the business community, the media, quick shaking your heads and writing editorials stating that, you know, this was great and it's good. I get it, we all get it. It's been a nice little crime statistic dilution or whatever — whatever you want to call it there — it's made it look nice and lower, but again from someone that had his own brother murdered, if a street is safer, that's my goal not looking in a magazine and appearing to be safer. So we need to keep the merger in place, I'm all for it, but Savannah needs to get on board with this and charge the right prices and agree to a structure that would allow them — allow them being the unincorporated area residents — to have elected representation. We need to approve this now and move forward to correct all of the problems, not shift more on those residents.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I just want to take a minute. I respect Commissioner Kicklighter's feelings and opinions and I just want to voice one of my own. I think that the only problem we have with the financial part of the police department is that we certainly are dealing with a flawed formula. The County certainly is coming out on the short end of the stick. There's no question that any formula that is put together strictly based on population is really dumb, and it was dumb on our part to enter into that agreement to begin with, but now it's time to renegotiate that contract and it needs to be based on a combination of things. Population is certainly significant, but as equally as important are calls for service, and calls for service — I'm not going to bore you with the complexities of it, but calls for services have to be weighted. In other words, a call for service in one area for a barking dog carries so much weight, another call for service for a triple homicide has to have a heavier weight on it, but we need to come up with a formula just like any other jurisdictions have done and make it equitable for all the citizens in Chatham County and all the cities in Chatham County, but what I really want to say is that I really truly believe that our Metropolitan Police Department that we have in place now is probably one of the most competent, efficient law enforcement agencies in the United States, and I want to make no mistake about that. I think the Chief's doing a good job, I think his command staff is doing a good job, and most importantly the men and women on that street that risk their lives every day are doing a tremendous job. We have the most professional law enforcement agency in this country. I really truly believe that and it would be a mistake to switch gears. You just can't, you can't say, well, next month we're going to have the Sheriff's office patrol. That's not going to work, and I don't think that Al St. Lawrence — he has a full plat right now. He has a hundred million dollar jail to build and he's got all that he needs. You don't just start a huge police department on a dime. You know, you have to — where would the commanding officers come from, where would the — ? The problems are monumental. What we need to do, and I agree with Commissioner Kicklighter on this wholeheartedly, we need to correct the formula. That's all that needs to be corrected, and it has —, we have to be forceful this time and make sure that we don't come out on the short end of the stick like we did last time. There's nothing wrong with the Metropolitan Police Department. The citizens of Chatham County have never had such efficient and competent police service as they have right now. Don't mess with it. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, it's Jon [Hart] and then Patrick [Farrell].

County Attorney Hart said, I was just going to comment on Commissioner Kicklighter's observations because they're very observant. Population was probably the weakest thing you could come up with to measure that. But at the time of the merger, the two departments were so dissimilar it was apples and oranges and the only measuring stick you had was population, and that's why the agreement when it was adopted had provisions in it that said both sides were going to get together and they were going to collect the data from the new police force and then negotiate an agreement based on performance standards and delivery of services, and unfortunately we're still stuck on population day one.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Farrell] and then you. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll yield to Commissioner Kicklighter before me. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead.

Commissioner Stone said, I think there's no doubt that we need to move to a more balanced formula, but to stand up for the Special Service District, the people in Special Service District pay M&O taxes and Special Service District, and I often get asked what do you get for the taxes that you pay in SSD? We have to provide our own fire protection, our own trash pickup. I live well over a mile to the nearest bus stop, so that doesn't really help me, and now we've been charged a dry trash fee collection whether you use it or not. So I think that the formula definitely needs to be readdressed, but again I agree with what everything that's been said. Today is not the time to do it, and I think we need to be very thoughtful and considerate in how we weigh everything out and what the expenses in the SSD are and how they can be better balanced or whether we need to even look at what to do for the future of the Special Service District. But I agree, now is not the time at the eleventh hour of passing a budget and subsequently passing a millage to do it right now. So that's all I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, at this point I'd like to float the idea of — in the Special Service District of reducing the fee for dry trash. Do you want to —? Commissioner Stone said, no, no. I mean, you and I have talked about that and that was coming on the heels of — go ahead. No, you go ahead. Commissioner Farrell said, I'd like to float the idea that we charge \$3.50 a month for the dry trash fee versus what's on the books at the current time.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, why don't you do that after this motion to approve the budget because that's a separate item. Chairman Liakakis said, well, that's part of the budget. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, it's not. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, we can do that and then we'll go —, yeah. Okay.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, I just would be curious, reducing that fee by half would presumably mean that the SSD budget was then out of balance, if we were going to continue to provide the service. So where is the additional money going to come from that is lost by reducing the fee in half. My paperwork that I have seen was that the overall cost of providing that service to the residents of the unincorporated area Special Service District was on the order of about \$2,000,000 and that was balanced by the fee that was proposed. If we reduce the fee in half, where's the million dollars going to come from? I'm just asking?

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, that's a separate issue. Chairman Liakakis said, well —. Commissioner Shay said, it's the budget. Chairman Liakakis said, it's part of the budget.

Commissioner Odell said, Russ [Abolt] can't answer that question. Russ would have to be a magician to use mirrors to find the million dollars in a budget that's already depleted. That concept of reducing dry trash while it's good doesn't have sufficient traction to prevail. It is a good concept, it is going nowhere, so we can continue to play with that concept. It's a dead dog. Let's put it on so we can vote it down and stop playing with it. It's not going anywhere. You do not have the votes, you will not have the votes. At best you can tie it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I agree with Commissioner Gellatly next to me. I think we have a great, great police department. I think — I'm very thankful we have the Chief in place, but — and I want to keep the merged department in place, but I think it would be fair at this point to say that in recent years Savannah has not been very generous and they have not had any reasons to sit down for a serious negotiation to correct the flaws in that agreement. Thanks to the Sheriff coming through with numbers, I believe if we have the backup plan from him in place, I believe that would be the proper motivation, the appropriate type motivation to motivate Savannah to actually sit down and with a determination to correct the problems. Jon Hart mentioned, the Attorney mentioned it was based largely off of population. I mean, people sitting at home with the realization we've got approximately 75,000 or so people in the unincorporated area, 15,000 or so of them live behind gates. They're behind gates that a police car don't even ride into. They can't go. I mean, can they patrol them? But they don't because they have private security. They do not patrol, and it's a total different area and the fact is that the unincorporated area had a low crime rate prior to the merger. They have a low crime rate now and we need to get that in order. Now is — we're not going to solve anything as far as right this minute today. We did not solve the police merger, all the flaws in four years now, and we're still hopefully working on that, and we're not going to fix all the other flaws right this second. We need to move forward with the determination to do that, and I know he's about to say we need to get on the subject or something, but I agree we just need to move on. But let's — I'll call for the question if no one else wants to talk and we'll just up or down.

Commissioner Odell said, I've forgotten what the question is y'all have talked so long. What is the question? County Attorney Hart said, voting to propose the adoption of the SSD budget. Commissioner Odell said, okay, well we had some amendments and the dry trash, which we'll have to separately. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no amendments.

County Manager Abolt said, there were no amendments. County Attorney Hart said, there were no amendments. This is just straight up or down on this.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, because that's a separate issue, Commissioner Odell, because that was already approved and after this someone can make a motion if they want to reduce collecting a fee or whatever.

Commissioner Odell said, okay, let's do it. He called for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the table. Commissioners Shay, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the Special Service District budget as presented by staff. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:**

To adopt the FY2010 budget resolution for the Special Service District Fund.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County is required by law to adopt balanced annual budgets for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project length budgets can be adopted for Capital Improvement Funds.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- (1) A public hearing was held during the Chatham County Commission meeting held on May 22, 2009. Copies of the proposed budget were made available in the Finance Department as well as at all Chatham County branches of the Live Oak Public Library.
- (2) By law, Chatham County is required to wait one week after the public hearing before adopting budget resolutions. Budget adoption was advertised on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in the Savannah Morning News for adoption on Friday, June 26, 2009.
- (3) If the proposed budget is not adopted on June 26, 2009, the Board must revise the budget calendar and re-advertise the budget adoption at least one week prior to adoption in accordance with state law.
- (4) County taxes are applied to the Chatham County Stephens Day Value shown in Box 6 on the Assessment Notice, not the Market Value shown in Box 5. The Chatham County Stephens Day Value has remained unchanged for nine years.
- (5) The Board of Commissioners approved the early repayment of the capital lease obligation for the radio system upgrade financed by G.E. Capital Public Finance at their meeting held April 24, 2009. Accordingly, the proposed budget has been amended on the resolution to decrease Debt Service and increase Sheriff/Peace Officer Retirement \$62,120. The total revenues and appropriations remain the same.
- (6) The resolution shows a fund balance appropriation of \$1,575,996.
- (7) Budget resolutions for the General Fund M&O and other funds are attached to separate staff reports.

**FUNDING:**

Funding sources are identified in the budget resolution. Detail is on file in the Chatham County Finance Department.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board adopt the FY2009 budget resolution for the Special Service District Fund.
- (2) That the Board amend the proposed Special Service District Fund budget and adopt an amended resolution.
- (3) That the Board provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law requires that annual budgets be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project-length budgets should be adopted for Capital Projects Funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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**MOTION TO RECESS**

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Stone asked, who wants to do it? I guess we can't do it together, huh. Commissioner Shay said, remember to vote to amend the agenda first.

County Manager Abolt said, you want to continue your discussion on the — just to get the entire budget adopted, and come back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's just do this right now.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I move amend the agenda to allow Commissioners Stone and Farrell to make a motion. Chairman Liakakis said, well, let's do this right now because we know what the situation is. We can come back and do this pretty quick, but I need a motion on the floor now to recess for 15 minutes and then we can come back and take all of this in order.

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

Chairman Liakakis said we've got a motion on the floor to — yeah, because we've got a situation, as you know. Commissioner Odell asked, what is the motion? Chairman Liakakis said, to recess here for 15 minutes. Commissioner Odell said, oh, absolutely. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

A brief recess was taken by the Commissioners at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting of the County Commission was reconvened at approximately 12: 55 p.m.

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**MOTION TO ADD ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Odell said, Stone will make the amendment.

Commissioner Shay asked, do you want to make a motion to amend the agenda so you can talk about your thing. Commissioner Stone asked, are we going now? Commissioner Shay asked, are we in session, sir. Chairman Liakakis said, yes, we're back in session now. Commissioner Stone do we need a motion to be back in session? Commissioner Shay said, not really. Chairman Liakakis said, no, it's not necessary.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Patrick [Farrell], you were going to make a motion?

Commissioner Stone said, right, okay. I'll make a make a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Shay said, for the purpose of —.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion to amend the agenda. We've got a second on it.

Commissioner Odell said, we have to set the purpose — for the purpose of the dry trash ordinance. Commissioner Stone said, yes. Commissioner Odell asked, is that right?

Commissioner Stone said, correct. I'm sorry. The Clerk asked, who seconded it? Commissioner Farrell said, second. Commissioner Odell said, made by Stone and seconded by Farrell.

The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, motion passes. Okay.

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## DRY TRASH ORDINANCE

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. In light of what I stated earlier about some of the services that are not provided in the unincorporated area, and I know that in the previous meeting it was voted to implement an \$85 fee for dry trash pickup and in talking to my fellow Commissioners, I'd like to amend that fee to a \$3.50, which is half of what was originally proposed for the Special Service District. So I guess it would be a \$42.50 a year —. County Manager Abolt said, make it \$43. Commissioner Stone said, \$43 versus the \$85 a year fee.

Chairman Liakakis asked, alright, do we have a second? Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, alright, we have a motion on the floor and a second, and for people to understand this, it only runs 87¢ a week. Breaking it down, the \$3.50 a month is only 87¢ a week on this. Patrick [Shay].

Commissioner Shay said, I'll just repeat the question that I had before. What we've done is we've just shed about \$1,000,000 a year in revenue to the Special Service District. How are we balancing the Special Service District budget? In a world of pay-go, where did the go come from? What goes?

County Manager Abolt said, I don't know the answer to that question right now. What you're going to have to do if that is the wish of the Commission, a couple of things are going to have to happen. The first is there is a majority vote and then you're going to have to — I was going to say take it on faith, but that's not — you're going to have to assume that you will have a majority vote when we come back to amend the revenue. And the most important thing beyond what Commissioner Shay said is you're going to have to assume that's what the fee is because we have a production problem. I would have to turn around with Ms. Snider immediately and Mr. Powers and say rather than put \$85 on the tax bill, it's \$43. And then finally, and I could not do that right away, I would have to come back with a budget adjustment. My interpretation is you desire to keep the same service as we know it now, but to charge the beneficiary only half of what you wish. I understand that, but to do that several things have to happen. We have to amend the revenue ordinance. That will take another action on your part, and then the most important thing timing wise is a majority of you will be telling me to instruct the Tax Commissioner and Ms. Snider to change the tax bills and rather than having \$85, it would say \$43, and then I'd have to come back later where did the money come from.

Commissioner Shay said, by setting this up and doing it this way, we would be creating a recurring service so not only does it affect budget revenue for this budget year but in all future years. Is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct. Commissioner Shay said, I'd just like to ask that before we implement the revenue side of this equation that we get the Finance Director to redo the little graph of how fast we're heading into the abyss to add the extra million dollar shortfall per year into that equation.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I support no at all for a pay for pickup fee. I believe that residents that need to haul their stuff to — haul it. We provide the places where people can dump the trash and eliminate the service altogether and eliminate. If we could get rid of it totally, it would knock a million and a half out the budget and reduce the millage, whatever we need to then, and I'd rather see that for our residents and I know it will inconvenience some, but inconveniencing some that probably utilize that service provides a larger benefit to the majority who do not utilize that service. It will benefit many and actually hinder some and there's no better solution at this point. I just think we should eliminate the service and eliminate the fee.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, there's a problem with that because what was proposed is that the dry trash pickup was going to be discontinued. Is that Mr. County Manager? County Manager Abolt said, again, and this has been misunderstood in the media, not by this Board, but as you know in my recommended budget, I cut over a million dollars out of Public Works. My next step would have been to cut dry trash. It was my choice to say, no, that's a fee-driven service, I propose the fee. So, but yes, if the million and a half is not there, and that's the SSD side of it, tough there are more dollars as Commissioner Shay said, then in fact the service would be as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and we'd lay off 13 people.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Alright, let's go on the board. Commissioner Odell said, we're not ready. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead.

Commissioner Odell said, Russ [Abolt] is saying that this motion seeks to cut the revenue by half, but does not cut the expenses by half. Commissioner Shay said, that's correct. Commissioner Odell said, then that coupled with the fact that we voted on this, what, two weeks ago? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, and this is dealing with the same subject matter, identical subject matter. Jon [Hart], just parliamentary procedure, and we put it by amending the agenda, and that is no prior notification before meeting. There was no motion for reconsideration. I'm saying it was a different meeting so we would not need — we can vote on the same thing every meeting is what you're saying. A drop of water is the same as an ocean if we can —. This is a drop. Can we vote on the same thing every meeting unless we're —. I'm not following you. County Attorney Hart said, you could make a motion to say that the motion could not be made, but, you know, there's no reason that the motion cannot be reconsidered or made at a separate meeting. When you make a motion and it went on a subject, it doesn't stand forever either.

Commissioner Odell said, I understand what the concerns are, but my concern is that you cannot have a Shop & Go where you — if I want to have dry trash picked up then I call in and fund a budget. That way you get — I know I've

done some budgeting. That to me just doesn't seem like you can do that. County Attorney Hart said, you've got two different motions. You've got one motion for \$85 and one motion for \$43. Commissioner Odell said, [inaudible] make a motion. But nevertheless I'm still concerned that we're cutting the revenue and not cutting — not addressing the expenditure and that creates a shortfall, which to me has a rippling effect through the budget proposal for SSD which we voted on. Is that a correct statement? County Attorney Hart said, correct up to the point that you made —. What did you say in the last part of your statement?

Commissioner Odell said, I said that this is starting to look like we're making sausage. It might be delicious, but the process just doesn't look good. I understand my fellow Commissioners' concern, but I've also got some budget concerns. I think we need the revenue and, Russ [Abolt], correct me if I'm wrong, that — to do this service we have a projected cost. Is that true? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and if we do this we cut the revenue by 50% but — and you're going to pull out your magic mirror and find the money? County Manager Abolt said, I would have to come back after I've had time to look at it in subsequent meetings with how you'd make up the difference.

Commissioner Odell asked, do you all want to vote on something, a good concept, where we don't know the financial impact or even if it's possible? Wouldn't it be a good thing in that we know that it will have a rippling impact for us to just table this until two weeks and if we can do it or a month — to whenever. You want to do it now? County Manager Abolt said, I hate to again limit your discussion by the calendar, but the reason we asked you to act on it last meeting was the digest issue. We're trying to save money by not creating a whole bureaucracy to send out separate bills, but just like the street light fees, we're saying let's just keep it at the cost to pick up the service as opposed to pay for bureaucrats. So we said the easy way to do it is put it on the tax bill as a fee. The door's about shut on that. You could today, if you wish, I'm told just change the number so that Mr. Powers and Ms. Snider would put on the tax bills \$43 rather than \$85, but then you're going to have to take that not on faith among yourselves, but you cannot today accomplish all those things in one meeting because we're not ready for you.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. I understand, Russ [Abolt], and I appreciate it. Jon [Hart], a question. The motion, eight people here, the motion only gets four votes. If there's a tie, the motion fails. Is that true? County Attorney Hart said, correct. Commissioner Odell said, so in order to keep things the way we voted on it last time meeting, we must vote against this motion. County Attorney Hart said, political. Commissioner Odell said, no, I wasn't asking you for a political opinion. County Attorney Hart said, if you vote against it and it split, it would fail, yes. Commissioner Odell said, and just for correction, I wasn't asking you for a political decision.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ [Abolt]. County Manager Abolt said, sir. Chairman Liakakis said, they're not sending out the tax bill tomorrow or the next day. They won't be sending that out from what I understand until September. Isn't that correct? County Manager Abolt said, all I know is that when we were trying to give you a decision you could make last time, the first time was left so it could get on the tax bills and I was told that was an issue of computers and getting everything ready. So this is the first time we've done it. I did not want to ill-advise you other than what I was told by Ms. Snider and others that it had to be a decision that was sensitive to the digest though it's not part of the digest. Chairman Liakakis said, well, here's what I would like to find out. In two week's time, will they still be able to get it on the bill? County Manager Abolt said, I would have to get Ms. Snider on the phone. Oh, I did not know that she was there.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Sheryl [Snider], two weeks will it still give us time to get it on the bill? Ms. Snider said, it's already made to put it on the bill. Chairman Liakakis asked, but that can be changed, correct? Ms. Snider said, just understand that I give the Tax Commissioner a file that has data in it and that file — the data represents numbers of some sort, and when I give him that file I'm going to give him a file that has that \$85 fee and if you all in two weeks change your mind to \$43, I can't go in there and change that. Now he may can change it on his side of the house in his database. Chairman Liakakis said, I'd like to find that out now.

Commissioner Shay said, while we're finding that out, if I may, Mr. Chairman, just point out that in the SSD budget, I'm going to try and learn to do this correctly, in the Special Service District unincorporated area budget, because there are other special service districts, that we just adopted, we will be using \$1,575,969 of fund balance to fund the recurring costs that will happen in this year's budget. If this passes, then we will in all likelihood be adding significantly to that number, not only this year but in all future years for as long as we continue to provide the service to the constituents.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I just want a little clarification. This morning when I discussed this, Mr. Abolt, I was told ;you said a quarter of a million dollars. County Manager Abolt said, no ma'am. At that time I heard expressions of having the fee so I said three-quarters of a million dollars. So to make his statement ----. Commissioner Stone said, but I mean if this is cut in half I thought you said the amount of money that you would need to come up with is a quarter of a million dollars. County Manager Abolt three-quarters of a million. Half of one-half million is three-quarters of a million dollars. Commissioner Stone said, right. So it's not.

Commissioner Odell said, are you all saying the same thing. I don't think you are. County Manager Abolt said, no. Three-quarters of a million —, yes, \$750,000. Commissioner Odell said, \$750,000. County Manager Abolt said, and the discussion with all the —, I was trying to say three-quarters of a million dollars, \$750,000.

Commissioner Shay said, okay, well, I'm sorry. When we adopt the thing we were shown that it raised \$2,000,000 worth of revenue and —. County Manager Abolt said, it does. Commissioner Shay said, — and through some kind of wonderful math trick we cut the fee in half and it only cost us \$750,000, but it's still by anybody's reckoning adding \$750,000 to the revenue. County Manager Abolt said, you're right, sir. Commissioner Shay said, to the expenditure side of a budget — I'm sorry, reducing the revenue side by \$750,000, therefore making the budget that we just adopted — that I voted against — out of balance. County Manager Abolt said, Commissioner Shay, you —.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, point of order. Commissioner Odell said, parliamentary, by Dean [Kicklighter]. Commissioner Kicklighter said, as much as I would like for the fee to go to nothing, Commissioner Odell's right. This cannot be brought up again unless the prevailing side brought it up for consideration. This fee I would love to be at zero. This discussion is out of parliamentary process. It cannot take place by law because neither Commissioner Stone or Farrell nor myself nor Gellatly can reconsider this because we were not on the prevailing side, and that's the law. That's not my choice. I'd like to have it at zero. Commissioner Stone said, but this is a different meeting, right? Commissioner Kicklighter said, it does not matter. At the next meeting, the meeting following a meeting, and I want one [inaudible] in this process and we lost with that process because it cannot by law be reconsidered at this point, as much as would like to and like to wipe the whole fee out.

County Manager Abolt said, it's very important to me to admit to you when I made a mistake, and I made a mistake. Commissioner Shay is right. In the moment when Commissioner Stone asked me in the premeeting, I just looked at the million and a half in SSD, but you're correct, sir. The entire process of coming up with the budget, so it's more than three-quarters of a million dollars. I want to say I'm sorry for making a mistake, but it was a mistake.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but we can't do this, as much as I would like to make the motion to vote zero. County Attorney Hart said, different motions here though. You've got different amounts doing for different things.

Chairman Liakakis asked, it's a different amount is what you're saying? In other words, we're not voting on the same motion as it was before. This is a different amount so that does not come into play.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if it's zero then it couldn't be considered because it was —, the original was increasing from zero fee to whatever so now this can because her number is not zero? County Attorney Hart said, well, she can make it zero if she wanted to because it would be —. I don't know.

Chairman Liakakis said, so this can be voted on? County Attorney Hart said, correct. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Shay asked, can the taxes be changed? He's on his way. Alright.

An unidentified person said, the Tax Commissioner will be here to answer your questions.

Commissioner Stone asked, can we go on to something else and come back when he gets here?

Commissioner Odell asked, why don't you table this? Commissioner Farrell said, for 15 minutes. Commissioner Odell said, or 20 minutes.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. I need a motion on the floor —. Commissioner Stone said, I'll table it. Chairman Liakakis said, — to table this for 15 minutes and we'll go on until other business. Let's have a motion on the floor. Commissioner Stone said, I made the motion. Chairman Liakakis said, and we need a second. Commissioner Odell said, second. The Clerk said if you table it for 15 minutes, we'll have to bring it up in 15 minutes even if he's not here. Commissioner Odell said, to later in the meeting. Commissioner Stone said, to when the Tax Commissioner gets here. Commissioner Kicklighter said, any time his smiling face walks through those doors.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, with the Chair's permission I would like to move up, just because unfortunately I have to be in another meeting, #7 regarding Connor's Temple Baptist Church, which is in Dr. Thomas' district.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have to do this one first. We have to table it. We have to vote on it. We haven't voted. The Clerk said, only you have to vote on it. Commissioner Shay said, if you'll vote we'll do that. Chairman Liakakis said, oh, I thought that was the old vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, okay, the motion passes.

\* \* \*

Chairman Liakakis asked, are we still waiting on Danny [Powers]?

County Attorney Hart said, and in the interim we did look at the law. We've got two separate and distinct motions here. The first motion was a motion — two weeks ago was a motion to increase fee and increase revenue and the motion today is to amend and already adopt a different budget and to reduce revenue, so it's a separate motion and it can be considered. Commissioner Stone said, okay.

An unidentified person said, Mr. Powers contacted me back. He said we could still take the necessary steps to change it if you —.

Chairman Liakakis asked, they can do it? Okay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to untable, even though the motion was that we would wait until Commissioner Powers came, because he kind of came by speaking through somebody here in the audience. Commissioner Stone said, I'll second that.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, we've untabled that item and now need a motion on the floor —. Commissioner Shay said, the motion stands. Commissioner Stone said, the motion stands. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, the motion stands.

Commissioner Shay said, let's vote. Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I still think we need to either just eliminate the service and all of the fees rather than crippling it down to nothing. That's that.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we've got a motion on the floor to reduce it to \$3.50 a month or \$43 —. County Manager Abolt said, just say \$43 a year, \$43 a year. Chairman Liakakis said, 12 times \$3.50 becomes what?

Chairman Liakakis said, the motion was \$43 a year. County Manager Abolt said, just round it off. Chairman Liakakis said, \$43 a year, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, better than nothing.

Commissioner Thomas asked, did you also discuss what impact the difference is going to —? Commissioner Stone said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, I mean, as far as the tax [impact]. Chairman Liakakis said, right. The Clerk said, is your mike on because I cannot hear you. Commissioner Thomas said, I was asking having we also looked at what the difference would be? Chairman Liakakis said, right. Commissioner Thomas said, since you're cutting it in half.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Russ [Abolt], do you want to tell her that again please. Commissioner Thomas asked, what impact —?

County Manager Abolt said, the impact he questions marks behind some of it. If the motion passes today, we would have to come back to amend the revenue ordinance from the \$85 to the \$43 —. Commissioner Thomas said, I got that. County Manager Abolt said, I would come back then with where the money would come from. Commissioner Thomas said, that's my question. County Manager Abolt said, which would be the million dollar figure that Commissioner Shay corrected me on, and then you would have to agree to adopt the Revenue Ordinance. So each — what is bothersome to me now, and we'll do whatever you tell us, is that you have two individuals missing. Commissioner Thomas said, right. County Manager Abolt said, and Mr. Powers I know is — will make — will respond to your wishes, but I want to come back with a Revenue Ordinance amendment, which is what I'm going to have to do in two weeks, and all of a sudden it doesn't pass. We are flat up against production. That's what bothers me.

Chairman Liakakis said, so then we can go ahead on through at this point for the motion to table it for the next meeting, correct? Okay, we have a motion on the floor —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to say —. Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute — to table it for —.

Commissioner Farrell said, nobody's made a motion to table. You've got a motion standing ready to be voted on.

County Attorney Hart said, if somebody were to make a motion to table, you'd have to vote on the motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, okay, because we have it now. Okay. Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I would ask my fellow Commissioners to change your motion to eliminate the service as we know it altogether and to retain two trucks and to have a subscription service with a fee to be determined later per pickup. At that point we've eliminated the service, we've eliminated the need for \$1.5 million and we can put — then we can go from there. If the two trucks are overworked, we know that we'll have to add more later and at that point with the fee per service, we could increase because they would be paying that way instead of everyone having to pay.

Commissioner Shay asked, who under that circumstance would send out the bills and collect the bills? County Manager Abolt said, I wouldn't know, sir. In fact, if that motion were to pass, I think for all intents and purposes you're going to essentially eliminate the service. I mean, I don't want to be —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what? County Manager Abolt said, eliminate the service. I just don't have the answers for you now because what you do is, you could put yourself in the position now of trying to create a bureaucracy that would be answering phones that would make sure to be officially dispatched so if somebody calls in out on Whitefield Avenue, Commissioner Stone at nine o'clock in the morning and then I'd send them out, you know, near Garden City, we have to officiate it otherwise we

create expense beyond what we have right now. Commissioner Shay said, a parliamentary question. Is this a motion, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, they already have motion. County Attorney Hart said, to modify the motion.

Commissioner Shay said, to these [inaudible], if I'm not mistaken. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Commissioner Shay asked, do you want to modify it? Commissioner Stone no. Commissioner Shay asked, do you want to modify it? Commissioner Farrell said, no. Commissioner Shay said, well, let's vote on the motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Well, before I do this, I just want you to know I support no mandatory fee. That's why I will vote against this. Commissioner Shay said, let's see what we've got.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright we need a motion on the floor for executive session for legal and personnel.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to change my vote to yes if I can before it's cleared.

Chairman Liakakis said, don't clear it. Commissioner Kicklighter is changing his —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if that's going to happen, I support a reduction versus nothing. So —. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas asked, do what? Chairman Liakakis said, so he changed it — five [sic] to two. Commissioner Thomas said, oh.

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

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to reduce the fee for dry trash pickup from \$85 to \$43 a year. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.]
- b. Commissioner Stone moved to table the motion until the Tax Commissioner arrives to answer questions regarding the billing of the dry trash fee. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.]
- c. Commissioner Shay moved to untable the motion for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]
- d. A vote was taken on the motion to reduce the fee for dry trash pickup from \$85 to \$43 a year. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Shay and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.]

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#### **ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

NOTE: At the request of Commissioner Odell the order of the agenda was changed and Item IX-7 was heard at this point on the agenda.

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#### **IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION (continued)**

4. **REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNTY'S PROPRIETARY FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUND, NON-MAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, AND CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS; AND AMEND THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND PARKING GARAGE FUNDS.**

Chairman Liakakis recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, that's the end of the budget. You adopt that one, you adopt the \$550,000,000 plan.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We need a motion on the floor. Commissioner Odell said, oh, I make the motion. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to adopt the FY2010 budget resolution for the County's proprietary funds, debt service fund, non-major special revenue funds, and capital project funds; and amend the proposed budget for the Chatham Area Transit Authority and Parking Garage funds. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:**

To adopt the FY2010 budget resolution for the County's proprietary funds, debt service fund, non-major special revenue funds, and capital project funds; and amend the proposed budget for the Chatham Area Transit Authority and Parking Garage funds.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County is required by law to adopt balanced annual budgets for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project length budgets can be adopted for Capital Improvement Funds.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- (1) A public hearing was held during the Chatham County Commission meeting on May 22, 2009. Copies of the proposed budget were made available in the Finance Department as well as at all Chatham County branches of the Live Oak Public Library.
- (2) By law, Chatham County is required to wait one week after the public hearing before adopting budget resolutions. Budget adoption was advertised on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in the *Savannah Morning News* for adoption on Friday, June 26, 2009.
- (3) If the proposed budget is not adopted on June 26, 2009, the Board must revise the budget calendar and re-advertise the budget adoption at least one week prior to adoption in accordance with state law.
- (4) County taxes are applied to the Chatham County Stephens Day Value shown in Box 6 on the Assessment Notice, not the Market Value shown in Box 5. The Chatham County Stephens Day Value has remained unchanged for nine years.
- (5) Information received since May 8, 2009 and during the workshops held by the Board indicates the desirability of adjustments to the proposed budget. The Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) Fund has been adjusted to \$17,039,434 based on the budget proposed by CAT staff. The Parking Garage enterprise fund budget has been adjusted to \$314,940 based on the rates approved by the Board of Commissioners May 22, 2009. These adjustments are incorporated in the attached budget resolution.
- (6) The Board of Commissioners approved an amendment increasing revenues and expenditures in the Sales Tax I (1985-1993) Fund \$7,300,000 for the Whitefield Avenue project at their meeting held May 22, 2009. The Board amended the project budgets in the Sales Tax IV (2003-2008) fund at their meeting held June 12, 2009. The proposed budget for the fund remains the same. The project detail conforms to Board action. These budget amendments have been included in the attached resolution.

- (7) Budget resolutions for the General Fund M&O and Special Service District Fund are attached to separate staff reports.
- (8) Project budgets for the capital funds attached to the budget resolution will be adopted upon the Board's approval of the FY09 budget resolution.

**FUNDING:**

Funding sources are identified in the budget resolution. Detail is on file in the Chatham County Finance Department.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board adopt the FY2010 budget resolution for the County's proprietary funds, debt service fund, non-major special revenue funds, and capital project funds; amending the proposed CAT fund and Parking Garage budgets as described in Fact and Finding number five.
- (2) That the Board amend the proposed budget for the funds listed and adopt an amended resolution.
- (3) That the Board provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

State law requires that annual budgets be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project-length budgets should be adopted for Capital Projects Funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

**Attachment I**

Adjustments to proposed budget

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Original Proposed</u>	<u>Amended</u>	
CAT Authority	\$17,032,826	\$17,039,434	Updated information from Transit Authority
Parking Garage	\$294,886	\$314,940	Revised revenue estimates
Sales Tax I (1985-1993)	\$12,700,895	\$20,000,895	Board action May 22, 2009
Sales Tax IV (2003-2008)	\$105,627,947	\$105,627,947	Board action June 12, 2009 Project budgets amended

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**5. THE FOLLOWING ACTION IS ONLY REQUIRED IF THE BOARD FAILS TO ADOPT FY2010 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS: APPROVAL OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010, TO ENABLE THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE UNTIL FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET IS ADOPTED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The Commissioners passed the budgets as proposed by staff; therefore, no action was required on this item.

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**6. TAX DIGEST INFO. (Anticipate distribution of staff report on Thursday.)**

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, again I apologize. This is only because of what the Legislature has done to us and in this production of digest our staff has been seriously limited. You got the preliminary information last night. It's important though to set in process what we already discussed about hearings and setting the millage in dealing with rollbacks. As I mentioned, there are two hearings coming up. I was reminded in the recess that even though I talked about a hearing on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, Ms. Snider will not have the rollback information to us until Monday and we have to get an advertisement to the paper, which would preclude us from advertising in advance of the hearing. So what I would ask is a motion to set your two required hearings in advance of adoption on the millage, which is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, that's when you'd adopt, and moving back from that, that you would have two hearings on millage rollback. One would be at 9:30 in the morning and the other at 6:00 at night on Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. That date is required because of the necessary advertising, and then you would adopt the millage on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. But we need a motion to set those two hearings and then we can go forward from then.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you for understanding.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved to schedule tax digest hearings on July 15, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m., and the final hearing and adoption at our regularly scheduled meeting on July 23, 2009. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

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**7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE REQUEST OF CONNOR'S TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, INC. ("CHURCH") TO FORGIVE OR ABATE ANY 2005 TAXES ASSESSED ON THE CHURCH'S PROPERTY LOCATED AT 410 W. GWINNETT STREET (PIN #20045-28005) AND AT 722 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BOULEVARD (PIN #20045-28007) AND 2008 TAXES ASSESSED ON THE CHURCH'S PROPERTY LOCATED AT 718 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BOULEVARD (PIN #20045-28008).  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to pull — take out of order #7 and basically this is a refund for a nonprofit, the Connor Temple Baptist Church, Inc., and Jon [Hart], if he can hear me, it's a nonprofit organization. We're empowered to do this pursuant to Official Code of Georgia 48-5-154. I make a motion to approve the refund. We've done this in the past. It's in the amount of \$1,145.98. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Commissioner Odell said, and it's approved by Danny Powers.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Commissioner Odell said, it's recommended by Danny [Powers]. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request of Connor's Temple Baptist Church, Inc., to forgive or abate any 2005 taxes assessed on the Church's property located at 410 West Gwinnett Street (Pin #20045-28005) and at 722 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (Pin #20045-28007) and 2008 taxes assessed on the Church's property located at 718 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (#20045-28008), pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-154, in the amount of \$1,145.98. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

To approve request of Connor’s Temple Baptist Church, Inc. (“Church”) to forgive or abate any 2005 taxes assessed on the Church’s property located at 410 W. Gwinnett Street (PIN #20045-28005) and at 722 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (PIN #20045-28007) and 2008 taxes assessed on the Church’s property located at 718 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (PIN #20045-28008).

**BACKGROUND:**

This is a request by Connor’s Temple Baptist Church, Inc. to forgive or abate taxes assessed against three parcels of property. The taxes at issue are for tax year 2005 for two of the parcels and tax year 2008 for the third parcel. Apparently, the Church applied for and was granted an exemption for tax year 2006 for the parcels located at 410 W. Gwinnett Street (PIN #20045-28005) and 722 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (PIN #20045-28007). However, a portion of the taxes assessed against the foregoing properties for tax year 2005 remain due.

The Church also has been granted an exemption for tax year 2009 for its property located at 718 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (PIN #20045-28008). However, taxes assessed against this property for tax year 2008 are due.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Connor’s Temple Baptist Church, Inc. is a non-profit organization.
2. O.C.G.A. 48-5-154 provides the County governing authority shall have jurisdiction and the power to correct all errors in the digest to order abatement or cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to make other adjustments in the digest of a similar nature and to reflect the same in the account as stated.

**FUNDING:**

Refund of any ad valorem taxes paid by Connor’s Temple Baptist Church, Inc. out of the County’s General Fund account.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Connor’s Temple Baptist Church, Inc. is exempt from ad valorem property taxes. Any taxes that have been paid should be refunded or in the alternative, an order and abatement of cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and appropriate adjustment to the digest should be made.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The Commission should authorize the refund of \$1,145.98 for the ad valorem taxes or order an abatement and cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to correct and adjust errors in the digest for tax years 2005 and 2008.
2. The Commission should not authorize the refund of \$1,145.98 for the ad valorem taxes or order an abatement and cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to correct and adjust errors in the digest for tax years 2005 and 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative 1.

RJH/jr

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE REQUEST OF CHRIST CHURCH TO FORGIVE OR ABATE ANY 2008 ASSESSED TAXES FOR PARCEL 2-0004-38-001, 0 WEST CONGRESS STREET. [DISTRICT 3.]**

Chairman Liakakis said, that’s an empty lot.

County Attorney Hart said, yes sir, this is a request by Christ Church that has acquired a parking lot. They now have an exemption and they thought one exemption was good for the other. You're in a situation where it is used for church purposes and under O.C.G.A. 48-5-154, this property could be recognized as exempt and you could refund the taxes if you so elected to do that. That's not mandatory on your part, but —.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I have requested to abstain from the vote due to a possible conflict of interest.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, is this the same type situation as the other one we just handled? County Attorney Hart said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. County Attorney Hart said, first of all, you've got to vote on the recusal motion first.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, to recuse Commissioner Stone. Commissioner Farrell said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, now the motion to approve Christ Church's request.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor and a second to approve. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present; Commissioner Stone was abstained from voting.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to recuse Commissioner Stone from voting due to a conflict. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request of Christ Church to forgive or abate any 2008 assessed taxes for Parcel 2-0004-38-001, 0 West Congress Street, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-154, in the amount of \$7,655.61. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Holmes was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-8**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:**

To approve request of Christ Church to forgive or abate any 2008 assessed taxes for parcel 2-0004-38-001, 0 West Congress Street, Savannah, Georgia.

**BACKGROUND:**

This is a request by Christ Church to forgive or abate taxes paid for tax year 2007 for parcel 2-0004-38-001, 0 West Congress Street, in the amount of \$7,655.61. The subject parcel is a parking lot. Apparently, believing filing an application was not required for recognition of the exemption under O.C.G.A. § 48-5-41, Church Christ did not apply in 2007. Subsequently, Church Christ applied for and was granted an exemption for the subject property in 2008.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. Christ Church is a non-profit organization.
2. O.C.G.A. 48-5-154 provides the County governing authority shall have jurisdiction and the power to correct all errors in the digest to order abatement or cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to make other adjustments in the digest of a similar nature and to reflect the same in the account as stated.

**FUNDING:**

Refund of ad valorem taxes paid by Christ Church out of the County's General Fund account.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Christ Church is exempt from ad valorem property taxes. Any taxes that have been paid should be refunded or in the alternative, an order and abatement of cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and appropriate adjustment to the digest should be made.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The Commission should authorize the refund of \$7,655.61 ad valorem taxes or order an abatement and cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to correct and adjust errors in the digest for tax year 2007.

2. The Commission should not authorize the refund of \$7,655.61 ad valorem taxes or order an abatement and cancellation of taxes erroneously assessed and to correct and adjust errors in the digest for tax year 2007.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative 1.

RJH/dc

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Liakakis said, Action Calendar. We have Items 1 through 7 and under 7 we have Items A through O. There's one that we had a request for the memorandum of understanding until we had additional information, that's Item #3, to table that one. Do we have a motion on the floor to table one at this point?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to table #3. Chairman Liakakis asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Stone said, second.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, only, alright. Now we'll go through — yeah. We'll take any items that you'd like to take off before we vote for the entire.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items 1 through 7-O and under 7 we have Items A through O. There's one that we had a request for the memorandum of understanding until we had additional information, that's Item #3, to table that one. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell 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 JUNE 12, 2009, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 12, 2009. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 4 THROUGH JUNE 17, 2009.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period June 4, 2009, through June 17, 2009, in the amount of \$5,517,303. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH STEP UP SAVANNAH.**

For action on this item, see the introduction to Action Calendar above.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to table approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Step Up Savannah. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

**ISSUE:** To request Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Step Up Savannah.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1) The adopted FY2009 General Fund M&O budget includes an appropriation of \$203,288 for the Construction Apprentice Program. The amended budget includes a line item for Management Consulting Services.
- 2) A Memorandum of Understanding with Step Up Savannah for administrative support provided to the Construction Apprentice Program is attached.
- 3) The contract provides for payment not to exceed 10% of the adopted budget for the Construction Apprentice Program. The amount to be paid for FY2009 is \$18,000. The amount for FY2010 will be \$19,500.

**FUNDING:** Funds are available in the Construction Apprentice Program budget (1007660 52.11001).

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1) That the Board approve the contract and authorize the Chairman to sign.
- 2) Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Approval is consistent with Board action requiring a contract or Memorandum of Understanding with agencies receiving funding.

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

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

STATE OF GEORGIA )

COUNTY OF CHATHAM )

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'**  
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH**  
**Step Up Savannah (Step Up Savannah, INC.)**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this 26th day of June, 2009, by and between Step Up Savannah, Inc. (hereinafter called Step Up Savannah) and the Chatham County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter called the County).

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, Step Up Savannah's mission is "The Step Up collaborative will enhance economic independence in Savannah by encouraging residents to take personal responsibility and organizations to identify and work to reduce barriers to self sufficiency; by finding, redistributing or creating the necessary resources; and by evaluating outcomes."  
 Step Up Savannah at the request of the Chatham County Commission created the Construction Apprentice Program known as CAP in 2006.

WHEREAS, Chatham County, Step Up Savannah (a collaboration of 80 organizations led by the City of Savannah and Chatham County working to reduce poverty in Chatham County), The Home Builders Association, and Savannah Technical College began a partnership in 2006 to train people from the high poverty areas with classroom and on the job training in construction and then place them in well paying jobs. The original conception for this program came from the Chatham County Commission and County Manager. Step Up Savannah and Chatham County train 75 individuals per year from the high poverty areas, and link them with well paying jobs within the Chatham County construction industry.

WHEREAS, Step Up Savannah agrees to oversee the implementation of the program to ensure that the purpose, goals and objectives of the program are met. Step Up Savannah agrees to ensure that 100 people complete the program annually and that at least 50 people obtain employment annually. Step Up Savannah will provide regular reports to the County Commission for their review to ensure that the goals are being met. Step Up Savannah will manage and oversee the budget and expenses of the program to ensure that the program remains under budget. Step Up Savannah will supervise the full time program director and fulltime program coordinator on a regular basis and ensure that their performance plans and reviews are done annually. Lastly Step Up Savannah will work to ensure that the program changes or adapts in accordance to the industry and environment to ensure that the participants are entering employment that leads to self sufficient wages. The amount that shall be paid to Step Up for these services shall not exceed 10% of the adopted annual budget.

**Step Up Savannah, Inc.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DANIEL DODD  
 Executive Director

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PETE LIAKAKIS, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Sybil E. Tillman  
Clerk of Commission

[SEAL]

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. Jonathan Hart  
Chatham County Attorney

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**4. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR SALE AN UNOPENED SECTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY ON MCLEOD AVENUE IN THE WESTLAKE AREA OF UNINCORPORATED CHATHAM COUNTY. [DISTRICT 5.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to declare as surplus and offer for sale an unopened section of right-of-way on McLeod Avenue in the Westlake area of unincorporated Chatham County. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

- TO:** Board of Commissioners
- THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager
- FROM:** Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

**ISSUE:**

To declare as surplus and offer for sale an unopened section of right-of-way on McLeod Avenue in the Westlake area of unincorporated Chatham County.

**BACKGROUND:**

An adjoining property owner to McLeod Avenue in the Westlake neighborhood has inquired about acquiring a portion of an unopened section of the road, which adjoins their property.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. The property of interest is an unopened right-of-way in the 2100 block of McLeod Avenue in the Westlake neighborhood. The property owner would be interested in a section about 15 feet wide and 100 feet long, or 1,500 square feet.
2. The Department of Public Works & Park Services has reviewed the request to ensure that Chatham County no longer needs the property and concurred with disposition of the property.
3. The property owner has agreed to acquire the value of the surplus area at fair market value based on the square footage rate determined by the Assessor's Office and adjusted for its limited use.

4. Under Georgia law, surplus right-of-way can be sold to the adjoining property owner. Since another property owner also adjoins the other half of the McLeod right-of-way, that property owner will be given the same opportunity.

**FUNDING:**

Funding is not applicable. The sale of the property will become revenue.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board declare the unopened section along the 2100 block of McLeod Avenue as surplus and sell the property to the adjoining property owner(s) based on a determination of value set by the Assessor's Office and adjusted for an undevelopable parcel.

2. Do not authorize staff to proceed with disposition of the property.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Under Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §32-7-4), Chatham County must follow certain procedures in the disposition of public right-of-way. Under the law, absent offering the property to the original owner of the property, the County offers first right of refusal to acquire it to the adjoining property owner.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO INCLUDE LIMESTONE COURT IN STONEBRIDGE, PHASE 3, DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT INTO THE STORM DRAINAGE CIP.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request to include Limestone Lane in Stonebridge, Phase 3, Drainage improvement into the Storm Drainage CIP program. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**

**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

**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 include drainage improvements on Limestone Lane in Stonebridge Subdivision Phase 3 into the Storm Drainage CIP program.

Background: Limestone Lane is located in the Stonebridge Subdivision of the Berwick development.

Facts and Findings:

1. The resident at the intersection of Stonebridge Circle and Limestone Lane has complained of water standing around a fire hydrant in the right-of-way of Limestone Lane for long periods of time killing the grass.
2. Initially the standing water problem was investigated by the owner of the private water system believing an adjacent fire hydrant was leaking. They concluded that the underground "sock drain" was not functioning. It seems there is standing water along both sides of Limestone Lane from Stonebridge Circle to the cul-de-sac.
3. The source of the standing water is inconclusive. However, it was found that Limestone Lane was constructed adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands. It is possible the standing water is contributed by a high groundwater from those wetland areas.

- 4. There is a "sock drain" that extends only 25 to 30 feet from a County catch basin at the intersection of Stonebridge Circle and Limestone Lane. Staff believes the "sock drain" should be extended approximately 200 feet on both sides of Limestone Lane to pull the water into the County's storm drainage system. This should alleviate the standing water. Staff estimates the cost to install the subdrain system could exceed \$10,000.
- 5. There are funds in the Storm Drainage CIP however, in order to use this fund the Board must include this work as a project. Assuming the Board approves this as a project, staff will draft specifications and solicit quotes from contractors to install.

Funding: Funds are available in the Storm Drainage CIP but are not requested at this time.

Policy Statement: Board action is required to include a project in the CIP program.

Alternatives:

- 1. Board approve to include drainage improvements on Limestone Lane in Stonebridge Subdivision Phase 3 into the Storm Drainage CIP program.
- 2. Board not to approve the request.

Recommendations: Board approve Alternative #1.

District 7

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**6. REQUEST FROM THE TAX COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE TO WRITE OFF UNCOLLECTIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE PERIOD 2002 THROUGH 2008, WITH ADDITIONAL REQUEST TO INSTRUCT THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS NOT TO CREATE A 2009 ASSESSMENT AND/OR ANY SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SAME PROPERTIES.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request from the Tax Commissioner's Office to write off uncollectible personal property taxes for the period 2002 through 2008 and approve the request to instruct the Board of Assessors not to create a 2009 assessment and/or any subsequent assessment of the same properties. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

TO: Board of County Commissioners  
THROUGH: Russell Abolt, County Manager  
THROUGH: Daniel T. Powers, Tax Commissioner  
FROM: Theresa C. Harrelson, Special Projects Accountant

ISSUE:

To present a request to the Board for the Tax Commissioner's Office to write off uncollectible Personal Property taxes for the period 2002 through 2009. With an additional request for them to instruct the Board of Assessor's not to create a 2009 assessment and /or any subsequent assessment of the same properties.

BACKGROUND:

During the period 2002 through 2009 numerous personal property tax accounts on the County's Tax Digest remain uncollected. These accounts are uncollectible for many reasons such as the owner(s) cannot be located; the owner(s) have moved; the owner(s) are deceased; the business is no longer in operation or has no assets or a bankruptcy

judgement has paid less than 100 cents on the dollar. Therefore, the balance outstanding in these accounts cannot be collected.

The amount of uncollectible personal property taxes determined thus far for the period of 2002 through 2009 total \$82,789.14 that consists of 421 receipts years as summarized:

<u>Tax Year</u>	<u>No. Receipts</u>	<u>Total Tax Due</u>	<u>County Portion</u>
2002	154	\$ 8,364.68	\$ 2,977.15
2003	36	\$ 3,212.90	\$ 1,058.56
2004	45	\$ 4,290.56	\$ 1,421.96
2005	47	\$ 6,800.07	\$ 2,337.92
2006	67	\$ 30,779.91	\$ 11,231.90
2007	49	\$ 19,742.86	\$ 7,909.97
2008	23	\$ 9,495.61	\$ 3,853.59
2009	1	\$ 102.55	\$ 37.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>\$ 82,789.14</b>	<b>\$ 30,828.99</b>

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) When yearly audits are performed by both External and State Auditors, as well as periodical audits by Internal Auditors, it has been their recommendation to write off these uncollectible accounts.
- (2) A copy of the schedule listing all the accounts is attached.

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) Approve the Tax Commissioner’s request to write off these uncollectible accounts
- (2) Do not approve the Tax Commissioner’s request.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

By writing off these uncollectible personal property accounts the County will be working with an accurate Tax Digest and valid delinquent accounts receivable records.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board approve 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. Increase for assigned inter-departmental vehicles (10 to 12) and purchase of two (2) Ford Crown Victoria	Office of the District Attorney	Akins Ford	\$43,360	General Fund/M&O - Office of the District Attorney
B. Purchase and installation of emergency equipment for 12 investigator vehicles	Office of the District Attorney	West Chatham Warning Devices (Sole Source)	\$21,382	General Fund/M&O - Office of the District Attorney
C. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year term to provide banking services to the County	Finance	Wachovia Bank, N.A.	\$32,108	Annual fees will be offset against bank interest earned
D. Two (2) Motorola digital portable radio systems and software	Office of the District Attorney	Savannah Communications (State Contract)	\$12,605	General Fund/M&O - Office of the District Attorney

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
E. 18 computers, 18 monitors and eight (8) laptop computers	Office of the Court Administrator	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$38,233	General Fund/M&O - Court Administrator
F. Voice Mail Server and software upgrade for phone system	CEMA	Integrated Network Solutions (Sole Source)	\$59,779	•General Fund/M&O - Communications - \$20,000 •General Fund/M&O - CEMA - \$39,779
G. Five (5) computers	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$12,590	General Fund/M&O - Communications
H. Annual software maintenance	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (Sole Source)	\$25,293	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
I. Extend an annual contract for an additional one (1) year term to provide emergency response services on an "as needed" basis	Mosquito Control	Moran Environmental Recovery, LLC	Varies by service	Funding not required. If services are required a contingency transfer will be requested
J. Purchase and installation of emergency exit doors at the Aquatic Center for ADA compliance	Aquatic Center	The Dash Group, Inc.	\$26,308	•General Fund/M&O - Aquatic Center - \$11,904 •General Fund/M&O - ADA Compliance - \$14,404
K. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the installation of an emergency generator at the Mosquito Control facility for additional work	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	E & D Contracting (WBE)	\$3,250	CIP - Hurricane Prep. - Miscellaneous
L. Engineering services contract for preliminary construction plans and right of way plans for U.S. Highway 80/ Jimmy Deloach Parkway Interchange project	Engineering	McGee Partners (Sole Source)	\$538,197	SPLOST (2003-2008) - U.S. Highway 80/ Jimmy Deloach Parkway Interchange
M. Confirmation of the emergency purchase to replace existing Trane unit at the SCMPD Annex in the Forensic Area	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Boaen Mechanical Contractor (Sole Source)	\$13,670	Reimbursable expenses - Police
N. One (1) 2009 Ford E-250 cargo van	Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$15,957	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement Fund - SSD
O. Renew Workers' Compensation Excess insurance	Finance	Midwest Employers Casualty Company	\$81,636	Risk Management Internal Service Fund

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Items 7-A through 7-O, both inclusive. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Odell were not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM X-7 A thru O**  
**AGENDA DATE June 26, 2009**

**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 of an increase of assigned interdepartmental vehicles (10 vehicles to 12) and a \$43,360 purchase of two (2) Ford Crown Victoria models from Akins Ford (per Annual Price Agreement) to support Investigative Operations in the Office of the District Attorney.

**BACKGROUND:** This request is specific to the Chatham County Allocation of Federal JAG Formula Funds request dated 6 May 2009 and the transfer of funds from District Attorney's Office salaries account to the vehicles account approved by the Board on 22 May 2009.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. One (1) vehicle, in the amount of \$21,680, will support the District Attorney's Hospital-based Intervention Program. The basis of this program is to provide investigative and victim service intervention with victims of violent crime, beginning at emergency rooms in the local hospitals and will be a part of the Chatham County Victim-Witness Assistance Program.
2. The second vehicle, in the amount of \$21,680, will support the District Attorney's Truancy Intervention Program. The basis of this program is to serve as a conduit for cross collaboration between school officials and the judicial system to help fast-track truancy cases and to expedite resolution of misdemeanor cases in violation of Georgia's compulsory school attendance laws.
3. Staff believes this price is fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/ M&O - Office of the District Attorney  
(1002200 - 54.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of an increase of assigned interdepartmental vehicles (10 vehicles to 12) and a \$43,360 purchase of two (2) Ford Crown Victoria models from Akins Ford (per Annual Price Agreement) to support Investigative Operations in the Office of the District Attorney.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve necessary increases in equipment authorizations and purchases of vehicles to support mission changes for law enforcement activities.

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

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

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$21,382 sole-source purchase and installation of emergency equipment for 12 investigator vehicles from West Chatham Warning Devices for the Office of the District Attorney.

**BACKGROUND:** This request is to outfit ten (10) existing vehicles, plus two (2) new vehicles for the District Attorney's Office's investigators with low-profile emergency equipment. This will then allow these vehicles to be utilized as emergency vehicles during a crisis, high profile security events as well as in support of the District Attorney's operations.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Ten (10) vehicles will be fitted with discreet lights, sirens, flashers and controls to allow them to be used for emergency purposes, with two (2) of the vehicles requiring additional console modification. West Chatham Warning Devices is the only local source for this equipment.
2. Staff believes this price is fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M&O - Office of the District Attorney  
(1002200 - 54.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$21,382 sole-source purchase and installation of emergency equipment for 12 investigator vehicles from West Chatham Warning Devices for the Office of the District Attorney.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

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

**ITEM C**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual contract to Wachovia Bank, N.A., with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to provide banking services to Chatham County.

**BACKGROUND:** Banking service is an integral part of the County’s cash management system. It is the process of managing monies of a local government in order to insure maximum cash availability and maximum yield on short-term investment of idle cash. The service is a vital link in what happens between the point that revenue is earned and an expense payment clears the bank.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for banking services which was mailed to all local full service banks and publically advertised.
2. The Request for Proposals outlined banking services required by the County in three areas: basic banking services, account reconciliation and bank supplies.
3. Five (5) banks responded to the RFP. They were Wachovia Bank, N.A., SunTrust, Sea Island Bank, BB&T, and Bank of America. All proposals were reviewed by an evaluation committee consisting of the Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Finance, Senior Accountant, and Special Project Accountant. The technical proposals from all five (5) firms were scored and ranked accordingly (**See attached matrix, page 18**). The evaluation committee interviewed the two (2) top ranking firms. Total points awarded to the two (2) top-ranking firms are as follows:

Wachovia Bank, N.A.	135.50 Points
SunTrust Bank	121.05 Points

4. Fee proposals were requested from the top two (2) firms. Annual fees submitted by each of the institutions are as follows:

Wachovia Bank, N.A.	\$32,108/Year
SunTrust Bank	\$40,655/Year

5. Staff recommends a contract award to Wachovia Bank, N.A., who offered the best combination of services and fees.

**FUNDING:** Annual fees will be offset against bank interest earned.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual contract to Wachovia Bank, N.A., with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to provide banking services to Chatham County.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to firms who provide the best value to the County.

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

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

**ITEM D**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$12,605 purchase of Motorola digital portable radios software and systems, off the State of Georgia contract, from Savannah Communications for the Office of the District Attorney.

**BACKGROUND:** The Office of the District Attorney is purchasing two (2) vehicles and needs these radios and equipment installed.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Sole-source justification for the manufactured Motorola XTS 500 will maintain compatibility with law enforcement locally and statewide. Savannah Communications, of Garden City is the local distributor and local repair source. Motorola is on the State of Georgia contract and the GSA Schedule 70 Homeland Security Contract.
2. The purchase of these radios include software and related systems. The first radio to be installed will support the District Attorney's Hospital-based Intervention Program. The second radio to be installed will Support the District Attorney's Truancy Intervention Program.
3. Staff believes the total cost of \$12,605 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Office of the District Attorney  
(1002200 - 54.25001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$12,605 purchase of Motorola digital portable radios software and systems, off the State of Georgia contract, from Savannah Communications for the Office of the District Attorney.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
LEWIS LEONARD

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

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$38,233 purchase of 18 computers, 18 monitors, and eight (8) laptop computers, off the State of Georgia contract, from Dell Marketing, LP for the Office of Court Administrator

**BACKGROUND:** These computers will replace older model Dell GX240 and GX280 computers that are currently being used by staff. It was recommended by the I.C.S. technical staff that all computers of older models be replaced when possible. These computers and laptops are for Judges, Law Clerks, Court Administrator staff and Case Management staff.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Dell Computers are the approved standardized systems for the County. These computers will operate at quicker speeds for the Office of Court Administrator's staff. The computers being replaced have exceeded their useful life and have been out of the warranty for several years.
2. The systems consist of Dual processors, 4gb Ram, dual 256mb video card, DVD read/writers, and the laptops have the same specs but also come with built in wireless access cards, Windows Vista Business and five (5) year next business day warranties on all the equipment.
3. Staff believes the State of Georgia total contract price of \$38,233 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Court Administrator  
( 1002100 - 54.23001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$38,233 purchase of 18 computers, 18 monitors, and eight (8) laptop computers, off the State of Georgia contract, from Dell Marketing, LP for the Office of Court Administrator.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
LEWIS LEONARD

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

**ITEM F**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$59,779 sole source purchase of Voice Mail Server and software upgrade from Integrated Network Solutions for Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA)

**BACKGROUND:** Voice Mail System is a 32 port non-redundant system. In order to accommodate CEMA's requirement, there is a need to upgrade the present system to a 64 port Server Voice Mail System that is redundant.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The present voice mail system has only 32 ports and is not redundant. Enhancing the voice mail system to 64 ports and making it, redundant will give CEMA the best coverage and usage for the County system during hurricane and other emergency situations.
2. Staff believes the total cost of \$59,779 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Communications - \$20,000  
(1001536 - 52.22001)

CEMA - \$39,779  
(1009957 - 57.10111)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$59,779 sole source purchase of Voice Mail Server and software upgrade from Integrated Network Solutions for Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA)
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
LEWIS LEONARD

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

**ITEM G**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$12,590 purchase of five (5) replacement computers, off the State of Georgia contract, from Dell Marketing, LP for I.C.S.

**BACKGROUND:** These computers will replace older models that are now being used by I.C.S. staff. The older computers will replace computers in other locations on an "as needed" basis.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. These computers will operate at quicker speeds for the I.C.S. Technicians and their current computers will go to other staff as replacements are needed.
2. I.C.S. has recommended standardization to Dell computers for County departments. These computers are configured to have larger processors and more memory that are needed by technical staff.
3. The systems consist of Dual processors, 8gb ram, dual 256mb video card, dual CD & DVD read/writer, Windows Vista Business and five (5) year next business day warranties on the computers.
4. Staff believes the total cost of \$12,590 to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Communications  
(1001536 - 54.25001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of a \$12,590 purchase of five (5) replacement computers, off the State of Georgia contract, from Dell Marketing, LP for I.C.S.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
LEWIS LEONARD

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

**ITEM H**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$25,293 sole source pricing agreement for annual software maintenance from Dell Marketing, L.P. for all Chatham County departments.

**BACKGROUND:** This Novell Maintenance and License Agreement (MLA) provides the County with technical support, upgrade protection and reduced pricing for additional licenses. This software provides the County E-mail.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. State Purchasing awarded this sole source contract through a competitive process based on requirements and specifications of the Georgia Technology Authority. The contractor must also meet Novell's audit requirements.
2. This price reflects a decrease over last year's maintenance cost. The decrease is attributed our only renewing the maintenance for our GroupWise licenses. We are moving from NetWare servers to Windows server are looking to replace Zenworks all together.
3. The County is still eligible for a free upgrade to the next version, when it becomes available, of our current licenses which we own. This maintenance period is for 1 July 2009 through 30 June 2010.
4. Staff believes the cost of \$25,293 is fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - I.C.S.  
( 1001535 - 52.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$25,293 sole source pricing agreement for annual software maintenance from Dell Marketing, L.P. for all Chatham County departments.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary maintenance agreements for County computer equipment.

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

I.C.S. APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
LEWIS LEONARD

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

**ITEM I**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to extend the annual contract for an additional one (1) year term with Moran Environmental Recovery, LLC, to provide emergency response services (spills) on an "as needed" basis for Mosquito Control.

**BACKGROUND:** Board approved, at their meeting of 10 June 2005, a contract with Moran Environmental Recovery, LLC.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Moran Environmental Recovery, LLC has agreed to honor an additional one (1) year term extension to the contract with pricing adjustments.
2. A current fee schedule was requested based on a cost per hour plus "time and materials" for all required personnel. The current personnel labor rates for Moran range from \$45/hour to \$250/hour.
3. Staff believe all pricing to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** Funding not required. If services are required a contingency transfer will be requested.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval to extend the annual contract for an additional one (1) year term with Moran Environmental Recovery, LLC, to provide emergency response services (spills) on an “as needed” basis for Mosquito Control.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to extend contracts for essential emergency response services.

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

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

**ITEM J**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$26,308 purchase and installation of emergency exit doors from Dash Group Inc. for the Aquatic Center.

**BACKGROUND:** When the Aquatic Center was originally constructed, the roof was an air pressured system that required special emergency exit doors. Due to the corrosive environment of the pool, these doors presently do not function properly. They also do not meet the ADA compliance for emergency exit doors.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The replacement of the emergency exit doors will allow for better egress during a fire emergency. Replacement of the doors will meet the ADA requirements and the county fire codes. The new emergency exit doors will allow for better lighting in the facility.
2. ADA Compliance coordinator is recommending replacement of the doors with new door sets to include panic hardware and tempered safety glass in each door. The tempered glass in the doors will allow better lighting around the pool deck.
3. Quotes were solicited and received from the following vendors:

Dash Group Inc. Rincon, GA	\$26,308
Keith Ray Construction Savannah, GA	\$29,538
Kerby Enterprises Inc. Pooler, GA	\$33,410
3. Staff believes the total cost of \$26,308 to meet ADA compliance is fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Aquatic Center - \$11,904  
(1006124 - 52.22001)  
General Fund/M & O - ADA Compliance - \$14,404  
(1001556 - 52.11001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$26,308 purchase and installation of emergency exit doors from Dash Group Inc. for the Aquatic Center.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve the modification of a County facility to reflect ADA compliance.

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

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

**ITEM K**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order 1, in the amount of \$3,250, to the contract with E & D Contracting Services, for the installation of the emergency generator at the Mosquito Control facility, to remove the main breaker, installing bus lugs and direct cables from transfer switch at the Mosquito Control Administrative building.

**BACKGROUND:** On 7 November 2008, the Board approved the award of a contract with E&D Contracting Services, Inc. for the installation of an emergency generator at the Mosquito Control Facility.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Due to the many functions related to the Mosquito Control facility, staff will, on a regular basis, turn the main breaker off and on. This could negate proper function of the emergency generator. Installing bus lugs and direct cables from the transfer switch will insure that the emergency generator will be ready to supply power when required.
2. This change order request was reviewed by the County's engineering consultant, Mr. C.F. Vandembulck, P.E., who approved the work and the cost and provided the technical diagram.
3. Staff reviewed the request, Mr. Vandembulck's approval and technical diagram, and believes the price of \$3,250 to be fair and reasonable.
4. Contract history:

Original contract (11-7-08)	\$119,310
Change Order 1 (pending)	<u>\$3,250</u>
Revised contract amount	\$122,560

**FUNDING:** CIP - Hurricane Prep. - Miscellaneous  
(3501510 - 54.13001 - 3503076Z)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approve Change Order 1, in the amount of \$3,250, to the contract with E & D Contracting Services, for the installation of the emergency generator at the Mosquito Control facility, to remove the main breaker, installing bus lugs and direct cables from transfer switch at the Mosquito Control Administrative building.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

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

**ITEM L**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award a \$538,197 sole-source professional engineering services contract to McGee Partners for preliminary construction plans and right of way plans for the U.S. Highway 80 / Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The interchange project is in the 2003-2008 SPLOST and in the Coastal Region (CORE) Long Range Transportation Plan. The project includes the construction of a grade separated interchange at U.S. Highway 80 to connect Jimmy DeLoach Parkway (JDP), Phase 1 to Phase 2.

On 17 December 2004, the Board awarded a contract to McGee Partners/Ward Edwards (joint venture) to develop the Concept Report. The following tasks are complete: Traffic studies, including development of future traffic volumes, analysis of existing and future traffic operations, and recommendation for improvements; environmental screening to identify wetlands, streams; historic resources and other critical environmentally sensitive areas; alternative conceptual interchange layouts; the Concept Report, which includes description of existing and proposed conditions, analysis of alternatives and project cost estimates. The Concept Report was approved by the GDOT in April 2008.

On 19 October 2007, the Board awarded a contract to McGee Partners, Inc. to prepare the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document [an Environmental Assessment] under which the following tasks are complete: Refined the layout of the preferred interchange alternative, including development of profiles, cross sections, and special ditch layouts utilizing GIS data; environmental special studies, including: Historic Resources Report and Assessment of Effects; Archaeological Resources Report; Ecology Report, including Practical Alternatives Report; Air and Noise Studies; substantially completed draft of NEPA EA, which will be submitted to GDOT upon their approval of all special studies. The NEPA document is required to remain eligible for federal funding.

In accordance with the GDOT Plan Development Process (PDP) and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines, the next phase is to prepare preliminary construction plans which includes but is not limited to topographic and property databases, a soil survey, Subsurface Utility Exploration (SUE) database, and right of way plans, all of which require GDOT approval.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The engineering services consultant selected must be pre-qualified by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). McGee Partners is pre-qualified by the GDOT for all the work required for this project. When procuring design services for projects that use federal funding, qualifications-based selection procedures must be used (Brooks Architect/Engineer Act enacted in 1972). McGee Partners was selected based on these procedures required by the Act.
2. To maintain continuity and cost, state law and federal procurement procedures allow contracting with the professional engineering firm used for previous studies and plans without further competitive process when those existing studies and plans can be reused, and are the basis for additional work.
3. The interchange project is also directly impacted by the development of the plans for JDP, Phase 2, from I-16 to U.S. Highway 80. McGee Partners is coordinating with the County's consultant (Thomas & Hutton Engineering) for JDP, Phase 2, and intends to team with T&H for this next phase of the interchange project. This will greatly facilitate with the integration of the two projects from the standpoints of design and constructability. McGee has also been working with developers impacted by the projects to preserve the corridor.
4. McGee continues to provide engineering services for other County and GDOT transportation projects in Chatham County. In the opinion of staff, they are the most qualified, responsive and proficient transportation design consultants under contract. All factors considered, McGee is the most qualified consultant to provide the services required for this project. Based on their high quality performance to date, staff recommends continuing with McGee Partners.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003 - 2008) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Highway 80 Interchange  
(3234210 - 52.12003 - 32351033)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award a \$538,197 sole-source professional engineering services contract to McGee Partners for preliminary construction plans and right of way plans for the U.S. Highway 80 / Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange project.

2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award sole-source professional services contracts when it is in the best interest of the County.

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

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

#### ITEM M

**ISSUE:** Request Board confirmation of the \$13,670 sole source emergency purchase and installation of one (1) Trane HVAC package unit from Boen Mechanical Contractors of Savannah, Georgia for the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Annex.

**BACKGROUND:** The current unit is 13 years old and has been plagued with multiple refrigerant leaks and worn gas burners. It has exceeded its normal life expectancy and is in need of replacement.

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

1. The Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Annex has a total of ten HVAC units to accommodate the heating and cooling needs for the building. The new unit will service the forensic area of the building.
2. Boen Mechanical Contractors has the HVAC preventive maintenance contract for the ten HVAC units located at the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Annex and has made several attempts to repair the failing HVAC unit, which were unsuccessful due to the age of the system.
3. Staff requested emergency approval from the Chairman so the HVAC unit could be installed in a timely manner. He concurred (see attached page 19) and directed staff to seek Board confirmation at their next scheduled meeting.

**FUNDING:** Reimbursable Expenses - Police  
(2709957 - 57.10009)

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board confirmation of the \$13,670 sole source emergency purchase and installation of one (1) Trane HVAC package unit from Boen Mechanical Contractors of Savannah, Georgia for the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Annex.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to confirm an emergency procurement to prevent the disruption of essential services.

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

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

#### ITEM N

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$15,957 purchase of a 2009 Ford E-250 Cargo Van from J. C. Lewis Ford for the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department (SCMPD).

**BACKGROUND:** This vehicle is a replacement for SCMPD per the merger agreement with the City of Savannah and is the final vehicle required for the Fiscal Year.

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

1. The Board approved at the 12 June 2009 meeting the purchase of one (1) 2009 Ford E-250 Cargo Van from J.C. Lewis Ford.

2. Staff contacted J.C. Lewis Ford to see if they would honor the pricing for the purchase of this van. J.C. Lewis agreed to honor the price with the same terms and conditions.
3. Staff believes the total cost of \$15,957 base price for the purchase of a 2009 Ford F-250 Cargo Van to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2003-2008) - Replacement Vehicle Fund - SSD  
(3233200 - 54.22001 - 3236063B)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of a \$15,957 purchase of a 2009 Ford E-250 Cargo Van from J. C. Lewis Ford for the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department.
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 O**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of the \$81,636 premium renewal of Workers' Compensation Excess Insurance for a one (1) year term, with Midwest Employers Casualty Company for Risk Management, Finance.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 1990 specific excess insurance has been purchased to fund medical and indemnity (lost wage) expenses that exceed an annual per claim retention. Prior to 1 July 2007, catastrophic (severe injury) claims were eligible for potential recovery under the State's Subsequent Injury Trust Fund. Effective 1 July 2007, Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance is the only method for funding catastrophic claims. Based on current medical and indemnity costs, Finance considers continuation of coverage essential budget protection. The current annual per claim retention is \$450,000. The County self-funds Workers' Compensation with the assistance of a Third-Party Administrator, Underwriters Group, Inc.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The current carrier, Midwest Employers Casualty Company, is offering a renewal quotation with a \$450,000 per claim retention (same as expiring), with an annual deposit premium of \$81,636. Current terms and renewal terms are provided (see pages 20-21).
2. The quotation for 2009 - 2010 represents a 16.8% increase over the current annual deposit premium of \$69,861. Midwest's rationale for the increase is based on increased paid medical and indemnity with regard to several outstanding claims. At renewal last year, none of the listed claims had exceeded \$100,000 in total medical and indemnity paid. Claim summaries are provided (see pages 22-25).
3. Midwest has also quoted a renewal with a per claim retention of \$500,000 with an annual deposit premium of \$74,439.
4. Safety National Insurance Company quoted a per claim retention of \$450,000 with an annual deposit premium of \$90,033.
5. ARCH Insurance Company offered an annual deposit premium of \$75,000 with a minimum SIR of \$500,000.
6. AIG and ACE Insurance Companies did not provide quotations due to a minimum premium requirement of \$100,000.
7. Since 1990, Chatham County has not recovered from its Excess Workers' Compensation carrier.

**FUNDING:** Risk Management Internal Service Fund  
(6259926 - 51.27008)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of the \$81,636 premium renewal of Workers' Compensation Excess Insurance for a one (1) year term, with Midwest Employers Casualty Company for Risk Management, Finance.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve annual Workers' Compensation Insurance premiums based on financial considerations and recommendation of staff.

**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**

None.

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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 as information.

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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 as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2**

**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

List of Purchasing Items between \$2,500 and \$9,999  
That Do Not Require Board Approval

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DEPT.</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>
Three (3) historical plaques	Commissioners	The Southwell Company	\$7,950	General Fund/M&O - Commissioners
Repairs to the vandalized fence at the Drop Off Center and install double swing gate to existing fence line	Public Works and Park Services	R.W. Moore Fence Company	\$3,560	Solid Waste Restricted
Miscellaneous grinder parts	Public Works and Park Services	consolidated Disposal Systems (Sole Source)	\$5,215	Solid Waste
Landscape of Ross Soccer Complex	Public Works and Park Services	South Georgia Lawn Management	\$4,414	General Fund/M&O - Commissioners
Sponsorship for the 200 <sup>th</sup> anniversary gala	Commissioners	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce	\$7,500	General Fund/M&O - Commissioners
Paint 3,191 sq ft flooring in the Board of Elections Warehouse	Elections	E & D Coatings, Inc. (WBE)	\$7,600	General Fund/M&O - Elections Board
Website hosting fee for June - September 2009	Purchasing and Contracting	Integrated Office Solutions (MBE)	\$4,820	General Fund/M&O - Purchasing and Contracting
Cisco software	I.C.S.	Entre Solutions (MBE)	\$2,779	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Scanning enabler software and maintenance	I.C.S.	Dark Blue Duck	\$2,750	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Software modifications to the Financial Management Information System (FMIS)	Finance	Sungard Pentamation (Sole Source)	\$3,000	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Two (2) scanners with maintenance	I.C.S.	GHA Technologies	\$6,296	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Annual maintenance on scanning software	I.C.S.	Palmetto Microfilm Systems (Sole Source)	\$3,240	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Annual maintenance on Windows server	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (Sole Source)	\$2,727	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Four (4) computers, two (2) thumb drives, sound bar and laptop fan	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$5,590	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Six (6) surge protectors for Data Center	I.C.S.	GHA Technologies	\$2,748	General Fund/M&O - Communications
ADA restoration/ renovation at the men's and women's restroom at Ambuc Park	Public Works and Park Services	Kerby Enterprises, Inc.	\$2,764	General Fund/M&O - ADA Compliance

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Fabricate and install handrail at the Aquatic Center	Public Works and Park Services	A & B Fabrication and Repair	\$4,180	General Fund/M&O - ADA Compliance
ADA restoration/ renovation at the men's and women's restroom at L. Scott Stell Park	Public Works and Park Services	The Dash Group	\$5,998	General Fund/M&O - ADA Compliance
Proposal for services for Memorial Stadium handicap seating	Public Works and Park Services	RWP Engineering	\$5,000	General Fund/M&O - ADA Compliance
Replacement HVAC parts for the Tag Office on Eisenhower Drive	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Johnstone Supply	\$3,111	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Replace engine control unit, fuel injectors and harness assembly on fuel injectors for trash compactor truck	Fleet Operations	Freightliner of Savannah	\$5,695	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Miscellaneous hardware and supply items for the various park facilities	Public Works and Park Services	Lowe's Home Center	\$3,997	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Twelve laser jet color printers	Office of the District Attorney	Florida Micro	\$8,144	General Fund/M&O - Office of the District Attorney
Parts and labor to replace chiller condenser fan motor	Juvenile Court	Siemens Building Technologies	\$2,591	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Miscellaneous hardware and supply items for the various park facilities	Public Works and Park Services	Home Depot	\$3,183	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Pump replacement for the lap pool	Aquatic Center	Boaen Mechanical	\$6,640	General Fund/M&O - Aquatic Center
Maintenance contract on the upgraded Cartegraph software	Public Works and Park Services	James C. Edwards	\$4,000	SSD - Public Works

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### 3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

#### ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Status reports were attached as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Roads**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

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

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

**BACKGROUND:** The GDOT plans and priorities for funding projects under the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program are not known.

**FACTS AND FINDING:**

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. Certification of right of way (ROW) was submitted to the GDOT on December 3, 2008. The Final Field Plan Review (FFPR) was held March 11, 2009. The GDOT did not include the project as part of the Phase 1 ARRA. At the request of the GDOT staff, the County submitted a suggestion to break the project into three phases so that a portion of the project could be included in the Phase 2 ARRA. On May 18 the Interim GDOT Commissioner said he could not support breaking up the project because the segments did not each have "functionality". The GDOT intends to submit the project for consideration under TIGER.

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. Construction of traffic signals at State Park Road and Lake Street and widening. Construction is substantially complete and the intersections were fully operational in June 17, 2009.

3. Whitefield Avenue. ROW acquisition will be continued upon execution of the new ROW Acquisition Contract by the GDOT. Expect to certify ROW in April 2010. Funding for construction in the STIP is FY2011.

4. Local Roads.

a. Troy Street, Catherine Street, Adeline Street, Billings Road, Elmhurst Road, Beechwood Road, Ridgewood Road. Dirt roads being designed for paving. Billings Road, Catherine Street and Adeline Street easement acquisitions are underway.

b. Bond Avenue, Betran Avenue. Paving of Betran is scheduled to complete in August 2009. Paving Bond is scheduled for completion in October 2009.

c. Brandy Road is under construction. Scheduled completion is July 31, 2009.

d. Pyeland Avenue. Final right of way and construction plans are complete. Easement acquisitions are underway. Expect to solicit bids for a construction contract in June 2009.

e. Wright Avenue and Fenwick Avenue. Under design for paving.

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

g. Intersection improvements on King George Blvd at Grove Point Road. Construction plans to install turn lanes and signalize the intersection are complete. ROW acquisitions are underway.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.

Districts: All

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Drainage**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

**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, sluice gates and culverts. Construction of the sluice gate structure and channel improvements from SR 21 to the Savannah River (about 1.4 miles) was completed in 2005. The wetland credits have been purchased for Section One of the Phase 2 project which extends from SR21 to SR307. Staff will proceed toward obtaining a contract for construction in the next phase of the project.

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 for the road work. Design work to replace golf cart bridges between I-16 and Southbridge Boulevard is underway.

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. The design is complete and utility relocation work is underway. The portion of the project involving replacement of three roadway culverts is expected to be advertised for bids in July 2009.

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 Wilmington River (about 1.4 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and culverts. Construction of new culverts with tide gates at Wilmington Island Road was completed in 2002. A project to install rip rap erosion protection at the culvert is under construction.

6. Kings Way Canal. The Kings Way Canal extends from the Kingswood Subdivision to Whitefield Avenue (about 0.7 miles). 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 substantially complete. Work to replace damaged fences and moving fences out of the drainage rights of way will begin in July. Staff is working with property owners to clear vegetation from the subdivision's northern perimeter drainage ditch.

7. Dundee Canal. This project improves the tidegate structure and concrete headwalls. The project is substantially complete.

8. Louis Mills / Redgate Canal. The Louis Mills and Redgate Canals are tributaries to the South Springfield Canal. A contract to widen the channel and replace culverts between Garrard Avenue and the railroad was awarded by the Board on June 12, 2009. Construction will begin upon execution of the contract documents.

9. Ogeechee Farms Area. The Ogeechee Farms project includes improvements to canals and culverts. Phase 1 was completed in July 2005 (piped in about 0.2 miles of channel south of Vidalia Road and replaced a road crossing at Waynesboro Road). Design is complete on Phase 2 which includes improving several undersized culverts along the Vidalia Canal south of Vidalia Road. The project is in the bidding process. Construction is expected to begin in September 2009 and be complete in February 2010.

10. Chevis Canal. The Chevis Canal project includes improvements to the drainage culvert at the Hodges Air Park located approximately 3600 feet downstream of Chevis Road. The improvements double the existing drainage capacity. Construction is substantially complete.

11. 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, culverts, and providing access for maintenance. Completed work included enlarging the US 17 culverts. Design to improve road culverts along Quacco Road and construct channel improvement is complete. The project is expected to be advertised for bids in July 2009. Construction is expected to begin in November 2009 and be complete in September 2010. Staff is developing a project scope for extending drainage improvements to the Willow Lakes Subdivision.

12. 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. Design work is underway for the outfall at Skidaway Road.

13. 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 work continues on improvements to replace culverts at Henderson Oaks Drive and at a golf path crossing. The City of Savannah is holding up improvements at Henderson Oaks Drive by refusing to relocate the sanitary sewer and water line within the County's Rights of Way. A project to replace the culvert at Little Neck Road was approved by the Board on June 12, 2009. Construction will begin upon execution of the contract documents.

14. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. The project will be accomplished in phases. The first phase will replace the storm drain pipe at Beaulieu Avenue. There appears to be adequate existing easements. The final design for this improvement is complete and the project is in the bidding process. Construction is expected to begin in September 2009 (for December completion).

15. 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 coordinating 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 as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2009**

**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.
  - Ambuc Sports Lighting - Installation of new lights is now completed.
  - Installation of the playground equipment at Hodges -Turner-Young is completed.
4. FY 09 staff completed the following:
  - Renovated the former offices into a new Community Center and opened for use on January 16, 2009.
  - Resurfacing of the basketball court at Turner-Hodge-Young is completed.
5. 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 Restroom - Construction began on 3/2/09 and is Eighty percent complete
  - Thunderbolt Boat ramp - A request has been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers to make extensive repairs to the boat ramp.
6. RAP improvements identified in Park Services operating budget for FY 08.
  - Jim Golden Complex backstop replacement -Contract awarded to Kerby Enterprises, Inc.. Notice to proceed given 6/11/09.
  - Change water source at the Soccer Complex - Design completion is pending.
  - Purchased web based scheduling software for coaches and parents.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Board Information Only

**[All Districts]**

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Farrell and seconded by Commissioner Gellatly the board recessed at 1:30 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 1:58 p.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. REQUEST BOARD SETTLE RICHARD ZITTROURER CONDEMNATION CASE (JON HART).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Gellatly made a motion to settle the Richard Zittrouer condemnation case for \$780,000. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay and Odell were not present.]

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**APPOINTMENT**

**1. CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Gellatly made a motion to reappoint James A. Gunter to the Chatham County Board of Assessors to a term which will expire June 27, 2012. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay and Odell were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board of Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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**APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2009**

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

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SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION