

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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, December 18, 2009.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner David Gellatly gave the Invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Helen Stone led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
 Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
 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 (arrived approximately 10:35 a.m.)
 David M. Gellatly, District Six

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

Chairman Liakakis said, Sybil [Tillman], make a note that Commissioner Odell is still in court trying a case and he will be in shortly, but make a notation of that on your records please.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. RECOGNITION OF THE GENEROSITY AND CREATIVITY OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES BY MR. GREGG SCHROEDER, PRESIDENT OF UNITED WAY OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE.

Chairman Liakakis asked, is Gregg [Schroeder] here yet?

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Stone, gentlemen. This is a special time in a very special season and it's an auspicious time because it's an opportunity to recognize the humanity, heart and humor of a wonderful workforce – Chatham County employees. The specific event is the expression of generosity and caring and wealth given by Chatham County employees for the second year in a row which in the goal for Chatham County we've exceeded in great measure and each year we've raised over \$100,000 for United Way. But as we do each year as we kick off the United Way Campaign we have a very special way of doing it and all the department heads and staff are gathered in this room in advance of the Campaign Kick-Off and something hopefully memorable will be done to set the tone and create that spirit of giving and enjoyment because all of our tasks can be hard when we add the level of humor in appreciation for our fellow human beings, it's very, very important. The Chairman certainly has along with you encouraged that. That's why I've asked the Chairman to be with us. So bear with me for a moment as we begin to express, yes, the appreciation for the humanity and the heart but now the humor, and those of you as you came into the room though it's a difficult budget year, Chatham County has our own red carpet. It's not necessarily as vivid a red as we would like, but we have a red carpet. So I would ask for a moment as I introduce the folks, if you would go and view and look at what's going to be coming through the door, but again this is our red carpet and I would alert our bailiff, please, sir, be mindful of the fact that there may be some paparazzi here causing us some problems because, as we know, Robert Redford had been in town for a while. We've had an experience with Mr. Redford, so with no further ado I would like to introduce the staff of the United Way but, more importantly, a man who has served this County so well and the United States of America for no less than eight years. That is the director of what we refer to as Grassy Knoll Productions. He also orchestrates the Not Ready for Prime Time Players, but you do know that for eight years we refer to him as Cecil B. Nichols, served as the body double for Vice President Cheney, and now he's with us today to tell you, along with the United Way representatives, his experience with no one less than Mr. Robert Redford. Mr. Nichols.

Mr. Pete Nichols said, Mr. Cree, would you join me up here. As Mr. Abolt alluded to, yes, I did have this interaction with Robert Redford, and actually it started, thanks to Mr. Abolt, a couple of years ago when Mr. Redford was here filming Bagger Vance. Though his contacts, and you know he has many contacts, he was able to get us up over the rope line to watch the production of Bagger Vance at the courthouse across the square, and at that time I introduced myself to my good friend, Bob — I can call him Bob, Mr. Abolt can't — and so, you know, we connected. And when he came back to town, of course he called me to let me know that he was coming back to town, and I asked him, I said, look, if you've got a minute or two we'd love to have you over here and kind of get into a little, you know, one on one. And as it turned out, the United Way was kicking off their campaign this year and, gosh, what a coincidence that they would do it as a movie connection. So without any further ado, this is the interview that I did with Mr. Redford.

Mr. Nichols played a tape of an interview that he had with "Robert Redford" with responses to his questions being made from clips from Mr. Redford 's films.

County Manager Abolt said, these are other Not Ready for Prime Time Players. Fortunately or unfortunately, Dr. Lewandowski is always the object or shill of our humor, but then I do want Drew [Cree] to come forward. Drew — you may not recognize Drew until I do this (show the Commissioners the back of Mr. Cree's head, which was used in the "interview"). Then you'll recognize Drew [Cree]. But we are very happy to report that with all this fun that this is a special time to recognize these wonderful employees. In a moment in fact I am going to ask Brian Hart, Debra Allen, and all of the employee representatives that happen to be in the audience to come forward, stand on the red carpet, but then I want Gregg Schroeder to take over because this truly is something that's [inaudible]. Gregg [Schroeder].

Mr. Schroeder said, thank you very much for having us here today. It really is a great celebration and a great accomplishment on behalf of Chatham County, not only the generosity that was given from employees and Commissioners, but truly the lives that you've helped as a result of that, and that's what it's all about, it's improving people's lives. This year we want to give some special thanks for County leadership of Chairman Pete Liakakis, who co-chaired the government unit this year with Mayor Johnson. We had a record year in giving in that particular area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for all your time and effort and all the Captains' Meetings that you came to and helped us with. Also a special thanks to Debra Allen, who was our Loan Associate this year. Debra [Allen] did a phenomenal job and I believe this is the third year that you've been able to help us out, and Brian Hart, who's this year's Campaign Chair for the County. And, of course, we know this is not really possible without the continued support of Russ Abolt. Where did Russ go? There you go, Russ [Abolt], thank you very much. And it's really neat I think when a county's able to make giving fun. We haven't tracked all 159 counties in the State, but so far of about the hundred that have reported Chatham County has actually given more to United Way than any other in the State of Georgia, so a round of applause for Chatham County. [Applause.]

Mr. Schroeder said, let me present this plaque to Chairman Liakakis to all who have joined hands, opened their hearts and leant their muscle, we thank you. Give, advocate and live for United Way. Mr. Liakakis, thank you very much on behalf of the County and all the employees. Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Mr. Schroeder said, and maybe we have — this special — this is a one and only plaque. There's only one of this probably in the State of Georgia, and certainly in the within the county area, but it's a special — it's a You Rock plaque for Pete Nichols and we just love the creativity. He came over and met with our Marketing Committee, with media and print media and radio and he's got a tremendous creative talent. So, Pete [Nichols], thanks. And this year our campaign was chaired — we always get volunteers — by Jeff Cole, the President of Cole Management, and I think Jeff had a few words to make.

Mr. Cole said, Gregg [Schroeder], you've really said it all, so I'll be very brief. We mentioned the County, how the County had achieved this year. Overall for the campaign we're a little bit short of our goal of \$8.2 million. We're at \$8,100,000, which we think in this economy is outstanding, and certainly the County did more than its fair share to get us to this level. The County — I hope I'm not stepping on Debra's bailiwick here — the County raised \$109,134 and that is 146% of its goal. We appreciate your outstanding work and the heart that y'all shed for the campaign this year, and the folks that really did it are Brian Hart and Debra Allen, and I'd like to turn it over to them.

Mr. Hart said, good morning. I just want to say that it was an honor to serve as the Campaign Chair for Chatham County. I wasn't really sure what would be involved with that and I just wanted to thank Russ [Abolt] for the opportunity. It was really refreshing to see all the work that was involved. All the work was done by — if I tried to name everybody, I'd forget somebody, but it was done by department reps. You had a representative at each department level, and those folks worked hard to make sure that the pledge cards got into the employees hands and the employees responded. So I just wanted to publicly thank the employees for their response this year. It was really great, and he said \$109,000. Wow! The economy the way it is, salaries are not increasing, but employees reached in and gave a little more, and we really do appreciate that from the employees.

A couple of special things. The Sheriff's Department, they had special events. We had celebrities here and the Sheriff's Department had celebrities at their little kick-off. There was Tom Cruise and Oprah Winfrey and a few others. I didn't know they had such connections out there at the Sheriff's Department and I want to thank them for their special efforts. CAT had some special fund raisings, some fun things. I think they allowed a few pies to be thrown for a little small fee that went to the United Way. So that just shows the creativity of County employees and their dedication to giving to those that are less fortunate.

Especially I do want to recognize by name Debra. Debra Allen, like I said, was our Loan Executive, and without her things just wouldn't happen. She call me and say, Brian, have you thought about this, did you take care of this. So she really was on top of it, on top of meeting her needs in providing support for employees in the Human Resources Department. Debra [Allen] really needs a special round of applause for that. She did a lot of work. [Applause.]

Mr. Hart said, I'll say one other thing. If you missed the opportunity to give or you're ready to give now, that you can go to the United Way website, which is www.uwce.org and there's a pledge card there that you can print off and fill out and I'm sure they will still take some donations. Right? Mr. Cole said, absolutely. Mr. Hart said, and there's a link to that at our internet. Drew [Cree] — Robert Redford there — put a banner on our internet. If you haven't been to the internet, look at the internet and there's some information there about United Way. Again, thank you. Thank you, Russ [Abolt].

Ms. Allen said, good morning, Commission Board, Chairman, Mr. Abolt, County Manager. I wish to thank you all for allowing me to participate with United Way again. This is my third year participating and it's a great pleasure, a great honor to be able to reach out and help the community. I would also like to thank Department Director Michael Kaigler and my Manager, Van Johnson, for allowing me to be away from work so much and kind of missing out on a few things that I should have been doing, but I'll catch up and with the help of the department we'll get everything back together. Thanks to all the department representatives for all of their hard work in bringing their departments together to help raise the funds that we do, and it's a great effort that they put out as well. It's a great effort of everyone working together to be able to raise the funds to help the community, and I want to thank everyone. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, on behalf of the Chatham County Commission I'd like to thank all of our employees for doing this, and of course our leaders there with them working really hard with our staff people and all of that, and our employees not only do they supply services for our citizens, bu they participate. Many of them work in charitable organizations, civic organizations and also many other endeavors. We really appreciate that because it helps make a difference in our community. And, of course, to all of you there, and Pete Nichols with his interview with Mr. Redford and all, we know how creative he is and sometimes we might see him on the big screen in the future as one of the executive producers. And I would also like to thank Jeff Cole and Gregg Schroeder for the work that they've done. Jeff Cole, as the head of United Way this year, has done an outstanding job. And, of course, with all the cabinet people and the other employees there, and of course Gregg Schroeder is the number one United Way Executive Director in the entire country, and we really appreciate that. So I'd like to thank each and every one of you again because you've made a difference over the years in a lot of people's lives. If you go somewhere where they are helping out, whether it's Meals on Wheels and you see somebody that's only getting one meal a day — one meal a day — because the United Way is helping out for that person to be able to get the food through Meals on Wheels and many other people that are suffering in our community. So I thank you all again and I hope that God will bless you all. Thank you.

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2. RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT CEMA DIRECTOR'S RECEIPT OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA PRESIDENT'S AWARD.

Chairman Liakakis said, I would like for Clayton Scott and Dennis [Jones] to come forth along with our County Manager.

Mr. Scott said, good morning, Commissioners. I'm Clayton Scott, the Director of CEMA. Chatham Emergency Management Agency is proud to announce today that it's Assistant Director Dennis Jones is the recipient of the 2009 Emergency Management Association of Georgia President's Award. In 2009 CEMA's Assistant Director Dennis Jones has overseen the successful coordination of no less than 16 emergency plans. Mr. Jones has maintained oversight of 15 emergency support functions. He supervised the coordination of the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hurricane Conference for more than 250 public safety and private officials. He's been responsible for the procurement, installation and maintenance of the County's outdoor warning sirens, which you approved about six or eight months ago. He's overseen the coordination of a Mutual Support Agreement between Chatham County and Richmond County-Augusta for the evacuation and shelter for up to 6,000 evacuees in time of disaster. As well he's served as coordinator and evaluator for a number of emergency exercises. He's developed an emergency operation center's staff manual and he's also hosted the training of more than 250 local, state and operation's partners in the County's emergency operation center. This Emergency Management of Georgia President's Award is a singular annual award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the emergency management profession. Russ [Abolt], can I get you to help me with that?

County Manager Abolt said, ladies and gentlemen, again a special celebration, not of a group but of an individual, and you all have a high regard I know for Mr. Scott and all that he's done, but his leadership and then his strong second in command makes this possible. This past year was a relatively quiet year, but it was not a year in which Mr. Scott and Mr. Jones and others just rested. Things like you heard Clayton [Scott] identify for you go on every day of the year. Our preparedness, our ability to respond has never been better. It certainly starts with the values you put in there from the standpoint of doing the job right, but also it begins with the Chairman. The Chairman's life-long commitment to preparedness in public safety is carried forth as a value throughout CEMA, throughout our entire organization, and Dennis [Jones] represents its today, but as a humble person I know he'd indicate that a lot of others contributed, but it's a very opportune time to take one of those great employees and say, Dennis, we're very proud of you.

Mr. Jones said, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, thank you for this recognition. We can only do it with the support that you provide us unconditionally and it allows us to lead Emergency Management efforts throughout the State. So I'm proud of the support I get from my family and I'm honored by the recognition from my coworkers and other peers, my Director, my County Manager, and you my Commission. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dennis [Jones], on behalf of the County Commission, we thank you very much because you are dedicated to the organization, and if we see the records that we have in the State of Georgia, on many occasions our Chatham County Chatham Emergency Management Agency stands to the front of the line, and it's really good because with Clayton Scott being our — the head, the director of that organization now, we can see why many of the people come from all over the State of Georgia and sometimes from out of state also that we have the Governor's Convention here for Emergency Management that we have over at the Trade Center, and that's a good indication that they understand what a great organization we have and one of the best in the country. So I thank you, Dennis [Jones] and Clayton [Scott] and all of your staff people, because you make the difference in saving a lot of people's lives when we have an emergency. So thank you. Mr. Jones said, thank you, sir.

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3. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO CLASSES 12 AND 13 OF THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM.

Chairman Liakakis said, this is a program that this County Commission started in 2005 when we came on board to help those people in our community that are in the poverty area, low income people and all, and it has made a great difference. Now we have the graduation classes of 12 and 13, and one of the things that our County Manager is going to be working on and giving the information to all of the Commissioners also is that we want the people that are going to do these road projects and the jail building in our community, that they start training the people also in the Apprentice Program so that they can get construction jobs, and a number of those that we hope now who have graduated will also be able to get that because if we take between 90 million and 100 million dollars for the building of the jail, the 128 million dollars for the fifth phase of the Truman Parkway, well over 20 million dollars for the Skidaway Bridge replacement, and a few other items also, that we will have approximately somewhere around 257 to 260 million dollars in construction projects in our community, and we want local people to be able to get that job. You've heard us before. This Commission is dedicated to that and wants that to occur. So what I'd like to do right now is bring Daniel Dodd and his staff and those that are graduating today for the presentation for this graduation.

Mr. Daniel Dodd said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Commissioner Farrell said, good morning. Mr. Dodd said, this is a — just to give you a breakdown of these two classes, Class 12 and 13, the Class 12, 34

were accepted, 12 are graduating, and eight are employed. Class 13, 17 were accepted, 9 are graduating and 4 are employed. And we also have Class 14 who is here to support Class 12 and 13. Of those we have 35 that were accepted and 32 that are enrolled in Life Skill's Training, which is the first phase before they go to Savannah Tech for the technical training. This is an arduous process, as you have asked us to really set the bar high. It was six months worth of training and a lot of these men and women stuck to it while they were going to work, while they were working on their GED's and while they had all the responsibilities of householders, and so we really want to congratulate them for their hard work and perseverance.

Mr. Dodd said, we also very sincerely congratulate you all, the Chatham County Commission and staff for the over 170 million dollars in road contracts and all of the other construction that's coming forth as Chatham County Liakakis mentioned, and assure you that these men and women, these students are ready to interview for those jobs and to prove themselves on the job sites. They've shown that they can work hard, they've shown that they've got the Life Skill Training. Savannah Tech has confirmed that they've got the technical training ability to persevere, and so we welcome that and we will be looking, as you have asked us to, Mr. Chairman, and as the County Manager has asked us, to look at concrete work and structural steel and some of the other technical training that's going to be required for the road construction.

With that said, I'd like to go ahead and hand it over to Tara Sinclair and I'd like to also just take a moment and thank Ms. Sinclair and Delonia Williams because they're the ones that make this program happen. They're the ones that are out there recruiting. They're the ones that are acting as support for the students and really they're the ones that run the day to day operations. Without them and without their hard work and, more importantly, without their dedication to this, we wouldn't have the success that we have today.

Ms. Tara Sinclair said, thank you, Daniel [Dodd]. Good morning. My name is Tara Sinclair. I am the Program Manager of the Construction Apprenticeship Program and, as so many times before, it is an honor and a pleasure for me to stand before you this morning as we present Classes 12 and 13. These students, as Daniel [Dodd] stated, they came out to an information session, they came back for an interview. They actually showed up on the first day of class. That proved to us that they wanted a change and they needed a change in their lives and their way of thinking and just in their way of doing business. While both classes are unique, Class 12 actually stands out because their course was actually expanded over 26 weeks. Normally, the program is 16 weeks, but because of the economic downturn and the employment issues that have been going on, we — this is actually the first class that we tested with this 26 weeks. So the young men and women that's coming before you this morning, they are folks who were dedicated, they came to class every day, they passed every exam, final, mid-term and they endured for two quarters at Savannah Tech.

Ms. Sinclair said, we also have Class 14 here, who is showing support for Classes 12 and 13. Will Class 14 please stand. [Applause.] Ms. Sinclair said, okay, you may be seated. Because this is a large class and without further adieu, I will present to you Classes 12 and 13. As I call your name, would you please come forward: Terrance Beasley, Malikah Brown, Dwight Chance, Kalee Edwards, John Hoard, Thomas Lester, Eddie Petty, Michael Stepherson, Johnny Robinson, Omar Tukes, Spencer Walcott, Christopher Williams, and Stanley Woodley. We will now have Ms. Williams come forward.

Ms. Delonia Williams said, good morning, Chairman, Commissioners, County Manager. Of course, Season's Greetings from the Construction Apprenticeship [sic] Program. My name is Delonia Williams and I am the Coordinator of the Construction Apprenticeship [sic] Program. In the past, Tara [Sinclair] and I have presented seven classes to you. We are proud to state that Classes 12 and 13 is a product of our environment; however, I must state this class is the most outgoing, driven, determined and let me not say [sic] eager individuals that I've ever encountered. Thirteen of these individuals that are standing before you are graduating. In addition to that, of the 21 individuals, 16 of these individuals will be continuing their education at Savannah Technical College. Rather, the fields are construction management, welding, or brick masonry. By chance in Class 14 alone, please stand if you plan to continue your education with Savannah Technical College in the fields of welding or masonry. [Applause.] Ms. Williams said, you may take a seat. Please note that there is a requirement, a placement exam that these individuals must take and pass. Eighty percent of our individuals, our students, have now taken and passed this exam. We are extremely proud of our students.

Ms. Williams said, to our graduates: If the mountain is too high, go around the valley. If the streets are blocked, go to some alley of some kind. If the front door is closed, go in the side gate. To reach your goal this advice I give to you today is sound. If you can't go over or under, go around. Again, continue to use the Construction Apprenticeship [sic] Program as a resource and always note that Sinclair and I are always, our doors are always open. Congratulations, graduates.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you, Delonia [Williams]. We have two students that would like to share their thoughts with you. Mr. Kalee Edwards please.

Mr. Edwards said, good morning. How y'all doing? Board, Ms. Sinclair, Ms. Delonia Williams, I'm just proud to say that the program helped me out a whole lot because in my past I've had a pretty bad past of getting in trouble or whatever, but I've learned a trade now, turned my life around. I'm working and I've been trying to hold a better future for myself and keep doing the right thing. I'm also continuing after I graduate today, I'm going back again in January to start off again for masonry. I just want to say thank you for helping me out, Ms. Sinclair, in changing my life. Thank you, ma'am. And you, too, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you. Omar Tukes.

Mr. Tukes said, good morning, Chairman and Honorable Commissioners. This program has been a blessing because without it a lot of us would not have went back to school. It's also been a blessing because Ms. Williams and Ms. Sinclair, they get out and they hit the pavement and they get the information out of there. A lot of times we don't know, we're not aware of the information so I'm very glad that y'all funded it and put the information out there. It also has a trickle-down effect for me because now I have a four-year-old son and five-year-old daughter. Because they see daddy going to school every day, they try their best to get their school work. They're honor roll students, and my son, he came — he told me the other day, he said, Dad, when I get older I want you to teach me what you've learned in school so that when I have children I can teach them what you've taught me. So that's the blessing that's come to me, and I'd like to thank y'all for giving us the opportunity.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you, Mr. Tukes. Commissioners —.

Commissioner Holmes said, I've got a word to say. Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Commissioner Holmes said, first of all, let me congratulate all of the grads, and our expectations for this program have always been high. Along with Pat Farrell, Pat Shay, along with the Chairman and myself, we're the author of this program along with the other Commissioners, and I want to say to all of you all, I want to give you a challenge. Look back at all the pre-grads that have went on before you. Challenge yourself that you're going to do better than them. I'm hearing from your leaders that you've been a credible group, you've been a good group, but I want to say a special expectation to two young men that you have, Ms. Sinclair. That's because my personal hands have touched them. That's Mr. Beasley and Mr. Kalee [Edwards]. Kalee is my godchild, and he knows and Beasley knows that my expectation is very high of them personally and it goes along with the rest of your grads. This is a challenge that I want to give to you. Look back and see what the other grads have done and I want you to do better. Thank you.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, I too would like to say congratulations, and I want to say that the doors have been opened to you to make your life better, and you have already made a difference in your life. You don't have to stop there because there are resources still available to you, and it's going to be up to you to continue to make a difference in your life. I believe within my heart that you are going to do just that, and with the help of the good Lord Almighty and with the resources that's going to be available to you, I know that you're going to accept the challenge that Commissioner Holmes has just given to you and this Commission as a whole, and so I want to say to you congratulations, a thank you, and continue to move higher and higher. Thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'll try to keep my remarks brief although I'm very excited about the success of this program. All the individuals that's come through and have applied themselves and tried to make a better world for themselves and their families, and to pick yourself up by the boot straps and go out there and give it your best shot, and I congratulate each and everyone of y'all that have gone through that. I encourage Class 14 to not give up in the middle of the class when things get rough and life tears at you from 10 different directions, to keep the course, keep your priorities, and hopefully this will pay off for you also. I want to address the community at large and bring to your attention that these ladies and gentlemen that pass this course have shown a lot of integrity and a lot of stick-to-it-tiveness to go through six months of training. They have the ability and the will to do an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, and if you have a job or an opening out there, I ask you to contact the CAP program or the County Commission here on Bull Street and we will put you in touch with the right folks. These folks are motivated, they want to work. They're part of our community. Let's make sure they have a job. This is a tough economy for the construction business and I'm asking each person out there in our community to give consideration to hiring one of these men or ladies that are looking for work. They've shown that they are ready to go. They are very motivated, so please give them a consideration when an opening comes up, even if it's not exactly in construction. We need jobs and we need our community to be fully employed here in Chatham County. Thank you.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you. We will now present the certificates. Chairman and any of the other Commissioners who would like to participate, would you please come forth.

Chairman Liakakis said, before we do that, I'd like to say this. We listened to what Kalee [Edwards] said, that he had been in trouble before, you know, but his life is turned around now, as many of our graduates' lives have been turning around because of these life skills and the work skills that they have learned because of our great staff there teaching those and also the people with Savannah Technical College that's helping out, and also we heard Omar [Tukes] and he's talking about what a blessing it is because with his children, you know, one of his children wants him to teach them so that they can learn also, and that's terrific, and you've had a downturn in your life for whatever it might be, but you've got to remember that you are important. And this Commission has done some wonderful things by putting the resources in this program starting in 2005 and we can see a lot of the graduates' lives have really and truly turned around. Sometimes it was a little slow, but with their work skills and all, many of them are very successful. So never ever give up and you are important, you know, here and everywhere. So don't think because you have problems or some other kind of down turn, no matter what it might be, that you are important and never ever give up. We appreciate you joining with this class, the others that are coming in, the future classes and all, because this County Commission has made a difference in our community and a tremendous amount of people's lives by putting this and other programs together to help out our citizens. Thank you.

Ms. Sinclair then presented certificates of graduation to Terrance Beasley, Malika Brown, Dwight Chance, Kalee Edwards, John Hoard, Thomas Lester, Eddie Petty, Johnny Robinson, Michael Stepherson, Omar Tukes, Spencer Walcott, Christopher Williams, and Stanley Woodley.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you. We would also like to thank Mr. Russ Abolt, who has been a continued supporter of CAP. Thank you so much for your continued blessings and support. Okay, you may all be seated.

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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Liakakis said, before we move on, I'd like to recognize two of the Chatham County Youth Commissioners today. We have Khadijah Green, who is representing Savannah Arts Academy, who's on my left. Raise your hand, Khadijah. Okay, and then we have Shanee' Ferguson, who is representing Jenkins High School. We welcome you today here and we really appreciate you being members of the Youth Commission.

Youth Commissioner Ferguson said, good morning. The Chatham County Youth Commission is pleased to announce the formation of the Miami-Dade County Commission, which will begin in 2010. The Miami-Dade Commission acknowledges Chatham County as having the first Youth Commission in the county and serves as a model for the majority of Youth Commission which has been formed. This is exciting news for our County and we are happy to add Miami-Dade County to the growing list of Youth Commissioners that use Chatham County as their model, which includes Prince Georges County, Maryland, Fulton County, Georgia, Cass County, North Dakota, Daugherty County, Georgia, Riverdale, Georgia, and Newnan, Georgia. Thank you, Dr. Thomas, Chairman Liakakis, members of the Commission and Mr. Abolt, our County Manager.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Shanee' [Ferguson].

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, I would be remiss if I didn't say something at this point. I know that we are all excited, but this is truly another wonderful feat for the Chatham County Youth Commission. Dade County is a very large county and if you would note that they have passed a legislation and they have also started out with \$110,000 for their commission. So we just want to say to the Chatham County Youth Commission, you certainly have upheld all of the requirements and you're still going strong, and we're very proud of your representation because it's being noticed all over the United States, and so that speaks volumes for you. So again, thank you, the Chatham County Commission, as well as the — well, both Commissions, the elected Commission up here for support these young people because that's what it takes is the support of our young people and they will certainly make a difference in our community. So again, thank you so very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. STATUS REPORT ON HOW WE ARE HANDLING ABANDONED VESSELS (COMMISSIONER FARRELL). (SEE ENCLOSED REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY).

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll call on Commissioner Farrell, and each Commissioner you have an enclosed report from the County Attorney. Patrick [Farrell].

Commissioner Farrell said, yes. I put this item up today. With the departure of the police officer — Police Chief Berkow. Excuse me, I was at a loss for words for a moment — imagine that. Anyway, when the Chief left, he was

working on an idea that would try to mitigate the derelict vehicles in our Chatham County waterways. We all know that these are State of Georgia waters, which they claim all ownership and regulation of; however, due to financial constraints, they're not able to police up some of the folks that are polluting our waters with abandoned vessels. Police Chief Berkow had started an innovative creative solution to helping ourselves locally in the interim until the State was able to fully fund and take over these duties, and not wanting that momentum to fade away with his departure, you know, I asked our County Manager to look into where we are in the program and what steps we're taking to mitigate the debris that are scattered about within the waters of Chatham County. So, sir?

County Manager Abolt said, thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, we have an excellent team on this, as I know you would expect nothing better, led by Chief Lovett but also Jon Hart. So I'll defer to both gentlemen to report. Mr. Hart, in conjunction with the staff of the MPD, has put together a memorandum explaining exactly where we are and where we will be shortly, but I want to give the opportunity to Chief Lovett and Jon [Hart] to respond.

Chief Lovett said, thank you, Commissioners, Chairman. I guess I start by saying I am the one, I guess, that kind of put a halt in this attempt to clean the rivers. Of course, that was due to the fact that there was some unforeseen problems associated with what we were doing legally and monetarily. So as an attempt to continue the process I got with Marine Patrol and the County Attorney and the assistance of one contractor to make an attempt to continue the work; however, what we found out that doing that is going to be very, very costly. We have had someone present some information to us — Mr. Rutland namely — in an attempt to get to do that work. But I was not satisfied with him just telling us so I asked Mr. Hart to meet with him, and he did, I think, on two occasions, and out of that meeting came several indicators. Number one, that this is not going to be an inexpensive process. It's very expensive and to show you what I'm talking about, he gave us a price of footage. For a vessel that's 32 feet long, we will start by — sign out by costing the County \$3,200 an hour just to attempt beginning to work.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I believe that was the reason that the former Chief took the initiative to come up with some creative alternate methods using some bits and pieces from Public Works, from the Savannah Impact, from the Marine Patrol, and try to put together a temporary consortium to handle this in a more economically favorable way to mitigate some of the problems that we have out there. So, yeah, I'm aware of where we're coming from before, which was extremely expensive and we certainly don't want to go down that path. I don't know that we have sufficient local funding to go down that way. So that's why I was kind of looking at giving it some creativity and ingenuity to come up with some procedures and whatnot that would cost-effectively be able to mitigate some of these problems that we're facing with folks abandoning their property and we don't have a legal recourse on some of them. Most of them we've got something that they're responsible for, their vessel, and they will be held responsible legally and monetarily, but there's a few that's slipped between the cracks, and those are the ones that we're — the only ones that we're going to address here.

County Attorney Hart said, we're at a situation right now where — first of all, let me say I have not directly met with Mr. Rutland, although Lt. Daniel has met with him on two occasions and I have a meeting scheduled to me with him next week some time or the following week after Christmas. We're in a situation where the original concept of how we were going to do it is just not going to be able to be done that way. The mechanics of it, the vessel that we thought we could use, we're not going to be able to use for a lot of reasons beyond the scope of this discussion today.

There are some liability issues beyond the scope of the discussion, so we're going to have to approach it in a different sort of fashion, and since my memo to you I've met with several other folks and staff people to try to get some additional ideas on where we might head with it. It boils down basically that we have two types of derelict vessels. We have those that are just abandoned in the waterway that are floating and those that are actually sunk. Needless to say, those that are sunk are a lot more expensive than the ones that are floating, and we were in hopes that we would get — perhaps get a fixed price contract with someone where, you know, on some occasions they do well [inaudible] and some occasions they don't. That might still work out as to the floating vessels. As to the vessels that are not floating, based on what I'm hearing from a number of different sources, it's difficult to say how long it's going to take to get the thing refloated or moved or whatever and costs can vary considerably.

What we're going to be leaning towards is trying to put out some kind of interest statement where we can see who may be interested in doing this. I have received a number of names in addition to the gentleman that has been of assistance to us so far, and we will do some type of competitive bid in which we identify the type of equipment we're going to need versus who's going to have to be responsible [inaudible] provided it's some sort of acceptable rate. And we're probably going to see vessels following the two categories — those that are floating that perhaps we can just tow to an area and take apart and take them to a landfill. That will probably be less expensive.

We're going to have to locate a place where we can actually take these vessels and disassemble them. We're in the process of looking at that. We've got two locations. The vessels that are going to be refloated are going to have to be done on a case by case basis. They're going to be expensive. We have instructed Marine Patrol to make a survey of the County as to vessels that they know or believe to be derelict or abandoned. They're going to put those into a GPS and map it so we know where everything is, and then we're going to start trying to make some decisions as to where we can get the biggest bang for our buck and we're probably going to be looking at the vessels that are still afloat first because they will be the easiest to address and least expensive. We're probably going to be looking at vessels that are generally in the same area so that you don't have the mobilization and demobilization costs of having to move from one side of the County to the other. And the other issue is going to be is we will be coming back to y'all for money because these things aren't going to move any other way than with

money, and I gave two examples, I think, in my memo for the cost of removing of two of these vessels. We had a considerable sum of money tied up in the Stacy Lynn, which was almost \$50,000 by the time you got through. The second vessel we were able to do much better on and, you know, it's just one of those things that it sounds real easy to do but it's not necessarily so easy to do when you've got to comply with all the environmental requirements, the regulations of the Coast Guard and regulations of the DNR, and they have been very cooperative. It's because they want to help us, and then you've got to dispose of the remains of the vessel in an appropriate and safe environmental manner, looking at places that we might be able to dispose of this. Some of these vessels are 50, 60, 70 years old that were designed to last 20-30 years and [inaudible] double their age, and of course 70 years ago [inaudible] you didn't care how much asbestos you put on it. That's a problem now, so there are some issues. It's going to take us some time to do it. I don't recommend, you know, somebody that doesn't know what they're doing trying to move one or trying to refloat it. As near as I can tell, talking to all the people that have done this for a living, have been around this dangerous situation.

We're also going to do a little outreach program to see if some of the folks that are in the dock-building business around here feel that they have the equipment and wherewithal perhaps to provide us assistance. We're just going to have to see what's available. That's pretty much where we are. I'm going to be — once I have a little bit better feel for that, we'll be bring back an ordinance to you that will give us regulatory authority to do some of the things we are attempting to do and that's where we are.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone] —. David [Gellatly] first.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd just like to make an observation, and keep in mind I'm a Commissioner that doesn't have any vessels stuck in his district, okay. But on the other hand, it occurs to me that we need to be very careful moving forward, that this is not a solid police matter either. In my opinion, you're sucking up police resources that could be used somewhere else. I mean, this is akin to an illegally parked vehicle or abandoned vehicle. We have some civilians or code people or someone that removes it and the police department is not responsible for the tow truck. It should be responsible for a barge. In my opinion this is a total waste of manpower for the police. You've got a Chief of Police standing there right now. He's probably got other things that he ought to be doing besides talking about abandoned vehicles or abandoned boats and stuff like that. This is my opinion. It's a horrible waste of police resources and we need to rethink that. I don't say that the vessels shouldn't be removed, but during this whole procedure they've been looking on the police chief, buying barges and doing all this kind of — that's not police work. They're not supposed to be doing that, and I think that these are civilian code people to be doing — police should not be involved in this. That's my opinion.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, I would concur with Commissioner Gellatly, but I do think that maybe the place to start is some of these vessels that are still floating. I happened to observe one the other day out in the Sound off of Green Island that is tilted badly, and I'm wondering if it's just a matter of time before that vessel sinks, but while these boats are floating it would be a good idea. The ones that are currently floating that are not in use, I don't understand why the State does not require them to be licensed like any other vehicle on the road, and if they're not operable, then that needs to be noted because they're abandoned and I have to from time to time report some of these vessels that are out in that Sound are not illuminated at night, and somebody's going to run into them and where is the liability connected with that? It is a concern. We had one of those boats break loose not too long ago ended up between two residents' dock. It just happened to wedge up in between, did not cause significant damage. Nobody knows how that happened but it did and I believe the name of the vessel was *The Dammit* and it was removed, but again this takes our resources when I don't understand why the State does not require them to be licensed just as they require vehicles to be licensed on the road and that the license should be updated yearly. If these vessels are not in use, why is it not the responsibility of the owner to get them out of our waterways? I mean, I just don't understand. Again, I would agree with Commissioner Gellatly why this becomes a local policing issue for Chatham County when these are State waters and nobody's paying any attention to the fact that these boats are abandoned, and having said that I will say that every time I've reported these boats not illuminated, I do get a response but it's my guess that someone has to get in a vehicle — I mean, get in a vessel and go out there and illuminate those things every night because these lights don't come on automatically and sometimes they don't go and I'm very concerned. That is at the mouth of the intercostal waterway.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, I concur with the other Chief, but I will point out that in Chatham County we spent a lot of money on Marine Patrol and they're our first line with these folks that are not obeying the law. They're trashing our waters, and I do expect that our Marine Patrol is on them, making sure that the lights are working, making sure they're not a hazard to navigation. That's why we have a Marine Patrol to keep the boats that are on the water safe, and to use every resource possible to make sure that the heat is on, folks, to be responsible boat owners and users of our waterways while they're in our County. Now, because there may not be as much help from the State policing their waters, unfortunately on yet another many occasions we have to step up, if we so choose, to fill in the gaps if you will. Again, I ask the County Manager to look at this problem because I — the Chief is correct, we're not — the Police Department is not in the towing business, but they are the first point of contact and we do need — I would like to see that we come up with some sort of a plan that addresses this issue. So — and for that I thank the Manager and for coming to the results of this endeavor.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I agree totally with the Chief Gellatly and I just feel that we are not going to solve this problem here today given the fact of information that's been disseminated through the County's attorney. I don't know anything about boats or anything like that, but to me when I think about boats I think of the Coast Guard or whomever that's supposed to be patrolling the waters and so forth. So whatever unit that's supposed to do that seemingly to me that they would be responsible for checking those kinds of things, and we just need to get this off the backs of the Police Department and even if we have to go as far as checking with the State or whomever to, you know, get some results. But we're not going to resolve this today and I would suggest that we table it until further information.

Commissioner Farrell said, this is just for informational purposes. Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Farrell said, but she makes a great point. Russ [Abolt], if you would look into who is responsible and why isn't it getting done, and bring that information back to the Board because quite frankly I agree with my fellow Commissioners, why aren't some of these federal and state agencies that have all this jurisdiction over our navigable waters, you know, why are these things falling between the cracks and landing in our laps. A great question.

County Manager Abolt said, be glad to. If I may, the Chief can remind us all, but I remember Chief Berkow, when we were looking down the check list of who we could logically call to solve the problem, we got no response from any federal or state agency, but we'll be glad to revisit it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to put some problems I guess into perspective. It would be a very pretty nice district honestly to have to worry about a boat being pulled up out of there. I've got people calling me to get their car out on their flooded dirt road right now with all the rain we're having. Two different dirt roads. But having said that, I'm not minimizing what's taking place here because a problem is a problem, but when we're talking resources, spending monies, we've got several other areas that would qualify in my opinion as much more necessary when people can't actually travel up and down their streets, you know, than blocking — than a boat that sank in a river, you know. So it's a problem I'd like to see us somehow solve it, but again what we're doing in my opinion, what we're doing in my opinion on this level is we're starting to head in the direction of be the be all / do all government, which there is a huge cost when you do that. We have State and Federal agencies that's supposed to do that. I say let them do their job because we're constantly being passed the unfunded mandates certain other, you know, functions type services as the County, but this is one that's pretty clear that the State and Federal Governments are supposed to handle it and I think we need to let them handle it. And, Chief, if you could put some no parking signs out there and turn it over to the meter-maids, I believe we could solve it just like that. They'd fine them and get them to move those boats. Thank you. And, Chief, you're doing a good job.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yeah, I just — a quick statement — I came to Savannah in 1980 as the Chief of Police. Back then the Coast Guard and the State removed vessels that were sunk there. Now this is just another thing that we're — and I'm agreeing completely with Dean Kicklighter, we cannot be all things to all people, and we're asking our Police Department to do something. This Chief has got responsibilities for rapes, murders, serious crimes in this community, and a stuck boat needs to be removed, but it needs to be removed by a lower pay grade in order to get it —. If you have an abandoned car in someone's back yard, we don't send the police, we send a civilian code inspector and they put one of those ugly orange stickers on it and eventually it goes away. . Well, we're going to have to somehow figure out the same thing. If we're going to remove these things, I think certainly the police and the Marine Patrol should identify where the problems are, but after that it should not be their responsibility, and I feel very strongly about that.

Chairman Liakakis said, so that — Jonathan [Hart], so that the County is not held responsible because we've been put on notice, the State has told us they don't have the funds and they will not do it at this particular point. I want to know, Mr. County Manager, if all of those sites where we have submerged, you know, boats or what have you, and the ones that are still listing out there and have not submerged, are they identified so that people that are using boats in that area that might be fishing or recreational reasons with their boats, that they are not in jeopardy, and I think it's really important because what you can do, those that are submerged, you can put up a buoy right there, you know, one of the emergency buoys to warn people about that particular about that particular area, and then the ones that are, you know, people can see those that are not submerged, but I want to see about getting that done as soon as possible, if it has not been done. Okay, Chief. — Patrick [Farrell].

Commissioner Farrell said, Mr. Manager, one last thing. You know, you mentioned the environmental things, let's be sure to get in touch with our Environmental Protection Agency and let them know where these vessels are and what potential environmental damage they're doing to the waters, and perhaps with their a little more — they're funded — they have the resources to address some of these environmental problems. County Manager Abolt said, I believe that's been done already, but we'll revisit it.

Commissioner Odell said, Russ [Abolt] also, it probably will be good to send a copy of any communications to the EPA, the Jack Kingston and John Barrow because hopefully they have some direct line authority over them and any State failures to act because of funding or whatever reason, any communications we send to the State agency should be sent to our two senators, our State representatives, all of them, so that ultimately Dean [Kicklighter] is ultimately correct. The Federal Government and State Government is dumping everything on the County. We have no choice in the matter. They're our citizens but they're also their citizens too. They need to participate in the solutions and they need to be put on notice. To anticipate the question that was asked to Jon [Hart] whether or not that the State noticed us that they lacked funding to do whatever and as a direct result of their failure to take a corrective action, whether or not that puts us in jeopardy — I think that was the question — just off the top legal opinion is that you can't transfer negligence. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Commissioner Odell said, so if it's their bailiwick, it's their bailiwick.

County Attorney Hart said, it's one of these things that, you know, everybody claims jurisdiction right up to the point you get involved with the boat. So then it's like never-never land or no-man's land. And, you know, I want to say a couple of things. Number one, the Chief brought up some great points concerning how we were going about proceeding, and I won't go into all that. He raised some very serious questions that have not been asked. Had they been asked, they were not good answers for them, so we had to redirect. I agree with Commissioner Gellatly that we don't need to have policemen trying to move these vessels. It's very dangerous. At the same time I want to commend the people of Metro Police Department. Everybody that I have met is just trying their best to be helpful in a very difficult situation. Eventually we'll come up with a mechanism, just like we do with towing vehicles. We will be able to have an ordinance in place, we will be able to have a contract in place to tow these things and move them, and eventually we'll have a mechanism to disassemble. The bottom line is going to come back if you want that vessel moved or want it disposed of, it's very expensive. That's not like moving a car. We charge \$35 and hold it and if you come to repossess the car, they need to pay the money back. These are vessels that are abandoned for a number of reasons — no economic value in them anymore, the shrimper that owned them is broke, has no insurance, no assets. You have boats that have been passed down through generations that you don't even know who the owner is anymore, and the Marine Patrol does a pretty good job of going around and finding these boats, citing them, and trying to make sure they're secure. Once you find the owner and get [inaudible], they move it to another creek. We don't play that game anymore. So it's a difficult issue and it's certainly not been helped because I remember years ago when we had this problem, they came down here and took care of it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Ferguson.

Youth Commissioner Ferguson said, when you move the boat where exactly are you going to put them?

Chairman Liakakis said, Shanee' [Ferguson], what they will do, for example, if one is tied up at some location in one of the river areas that we have, what they want to do is not always move it because it might not be movable at the time. They can't tow it because of the way of the destruction of that particular vessel. So what they want to do is, whoever, is to go over and disassemble it right there and take it to the correct environmental place for the disposal of the items of the boat. So sometimes it might be towed or whatever, but we haven't gotten it to that to any degree at this time.

Commissioner Odell said, before we —.

Chairman Liakakis said, hold it, hold it. Dean [Kicklighter] asked something. Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I believe Shanee' [Ferguson] asked that question. Chairman Liakakis said, yes, Shanee'.

Commissioner Odell said, before we fall in love with our taking action, I need to know cost factors because when we come to the end of the year and we have to balance the budget, you know, we're going to have some really tough decisions. I do not think that our Police Department should be put in the position where we're trying to have them move the boats. The appropriate Federal or State agencies, it's their responsibility. We need to go back and try to work on having them to fulfill their responsibility. We also, just to reiterate, need to again let our Federal U.S. Representatives become an active player in this, you know, because this is more than just campaign speeches. We're talking about getting down helping the local folk. This is something they can get down and help the local folk on. But I don't want us, if we get an ordinance coming here, Jon [Hart], about moving and disassembling and all that, I need to know potential cost impact, and here's why. Due to the State Government setting a limit on what we can do with raising income, due to the fact that State Government has continued to cut back on funding, they have limited our ability to act, and we need to be extremely careful and cautious, the reason being is if we undertake this effort, even if we are not legally obligated to undertake the effort, and we undertake it negligently, then whereas in the first instance where it's the State's responsibility, we have no liability. We adopt an ordinance, adopt a procedure, and then because of lack of funding, fail to act accordingly, then we become culpable for that. We have assumed the risk which we do not necessarily need to assume.

County Attorney Hart said, you are dead on there. The — one of the issues that we have is prior to moving the vessel, we're going to have to have the Coast Guard come out and secure it and clear it.

Chairman Liakakis asked, okay, did you have a question?

Youth Commissioner Green said, yes sir. I was going to — are these abandoned boats or do they have owners?

Commissioner Farrell said, at the point that they get to us, they're nothing more than like taking a mobile home and abandoning it on the side of the road. I mean, this is — these are typically the ones that nobody takes responsibility for, there's no insurance, there's no owner that has the wherewithal to if we can identify an owner. I mean, this is just pure garbage in our pristine waters that we're so blessed to have in this County. It's just a — you know, it's no different than somebody coming by and abandoning a mobile home or a camper on the side of the road and running away from it and nobody knows who it is, but there it is and we're stuck with it.

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'm going to do, I'm going to recognize one more Commissioner right now because we have talked a lot about it and some of it is repeat. And so what I want to do, Mr. County Manager, what I'd like you to do, the questions were made on this and let's find out about that barge. If no County department needs that barge, you know, that has been purchased and the other items that we have gotten for that, let's see about securing money to see if we can't sell it and bring that money back to us if we can't use it because there's no need to have that, you know, just parked somewhere and it's dangerous or what have you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I think Commissioner Odell, the esteemed Commissioner Odell has already asked, kind of, sort of, the question, but I want to make it really clear. If we create an ordinance, do we not assume the responsibility of getting those vessels out of there? County Attorney Hart said, it depends on what your ordinance says, but yes you could very indirectly create a duty —. Commissioner Gellatly said, I would love to see an ordinance how you would get around that. Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, be very careful. County Attorney Hart said, you create an issue or a duty once you assume the duty —. Commissioner Gellatly said, I make a motion we don't create an ordinance, period. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Commissioner Gellatly said, and I think we need to go ahead and pursue the appropriate people and give them some sunshine on there and, you know, I guarantee you if you look around at other harbors, like in Boston and places like that, if they have an abandoned vessel, the United States Coast Guard removes it and that ought to occur right here, and if it's not, the State of Massachusetts removes that vessel immediately, and we should not allow them to get away with it here too.

Commissioner Farrell said, but we've got to bring that to their attention or —.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's do this now. There has been a motion on the floor to not do the ordinance at this time and we have a second on it. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Stone voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

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

Commissioner Odell said, but we have an understanding of the course of action. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. That's what Marine Patrol's going to do. They're going to survey and then once we know what we've got, we're going to try to get some numbers together, you know, estimates of what kind of hole you're looking at, the scope of what we're talking about. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, the State and Feds to do it. County Attorney Hart said, you know, any —. Commissioner Odell said, and we're going to follow up with our State Representatives and our U.S. Representatives.

Commissioner Farrell said, that will be the first course of action. Commissioner Odell said, that should be.

Commissioner Gellatly said, just tell them to pull their budgets back 20 years ago and they'll see that they did it, in fact, during that time and get rid of those vessels.

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, we'll see to it that, we'll make all those requests.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to **not** create an ordinance regarding abandoned vessels in Chatham County. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Stone voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

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2. INFORMATION ON NATURAL GAS FRANCHISE FEES (COMMISSIONER FARRELL). VERBAL REPORT WILL BE GIVEN BY ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER.

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I just wanted to ask the staff again to see where we were. We got some really good information on the dollar amount that the electric company is charging the residents of the Special Service District for franchise fees, which are then transferred to other municipalities for their free and unfettered use, and I

would like to find out where we are on getting the information from our natural gas providers that do business in this County how much franchise fee are they extracting from the Special Service District and where it's going.

Mr. Patrick Monahan said, well, you might recall that Georgia Power responded immediately to the County Manager's letter of request for that information. Atlanta Gas Light responded immediately but has not been able to provide the same information, and the difference lies in the billing. The Georgia Public Service Commission authorizes Georgia Power to charge a 3% — rounded 3% rate if you live in a city and if you live in the unincorporated it's a 1% rate. So all Georgia Power used it's methodology, it's software to say how many — how much do we collect from 1% customers. That same methodology is not available to AGL because AGL collects the same rate and whereas Georgia Power maintains an accurate database of who lives in the unincorporated area, one because they're — Georgia Power participates as one of our SAGIS partners and has access to the SAGIS database, AGL does not maintain that. I have talked to three different AGL representatives and I'm continuing to work my way up the ladder. They're very cooperative but they're really struggling of how to provide us with that information. The way I'm suggesting, and I have a conference call next week with our local representative and the gentleman in their data processing, I suggested, well, why don't we do this. You tell me how much you collect total, you tell me how much you collect from all the municipalities, just what's the difference. That would be the unincorporated area because even though we have seven or eight carriers, AGL and AGL's fee — I happened to look at my own gas bill — AGL actually collects for all of the customers as a carrying charge.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, it's imperative that AGL, as a good corporate citizen, will come forth with this information that's very important to this Commissioner and I think it's very important to all the folks that live in the Special Service District and all the folks that represent those people. They would really like to know that information and, although it may be a little more difficult than Georgia Power, certainly if you have the wherewithal to charge a fee, you should know where it's coming from and where it's going, and when this Board doesn't know that information, I think it's imperative that this corporation, Atlanta Gas Light, provide this information in a timely manner so that we can proceed with what we would like to do with that information, mainly give it to all the folks out there and have some transparency on what's going on with these franchise fees.

Mr. Monahan said, AGL is trying, but it would be like asking Mr. Abolt and me to write a program on tax collection. You know, we're at the level we don't write things like that. So it's just a matter of identifying the individual who can write the program that can provide that information.

Commissioner Farrell said, perhaps they could get with our MPO and, you know, exchange some information, addresses — I don't know how they want to work their databases —. Mr. Monahan said, you're familiar with SAGIS. If you see a property identification number that begins with one, you know it's the unincorporated area; if it's two, all the way up to eight, then it's a municipality. But, as I said, AGL doesn't do — doesn't bill according to our SAGIS information. So I think it's just a matter of finding, identifying the best way for AGL to use the methodology that can extract the information that the County is seeking. Commissioner Farrell said, I would hope that someone high in the AGL organization would share correspondence with my County Manager and let him know what the time frame is and what they're actually doing and they could bring that information to the Commissioners. Mr. Monahan said, well, I can probably get that letter next week. We've been just verbally communicating so far. Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I ask him a question? Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead. Commissioner Odell said, AGL receives funds from the unincorporated area. Is that true? Mr. Monahan said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, and their comment to us is they can make no distinction as to unincorporated and the various municipalities. Mr. Monahan said, that's correct. Commissioner Odell asked, is it safe to assume from those two corrects that any funds that are collected from the unincorporated areas, therefore they cannot do an accounting when it's disbursed to the municipalities? They have no way of determining that? Mr. Monahan said, said, not based on the existing billing software. Commissioner Odell said, so I guess my concern is if now we don't get it and we're assuming that the municipalities were receiving it or receiving it based on a reduction, if you do not know what the receipts are by a district or whether unincorporated or municipality, to me that just seems an impossibility. I cannot imagine that — if they're going to distribute funds and a portion of those funds are allocated from the unincorporated area which benefits on a percentage basis that they in their enlightened way determined the municipalities, how do they ever determine what that benefit to municipalities that they cannot quantify the amount? Mr. Monahan said, it's done through negotiated agreements. AGL will collect based on a certain percentage, and it's a rather — it's not a simple formula. For example, I know how Georgia Power does it because Georgia Power does it by its five-digit number, but I can calculate how Georgia Power does it. I can't calculate how AGL does it. I've tried. I've looked at my own bill and tried to calculate how much AGL — AGL collects and puts it in a single pot and then negotiates agreements with municipalities and each agreement can be different. But some pull —. Commissioner Odell said, but theoretically you could do, as we do with the police agreement, a pro rata based upon population to come up with numbers as to unincorporated and incorporated. Mr. Monahan said, I don't have the number in front of me but previously I presented to the Commission an estimate based on just that formula per capita based on a study that another county did. That's as close as I can estimate, but I think Commissioner Farrell wanted an exact number.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Monahan], what your particular suggestion was that you take what each one of the municipalities, how much money they get and then what's left over, I mean whatever they collect from all of those entities, and then what's left over would be the unincorporated area. Correct? Mr. Monahan said, correct.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Mr. Monahan said, I know that in the City of Savannah it's \$650,000. I know that. AGL can tell me that.

Commissioner Odell said, and they also can tell you what Garden City, Pooler and, as the Chairman said, if we had the gross number, subtracting those off, would give the unincorporated —. Mr. Monahan said, that was my suggestion. That was my methodology that I suggested to AGL to use, but I've got to confirm that can be done, but I'm assuming it can be done but I just need to get the right person at the data processing level to confirm it can be done and then to run the program for me.

Chairman Liakakis said, and if you have any negative towards that you let me know because I know one of the Vice Presidents — Executive Vice Presidents and I'll be glad to have a discussion with him.

Mr. Monahan said, as I said, AGL has been cooperative. It's just finding the right person that can provide the information.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but is that our responsibility or is it their responsibility to identify the person to provide the requested information. I mean, theoretically they are collecting funds which we contend in part are funds which are due the unincorporated area. I think it's in their best interest to be able to quantify because they're distributing it to the municipalities. I think it puts you in an awkward situation in that as an outsider you're attempting to identify the person at this AGL who can write a program. I think that is the President's or Vice President's responsibility to say it's done. If they collect it and it's by some system, that system can be sorted. If it's collected by PIN numbers, it can be sorted, addresses can be sorted, then we know. I don't see that as an impossibility. Maybe —.

Commissioner Farrell said, I find it very troubling that an outstanding smart and brilliant person like Pat Monahan does not have the information from AGL to be able to figure out, you know, where the money's coming from and where it's going. So I look forward to them coming forward very soon and enlightening us so that we can share this information with every citizen in Chatham County, who should be equally able to be able to figure out, you know, where their money is going and how much is coming from where. That should be public information.

Chairman Liakakis said, going beyond that, it's more and most important that we get the legislature to do the right thing which should be done so that money will come to the unincorporated areas and not taking people that don't live in one of the cities to be paying this franchise fee and the franchise fee goes to one of the cities. That's unfair. It's just like you paying rent on your house or paying a mortgage and they put it on somebody else's mortgage, you know, pay for that. So that is absolutely out of order. We thank you for your hard work and get back to us as soon as you can with the Manager.

Commissioner Odell asked, can I be part of the next newsletter? We send out a newsletter. Mr. Monahan said, yes sir, it's —. Commissioner Odell said, we did it during our election year, we do it every year whether election or not. We do it quarterly. Commissioner Farrell said, get it out there. Commissioner Odell said, I really want us to do a simple statement of fact on this issue that is sent out so that everyone knows because it's a very serious issue, but getting folks like our legislators to act on this I don't think is going to be that easy.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you.

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3. CREATIVE COAST (COMMISSIONER SHAY).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, a hundred years ago County Commissioners used to be referred to as Judge. I like that, and they were also called the Commissioners of Roads and Revenue. What we were all about was providing infrastructure so that we could promote commerce in our community and help our citizens to prosper. We still do that today. We are very heavily investing in roads and bridges. We had a great announcement last week thanks to this Commission's hard work about an amazing construction project that will be in our economy in the year 2010. We saw examples of it this morning when we are investing in Step Up in a program in a program where we can help our citizens to gain the skills that they need so that they can step up and take care of themselves and their families in a much better way, and we are from time to time for example asked to consider incentives so that we can attract or retain industries in our community to help make the stay worthwhile for them.

Today I'd like to ask that you consider creative incentives. I was approached by a representative from the Creative Coast Alliance, and there's a little brochure that's in front of you on your desk here and I think I left some out front if anybody's in the audience would like to look at them. Creative Coast was created to try and attract and retain businesses that were based on creativity, that were based on leveraging the human imagination, and we have invested as Commissioners in that endeavor in the past. This year when we adopted our budget we were very, very frugal and cautious about what lies ahead at that time and we did not invest in the Creative Coast at that time.

But let me point out to you that the Creative Coast actually provides infrastructure that allows international access. Anybody in the world can go to this website and find out what's going on in Chatham County in regards to creative businesses. They can find out about the inducements and incentives that are available to try and attract creative businesses and creative people to locating here. You know, creative people are pretty low maintenance. They don't require a lot more than a good environment and an opportunity to work in creative ways. So in a way the Creative Coast is creative flypaper to try and get these people to come here and then stick. It also has a great bit on infrastructure in the fact that it's got a classified advertising there so that people that are looking for creative work or looking for creative workers can use this job postings in order to try and find the right situations.

You know, as I looked over here earlier, Khadijah Green was here, our Youth Commissioner from the Savannah Arts Academy. She's a young creative person. I don't know her personal life story, but my son went to Savannah Arts Academy as well so I know that the people that go there are interested in becoming a part of this creative economy in the future, and it would be a really good thing if we could figure out how to keep her here and keep her a part of our economy and not leaving and never coming back like so many of creative young people do. For that reason, I asked these folks from the Creative Coast what does it cost for that bit of infrastructure for the Creative Coast website. I'm not as interested in just handing over money and saying do with it what you will, and the word came back that it was a \$55,000 annual cost to keep that website up and maintained. And what I'd like to ask my fellow Commissioners to consider today is investing half of that because we're halfway through our budget year, \$27,500, which I would propose come from the M&O budget. The SSD budget is not in great shape at this time and, frankly, I think that the people in Thunderbolt in my district and the other municipalities benefit from access to the Creative Coast infrastructure just as much as any of the folks that live in the City of Savannah or the Special Service District, and that we also would consider asking in our upcoming budget year another \$27,500 when we adopt our budget next Summer to finish out the installment. I know we can't commit to that right now because that's in next year's budget, but what I would like to ask is that we consider investing \$27,500 from the M&O budget into the Creative Coast. I think it's a tiny fraction of the amount of money that we routinely invest in roads and bridges, programs like Step Up and industrial incentives, to keep the manufacturing jobs here in our County. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Commissioner Odell asked, is that a motion? Commissioner Shay said, that's a motion. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second his main motion.

Chairman Liakakis asked, any discussion? Any discussion? Alright then, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. Commissioner Shay said, thank you, sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay made a motion that the Commission invest from M&O Contingency the sum of \$27,500 for one-half of the cost of the Creative Coast website, and request that the Board consider including in the 2010-2011 budget year another \$27,500 to finish out the installment. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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4. RECOGNITION OF KENNETH AND FRANCES DUNHAM FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Liakakis said, if they will come forward along with Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, would you join me, Mr. Chairman, please. I see quite a few of the family members, if they will please come forward, and te newly elected Vice President of West Savannah Community Organization is here, Ms. Gloria Edwards, a former Board member. All persons who are here with the Dunhams, please come forward. Commission Chairman and members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, it is certainly an honor for me to read this proclamation this morning on behalf of two very wonderful citizens who have given so much for so long to the Chatham County community. Mr. Dunham served as President of the West Savannah Organization along with his wife because they never do anything without the other. So that's why we're honoring both of them today. And while he was President, he never missed a day.

Now I would like to read the proclamation:



The County of Chatham
Georgia
Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is befitting to recognize citizens that give freely and unselfishly of their time for the betterment and improvement of their neighborhood. Today, we recognize two citizens that go the extra mile to benefit the West Savannah community, Mr. Kenneth and Mrs. Frances Dunham; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Dunham has served as president of the West Savannah Community organization for fifteen years and has never missed a meeting. During his administration, this organization received certification for meeting the city's governance and basic service capacity requirements and it also received its 501C-3; and

WHEREAS, Frances Dunham, a retired educator, has worked diligently with her husband on projects and activities such as the WSCO Telephone/Directory calling service, house numbering, street decoration for Christmas, Adopt-A-Spot along Augusta Avenue, Stash That Trash campaign, and a networking system of communication.

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Dunham supported and worked with the Sustainable Fellwood Project. They also worked with Dr. Priscilla Thomas, Elder Willie Ferrill, George Stewart, the City of Savannah, the Board of Education and former Mayor Floyd Adams in saving the Moses Jackson School and turning it into the present resource center, thereby making it possible for the addition of the Lady Banford Center. The Dunhams has been strong supporters of the Summer Bonanza Program practically from its inception.

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

MR. KENNETH AND MRS. FRANCES DUNHAM

a dynamic duo that has an unwavering commitment to the enhancement, maintenance and growth of the West Savannah community and applaud them for the good deeds they've done and continue to do to make the West Savannah community a beautiful place in which to live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 18th day of December 2009.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman
District 8 Representative

Commissioner Thomas said, and today is your day. Thank you for all the hard work that you have done for so many years. Okay, I'm sure that the Chairman would like to have something to say as well, and then you may introduce the other members of your family.

Chairman Liakakis said, I've been knowing Kenneth and Frances [Dunham] for a long period of time. In fact, when they started taking over the West Savannah Association, I was Vice Chairman of City Council. I went to most of their meetings and have since I've been on some of their meetings as Chairman of the County Commission, and they have done a yeoman's work in that community and other things too because a number of charitable things. They would set up stations where people could bring money to help a charitable organization or something for their particular group, and we can see. If you go in that area right now, you'll see a lot of things that have happened about the cleanup, about the building of things in that particular community, and because of their leadership, for

Kenneth and for Frances [Dunham], that it has really tuned it around and they are constantly lobbying with the City of Savannah for additional resources to bring the community up even higher than they have already worked on it before. So I thank them, both Kenneth and Frances [Dunham], for the wonderful and the volunteerism that they have done for this community, and pray that God will bless them for all of their endeavors and future endeavors.

Mr. Dunham said, good morning everyone. I'd like to thank Commissioner Thomas and Chairman Pete Liakakis, and to all of you, as well as my family. All of the things in recognition, et cetera, that we have received this morning, I could not have done it without my family and my friends. Whenever we call, you'll notice they're still here. Night time, whenever, they're always ready, willing and able to do whatever we can for the good of West Savannah. Sometimes the people ask where you live. I live in Savannah. I'm concerned about the whole City of Savannah so that we can make this a better place in which to live. So we have present with us this morning the Vice President of our neighborhood association, Ms. Gloria Edwards, Ms. Dickerson is a member of our board, and Ms. Toni [phonetic] Dunham, my sister-in-law, and my son Kenneth Dunham, my brother Chester Dunham, and my wife, and so I'm very happy to be present with all of you and I bring to you greetings and again thank you very much. Something else I meant to say, but I think I'd better stop now while I'm ahead. Thank you very much.

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5. UPDATE ON THE FORGERIES IN THE 1ST DISTRICT (COMMISSIONER STONE AND COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Gellatly to talk about this because this is an important situation that needs to be heard in our community. Who's going to speak first? Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to the concern, the frustration and the anger that some of the citizens felt when their names were forged on a petition for a candidate, Mr. Osborne, to be put on the ballot, Commissioner Gellatly and I've made a couple of trips to Atlanta to make certain that this information gets in the right hands. At this point, the State, Secretary of State's Office, has looked at this case in its entirety, and all who are involved in the situation, involved in the case, and this will be turned over to the State Attorney General's Office as well as our local District Attorney here in Chatham County. So it has made it to the next level. We are pursuing this, and I'm glad to say that I think that this is the right course and that justice will be done.

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Dave Gellatly because he might — he's got some additional facts that he might want to bring forth right now because it's important because this has effected the voting for citizens in our community and it was a voting fraud that was done in this particular district. David [Gellatly].

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for edification, this incident occurred sometime maybe the Summer of 2008 during the election year and we had an individual by the name of Osborne that wanted to get on the ballot as an Independent candidate for the First District Chairmanship of the County Commission, and to do so, why, you have to have a petition signed and you have to have X-number of signatures before you can be put on the ballot. Nothing wrong with that, absolutely nothing wrong. We live in America and there's no problems there. The problem occurs, of course, when you have people that sit down somewhere and they have a voting registered voting list and rather than go door to door to get the signatures, they just sit down and they forge the signatures of people that are registered to vote in Chatham County. This is identification theft and every signature constitutes a felony by Georgia law. First of all, I'd like to compliment the Secretary of State's office. This investigation's been going over — gone on for over a year and sometimes it's been frustrating to Commissioner Stone and myself that it's taken so long, but our last trip to Atlanta we've learned that they've done a very, very thorough job. At one time they had five investigators here in Savannah going door to door checking to make sure signatures were valid. They didn't find very many valid signatures, okay. To give you a idea, I think it's important for you to understand what it looks like in Atlanta when you go before one of these hearings. Their hearing room is the size of this room and they have a setup very similar to ours, probably bigger, and it's conducted by the Secretary of State herself. There are other people — I use the word other Commissioners for lack of their exact title. They have the high-ranking member of the Attorney General's staff, probably the third or second in command for the entire State of Georgia. They have other very high-ranking people, including the Inspector General for the State of Georgia there, lots of lawyer, lots of people that are very interested and very familiar with voter irregularities, and it's very important that their investigators, they testified before this Board, they said they found 44 instances where people who had not signed this petition had their identity stolen from them — 44. Commissioner Stone said, 48. Commissioner Gellatly said, each one of them is a felony. That's 44 felonies, and it doesn't mean that there weren't any more on there. It just means that they ran out of time. They don't need hundreds, all they need is actually one is bad news, but they've got 44. Commissioner Stone said, 48.

Commissioner Gellatly said, as a result of this — as a result of this, the entire Board unanimously said that they would forward this information and this investigation to the appropriate authorities — the appropriate authorities being both at the same time, the Attorney General of the State of Georgia and his staff and the District Attorney's Office here in Chatham County, and this is what's occurring now and that will be the next step of the investigation. You know, a lot of people during election, a lot of funny things and dirty things and irregular things occur and we can smile at, especially when they're over and especially when we won after it was over, but this goes beyond this. We're talking about people who their very identity stolen from them. It would be no different if someone removed a credit card out of your wallet and went down to Sears and bought a TV with it and kept on buying things. Your identity has been stolen, probably even worse in a free country when your voter's rights have been stolen and ripped right out of your being. It is a terrible, terrible experience. You know — and another example, of course, just to bring us up to date on this. We've already discussed this, but out of these forgeries two of the people have been dead, one for two years and they had his name on a petition, and Commissioner Stone and myself during the Summer went door to door verifying, number one, that we did have forgeries here, and one of them was a widow and she saw not only her signature on there that she didn't sign but her deceased husband. And, you know, I saw

her emotions change from sorrow to fear to anger. We have people out there right now, out of these 44 people, we have people that are scared. They've had their identification stolen. They don't know what else is going to happen to them. It's a lot like if you lost your credit card and your credit went right down the toilet. You know, you'd feel pretty bad about that.

You know, in my lifetime a lot of people think that again this is kind of petty stuff, this is the way we do things in Savannah and what have you. No it's not, no it's not. We haven't done this before. We've never done that. I've lived here since 1980 and we've never done that before. You know, ten times in my life starting at 17 years old when I went in the Army and at six different police departments and three times on this Commission, I took an oath and swore to God that I would support and enforce the Constitution of the United States and that I would support and respect and enforce the laws of this country or municipalities, and I tell you what, it's beyond politics as far as I'm concerned. I don't intend to run for office again, so you're talking about someone that cares right from the heart what has occurred to our citizens in this community. I personally — and another thing that bothered me, Mr. Osborne, who was the person that wanted to get on the ballot, you know, when it was all over he said, oh well. You know, to me that's terrible. You know, he caused this to occur. He needs to stand up and act like a man and take full responsibility for his actions. He paid \$3.00 for each signature for a person to go out there and get signatures on a petition. What the heck did he expect was going to happen? You know, I don't know anything about law, but I think some people should be taking a look at him and maybe if there's some civil action, they ought to go after it. I personally think that the people that forged these signatures, that they are spineless, gutless, worthless people — and I mean that in the nicest possible way — and they ought to be dealt with and they need maximum publicity.

You know, I spent six years as the Chief of Police, 1974 to 1980 in Edison, Illinois, 21 miles from downtown Chicago. That was common. They did that all the time. I was Chief of Police of a community of 30,000 people and only 300 people ever voted at any election because they figured their vote wouldn't count anyway, that something would happen to it. And that's bad. You know, do we want this to happen in Georgia, do we want this to happen in Chatham County or Savannah? No, no. These are criminal acts, serious criminal acts, and they need to be dealt with.

And in closing I want to challenge the media, okay. First of all, I'm going to kind of save you Eric [Curl], okay. Eric Curl has written a couple of articles on this very subject, but Eric doesn't control the length of the article, he doesn't control the editing, he has nothing to do with the headline, he has nothing to do with where in the paper that's going to occur, okay. They were good articles. I'm not too thrilled about the rest of the people in your chain of command, Eric [Curl]. You know, a couple of months ago we had a chairman of one of the political parties sent a cartoon to a newspaper reporter. He got the top front page of the Savannah newspaper, you know. I'm not defending him. You know, when you send a cartoon to a reporter, you may get in the paper, but does it deserve the front page? I don't know about that. Commissioner Farrell said, maybe you need to send this in a cartoon form. Commissioner Gellatly said, in a cartoon form. If I had any skills at all, but this is my point. I think that, you know, not only the paper but the three television stations, they're facing budget restraints just like we are. They don't have the number of reporters they had two years, five years ago, you know, so they're in a real tough times. Sometimes the electronic meter will feed off the newspaper on articles and run around and get 30 and 60-second sound bits. You know, there's no electronic media here now. Five years ago, all three stations would be here. So what I'm asking and what I'm challenging the newspaper, maybe they ought to dust off some of their old-time reporters, like Larry Peterson and, who's the other little guy — Jan Skutch. Jan Skutch. Dust him off and spend a little time. We used to call that, Eric [Curl], in depth reporting, investigative reporting. There are not a heck of a lot of that occurring any more, but I'm telling you, this is a serious, serious incident and we ought to take it very, very seriously, but the community can't because our media is not telling us what the heck is going on. We've had serious, serious crimes and violations to our citizens and people have had their very identity — it's just like having your heart torn out of you. We need to follow through and take action, support enforcement as it goes along, and let the District Attorney and let the Attorney General of the State and the court system know that we really care, that we're not going to stand by. We're not going to be Chicago, Illinois. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, and one of the things, Commissioner Gellatly was talking about that, is just like any of you in the audience right now that somebody gets a petition for something to put on the voting ballot and they put your name on it, and that's what they did. They put the names of people over there they never even saw and, as was stated, two people that were dead. I don't think any of them arose, you know, to sign that. Not taking this lightly though, but that's a serious thing to take away the voting rights of our people in our community because voting rights are very important and they show a lot of strength when people get out and vote.

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6. CONCERNED CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF HIRING WILLIE LOVETT FOR CHIEF OF POLICE (COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you very much. Chester [Dunham]?

Mr. Chester Dunham said, good morning. It is still morning. To Chairman Pete Liakakis and a special thanks to Chief Gellatly, my good friend, and to the — I'll call you Judges like they used to. That's what I used to remember when, I think it was Ethel Garrison, and I said to Ms. Garrison, I said, when I was doing something with the County and she said, Chester, they labeled them as Judges. I said, oh, okay, thank you, I appreciate you telling me that. But here today on a serious note and — Oh, yes, thank you very much.

My name is Chester Dunham, and what I'm here today is just some information for you to let you know exactly what we are doing as a citizen as a whole community. I'm just standing here today along with Reverend Small and

my brother, but this is, it's a lot of us and I'll go into detail to tell to tell you exactly how we put all of this together. On yesterday we was at the City Council meeting. That meeting yesterday we had a cross-section of people, diverse people who were there. On yesterday we maybe had 15 or 20 clergymen, and it's had to get that many ministers in one place at one time, but they were there and the meeting went on so long until we lost most of them because we was last on the agenda, and the situation is that we got out of there at maybe ten minutes until six. But we still had a good day. Now what we are here for is to let you know, bring you up to date on what we are doing. What we have done now, this is a community effort, and when I say a community, that's exactly what I mean, everybody within this community. I mean, that's City and County. What we've done is we've sit [sic] down and we planned this and this was in support of Lovett to become permanent Chief of Police here in Savannah, and it's not just because of what Lovett and one of those type of things. As a matter of fact, I probably learned and used Chief Berkow better than Lovett because we went out to breakfast and we did a lot of things together. I liked the guy, but what I'm saying is that in support of Lovett, what we have here now is organized labor. We sit down there and endorse it, that's the Central Labor Council, which is part of all of the labor organizations. We have all of the church, I mean, religious organizations, which is the interdenominational ministerial lives, the Baptist Association, the Pentecostal and all of the ministers together, what we have done is circulate to about 80 or 90 churches petitions. Each church has those, the membership to sign all of these petitions. We've also, it's about 50 neighborhood associations and we associated and contacted most of the neighborhood associations who circulate these petitions throughout their community or civic organizations. When we got through we didn't miss out anybody. We have thousands and thousands and thousands of signatures that we want to present at a particular time, but we are here just to let you all know exactly what's going on. So what we are saying as the citizens of Chatham — of Savannah, Chatham County, is we are saying that we are in support of Mr. Lovett becoming the permanent chief.

And I'll say this and I'll sit down, the last thing is because of what wise us up. Because of his tenure as serving as interim chief the last time around, well it's proven to us that he is the right person for the job. He has reduced crime under his administration or tenure by 15% or more. So, therefore, this is what's happening now, and we are just asking you all's support. Now we understand the government, we understand exactly how it's shape up. We understand that the City takes the lead in this. We know this. You can say what you want to, but the City takes the lead, and as they point Michael, Mr. Brown, is the key person. We understand all of this, but we figure as a community waking up, speaking out, that then Michael [Brown] will say, yes, this should be — I'll make sure this the person that should get the job. And again on yesterday Michael [Brown] promised to come on my radio show, which is the Dunham report, real soon and we're going to talk about this. And I know Reverend Small has something that you'd like to say.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me address that, what you said that the City Manager. We have a policy committee and there are four of us — Mr. Dunham said, that is correct. Chairman Liakakis said, — and that's the City Manager, the Mayor, the County Manager and the Chairman of the County Commission. Mr. Dunham said, that is correct. Chairman Liakakis said, and there's four people that's going to be having input on that, okay. So it's not just one person, so we want everybody to know that. Mr. Dunham said, I'm glad you said that because that's why we are here because we know it's four there, and I'm glad you said that for people who're listening will understand that it's four of you all and that's why we are here to the County as well as the City.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, having said that, I think you heat it on the head to start with. There's a policy committee, but there, basically the reality of it, the legalities of it, is they are recommending, Michael Brown is the ultimate hiring and firing authority when it comes to the Chief of Police. It is legally worded at his sole discretion. So no matter how bad, if we all up here held up signs supporting Chief Lovett, if Michael Brown does not want him as chief, he will not be chief. That's the facts, the nuts and bolts of this merger agreement, and that's one of the reasons that I was the lone opposer and I will continue to oppose the structure of this thing. If you want something out of — if you want us to put our money where our mouth is, because I think the Chief has done a good job, I think Lovett's done a good job, ask us to pass a resolution requesting that we hire Chief Lovett. That's a little bit — that will give a little bit of ammo, but again no legal authority, but I would be glad to support that, and we'll see how far that goes and we'll find out in the end who actually has authority and who does not because I know who has it and it's not us and it's a smoke screen act anything otherwise and, you know, like I said, if I could hire him by myself, he'd be chief. And, you know, and I know there's a lot of other fans up here also, but it's truly out of our hands. No matter what's said, it's legally out of our hands. So thank you all very much. Mr. Dunham said, thank you very much. We appreciate that.

Commissioner Thomas said, but I — oh. Go ahead, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Odell said, Chester [Dunham], I support —, I practice law for a living and I've done that here for 30 years. I think it sends a bad message to law enforcement. When Lovett worked as number two, when David [Gellatly], my next door neighbor, David outlined some things he wanted Chief Lovett to do. He wanted him to go through the FBI Academy, which he did, he wanted him to go back and obtain his Masters, which he did. Lovett is a cop. He is a cop. He is a police officer. He brings to this job respect and accountability of the workforce. If we have a good police department, it's because the officers respect the person at the top. Being one who majored in Management in undergraduate school, I've concluded that respect is a two-way street. I think that the men on our police department respected David [Gellatly] when he was chief. I think that they saw him as being fair. He didn't bite his tongue. He gave his opinion, but he also worked to try to develop officers in the ranks. Lovett was one of them. My concern is that if he's good enough to be interim chief, why isn't he good enough to be chief? I think that he is. I think that we send a bad message to rank and file — come work for us, you can do every thing we tell you to do, but you're never going to have a chance to be number one. That's not — that's something that my hometown of Nashville, Tennessee — Nashville, Tennessee, will never hire a chief of police who's from Nashville, and the reason they don't do it is that they don't want to have a chief of police who has his brothers and sisters and cousins to develop any level of authority. So consequently, the politicians can always who's next to succeed them in office. We don't have that problem here. I think Lovett is the right age. I would like to see the City Council sit down and talk to David [Gellatly], who probably knows him better than anybody up here, and I'm not speaking for David [Gellatly], but I think David would recommend Lovett. Lovett is a good man who

deserves to be chief and he's a mature man, but I think he has many good years to serve and I support him being chief. I see police officers, in fact I just saw one this morning — that's why I was late. I had a bond hearing in a criminal case, and I tell them, don't take this personally. I do what I must do as an attorney to protect the rights of my client, but I'm a citizen. I want us to have a good police department because I have — everything that's precious to me lives here: my wife, my children. I mean, if you cannot ensure safety, then no amount of wealth is ever sufficient if your family is not safe. I think Lovett will make this a safer community because the guys and ladies on the department will go overboard to ensure that we have a good department.

Mr. Dunham said, because you are so sincere in the statement and truth that you're doing. It's so sincere. It's coming from the heart, and also Commissioner Kicklighter. Thank y'all very much.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I make no bones about it, my support for Chief Lovett for all of the reasons that have been said. I will not be redundant, but I also, in case you do not know, even though City Council or Michael Brown has the ultimate say, this Commission pays its share and more for the police department financially. I mean, big time. Big time, and I can tell you unequivocally that Chief Lovett is a fair man. He is for all the people. We are looking for someone that is going to be all inclusive, and by that I mean be concerned about all of the citizens of Chatham County, not just one area or two or three areas of Chatham County, and I'm telling you this man and the police are all over Chatham County and they are making a difference. They have made a difference in the past and I'm sure that he's homegrown, he pays taxes here, he's not going anywhere, he's educated, he has taken the lead as Chief Gellatly has instructed him to do earlier, and just as Commissioner Odell has said, what kind of signal are we sending to our young people? You can go and you can do everything that's possible, and you're good enough to, you know, hold it together until you reach out and get somebody else, but you're not good enough to continue. So that's all I want to say.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'm not going to restate my support for Chief Lovett. My support is well documented. What trait that he possesses that very few men and women in leadership positions possess, you know, sure he's got the education, the training, he's got the tenure, but he has the natural ability that very few people can do to make that entire department pull in the same direction. That didn't occur, and I mean no disrespect for the last chief. He was an agent, a change, and he went when he needed to go, but I want to tell you this that one of the things that has to occur, and I know the committee of four thoroughly understand that, the next group of candidates, you've got to have background checks, okay. You've got to have background checks, you know. Now Willie Lovett has gone through background check after background check after background check. To go to the FBI Academy you have to pass a secret to a top secret clearance background check. I mean, we know everything that there is to know about Willie Lovett. There are no secrets out there or anything like that. You can't say that from other communities. You've got to do a background check, you know, and that background check has to be made public. That's all I've got to say on that.

Chairman Liakakis asked, anybody else would like to comment because we'll, you know, we've received what y'all want?

Reverend Leonard Small said, well, I'm asking for exactly what was mentioned, and I would take my seat fairly quickly. I do concur that it is obvious that we didn't do as good a job at choosing, in my opinion. I'm with the Chief [Gellatly] on that one. I just want to make sure that you understand it would make a big difference if a resolution came from this body. Indeed you're only in a position to advise ultimately, as the law dictates. Excuse me — my name is Leonard Small. I forgot to do that. But you can only advise as very interested parties extraordinarily bound to whatever decisions are made, but you're representing us. You were voted in. Other people may have been appointed, but you were voted in. You have a direct connection to the constituency that the Chief nor the City Manager will ever have. In other words, you owe us to do right by us because we elected you, and in this case this is our native son. He's done his homework. He's met the test. They used to always say get qualified. He's more than qualified, and even if someone had better credentials, even if they had better credentials on paper from anywhere, how do you get them up to speed for 30 odd years of service? They can't come here and know what he knows. It's impossible and we've proven that. Give the people on the police department the man principally they want. Give the community what we want and show your feeling of it and show your mind of it, show the heart of it. Resolutions are not binding, they're don't make anything except it shows where your hearts are, where your conscience is and whether or not this is what we would want.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Small — can I.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. I've got to explain this. What a resolution does at this particular time, the County Manager and the Chairman of the County Commission are on this commission, and that places us in a compromising position because what they're doing is our County Manager, just like the City Manager, operates the day to day operation for all the employees. And, see, I can't vote on this — I cannot vote on it, so we can't really should not do a resolution as the County Attorney because I can't vote no and I can't vote yes because I have to look —. What they're doing is, they are looking at all of the huge amount of applications. They're bringing it down to a certain amount of numbers, and then those numbers will be given to the four of us, you know, for us to go in and to vote on it. So by putting a resolution in there, it places especially myself as Chairman and the County Manager in a bad situation, you know, at this time. Now, each Commissioner has the option, as three of them has said — four —, that they support him already, and I don't know if any of the Commissioners that don't support him, but that resolution situation is a problem, as our County Attorney can tell you, because the County Manager and the Chairman of the Commission.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Chairman. And, Reverend Small, I'm the one that recommended the resolution. I do ultimately want to see Chief Lovett hired as the permanent chief, but I don't want to in the process undermine and shock this group with a quick vote, and I don't want to undermine the process that the Chairman and the County Manager is working on, but there will come a point where I believe in the future after this committee's done with their work where we as a body, based on the recommendation of our two on there, I would at that point like to see something voted on, and then it's out there and we know whether or not, you know, we have — whatever it may be. I mean, and at that point there may be a hundred, you know, I mean, who knows what it would be, but I think it definitely needs to, because it's definitely structured where Mr. Brown has the ultimate authority, I think that we definitely, it would be nice to pull the thoughts out of the closet, if you will, before someone is actually hired for that job where the public will know where we stood versus possibly if it's in opposition to where Savannah stands.

Reverend Small said, I'm going to go ahead and allow you to do your work, but not sounding like a preacher, if a trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who prepares for battle, and if we sound out as a community what we want, what our heart's desire is, and I'm talking of the common sense man from every part of this community, and all of them ask the simple question: Why did we send for someone before and why are we looking for someone else now? Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

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MOTION TO ADD ITEM TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Liakakis said, we want to see about adding an item, but I'll call on Commissioner Kicklighter. He would like to add an item on here about a Garden City waiver. Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The City of Pooler requested that the County waive a fee in the amount of \$7,400 for, like a processing fee so Pooler can actually replace — perform an emergency replacement of 2,700 linear feet of sewage force main that's on the Pooler Parkway, and I was going to recommend just approval as is, but in some recent talks here, it's come to my attention that the City of Pooler may not actually be cooperating with Chatham County as far as upholding the agreement that we have with them as far as Chatham County being able to continue to purchase the water needed to serve the SPA Park that we have out in, you know, surrounded by Pooler. So at this point, I would like to have this motion together because with the understanding that should we — should Pooler back out of the agreement we have and not provide the water, it would potentially cost the County so much more money than the \$7,000 here. My motion will be to approve this request contingent on —.

Chairman Liakakis said, hold on, you've got to —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh, I've got to change the — okay, okay. I'm sorry. Chairman Liakakis said, here's what you have to do. Chairman Liakakis said, I'm sorry. I've got to amend the —. Chairman Liakakis said, you have to make a motion to add this item to the agenda first.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to amend the agenda to add that item. Chairman Liakakis said, we need a second. Commissioner Thomas asked, do what? [No second.] Chairman Liakakis said, nobody seconded it? Chairman Liakakis said, Russ [Abolt], it will save us a lot of money.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we don't have a second on that item.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, Mr. Abolt, may I ask for information purposes, or anybody in the audience, what's the potential cost if we don't continue to get the water, but that we now have?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Commissioner Kicklighter had a brief conversation afterwards because the issue was if you wished to do it, is there some justification that will fiend off future off future overtures of this nature, and that's what we talked about it, but on point, Commissioner Kicklighter, we shared correspondence with you over the months, we talked about it during the budget session. We truly are up against the wall when it comes to the Savannah Park Industrial Area in providing reliable service and we've asked Pooler to come forward and provide the backup. They're the closest provider of service, and for whatever reason they chose not to, and it is and the last communication we received from Pooler was, I believe, Mr. Drewry told us was just a few days ago, was that the clock stops some time in the Spring of the year. That involves several hundred thousand dollars of investment to replace the reliance we would have put on Pooler because it's in proximity to them. I cannot speak obviously for Mr. Byrd [phonetic], who I have a great deal of respect for, nor Mayor Lamb, who has done a great job in his position, but if the issue is, you know, if Chatham County wants to create an exception, can their be justification? The only justification we could come up in this short period of time is that we are equally, in fact moreso, faced with a problem of several hundred thousand dollars in magnitude coming up as early as the Spring of 2010.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so my point being is not actually potentially is not just giving someone a \$7,000 break. It's potentially going to cost a couple hundred thousand for the County. So it wasn't a bad move.

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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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Chairman Liakakis said, alright, right now we're going to recess right now. I don't know how long this will take. Maybe we can get through — I'll see if we can get through because we have some people here that we know that have a situation where we have to go in that other room.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, if you would allow the Director of CNT because he's always so patient. He's got to go out and get bad guys, so you have about five minutes before noon, if you desire to recess and then —.

Chairman Liakakis said, everybody, let me ask this question. We know — I attended yesterday with all of the drug agents that were there, and a number of them got awards. I participated yesterday and spoke to all of the drug agents and all additionally learned about, you know, a number of things that the County narcotics team in doing under the direction of Commander [sic] Roy Harris. Outstanding. In fact there was another person there that was not a member of the drug squad, but one of the people that worked with the drug squad, and he's in agreement also, and what has been said that some of the Federal people have said of all the jurisdictions that they have served, and some of them over 25 years in different places around the country, that Chatham County has the best operation for a CNT, Counter Narcotics work, than any jurisdiction that they have worked in the entire country, and Commander [sic] has done an outstanding job.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to we amend our agenda so that we can hear next Item #5 on the Items for Individual Action, the CNT monthly report given verbally by Director Harris. Commissioner Stone said, second. Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, it's already on there. Commissioner Shay said, but we have to amend the agenda in order to hear it next. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Commissioner Gellatly said, we look forward to the executive summary. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

[NOTE: The agenda was amended and Item IX-5 was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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IX. ITEMS FOR *INDIVIDUAL ACTION*

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

1. **TO REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS: (1) GENERAL FUND M&O A) TRANSFER \$52,323 FROM INDIGENT HEALTH CARE PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO REALIGN FUNDS FOR THE AGENCY, B) TRANSFER \$2,100 WITHIN THE ICS DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET TO SALARIES, C) TRANSFER \$6,200 WITHIN THE SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATOR BUDGET TO SALARIES, AND D) TRANSFER \$25,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR MPC 2010 CENSUS WORK, (2) SALES TAX V, APPROPRIATE \$6,800,000 TO A PROJECT BUDGET FOR ACQUISITION AND RENOVATION OF PROPERTY (222 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE), AND (3) 2005 SERIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND FUND, TRANSFER \$125,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE CNT HEADQUARTERS PROJECT.**

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

Commissioner Stone said, so moved. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Commissioner Odell said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved that the Board approve the following: (1) General Fund M&O a) transfer \$52,323 from Indigent Health Care Program to the Department of Family and Children's Services to realign funds for the agency, b) transfer \$2,100 within the ICS department's budget to salaries, c) transfer \$6,200 within the Superior Court Administrator budget to salaries, and d) transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for MPC 2010 census work, (2) Sales Tax V, appropriate \$6,800,000 to a project budget for acquisition and renovation of property (222 W. Oglethorpe Avenue), and (3) 2005 Series Capital Improvement Bond Fund, transfer \$125,000 from contingency to the CNT Headquarters project. Commissioners Holmes and Odell said, second. The motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 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 \$52,323 from Indigent Health Care Program to the Department of Family and Children's Services to realign funds for the agency, b) transfer \$2,100 within the ICS department's budget to salaries, c) transfer \$6,200 within the Superior Court Administrator budget to salaries, and d) transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for MPC 2010 census work, (2) Sales Tax V, appropriate \$6,800,000 to a project budget for acquisition and renovation of property, and (3) 2005 Series Capital Improvement Bond Fund, transfer \$125,000 from contingency to the CNT Headquarters project.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The annual appropriation for the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFACS) is budgeted in two departmental budgets. The Director has requested that funds be transferred between the budgets to reflect program expenditures. The transfer amount is \$52,323. The total budget for DFACS will remain the same. Correspondence is attached.
2. The ICS budget requires an adjustment to bring the salary line item in line with current salaries. A transfer of \$2,100 within the department's budget to salaries is requested.
3. A long term employee in Superior Court has resigned. Terminal pay to the employee is not budgeted. A \$6,500 transfer within the budget to salaries is requested. Correspondence is attached.
4. The Executive Director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission has requested \$25,000 in funding to support ongoing 2010 Census work. Correspondence is attached.
5. The Assistant County Manager has requested an appropriation of \$6,800,000 for the courthouse project in SPLOST V (2008-2014). The courthouse project is a level 1 County project. The attached correspondence describes the funding needs. Since the initial correspondence, the project budget request has been increased to \$6,800,000 due to increased cost estimates for renovation.
6. The Assistant County Manager has requested a \$125,000 transfer from contingency to the CNT Headquarters project in the 2005 Series Capital Improvement Bond Fund. Correspondence and a resolution are attached.

FUNDING: Funds are available in the General Fund M&O and Series Capital Improvement Bond Fund for the transfers. A budget amendment will establish funding in the Sales Tax V Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- a) transfer \$52,323 from Indigent Health Care Program to the Department of Family and Children's Services,
- b) transfer \$2,100 within the ICS department's budget to salaries,
- c) transfer \$6,500 within the Superior Court Administrator budget to salaries,
- d) transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations.

SALES TAX V

Appropriate \$6,800,000 to the Courthouse project budget for acquisition and renovation of property.

2005 SERIES CIP BOND FUND

Transfer \$125,000 from contingency to the CNT Headquarters project.

(2) Amend or deny the request.

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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2. TO AMEND FISCAL 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS TO REFLECT FISCAL 2009 RESERVES FOR ENCUMBRANCES AND CAPITAL PROJECT BALANCES FOR THE GENERAL M&O, SPECIAL REVENUE, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND TO RECOGNIZE AUDITED FISCAL 2009 FUND BALANCES FOR ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS EXCEPT THE GENERAL FUND M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND.

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

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

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

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Liakakis said, yes. Commissioner Shay said, I know we're hungry and we've had a lot of time to talk about a lot of interesting issues today, but we're moving around an awful lot of money in this one motion, and I don't fully understand how all this works. County Manager Abolt said, it — when you're ready. Commissioner Shay said, and I freely admit that having being a County Commissioner off and on from 1992 to the present time that I have no reason to doubt that we're doing all the right things here and we're just doing year-end housekeeping and cleaning up and getting money reallocated to the right accounts, but Item #8, the Chatham County Sales Tax I Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$24,000 [sic] to reflect a fund balance of \$21,908,000 [sic]. I have some questions about how all this works and my threshold question and then I guess I'll shut up because we've got bigger fish to fry apparently, when was all that money collected, that \$22,000,000? When was that money collected? Ms. Linda Cramer said, that was collected during the referendum period mostly and then we have —.

Commissioner Shay asked, was when? Ms. Cramer said, 1985 to 1993. What we're doing here is every year when you adopt your budget in June, we have estimates of the fund balance for each of costs in capital project funds that we adopt, and then after we get the audit results we go in and we amend that fund balance estimate to agree with what's actually done — what the actual number was as of the beginning of the fiscal year. So what you'll see on your resolutions in particular for that fund, which is on page 13, you'll see that fund balance figure of \$21,908,297 and then, you know, we base our project budgets on that fund balance expenditure number. So it's just an amendment to clean up the fund balance.

Commissioner Shay said, and I realize that this is a housekeeping thing, so approximately \$22,000,000 was voted on some time prior to 1985 in what was probably our first SPLOST referendum in Chatham County and then collected the subsequent eight years? I don't remember us ever having an eight-year referendum, but —. County Manager Abolt said, four years. Commissioner Shay said, — four years. So it's 1985 to 1989 then? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Shay said, okay, and in that time we collected a lot of money, but there's still \$22,000,000 of it left. Ms. Cramer said, yes, and there's been some reimbursements from the DOT as well, I think, in this fund that has added to the revenue in the fund and added to the fund balance. So that's correct, and all these sales tax funds these are really the residual amounts of money that we have not spent for various reasons related to the projects.

Commissioner Shay said, so as not to delay my fellow Commissioners, I'd like to ask the Manager if I could have a special session at some point so that you could educate me about how these funds are utilized and how we move money from one to the other, reimburse other accounts and spend money out of those accounts in the meantime. Ms. Cramer said, sure, and I think a lot of the information you would like to see is in those project details should tell you where those additional funds are going.

County Manager Abolt said, well, you're the one that takes the leaders [inaudible] and one of the contributors of this is one you continually remind of us is Skidaway project. It was a road that was voted on before I became County Manager. That's one of those projects that in 1985 people said do it and that's one of those projects that in 1985 people said do it and we still have it.

Commissioner Shay said, I think we also collected money for a second round in Sales Tax II, but I'm just interested in learning more about how this all works because, frankly, on that project in my district over the life of this Commissioner, it hasn't worked very well and I want to find out how we can make it start going to work for the people instead of just going to work for whoever, whatever bank this is sitting in. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the things I can respond to that is like some road projects, Patrick [Shay] that we — that people voted on, like in 1985, but what occurred was because of environmental things and things with the State of Georgia and others on a local basis we haven't be able to do the project and we're still pushing to get them done. Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could this be something that we could discuss at our Board retreat that we could get filled in on how these monies are being moved? County Manager Abolt said, you're doing a lot of contact. The easiest way is, especially responding to Commissioner Shay, if there is an overarching concern, when you receive your CIP, your CIP has everything in it. Commissioner Stone said, right, but I mean just an overview —. County Manager Abolt said, whatever you —. Commissioner Stone said, — at our budget retreat —. County Manager Abolt said, if that's what you wish, we can do that. Commissioner Stone said, — I think might be a helpful thing. County Manager Abolt said, we'll give it to him in advance. Yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, go over that. Okay, we had Item 2 read out. Do you have any more questions, Patrick [Shay]. Commissioner Shay said, I do but I won't ask them right now. I think I can handle them in that briefing. Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to amend fiscal 2010 budget resolutions to reflect fiscal 2009 reserves for encumbrances and capital project balances for the General M&O, Special Revenue, Capital Improvement, and Enterprise Funds, and to recognize audited fiscal 2009 fund balances for all governmental funds except the General Fund M&O and the Special Service District Fund. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Shay voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2

AGENDA DATE: December 18, 2009

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

ISSUE:

To amend fiscal 2010 budget resolutions to reflect fiscal 2009 reserves for encumbrances and capital project balances for the General M&O, Special Revenue, Capital Improvement, and Enterprise Funds, and to recognize audited fiscal 2009 fund balances for all governmental funds except the General Fund M&O and the Special Service District Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The fiscal year 2010 Chatham County budgets were adopted on June 26, 2009. A subsequent independent financial audit has verified fiscal year-end 2009 fund balances and capital project balances including reservations of fund balance for encumbrances and restricted fees. This report amends current year budgets to show the potential use of unreserved fund balance in those funds where it is considered an operating resource. The report also provides appropriations related to outstanding fiscal 2009 encumbrance balances ("carryforwards") and restricted fee reserves. Although a budget amendment to account for year end encumbrances is not a requirement of enterprise funds, enterprise funds are included in this report to facilitate effective management planning.

Fund balance is not considered an operating resource in the General M&O Fund and the Special Service District. Audited fund balance information for those funds was presented to the Board with transmittal of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) The Chatham County General Fund M&O budget amendment increases the budget by \$978,952 Reserved for Restricted fees. The restricted fees will be added to the appropriate expenditure budgets.
- (2) The Chatham County Confiscated Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$207,447 to reflect a fund balance total of \$419,061. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (3) The Chatham County Emergency Management Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$280,734 to add fund balance. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (4) The Chatham County Street Paving Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$187 to reflect fund balance of \$175,622. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (5) The Chatham County Street Lighting Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$2,032 to add fund balance. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.

- (6) The E911 Fund budget amendment increases the budget to reflect fund balance of \$638,005. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (7) The Chatham County Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance budget amendment increases the budget by \$145,153 for a fund balance total of \$155,019. Appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (8) The Chatham County Sales Tax I Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$24,053 to reflect a fund balance of \$21,908,297. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (9) The Chatham County Sales Tax II Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$340,189 to reflect a fund balance of \$7,665,914. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (10) The Chatham County Sales Tax III Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$1,134,911 to reflect a fund balance of \$70,580,883. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (11) The Chatham County Sales Tax IV Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$10,861,412 to reflect a fund balance of \$94,766,535. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (12) The Chatham County Sales Tax V Fund budget amendment increases the budget to recognize \$38,206,107 of fund balance. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (13) The Chatham County Capital Improvement Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$21,337,319 to reflect a fund balance of \$26,286,547. Appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (14) The Chatham County Capital Improvement - Series 1999 DSA Revenue Bond Fund budget amendment decreases revenue by \$53,208. Total fund balance will be \$379,403. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (15) The Chatham County Capital Improvement - Series 2005 DSA Revenue Bond Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$143,375 to reflect fund balance of \$3,909,147. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (16) The Chatham County CIP Bond Detention Center Expansion budget amendment decreases revenues from fund balance \$8,891,318 and increases revenues \$4,000,000 transfer in from Sales Tax V. Appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (17) The Hospital Authority Debt Service Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$103,651 to add fund balance. The appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (18) The Chatham County Water and Sewer Fund budget amendment adjusts revenues by \$56,551 to reflect encumbrance carryforwards. Appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (19) The Chatham County Solid Waste Management Fund budget amendment adjusts revenues by \$163,331 to reflect encumbrance carryforwards. Appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.

FUNDING:

Funds are available in Reserved Fund Balance, Unreserved Fund Balance and/or Net Assets for all funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- (a) A budget amendment in the amount of \$978,952 for Fund Balance - Reserved for Restricted Fees.
- (b) Appropriations in accordance with the attached resolution.

CONFISCATED SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

A budget amendment to increase by \$207,447 from fund balance with a corresponding appropriation for Public Safety expenditures.

CHATHAM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

A budget amendment to increase by \$280,734 from fund balance with corresponding increase in expenditures.

STREET PAVING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

A budget amendment to increase by \$187 from fund balance with corresponding increase in expenditures.

STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

A budget amendment to increase by \$2,032 from fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

E911 FUND

A budget amendment to increase by \$638,005 from fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ORDINANCE FUND

A budget amendment to increase by \$145,153 from fund balance with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX I FUND

A budget amendment to decrease fund balance carried forward by \$24,053 in fund balance with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX II FUND

A budget amendment to decrease fund balance carried forward by \$340,189 with a corresponding increase in expenditures. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX III FUND

A budget amendment to decrease fund balance carried forward by \$1,134,911 with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution

ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX IV FUND

A budget amendment decreasing fund balance carried forward by \$10,861,412 with a corresponding increase in expenditures. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution

ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX V FUND

A budget amendment increasing fund balance carried forward by \$38,206,107 with a corresponding increase in expenditures. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND

- (a) A budget amendment increasing the fund by \$21,337,319 audited fund balance.
- (b) Appropriations in accordance with the attached resolution.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT - SERIES 1999 DSA REVENUE BOND FUND

A budget amendment decreasing the fund by \$53,208 in fund balance with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT-SERIES 2005 DSA REVENUE BOND FUND

A budget amendment decreasing the fund by \$143,375 in fund balance with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

CIP BOND DETENTION CENTER EXPANSION FUND

A budget amendment decreasing the fund by \$8,891,318 in fund balance and increasing revenues \$4,000,000 transfer from Sales Tax V with a corresponding decrease in expenditures. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

HOSPITAL AUTHORITY DEBT SERVICE FUND

A budget amendment recognizing fund balance of \$103,651 with a corresponding increase in expenditures.

WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

A budget amendment in the amount of \$56,551 net assets for year end encumbrances with corresponding expense appropriations.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISE FUND

A budget amendment in the amount of \$163,331 net assets for year end encumbrances with corresponding expense appropriations.

- (2) Amend the transfers and budget amendments.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The State Code grants the Board of Commissioners the authority to amend the budget as it deems necessary during the fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

PREPARED BY: Read DeHaven

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3. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE CHATHAM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CEMA) TO APPLY FOR TWO FEDERAL PORT SECURITY GRANTS OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS).

Chairman Liakakis asked, that's the information that I brought to you that you passed on? County Manager Abolt said, no, this is Clayton Scott. This is Clayton Scott's leadership. I wish I could give him a plaque for this, but this is one step closer to really coming up with something that's a partnership with the Federal Government, State Government, and all the local agencies to create an Emergency Management Center on the base at Hunter Army Airfield.

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

Chairman Liakakis said, alright, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes. I also received from Washington that just came in that should have been distributed to you about grants that the government has approved in many categories and all, so you can look at that information that was sent to you and so that you can know there are quite a few grants now that might be available to Chatham County.

Chairman Liakakis said, clear the board please. The Clerk said, this was this vote. Commissioner Odell said, yes. The Clerk said, I cleared it and this is this vote. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, we just voted on this one. This is a second vote. We were just — we voted on that one for the amend Item 2. We voted on Item 1 and Item 2. This is the vote —.

Chairman Liakakis said, the vote that was up there was the vote for number 3. I voted in the negative on Item 2. Commissioner Odell said, now we're on Item 4, Mr. Chairman. Moving quickly.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to authorize Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) to apply for two Federal Port Security grants offered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 2009

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: Russ Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Clayton S. Scott, Director, Chatham Emergency Management Agency

ISSUE:
To request authorization for Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) to apply for two Federal Port Security grants offered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

BACKGROUND:
The DHS has just opened the application period for two Port Security grants which are applicable to the construction funding of the proposed County Emergency Management Operations Center (EOC) to be located on Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF).

- FACTS AND FINDINGS:**
1. In negotiations with the Commander, HAAF, property has been identified that fulfills the criteria necessary for the construction of a "hurricane proof" EOC. The County request is being processed by Army authorities.
 2. Pending site approval, funding is necessary for the construction of the EOC facility. Two Port Security, DHS grants are available which could support construction requirements. One grant is for \$2.8M with a 25 percent (\$700th) in-kind match, the other is for \$5.4M with no required match.

- ALTERNATIVES:**
1. Approve CEMA applying for the two DHS Port Security grants.
 2. Do not approve CEMA applying for the two DHS Port Security grants.

FUNDING:
Funds will be available thru SPLOST or other sources.

POLICY ANALYSIS:
Whenever possible, it is the policy of the Board of Commissioners to support the County's emergency management and public safety programs.

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Board adopt Alternative # 1.

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4. REQUEST BOARD CONFIRM THE ACQUISITION OF 222 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE (COMMERCE BUILDING) AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO REDIRECT FUNDS FROM THE 2005 DSA SERIES BOND TOWARD THIS PURCHASE.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, call for the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute, I've got to read it first. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I thought we voted on two the last one. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Item 4, Request Board confirm the acquisition of 222 W. Oglethorpe Avenue (Commerce Building) and adopt a resolution to redirect funds for the 2005 DSA Series Bond toward this purchase.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval.

County Attorney Hart said, I would like to add one sentence to the end of the resolution to perfect it for the record: The Commission instructs the Chairman of the County Commission to execute all documents necessary to acquire the property for Chatham County in the amount of \$6,500,000 plus closing costs.

Commissioner Odell said, amend the motion. Is there a second Commissioner Stone said, second.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Can someone on staff stand up and just tell what this is going to do? County Manager Abolt said, I will. Another plaque I'd like if I had it to go to Mr. Monahan. This is really slick. This is on Oglethorpe just within walking distance of Montgomery Street Courthouse. It's extremely good space, convenient to the public. The Chairman and I viewed it as recently as this week. Mr. Monahan was faced with the problem that I presented him because we could not make the money go as far as the constitutional officers would like us in expanding the Montgomery Street Courthouse via SPLOST funding. Mr. Monahan worked magic. We have this property now obligated hopefully to purchase by the County, and it's going to solve the next five plus years, more than that really, the space problems of Chatham County at the Montgomery Street Courthouse, and I thank Mr. Monahan for it.

Commissioner Odell said, Monahan is good.

Mr. Patrick Monahan said, this purchase changes the courthouse master plan. As you might recall, under the original master plan the County planned to renovate the old jail into an office building and then add fifth floor of which this Board approved part of the DSA 2005 Series Bond in the amount of \$2,750,000. When we got the numbers back, the estimate, the cost of that because of the type of construction, the jail being one foot thick walls and loaded rebar and just the difficulty of the construction, the value of that construction came in — and this is by a contractor — came in a little bit more than, somewhere around \$215 a square foot. It just so happens about that time I heard through the grapevine about the sale of Verisign to Convergys. Verisign owned the building. So I called the broker and we started talking, just discussing about this because it's the largest office building within closest proximity to the courthouse.

What this does, by purchasing this building we can move the non-judicial offices from the courthouse, principally the Tax Assessor, Tax Commissioner, we can relocate the Public Defender's Office so we get out of that rent obligation. We can remove the rent obligation for some of the Board of Assessors Office, and what that also does, it preserves the old jail for some future expansion of courts. As you know, we're looking at the possibility of an annex building, probably a trial court building that would house both Superior Court and State Court. So this purchase actually solves a lot of problems.

The other advantage is by starting to move those offices, we can then take the remaining offices within the courthouse and then backfill those with additional courtrooms, which solves an immediate need over probably the next five to seven years until the money becomes available to design this new trial court building.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what in your estimate right off the bat, what's the amount of money saved by doing this rather than just —? Mr. Monahan said, well, you see, on the first page I actually just to give us a comparison, renovating the old jail was \$212 a square foot. This purchase is at \$117 a square foot. So that's almost a hundred dollars per square foot savings there, but when you really see the difference is in the income approach, and based on an income approach this building is worth about \$9,000,000. We're pay six and a half for it. It's just that Convergys is a California company, it's not in the real estate business, it's in the software business, and they need to get rid of this asset. So it was just fortuitous in the timing.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you and it was a great move by you. I just wanted the public to hear what we were doing before we —. Mr. Monahan said, well, it wasn't just me. I mean, Mr. Hart's always involved and gives me a lot of counsel and we've got some good brokerage services to help us to. Commissioner Kicklighter said, [inaudible] and staff.

County Attorney Hart said, \$6,500,000 not \$6,500. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, \$6,500 saved?

Commissioner Shay said, like the others I congratulate you for a smooth move, Mr. Monahan. When we do this, do we pay real estate commissions? Do we work through brokerage? Mr. Monahan said, yes, yes. Commissioner Shay asked, and so it is not without precedent for the County or I guess by extension presumably Chatham Area Transit to work with a broker in order to handle the marketing and sale of a property or purchase of a property?

Mr. Monahan said, yes sir. I mean, it's — I happen to be a real estate professional myself, but as you know I keep my license inactive, but —. Commissioner Shay said, but we could not pay you commissions. Mr. Monahan said, no sir, and I would never ask that you do that. Well, maybe this time. But there are some areas of expertise that

are beyond me. We tried to make an offer. We do — either we go through a formal appraisal ourselves to determine value or we do what we call market studies in which we research the recent comp sales in which we can bracket approximately what we're willing to pay, and it's this instance I think the seller was looking at for somewhere around \$9,000,000 but we were able to show where the current market situation and so then, as this Board approved, we made an offer at six. They came back at seven and so the natural move is to split that in half, which I think it would have been a good deal even much more than that, but to get six and a half in this market is —.

Commissioner Odell said, that is good. Mr. Monahan said, yeah, that is.

County Manager Abolt said, and this also is [inaudible] rivals Mr. Monahan's leadership in acquiring the CNT property. You don't waste time building something. If you've got a good building that fits the need, buy it.

Commissioner Shay said, and whatever it is that's beyond you, Mr. Monahan, I haven't discovered it yet. I keep looking for your limits and I haven't found it yet. I congratulate you, but I just wanted to understand on the transactions that were being considered whether or not we're allowed to consider working with an independent broker. Mr. Monahan said, well, it was just another fortuitous circumstance buying that CNT building. That was \$80 a square foot and that was cooperate headquarters for an international company.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to point out the County Attorney said that's what, six and half million savings over —. County Attorney Hart said, no, it's not much of a — not that kind of a savings. It was \$9,000,000 and —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. I thought I heard you say —. County Attorney Hart said, it's going to relieve us from a rent obligation that almost carries us —.

County Manager Abolt said, he put wording in the resolution, he changed it. Rather than six hundred and some thousand, I believe the end amount was \$6.5 million. That's what he was saying. He was just protecting the record.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, excellent job.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to confirm the acquisition of 222 W. Oglethorpe Avenue (Commerce Building) and adopt a resolution to redirect funds for the 2005 DSA Series Bond toward this purchase, and the Commission instructs the Chairman of the County Commission to execute all documents necessary to acquire the property for Chatham County in the amount of \$6,500,000 plus closing costs. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-4
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 2009

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

ISSUE:

To confirm the acquisition of 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue (Commerce Building) and adopt a resolution to redirect funds from the 2005 DSA Series Bond toward this purchase.

BACKGROUND:

At the August 41 meeting in Executive Session, the Board authorized a Purchase Agreement to acquire 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue (Commerce Building) for \$6.5 million in lieu of a plan to renovate the old jail on Montgomery Street into an office building. The offer followed a two-month period of due diligence in considering the building, determining a value for offer and negotiating an agreement. The five-story building totals 69,597 square feet (55,657 heated/cooled), but more importantly, it remains the largest office building within the closest proximity of the Courthouse. As a baseline for comparison, the original plan of renovating the old jail would cost \$212 per square foot because of complex construction related to 1-foot thick concrete filled with rebar and structural walls. Furthermore, not using the old jail site would enable future construction of a new courts building of 135 square feet to meet longer-term needs for the judiciary and maintain all courts on the same campus. Meanwhile, once the administrative offices (Tax Assessor, Tax Commissioner, Data Center) relocate from the Courthouse, an interim plan will be effected to back-fill the vacated space at the Courthouse to provide some additional courtrooms to relieve caseloads, and design work can begin on the new courts building. Also relocating will be Child Support Recovery and Public Defender's Office.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. Board approval confirms the purchase for a negotiated cost of \$6.5 million for the property, which includes four stories of office space and a ground floor of parking (see Attachment 1). The following shows a comparison to this purchase amount,
 - 1.1 Cost approach= \$9 million, or \$162 SF (based on income/lease approach)
 - 1.2 Market approach = \$157 SF to \$195 SF (based on recent comparable sales)
 - 1.3 Renovate old jail= \$212 SF (based on construction estimate)
 - 1.4 Purchase 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue for \$6.5M = \$117 SF

While purchased at less than \$120 SF, the Commerce Building represents high-quality finished office space with masonry and stucco exterior in the Landmark Historic District. Built in 1984, it once housed the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, Savannah Economic Development Authority, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Bankruptcy Court and executive offices for HO Systems, then Verisign.

2. The County acquired the property from Verisign, which once used the property for its software development business (purchased from HO Systems). As business declined, Verisign began leasing office space. When Verisign sold its Savannah-based business to Convergys, the property became available. County staff began discussing acquiring the building before Verisign started to market it for sale.
3. During inspections of the building, including consulting assistance by an architect and engineer, staff began to compile a list of improvements needed to adapt the building for public use--accessibility, payment area, ADA compliance, more restrooms. An architect determined that the building generally conforms to code standards, and full compliance with code could be resolved for less than \$500,000.
4. Besides the code-related improvements, staff suggests converting the ground floor parking into a citizens service area, which would help reduce upward migration into the building. Renovating this 14,000 square-foot space for office areas would add a net of 12,500 usable space. Parking can be accommodated at the Robbie Robinson Parking Garage, which is across Jefferson Street. Employees who park at the County parking Garage will be able to transfer their contract rates.
5. Chatham County will need to continue two existing leases, Convergys (May 31) and U.S. General Services Administration (March 31). This will limit when heavy construction can begin in the building. The tenant leases will generate revenues to offset building expenses. Staff anticipates the relocation of departments to the Commerce Building will begin in Summer 2010.
6. The 2005 DSA Series Bond includes \$2,750,000 for "construction of a 5th floor addition on the South Annex (former jail) for County offices." Since the bond's description of projects include the old jail project, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 36-82-4.2 and 36-82-4.2(b), the Board must adopt a resolution by 2/3 vote, which deems the old jail project as economically impractical but the new use meets the same basic purpose (see Attachment 2).
7. Relocating the Tax Commissioner, Board of Assessors and Data Center from the Courthouse to the Commerce Building will enable interim moves within the Courthouse for more courtrooms. This also keeps open the option for later demolition of the old jail. The new Courthouse Annex could proceed with design, and construction of the new building would begin when funds become available.
 - 7.1 Reserving the old jail site (footprint) for a future 135,000 square-foot building would mean a significant change in the approved Courthouse Master Plan. The Commerce Building will allow non-judicial services to move from the Courthouse into the new space, avoid recurring costs of leasing space (i.e. Public Defender, Tax Assessor), and reserve the jail site for an annex.
 - 7.2 The proposed change does not affect the need for the completed projects (new tunnels, sallyport, basement renovation for inmate holding cells and Sheriff's Court Services Division) and funds spent to date. These would be necessary for any option which involved the old jail.
 - 7.3 Besides use of funds to renovate 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue for public use, some funding will also be needed to complete Phase I of the Courthouse project and the Records Center (shelving). Phase I should be completed by mid-January.

FUNDING:

The sources of funding for the project would be \$6.8 million from the 2008-2014 SPLOST and \$2,750,000 from the 2005 DSA Series Bond. No portion of the 2005 DSA Series Bond money can be used until 10 days after this approval, but once the funds meet this obligation, a portion of it will be applied to the acquisition expense of 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue, which will enable use of the balance of the 2008-2014 SPLOST funds for Phase I Courthouse work and the Records Center.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board confirm the purchase of 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue and approve the proposed project presented in "Facts & Findings." Funding for the project would be \$6.8 million from the 2008-1014 SPLOST and \$2,750,000 from the 2005 DSA Series Bond. The funding would be designated for property acquisition in the amount of \$6.5 million, plus not to exceed \$300,000 in closing costs; renovation of the Commerce Building to meet code, build out of the first floor, and tenant finishes, including modular offices; completion of Phase I of the Courthouse project and the Records Center; and relocation expenses. Total project cost of \$9,550,000.
 - 1.1 Approval includes adoption of the resolution to use \$2,750,000 in 2005 DSA Series Bond funds toward purchase and renovation of the Commerce Building for County offices consistent with O.C.G.A. 36-82-4.2(3)(b) and (c).
 - 1.2 Approval includes amending the Courthouse Master Plan by reserving future demolition of the old jail for a Courthouse addition, projected at 135,000 square feet (mindful of height and mass restrictions). The project can be designed but construction will be pending future capital funding.
2. That the Board confirm the purchase of 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue for \$6.5 million plus up to \$300,000 in closing costs, fund \$500,000 estimated for the code compliance improvements, but otherwise keep the space as-is and relocate departments. Cost would be \$7,300,000.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The proposed recommendation provides a new direction for the Courthouse project, but the opportunity which the Commerce Building provides not only meets immediate needs at a lower cost basis but also preserves long-term options which benefit the courts. The project committee, which includes representatives from the judiciary, believes this opportunity presents the best long-term option.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

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5. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR HARRIS

Director Roy Harris said, good morning, Commissioners. Roy Harris from CNT, and thanks to Commissioner Gellatly and the Chief for all that. You always like those executive briefings. There are a couple of items I would like to mention on here under Significant Events on page four. If you look at Item 1 in last month, we concluded a Title III, which is a wiretap investigation that was jointly conducted with United States Customs and Border Patrol where we were involved in the investigation of an organization based here in Savannah that was going out West and bring marijuana, bulk marijuana across the State line and then shipping it back here almost on a weekly basis to Savannah, and we were able to intercept some of this and affect the arrest. Two people have been indicted in Federal Court on this and we have a lot more defendants we will be indicting in the Superior Court of Chatham County. We kind of divide these things up as we're going on it, so this was a fairly significant case that we did not make a press release on because of the Federal guidelines of pretrial publicity.

If you look down to Item 4, a very similar case here where we had a November 24th State Court of Appeals case on an old case from 2007 trafficking in marijuana and cocaine, and all of the motions there to reverse the decision on appeal were denied by that court. Now this is significant in that as these Title III cases or the major cases go, it takes us several years after we make the arrest to really put these cases to bed. It's almost a year in the process for our people and our Assistant DA's to actually go through all of the various motions, preparing for trial, make sure that all of the defense attorneys have the requested and materials that they're authorized to have, and it's a very lengthy process as Mr. Odell could tell us. I want to commend ADA's Russell Mabrey and Jeff Hendrix — Russell is no longer with us, but he's an ADA down in Hinesville at this time, but Jeff is still there with us — for all of the hard word that they did on this case. So once we make an arrest, actually the case is really just beginning for us for one to two years down the road on that.

Another thing I'll point out very quickly, Item 3. At one time it was a policy violation for our agents to respond to assist police officers in an emergency situation because they are undercover personnel, and I talked to you Commissioners about this a couple of years ago. I changed this policy, and this Item 3 was one of the teams that received awards yesterday. They heard the alert tone that officers were chasing a robbery suspect, shots were fired at the police officers. Our guys would have been prohibited from responding to that, but now they did respond to it and actually did help personally apprehend one of these people. To me any minor street level drug case we may blow in that process is far outweighed by the safety of those officers and the citizens involved in here, and I was very proud of this because I've hammered it into them, listen to your precinct radios while you're out working your cases. We're on our own channels, but I want them to be involved in what's going on in the precincts and be aware and alert, and they did receive their award for that, as the Chairman said, and we certainly appreciate you coming to be with us and really share in that celebration yesterday. To me it's a joyous time of year and to be able to do that to bring good news to folks, and we had a good time.. Any questions?

Commissioner Odell said, good job, Roy [Harris].

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

Director Harris said, I wish all of you a merry Christmas and I hope we have a more prosperous new year. Thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, merry Christmas.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Director Roy Harris gave a verbal report regarding the status of the Counter Narcotics Team for the month of November 2009.

<p>Chatham~Savannah Counter Narcotics Team Monthly Report November 2009</p>
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UNDERCOVER AGENT/CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT BUYS	
Buys	Number
Undercover (Agent) Buys	4
Confidential Information Buys	17

NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS*	
Investigations:	Number
Investigations Initiated During the month	61
Active Joint Investigations with other agencies (DEA, ATF, IRS, etc.)	9
Total Number of Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	12

DRUGS SEIZED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	103 Grams	\$10,300.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	29.55 Grams	\$2,955.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	93.35 Grams	\$9,335.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	532 Ounces	\$74,480.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	.2 Grams	\$50.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	111 D/U	\$2,775.00
Misc. Pills	\$5 per D/U	8 D/U	\$40.00
Hallucinogens	\$10.00 per gram *	0	00

*Source: Office National Drug Control Policy
 **Source: Established regional average price
 ***Source: IAW GBI reporting – One marijuana plant equals 2.2 lbs of processed marijuana

DRUGS PURCHASED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	11.60 Grams	\$1,160.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	7.80 Grams	\$780.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	0	0
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	3.5 Ounces	\$490.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	N/A	N/A
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	0 D/U	\$0.00
Misc. Pills	\$5 per D/U	202 D/U	\$5,050.00

*Source: Office National Drug Control Policy
 **Source: Established regional average price
 ***Source: IAW GBI reporting – One marijuana plant equals 2.2 lbs of processed marijuana

WEAPONS SEIZED	
Firearms (including hand guns and long guns)	5

PERSONS ARRESTED*	
Felony*	5
Sales/Trafficking	16
Misdemeanor	6
Non-Drug**	0
Total Arrests	27

*Felony includes Manufacturing Methamphetamine or Marijuana

**Non-drug related offenses include firearms violations, Obstruction, Simple Battery, etc.

ASSET FORFEITURES	
US Currency Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	\$24,167.00
US Currency Awarded	N/A
Motor Vehicles Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	2003 Chevrolet Avalanche
Motor Vehicles Awarded	N/A
Real Property Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	N/A
Real Property Awarded	N/A
Personal Property Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	N/A

ADOPTION CASES FROM OTHER AGENCIES		
DATE	AGENCY	OFFENSE
11/01/2009	RICHMOND HILL PD	Poss. Controlled Substance W/Intent Crack Cocaine
11/01/2009	RICHMOND HILL PD	Poss. Controlled Substance W/Intent Crack Cocaine
11/04/2009	BRYAN COUNTY SO	Trafficking Cocaine

DRUG COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED		
Drug Complaints	Received	Assigned
Project Log/Official Complaints	1	1
Hot Line / Call-In Complaints	9	8
Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies	1	1
Crime Stopper Complaints	32	29

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Starting October 9, 2009, the entire Major Case team was assigned to a joint investigation with ICE. This investigation included a title iii which concluded on November 12, 2009. As a result, CNT executed five search warrants simultaneously at corresponding locations on Florence Street, Oleander Avenue, Marian Circle, Earl Court, Wright Street and on eon a vehicle. As a result of these search warrants, agents seized marijuana, over 100 pills of ecstasy, four firearms, approximately \$1,700 in currency, and other items used to package and distribute marijuana. Two of the main targets in this investigation have been indicted by the Federal Government (ICE) for Conspiracy to distribute marijuana and Bank Fraud (all multiple counts). To date agents have seized over 60 pounds of marijuana and approximately \$17,000 in currency in reference to this case. Additional indictments are possible once all the evidence is processed.

2. On November 13, 2009, CNT received a call for assistance from SCMPD in reference to a possible methamphetamine laboratory located in Highland Woods Mobile Home Park. SCMPD had responded with the fire department due to the residence being on fire and observed items consistent with a methamphetamine lab. A search of the residence produced numerous items used in manufacturing methamphetamine (lithium battery strips, solvents, pseudo ephedrine boxes, foil packs, cold packs, tubing, and solid waste material of methamphetamine production). The solid waste material weighed several pounds and was capable of producing multiple ounces of methamphetamine. The investigation concluded in the arrest of three subjects for the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

3. On November 19, 2009, while preparing for street operations, CNT agents working the evening shift heard an alert tone on the SCMPD radio in reference to officers in pursuit of several armed robbery suspects. These suspects had fired shots at SCMPD officers. CNT agents responded and were responsible for the apprehension of one of the suspects.

4. On November 24, 2009, the Georgia State Court of Appeals affirmed all rulings and denied all motions to suppress in reference to a CNT trafficking marijuana and cocaine case from 2007. Four defendants had been convicted by a jury trial, but filed motions to reverse the decision on appeal. All four convictions were upheld thanks to the hard work of former ADA Russell Mabrey (prosecutor at trial) and current ADA Jeff Hendrix for following up with numerous briefs concerning the case.

**DRUG INVESTIGATIONS
HOURS WORKED BY ZONE**

SCMPD – All Precincts	TOTAL	921
<hr/>		
Municipalities	TOTAL	165
<hr/>		
Administrative Hours		800
Case Administration		875
Pharmaceutical Diversions		240
Central Intelligence		480
Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)		34
Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies		16
Training		60
Court Hours		19
	TOTAL	2,524
<hr/>		
Total Hours Worked		3,610

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Liakakis said, we have Items 1 through 5 and under 5 we have Items A through P. All of that information has been distributed a week ahead of time to all the Commissioners.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 5-P, both inclusive. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2009, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 4, 2009. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 25, 2009, THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2009.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period November 25, 2009, through December 9, 2009, in the amount of \$2,641,734. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD TENTATIVELY SET THE DAYS AND TIME FOR REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2010. THE BOARD WILL BE ASKED TO CONFIRM ADOPTION OF THE CALENDAR AT THE FIRST MEETING IN 2010.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to tentatively set the days and time for regular Commission meetings for 2010 to immediately follow a 9:00 a.m. pre-meeting, which generally is 9:30 a.m., and set the dates for the third and fifth Fridays in January, the second and fourth Fridays in February through October, and the first and third Fridays in November and December. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 2009

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

ISSUE:

To tentatively set the days and time for regular Commission meetings for 2010. The Board will be asked to confirm adoption of the calendar at the first meeting of 2010.

BACKGROUND:

The County's Enabling Act requires the action be taken during the first meeting of the Board each year.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Enabling Act states:
The Board of Commissioners shall hold two regular meetings each month except as may otherwise be determined by the Board of Commissioners, at the County seat for all matters requiring action of an administrative or policy nature, and for all matters advertised or scheduled for hearing in which the public will be asked to speak for or against the items under consideration, which meetings shall be open to the public. At the first meeting of the Board of Commissioners in January of each year, the Board of Commissioners shall set the days and the time when it will hold its regular meetings. Meeting hours for the public hearings may be changed by action of the Board of Commissioners and may be held at such hour as stated in the public notice of the date and time of such hearing. Special or additional meetings may be held as necessary upon call of the Chairman or any five members of the Board of Commissioners, provided all members of the Board of Commissioners have been notified at least 24 hours in advance of such special or additional meeting, and such notice shall specify the subject matter to be considered.
2. The Commission has met on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the past except for November and December. The meetings in November and December are held on the first and third Fridays to allow for the holidays. There are five Fridays in October 2010. Changing to first and third Fridays beginning in November will allow at least two weeks between meetings for the remainder of the year.
3. January meetings may be held on the third and fifth Fridays to allow for some scheduling conflicts.
4. The Chamber will hold Savannah Day in Atlanta on February 4, 2010. This will not be a conflict.
5. The ACCG Legislative Conference will be February 8 and 9, 2010, in Atlanta. This will not be a conflict.
6. The NACo Legislative Conference will be March 6 through March 10, 2009, in Washington, D.C. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
3. In 1998 the Board asked that in future years meetings not be scheduled on Good Friday. In 2009 Good Friday will be on April 10th. This will conflict with the

second and fourth Friday schedule. Suggest that the first meeting of April be moved to Thursday, the 9th.

4. The ACCG Annual Meeting will be April 25 through 29, 2009, in Chatham County. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
5. The NACo Annual Conference will be July 24 through 28, 2009, in Davidson County (Nashville), Tennessee. This does conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule. Further complications on the July schedule are School Board millage approval and the requirement for the Tax Assessor to deliver the digest to Atlanta by the 1st of August. Suggest holding the July meetings on Friday, the 10th, and Thursday, the 23rd.
6. The ACCG Fall Policy Conference will be October 7 through 9, 2009, in Atlanta. This will conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
7. In 1998 the Board asked that in future years meetings not be scheduled on Good Friday. In 2010 Good Friday will be on April 2nd. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
8. The ACCG Annual Meeting will be April 24 through 27, 2010, in Chatham County. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
9. The NACo Annual Conference will be July 16 through 20, 2010, in Washoe County (Reno), Nevada. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
10. The ACCG Fall Policy Conference will be October 4 through 6, 2010, in Atlanta. This will not conflict with the second and fourth Friday schedule.
11. Currently the pre-meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to be followed immediately by the regular meeting, generally at 9:30 a.m.
12. A calendar is attached showing County holidays for 2010 and tentative Commission meeting dates.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Set meeting time to immediately follow 9:00 a.m. pre-meeting and set dates for the third and fifth Fridays in January; second and fourth Fridays in February through October; and first and third Fridays in November and December, schedule to be confirmed at first meeting of the year.
2. Set meeting time and dates as designated by Commissioners, schedule to be confirmed at first meeting of the year in January.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Compliance with the Enabling Act.

FUNDING:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Alternative #1.

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AMEND CURRENT CHATHAM COUNTY RETIREE HEALTH SAVINGS PLAN TO ALLOW FOR DISCRETIONARY CHATHAM COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to amend the current Chatham County Retiree Health Savings Plan to allow for discretionary Chatham County contributions. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 2009

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director
 Michael A. Kaigler, Human Resources and Services Director

Issue: To request Board approval to amend current Chatham County Retiree Health Savings Plan to allow for discretionary Chatham County contributions.

Background: On June 10, 2005, the Board approved the establishment of a Retiree Health Savings Plan. The plan was established to allow Chatham County employees to put aside and prepare for Health Care Cost on a pre-tax/tax free basis. The Plan was originally established as a voluntary choice whereby employees could put in pre-tax dollars into an investment fund that would be used to cover medical expenses after they retire or after they reach age 55. Changes in IRS law disallowed employee discretionary contributions however, Plan still allows for employer discretionary funding.

Facts and Findings:

1. On a national level, the cost of medical care continues to rise every year. While this trend has a negative effect on everyone, it has a more drastic impact on the retiree population who are, in most cases, on a fixed income. Even with Medicare benefits, retirees potentially have large out-of-pocket deductibles and co-pays. This continuing medical inflation, particularly for services not covered by Medicare or employer-sponsored retiree health plans, means that future retirees are increasingly responsible for growing medical costs. In response to this, ICMA-RC has developed the VantageCare Retirement Health Savings Program (RHSP), designed to assist participants in being ready for these future costs on a **tax-free** basis.
2. A couple retiring today will need around \$200,000 to cover medical expenses for 20 years in retirement. This is according to an annual Fidelity Investments study in 2006. Chatham County's generous Retiree Health Insurance Plan will help out significantly with these costs. However, out of pocket costs for co-pays, Medicare deductibles, prescription drugs, and the cost of retiree health insurance premiums can quickly eat into their retirement nest egg.
3. Staff is recommending that we amend the current plan to establish individual accounts for all regular, full-time and Part-time employees who are eligible for health insurance, to be funded by using the surplus from the health benefits fund. It is also recommended that the amount initially contributed to each individual's account by the County would equal 1.5% of their annual pay, as of January 1, 2010. This would equate to \$870,000.
4. A review of the County's Health Benefits Fund shows that for the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2009, the County experienced a \$1 million dollar positive variance in the health insurance fund. Most of this can be attributed to a reduction in the amount of health claims experienced in FY 2009. This increased the surplus in the health fund from approximately \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million.
5. This program can also be used to cover the qualified medical expenses for the employee's spouse and eligible dependents. Funds in the respective employee's account would pass on to spouse or eligible dependents in case of death.
6. Chatham County proposes a vesting schedule in which employee are 100% vested upon completion of five years of employment. This means that if an employee terminates employment prior to five years, they are not eligible to receive any of the funds in the account. Forfeited funds will be used in order to help Chatham County continue the benefit for future employees.
7. Fees for this account are \$25 per individual per year, in addition to a thirty basis point (0.3%) asset management charge. Fees are assessed quarterly.
 - For example: a participant with a \$1,000 account balance would be charged, in total \$28 for the year or \$7 per quarter.
 - A participant with a \$500 account balance would be charged, in total \$26.50 for the year or \$6.63 per quarter.
 It is anticipated that interest/earnings should cover cost of the fee per individual, based on investment choice of individual. All fees associated with this program are paid by the participants themselves.
8. The County reserves the right to provide funding for this program on an annual basis, per approval by the Board of Commissioners in the annual budget or as funding becomes available from other sources. This request is for funding in 2010 only.
9. The County also receives a FICA savings, up to 7.65% of amounts contributed, due to the fact that contributions to this program are exempt from FICA (Medicare and Social Security) taxes. Employees would receive tax deferred growth on contributions per interest and/or capital gains, according to their choice of investment along with tax free reimbursement of medical expenses incurred upon separation of service or age 55.

Funding: Funding for this amendment to the County's Retiree Health Savings Plan (RHSP) will come from the County's Health Benefit Fund.

Alternatives:

1. To approve the amendment of the Retiree Health Savings Plan to establish individual accounts for all regular full-time and Part-time employees and authorize funding of 1.5% of each employees respective annual pay.

2. Do not approve the plan.
3. Provide staff with other direction.

Policy Analysis: The goal of achieving quality healthcare and retirement benefits which help to attract and retain a quality workforce is promoted further by the adoption of a Retirement Health Savings Plan.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board approve Alternative 1.

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5. 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. Revenue generating property lease at Turner's Creek Boat Ramp	Public Works and Park Services	Ashley Hughes, Coast Kooler Ice Venture, LLC	\$3,600	Revenue Producing
B. Construction contract to remove the existing canopy and construct a new canopy and marquee at the Citizens Service Center	Special Projects	R.L. Construction Group, Inc. (WBE)	\$21,756	DSA Series 1999 Bond - Citizens Service Center - Buildings
C. Regrade the rear parking lot near the modular units at Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	The Dash Group, Inc.	\$13,930	General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court
D. Video conferencing system with two (2) year service agreement	Juvenile Court	Stage Front Presentations	\$18,673	General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court
E. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for electrical services at the Resource Conservation Education Center to extend contract by 120 days	Public Works and Park Services	Moore & Sons Electrical Service, Inc.	N/A	No funding is required
F. Summary Change Order No. 1 to the construction contract for improvements at Bond Avenue for adjustments to final quantities	Engineering	Southeastern Civil, Inc.	\$24,869	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Bond, Betran, Heather and Shore
G. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Louis Mills / Redgate Canal improvement project for additional work and extend the contract time by 66 days	Engineering	Pine Valley Concrete Co., Inc.	\$155,580	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Louis Mills/Redgate/ Rahn Dairy Canal project
H. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the design and engineering of the new Public Works and Park Services facility for additional design work	Public Works and Park Services	Barnard Architects	\$17,010	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Public Works and Park Services Facility
I. Increase in the Task Order contract to provide professional engineering and surveying services for various County capital projects	Engineering	Kern - Coleman & Company	NTE \$250,000	•SPLOST (1985-1993), (1993-1998), (1998-2003), (2003-2008), (2008-2014) •CIP •Land Bank
J. Confirmation of the emergency purchase and installation of carpet	District Attorney	R. L. Construction Group, Inc. (WBE)	\$35,000	•DSA Series 1999 Bond - Citizens Service Center - Buildings •CIP - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
K. One (1) 16 yard tandem dump truck	Public Works and Park Services	Bunch Truck & Equipment	\$89,988	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
L. One (1) flatbed single axle dump truck	Public Works and Park Services	Nalley Motor Trucks	\$58,797	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement
M. One (1) 2009 Caterpillar front end loader with trade-in of one (1) 1990 Caterpillar front end loader	Public Works and Park Services	Yancey Brothers (State Contract)	\$130,806	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement
N. Design and engineering services for pavilion at Mother Mathilda Beasley Park	Special Projects	Thomas & Hutton	\$39,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Mother Mathilda Beasley Park
O. Design and engineering services for the Commerce Building	Special Projects	Lott + Barber	\$220,250	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction
P. Change Order No.1 to the design and engineering contract for Phase I of the Courthouse project	Special Projects	Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung	\$18,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve Items 5-A through 5-P, both inclusive. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5

AGENDA DATE: December 4, 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 to enter into an annual \$3,600 revenue generating property lease agreement with Ashley Hughes, Coast Kooler Ice Venture, LLC, for Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: Chatham County Public Works and Park Services received a request to enter into a lease agreement with Ashley Hughes, Coast Kooler Ice Venture, LLC, to install an ice vending machine at Turner's Creek Boat Ramp.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. A Request for Interest was properly advertised and one (1) other vendor submitted a response that was deemed non-responsive.
2. Public Works and Park Services believes the request from Ashley Hughes, Coast Kooler Ice Venture, LLC, to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: N/A- Revenue producing

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to enter into an annual \$3,600 revenue generating property lease agreement with Ashley Hughes, Coast Kooler Ice Venture, LLC, for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to provide concessionaire operated services at selected parks and recreational facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a \$21,756 construction contract to R.L. Construction Group Inc., a WBE firm, to remove the existing canopy and construct a new canopy and marquee at the Citizens Service Center located at 1117 Eisenhower Drive.

BACKGROUND: The existing canopy was installed improperly allowing rain water to flow back toward the building and into several office areas. In addition, the current canopy will not withstand a Category 3 hurricane with 130 miles per hour winds.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The existing canopy was in place when the County purchased the facility. The County contracted Barnard & King Architects to provide professional services to evaluate the structure.
2. Barnard & King Architects determined the canopy was installed improperly, with little or no engineering involvement. The lack of proper installation allows rain water to flow toward the building and into several offices. Failure to remedy the situation will result in water damage to the building.
3. This project was properly advertised and four (4) bids were received and opened on 19 November 2009. The bid responses are as follows:

*	R.L. Construction Group, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$21,756
	World Construction Jacksonville, FL	\$21,980
	Kerby Enterprises, Inc. Bloomingdale, GA	\$24,865
	Keith Ray Construction Savannah, GA	\$27,600

*WBE Firm

4. Staff reviewed the bids and checked references and believes the low bid submitted by R.L. Construction Group, Inc. to be fair and reasonable.

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

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award a \$21,756 construction contract to R.L. Construction Group Inc., a WBE firm, to remove the existing canopy and construct a new canopy and marquee at the Citizens Service Center located at 1117 Eisenhower Drive.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
TOM DRANE

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a \$13,930 purchase to The Dash Group, to regrade the rear parking lot near the modular units at Juvenile Court.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the parking lot is not graded for positive drainage away from the modular units. Rain water and air conditioning condensation water constantly ponds along the back of the modular units. This situation has caused some concerns of becoming an insect breeding ground. In addition, the excess moisture has caused mold and mildew to appear on floors and walls of the units.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The lack of proper drainage has created a situation that poses a threat to the safety and health of staff. If the drainage issue is not resolved it will result in the deterioration of the building.
2. This project will include removal and disposal of existing asphalt, silt fence, hydro seeding, regrading, and GABC stone.
3. Staff obtained quotes from the following three (3) vendors:

The Dash Group, Inc. Rincon, GA	\$13,930
D.L.G. Land Management, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$15,100
Clifton Construction, Inc. Garden City, GA	\$18,450
4. Staff believes the price quoted by The Dash Group, Inc. to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court
(1002600 - 52.22001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award a \$13,930 purchase to The Dash Group, to regrade the rear parking lot near the modular units at Juvenile Court.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to maintain County buildings to prolong structure life and provide a safe working environment for employees of Chatham County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
GLORIA SAUGH

ITEM D

ISSUE: Request Board approval of the \$18,673 purchase of a video conferencing system with a two (2) year service agreement from Stage Front Presentations, Savannah, GA for Juvenile Court to ensure continuity with the existing equipment in Superior Court.

BACKGROUND: The equipment will reduce the number of Juveniles needing to be transported to and housed at the Juvenile Courthouse. This will be essential equipment during renovations to the Juvenile Courthouse when the holding cells capacity will be reduced to less than half of what is needed.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. A Bid was developed, advertised and opened on June 4, 2008 for the Superior Court Video Conferencing System. Stage Front Presentations of Savannah, GA was awarded the contract at the cost of \$20,121.
2. Stage Front Presentation has agreed to honor the contract and to let Juvenile Court piggy-back at \$3,356 savings over the previous purchase.
3. Staff believes the cost to be fair and reasonable. The purchase of the same equipment ensures capability between the Courts and establishes continuity with existing County equipment.

FUNDING: General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court
1002600 - 54.25001 (\$ 17,779)
1002600 - 52.22001 (\$ 894)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of the \$18,673 purchase of a video conferencing system with a two (2) year service agreement from Stage Front Presentations, Savannah, GA for Juvenile Court to ensure continuity with the existing equipment in Superior Court.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve purchases for essential equipment and services.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
GLORIA SAUGH

ITEM E

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1 for a 120-day extension to the contract with Moore & Sons Electrical Service, Inc. for electrical services at the Resource Conservation Education Center.

BACKGROUND: On 25 September 2009, the Board approved the award of a contract to Moore & Sons Electrical Service, Inc., for electrical services at the Resource Conservation Education Center.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. After the issuance of the contract and Notice to Proceed to Moore and Sons Electrical Service, Inc., an architect was contracted by the County. The architect's services included assisting the project manager in developing a scope of work for the remaining finish work and advise staff of any potential problems with the current design.
2. The architect noticed the approved light fixtures referenced in the contract for this project are surface mounted, and would be an easy target for malicious activity and/or safety issues, due to the lower than standard ceiling height. Based on the architects recommendations and the project manager's concurrence a change in the lighting fixtures is required. The request for an extension is necessary to provide the electrical engineer time to rework the electrical plans that incorporate the use of recessed LED fixtures rather than the surface mounted fluorescent.
3. After the plans have been reworked staff will prepare a second change order detailing the electrical changes to the contract for the Board's approval.

FUNDING: No funding is required

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 1 for a 120-day extension to the contract with Moore & Sons Electrical Service, Inc. for electrical services at the Resource Conservation Education Center.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM F

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Summary Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$24,869 to the construction contract with Southeastern Civil, Inc. for the construction of improvements at Bond Avenue.

BACKGROUND: On 24 April 2009, the Board approved a construction contract in the amount of \$354,934 with Southeastern Civil, Inc. to pave Bond Avenue. The project is substantially complete.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The construction contract included lump sum and unit price line items with estimates of quantities needed to construct the project. Final quantities for unit price items are based on measured quantities used. This summary change order reconciles two (2) line items (18" storm drain pipe and 6" underdrain pipe). This summary change order also adds items for a junction box to protect an electrical transmission pole and erosion control mat to protect the slopes of the drainage outfall. The overruns are seven (7) percent of the contract amount.
2. Contract history:

Contract Amount (4/24/09)	\$354,934
Summary Change Order #1 (Pending)	<u>\$ 24,869</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$379,803

FUNDING: SPLOST (1993 - 1998) - Bond, Betran, Heather and Shore
(3214220 - 54.14001 - 32156277)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Summary Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$24,869 to the construction contract with Southeastern Civil, Inc. for the construction of improvements at Bond Avenue.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
ESTELLE BROWN

ITEM G

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$155,580, and increase the contract time by 66 days to the contract with Pine Valley Concrete Co., Inc. for the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal Drainage Improvements project.

BACKGROUND: The Louis Mills/Redgate Drainage Improvement project is part of the SPLOST Drainage Capital Improvement Program. The project involves excavation to widen the existing canal, installing larger culverts at road crossings, and providing an all-weather access road for maintenance operations. The Board awarded the contract for this project at their 12 June 2009 meeting and is currently under construction.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The project is located in the Unincorporated Chatham County east of Garrard Avenue and south of Louis Mills Boulevard. The major drainage problems are inadequately sized ditches and culverts, and access that is limited to dry weather when the access road is passable. The project will improve drainage capacity by widening the channel, installing larger culverts and providing an all-weather access road for maintenance operations.
2. The contract for construction was awarded as a unit price contract to Pine Valley Concrete Company. Construction commenced in August and is currently about 50% complete.
3. The terminus of the current construction contract was established as Garrard Avenue based upon available drainage rights of way and factors involving construction access. In October 2009, staff determined that drainage right of way existed upstream of the Garrard terminus that would allow construction to proceed for a distance of approximately 1,200 feet upstream from Garrard Avenue.
4. Staff believes incorporating this additional work into the current contract with Pine Valley Concrete Co. using the competitive unit prices contained in the current contract represents good value to Chatham County.
5. Contract history:

Original Contract (6-12-09)	\$ 761,068
Change Order 1 (pending)	<u>\$ 155,580</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$ 916,648

FUNDING: SPLOST (1998- 2003) - Drainage, Louis Mills/Redgate/Rahn Dairy Canal project
(3224250 - 54.14021 - 32280377)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$155,580 and increase the contract time by 66 days to the contract with Pine Valley Concrete Co., Inc. for the Louis Mills/Redgate Canal Drainage Improvements project.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
ESTELLE BROWN

ITEM H

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No.1, in the amount of \$17,010, to the professional services contract with Barnard Architects for the Design & Engineering of the New Public Works and Park Services Facility, for additional design.

BACKGROUND: On 23 May 2008, the Board awarded a professional services contract to Barnard Architects for the design and engineering for the new Public Works and Park Services Facility.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Master Plan outlined two (2) detached buildings separated by Varnadoe Drive, an Administrative Building and a Field Services Building. The Administrative Building would be adjacent to the Truman Parkway and the Field Services Building immediately adjacent to the Weightlifting Center.
2. During the schematic design process, the consultant found that the right-of-way for the Truman Parkway consumed Varnadoe Drive to accommodate its relocation. The right-of-way also consumed the location of the future Administrative Building. There was no available land to place the Administrative Building. The Truman Parkway right-of-way extended across Varnadoe Drive and into the location of the future Field Services Building. Staff had no choice but to amend the Truman Parkway right-of way limits to create right-of-way for Varnadoe Drive. The new buildings are required to maintain legal setback distances to meet building and zoning codes. The setbacks could not be established until the amended right-of-ways were platted. The architects coordinated the creation of the plats and documents to request an amendment to the right-of-way from the GDOT. At this time, the amendment has not been formally approved by the GDOT. To further prolong this issue, the Truman Parkway right-of-way is programmed to be deeded to the City of Savannah. It is evident that the property might be tied up in the post-construction issues of the Truman Parkway for a long time.
3. Because of the right-of-way issue, land was not available for the Administrative Building and the Master Plan had to be re-visited. The Master Planning effort showed that both Public Works and Fleet can be co-located on this overall site but move the project along and avoid the right-of-way issue, the Administrative Building and the Field Services Building should be combined into a 2-story building. The 2-story option takes up less land and opens more footprint space for future development. There are innate efficiencies gained by co-locating shared use of restrooms, lobby, IT infrastructure, parking areas, and utilities. In addition, there are significant cost reductions of both final design fees and construction costs. As a result, the Master Plan was revised to eliminate two (2) 1-story buildings and create one (1) 2-story building.
4. In order to complete the Schematic Design, there were architectural and civil engineering fees not in the original professional services contract in the amount of \$17,010.
5. Contract history:

Original Contract (5-23-08)	\$357,870
Change Order #1 (Pending)	\$ 17,010
Revised contract amount	<u>\$374,880</u>

FUNDING: SPLOST (2003-2008) - Public Works & Park Services Facility
(3234980 - 52.12003 - 32360433)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order #1 in the amount of \$17,010 to the professional services contract with Barnard Architects for the Design & Engineering of the New Public Works and Park Services Facility, for additional design.
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 I

ISSUE: Request Board approval of an increase for the Task Order Contract with Kern-Coleman to provide professional engineering and surveying services from \$150,000 to an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

BACKGROUND: On 27 March 2009, the Board approved a Task Order Contract with Kern Coleman & Company for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to provide professional engineering and surveying services for County projects. Tasks typically include engineering design and survey work related to road and drainage improvements. The contract has proven to be cost effective in providing timely professional engineering and surveying services on a variety of projects.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The contract was intended to be used for professional engineering and surveying services for County projects. On some projects, due to unforeseen conditions on the projects, the estimates for costs associated with the professional services were exceeded.
2. The contract has thus far been used for topographic survey and engineering design for several County drainage and road improvement projects. These include the Quacco Regency canal, Norwood Avenue drainage improvements, Kings Ferry Boat Ramp improvements and the Johnny Mercer Pedestrian improvement project. Work is in progress on the Kings Ferry Boat Ramp and the Johnny Mercer Pedestrian improvement projects.
3. The increase in the not to exceed amount will provide for the timely completion of work in progress on several projects.

FUNDING: SPLOST (1985-1993), (1993-1998), (1998-2003), (2003-2008), (2008-2014)
CIP
Land Bank

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of an increase for the Task Order Contract with Kern-Coleman to provide professional engineering and surveying services from \$150,000 to an amount not to exceed \$250,000.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve changes to Term Contracts when it is in the best interest of the County.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
ESTELLE BROWN

ITEM J

ISSUE: Request Board confirmation of the \$35,000 emergency purchase and installation of carpet tiles from R.L. Construction Group, Inc., a WBE firm, for the District Attorney’s Office.

BACKGROUND: The current carpet was installed 12 years ago. Due to normal wear and tear the carpet needs to be replaced. Attempts to clean the carpet have been unsuccessful. Several traffic patterns leading to isles and hallways have developed deep wrinkles and poses a safety hazard.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this project was delayed. At the request of the District Attorney, the time frame for carpet installation that will best serve the citizens of Chatham County and his department is during the holiday schedule of 23 December - 27 December.
2. The project was properly advertised and two (2) quotes received and opened on 24 November 2009. The quotes are as follows:

CAD’s Home Improvement, Inc. Metter, GA	\$35,000
* R.L. Construction Group, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$45,767

*WBE firm

3. On 27 March 1998, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted a “Local Vendor” Preference Ordinance that gives the lowest Chatham County vendor the opportunity to match the lowest price offered by an out-of-county vendor. If the County vendor confirms in writing within 24 hours, the award will be made to the Chatham County vendor. R.L. Construction Group, Inc., has agreed to match the low quote of CAD’s Home Improvement, Inc.
4. Staff requested emergency approval from the Chairman so the carpet installation could be completed over the holidays to avoid a disruption in services to the citizens of Chatham County. He concurred (see attached page) and directed staff to seek Board confirmation at their next scheduled meeting.

FUNDING: DSA Series 1999 Bond - Citizens Service Center - Buildings
 (3601565 - 54.13011 - 36031117) - \$33,000
 CIP - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
 (35030017 - 54.13001 - 35030017) - \$2,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board confirmation of the \$35,000 emergency purchase and installation of carpet tiles from R.L. Construction Group, Inc., a WBE firm, for the District Attorney’s Office.
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 _____
 CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM K

ISSUE: Request Board approval of the \$89,988 purchase of a 2008 Mack T310 16 Yard Tandem Axle Dump Truck for Public Works and Park Services from Bunch Truck & Equipment of Savannah, GA.

BACKGROUND: This is a replacement vehicle for Unit #232 (1994 Ford LT9000 16 Yard Dump Truck), one that is worn out beyond economic repair.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Request for Quotes were faxed in an effort to expedite the process. Only two (2) vendors responded with one vendor also submitting an alternate quote.
2. The quotes are as follows:

Nalley Motor Trucks Atlanta, GA	\$97,997
Bunch Truck & Equipment Savannah, GA	\$89,988
Bunch Truck & Equipment Savannah, GA	\$109,750 **Alternate Quote**
3. Staff believes the total cost of \$89,988 for the 2008 Mack T310 16 Yard Tandem Axle Dump Truck to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2003-2008) Vehicle Replacement
 (3234985 - 54.22001 - 32360630)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval of the \$89,988 purchase of a 2008 Mack T310 16 Yard Tandem Axle Dump Truck for Public Works and Park Services from Bunch Truck & Equipment of Savannah, GA.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to purchase equipment necessary for the daily operation of the using department.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM L

ISSUE: Request Board approval of the \$65,897 purchase of a 2009 International 7400 Flatbed Dump Truck for Public Works and Park Services from Nalley Motor Trucks of Atlanta, GA.

BACKGROUND: This is a replacement vehicle for Unit #263 (1994 Ford F800 Flatbed Dump Truck), one that is worn out beyond economic repair.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Request for Quotes were faxed four (4) vendors in an effort to expedite the process. Two (2) vendors responded, Nalley Motor Trucks of Atlanta, GA and Roberts Truck Center of Garden City, GA.
2. The quotes are as follows:

Nalley Motor Trucks Atlanta, GA	\$58,797	2008 Model
Roberts Truck Center, Inc. Garden City, GA	\$59,925	Took exceptions did not meet specifications
Nalley Motor Trucks Atlanta, GA	\$65,897	2009 Crewcab, exceeds specifications
3. Staff believes the total cost of \$65,897 for the 2009 International 7400 Flatbed Dump Truck to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2003-2008) Vehicle Replacement
(3234985 - 54.22001 - 32360630)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval of the \$65,897 purchase of a 2009 International 7400 Flatbed Dump Truck for Public Works and Park Services from Nalley Motor Trucks of Atlanta, GA.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to purchase equipment necessary for the daily operation of the using department.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM M

ISSUE: Request Board approval of the \$130,807 purchase of a 2009 Caterpillar 930H Wheel Loader and authorize the disposal of a 1990 Caterpillar Front End Loader as a trade in off state contract for Public Works and Park Services from Yancey Brothers.

BACKGROUND: This unit will replace unit #21, 1990 Caterpillar Wheel Loader that is no longer economically feasible to maintain.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The state contract price for this equipment is \$155,307. Yancey Brothers Company has offered State contract pricing with the same terms and conditions, less a trade-in of the County's old 1990 Caterpillar 935E Wheel Loader.
2. The net price to Chatham County is:

Purchase price	\$155,307
Less Trade-in	\$ 24,500
Net Price	\$130,807
3. Staff believes the total cost of \$130,807 for the 2009 Caterpillar 930H Wheel Loader to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2003-2008) Vehicle Replacement
(3234985 - 54.22001 - 32360630)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval of the \$130,807 purchase of a 2009 Caterpillar 930H Wheel Loader and authorize the disposal of a 1990 Caterpillar Front End Loader as a trade in off state contract for Public Works and Park Services from Yancey Brothers.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to purchase equipment necessary for the daily operation of the using department.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM N

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a \$39,000 professional services contract to Thomas & Hutton Engineering for the design and engineering of the picnic pavilion at Mother Mathilda Beasley Park.

BACKGROUND: The approved master plan for Mother Mathilda Beasley Park includes a picnic pavilion. Because of the site's historical use as a railroad yard (Liberty Terminal), a design which echoes its historical context would be appropriate. The design of the picnic pavilion at Tom Triplett Park follows this same design concept and could be adapted to Mother Mathilda Beasley Park.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Railroad uses defined the early development of the areas where Tom Triplett Community Park and Mother Mathilda Beasley Park are situated. Therefore, designs which reflect this historical use would be fitting.
2. Thomas & Hutton designed the pavilion at Tom Triplett Community Park based on a selection through a professional services competition. The design could be site-adapted for Mother Mathilda Beasley Park. While the pavilion at Mother Mathilda Beasley Park would need to be scaled to fit within the park's setting, the design would be similar in appearance.
3. Based on the scope of work, Thomas & Hutton proposed a fee of \$39,000. Staff reviewed the proposal and fee and believes the quote accurately reflects the scope of work.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2003-2008) - Mother Mathilda Beasley Park/Fund
(3234981 - 53.17009 - 3237008Z)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval to award a \$39,000 professional services contract to Thomas & Hutton Engineering for the design and engineering of the picnic pavilion at Mother Mathilda Beasley Park.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM O

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a \$220,250 professional services contract to Lott + Barber for design and engineering to renovate the Commerce Building.

BACKGROUND: On the December 18 agenda, the Board approved the acquisition of the Commerce Building for county offices as a revision of the Courthouse Master Plan. Staff has inspected the building and noted a number of challenges in adapting it for public use--accessibility, payment area, ADA compliance, more restrooms and parking. A follow-up visit with an architect determined that the building generally conforms to code standards and all of the issues could be resolved for less than \$500,000 except renovating the ground floor for a payment area. Renovating the ground floor, now used for parking, would add another 12,500 square feet of usable space. It would also provide improved access for ADA compliance and create

payment areas to eliminate the need for many citizens to access upstairs offices by elevator and stairs (reduce upward mobility).

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Because of time constraints, staff is recommending Lott + Barber based on the evaluation of the architectural proposals on the Courthouse. Lott + Barber as the local firm finished second in the evaluation and interview process. The highest-rated firm will be working on the Courthouse plan this summer.
2. Lott + Barber already assisted in an evaluation of the building for code compliance and for an adaptive re-use of the first-floor parking into additional office space. The firm comes highly regarded based on experience with other county projects, including most recently the Animal Control Shelter.
3. Based on the scope of work, Lott + Barber quoted a fee of \$220,250, including reimbursable expenses and the required work of Smith & Vandenbulck for mechanical engineering.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2008-2014) and 2005 DSA Series Bond
(3244980 - 52.12002 - 32460427 - 52.12002)

ALTERNATIVES:

3. Request Board approval to award a \$220,250 professional services contract to Lott + Barber for design and engineering to renovate the Commerce Building
- 4.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM P

ISSUE: Request Board approve of Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$18,000 to the contract with Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung for Phase I of the Courthouse design.

BACKGROUND: At the June 2005 meeting, the Board approved a contract with Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung for Phase I of the Courthouse design. This phase included design and engineering two tunnel connectors, sallyport, and Court Services Division. Work is nearing closing out, but additional design work will be needed to complete the project.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Change Order No.1 would provide additional design and engineering work not included within the original contract. These include: \$7,500, elevator rewiring; \$3,000, redesign of inmate holding areas; \$7,500, hydrology study and design to remove moisture seepage in tunnels.
2. The work will be necessary to complete the project for use beginning in January 2010.
3. Staff has reviewed the proposal and finds it reasonable.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2008-2014) and 2005 DSA Series Bond.
(3244980 - 52.12002 - 32460427 - 52.12002)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approve of Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$18,000 to the contract with Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung for Phase I of the Courthouse design.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

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.

- 1. TO MODIFY THE CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES FILING FEES AND THE HISTORIC REVIEW FILING FEES FOR HISTORIC PROPERTY DESIGNATION. ALSO, AMEND THE WORDING FOR COLLECTION OF BUILDING INSPECTION FEES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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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).

A staff report was attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 2009

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
100 traffic barrels	Public Works and Park Services	Best Way, Inc.	\$4,205	SSD - Public Works

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Football officials from 5 October thru 10 November	Public Works and Park Services	Coastal Football Association (Sole Source)	\$5,740	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Mail 36,566 flood plain letters, in color, to the unincorporated area property owners in accordance with County CRS rating requirement	Engineering	Savannah Media, LLC	\$8,375	SSD - Engineering
Demolition of 1345 Halcyon Drive	Engineering	JCS Construction Services (MBE)	\$3,300	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Whitefield Avenue Widening project
Remove sidewalk and driveway apron, change grade and repour 6" thick sidewalk	Special Projects	Coastline Concrete Services, Inc.	\$3,875	SPLOST(2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction
Labor and materials to install VCT flooring and carpet	Special Projects	Cad's Home Improvement, Inc.	\$9,200	SPLOST(2003-2008) - Courthouse Construction
Autocad Civil 3D 2010 standalone license DVD and maintenance	Engineering	DLT Solutions (Sole Source)	\$6,635	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Administrative Expenses
Replace compressor in existing 20 ton air conditioner unit in I.C.S. computer room	I.C.S.	Boaen Mechanical Contractors, Inc.	\$8,925	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Dell toner for printers	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$3,535	General Fund/M&O - Superior Court Clerk
Three (3) Dell laptop computers with 20" monitors and accessories	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$7,575	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Two (2) Dell servers	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$8,904	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
Five (5) fiber channel cards	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$4,181	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
One (1) Dell server	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$6,395	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Repairs to 1993 Caterpillar loader	Fleet Operations	Yancey Brothers Co., Inc. (Sole Source)	\$5,875	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Replaced old McQuay loop water controller at the Old Courthouse	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	ATR Service, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$6,700	General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations
Purchase and installation of new sign for the Soccer Complex	Public Works and Park Services	Doug Bean Signs, Inc.	\$3,425	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

Staff reports were attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Roads
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 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 Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) priorities for funding projects under the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) are changing frequently.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. On December 10, 2009 the State Transportation Board approved a let date of January 22, 2010. Funding has been approved for \$128,000,000. Contract award will occur by March 2010. Work on the project should begin in May 2010 and take approximately three years to complete.
2. Diamond Causeway. The GDOT let a design/build contract on October 16, 2009. The low bidder was by LPA / United Contracting (joint venture) for \$22,500,000 to construct a two lane high level bridge over Skidaway Narrows to replace the bascule bridge. The design consultant schedules construction to begin July 2010.
3. Whitefield Avenue. The FHWA approved the Environmental Assessment (EA) on February 13, 2004. The Concept Report (revised to incorporate a 50 feet wide median with 6 canopy trees) was approved by the GDOT on September 24, 2007. EA and traffic studies (based on traffic projections to 2030) show the project warranted after completion of all phases of Truman Parkway. The Preliminary Field Plan Review was held on May 14, 2008. The Value Engineering Study (required on projects over \$10,000,000) has been scheduled by the GDOT for January 26-29, 2010. The Final Field Plan Review is being scheduled by the GDOT for March 2010. ROW acquisition is progressing (closed on 54 of 81). Demolition of structures continuing. Expect to certify ROW in May 2010. The project will be ready for letting to construction in FY 2011.
4. Local Roads.
 - a. Troy Street, Catherine Street, Adeline Street, Billings Road, Elmhurst Road, Beechwood Road, Ridgewood Road. Dirt roads for paving. Billings Road has one condemnation pending. Board awarded a construction contract to pave Catherine Street and Adeline Street on October 16, 2009. Estimated completion is March 2010. Final plans have been submitted for remainder, except for Troy Street.
 - b. Pyeland Avenue. Board approved award of construction contract on September 25, 2009. Estimated completion is February 2010.
 - c. Intersection improvements on Chatham Parkway at Veterans Parkway and Garrard Avenue. Project will install signals at ramps from Veterans Pkwy to Chatham Pkwy. Board awarded a construction contract on September 11, 2009. Estimated completion is May 2010.
 - d. Intersection improvements at King George Blvd and Grove Point Road. Construction plans to add turn lanes and traffic signals are complete. Right of way has been acquired. Utility relocation is in progress.
 - e. Wright Avenue and Fenwick Avenue. Under design for paving.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Drainage
AGENDA DATE: December 18, 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. Staff is working toward a

construction contract for the next phase of the project. A separate project to improve operating efficiency and longevity of the sluice gates is also underway.

2. Hardin Canal. The Hardin Canal extends from Bloomingdale to Salt Creek near US 17 (over 12 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, bridges and culverts. A project to replace golf cart bridges between I-16 and Southbridge Boulevard is currently being advertised for construction bids with bid opening scheduled for January 13, 2010. The SR 307/Hardin Canal Bridge Culvert project includes the installation of three precast bottomless arch culverts over branches of the Hardin Canal and limited site work for the future widening of Dean Forest Road. The Board awarded a construction contract on November 6, 2009. Construction is expected to take about a year, with temporary closure of Dean Forest Road during the summer of 2010.

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 Board awarded a construction contract on November 6, 2009. Construction is underway and expected to take about four months, with temporary lane closures along Conaway Road and Hiram Road.

4. 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. The project to install rip rap erosion protection at the culvert was completed in November 2009.

5. Queensbury Drainage Improvements. The project area is south of Montgomery Cross Road and west of Ferguson Avenue and includes Tara Manor, Lakeview and the Forest City Gun Club. The project includes canal widening, culverts and access for maintenance. Staff is currently working on an early phase to mitigate inadequate drainage capacity of the system serving the Ennis Mobile Home Park and in the area between the Gun Club and the Truman Parkway. Design work is expected to produce a preliminary design by February 2009.

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 complete. Staff is discussing acquisition of drainage easements from the Gun Club that will enable construction of drainage improvements around the back side of the subdivision.

7. 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 is underway. Staff is preparing a project change that will take advantage of the low contract unit bid prices to extend the project farther upstream. A contract change order will be presented to the Board for approval upon completion of these discussions.

8. 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). A contract to construct Phase 2 which includes improving several undersized culverts along the Vidalia Canal south of Vidalia Road was awarded by the Board on August 14, 2009. Construction began in September 2009 and is expected to be complete in February 2010.

9. 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 includes enlarging the US 17 culverts and removal of the rice box flow control structure. A contract to construct drainage improvements including replacement of two culverts at Quacco Road and installation of a new storm sewer pipeline was awarded by the Board on October 16, 2009. Construction began in December 2009 and is expected to be complete by January 2011.

10. 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. Design work is also underway for improvements for the Norwood Place outfall.

11. 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 is underway to revise the construction drawings to incorporate utility relocation work involving City of Savannah water and sewer systems. Construction of a larger culvert at Little Neck Road is on track to be complete by January 2010.

12. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. The project will be accomplished in phases. The first phase will replace the storm drain pipe at Beaulieu Avenue. A contract to construct this phase was awarded by the Board on August 14, 2009. Construction began in September 2009 and is expected to be complete in December 2009.

13. 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.

14. Skidaway Road. The project will improve roadside drainage and address vehicle safety issues along a portion of Skidaway Road near Wormsloe. Preliminary construction plans are

complete and rights of way acquisitions are complete for all properties. Staff hopes to obtain project approval from the Coastal Resources Division in December 2009.

15. LaRoche Culvert. The project includes the replacement of a drainage culvert located under LaRoche Avenue north of Lansing Avenue. The culvert replacement is in response to a deteriorating brick arch culvert with several cracks. A prospective consultant has been selected utilizing the Quality Based Selection (QBS) process and staff is in the process of negotiating a scope of services and fee for a Professional Services Agreement contract.

16. Lehigh-Shipyard Lane Area. The project will relieve roadside drainage issues causing nuisance flooding in the Lehigh Avenue and Shipyard Lane area. Design work is underway for improvements within the existing Lehigh Avenue right-of-way from Shipyard Road to Shore Avenue.

17. Laberta-Cresthill Area. The project will relieve flooding within the Cresthill Subdivision. An engineering firm has performed an evaluation of the storm water drainage system and the outfall to Haneys Creek. This report is being reviewed by Staff. Recommendations are expected in January 2010.

18. Quacco Canal Drainage Extension. The project will relieve drainage issues causing street and nuisance flooding in the Willow Lakes Subdivision. Preliminary design work is underway to extend the piping network from Quacco Trail to the existing lake within the subdivision.

19. Belleview Drive Drainage Improvements. The project is being designed by staff to improve drainage problems involving standing water that is a primary cause of pavement degradation and public nuisance. Working with the Department of Public Works, staff developed a project scope and is negotiating construction of a new storm drain system. Due to the small size of the project, staff is utilizing an existing Task Order Contract to complete the work.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Farrell and seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Board recessed at 12:22 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12: 57 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PENNYWORTH PLANTATION AS PART OF CHATHAM COUNTY'S LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM (PAT MONAHAN).**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to authorize execution of a Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$198,980 plus closing costs for the purchase of Pennyworth Plantation, a 178-acre island with historical and environmental value in the Back River (PIN 1-0486-01-001) as part of Chatham County's land conservation program and authorize the Chairman to execute the documents necessary for closing. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2010

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION