

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011, 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 9:26 a.m. on Friday, May 27, 2011.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Harris Odell for the Invocation. Commissioner Odell said, You Honor, it's my pleasure to have Pastor Abolt to give the invocation this morning.

County Manager Russ Abolt said, thank you Commissioner Odell. It's an honor again to do this for you.

County Manager Abolt gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Holmes to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Holmes led the Pledge of Allegiance to Flag of the United States of America.

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Janice Bocook for the roll call, please.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Not present:       Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight

Also present:     R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
                      R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
                      Janice Bocook, County Clerk

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Chairman Liakakis said, need a motion on the floor to excuse Commissioner Priscilla Thomas.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. Motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Stone moved that Commissioner Priscilla Thomas be excused from the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

### **1. PRESENTATION BY MISTY BETHUNE, FACILITIES MANAGER FOR THE AQUATIC CENTER, ON THE KIDS DON'T FLOAT PROGRAM**

Chairman Liakakis said, under Proclamations and Special Presentations, we will have one by Misty Bethune who's the facilities manager for the Aquatic Center on the Kids Don't Float Program.

Ms. Misty Bethune said, good morning, it's my pleasure to speak to you on behalf of Safe Kids Savannah, and this morning I'm joined by our Safe Kids' coordinator, Allison Gramza, as well as one of our interns, Tammy Johnson. And I'm here to speak to you about the Kids Don't Float Program. The mission of the Kids Don't Float Program is to prevent open water drowning deaths and near deaths to children. The Kids Don't Float Program aims to reduce the drowning fatality rate by increasing the use of and access to life jackets at public boat ramps. Raising public awareness about childhood drowning issues is another goal of the program. Drowning is the second leading cause of injuries among children between the ages of one and fourteen, and many of these injuries occur in open recreational settings, such as pools, lakes, rivers and oceans. As children increase in age, so does their risk for drowning in natural water settings. Proper life jacket use by boat occupants can reduce drowning deaths. Coast Guard approved life jackets are now made to be more comfortable to wear and more attractive in appearance for children. The Kids Don't Float Program was developed in Homer, Alaska by the local fire department in coordination with Safe Kids. It began as a pilot program, and it was adopted for state-wide use by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the State of Alaska, and Alaska Safe Kids. Due to the success of the program in Alaska, Safe Kids USA expanded the Kids Don't Float Program nationwide to communities who will benefit from the program prompting and providing a safer environment in which children can swim and play in open waters. The main component of the program is life jacket loaner stations, and these are built near open water sites. The loaner stations will be located at swimming areas or public boat access, and they will have hooks in order to store life jackets. Anyone may simply borrow a life jacket at the loaner station free of charge and simply return the life jacket after it's use. In 2008 Safe Kids Savannah installed our first Kids Don't Float loaner board at the Rodney Hall boat ramp at Skidaway Narrows. An additional loaner board was installed at the Houlihan boat ramp. Safe Kids Savannah is working with Chatham County Parks and Recreation to identify other locations to install loaner boards. The next identified site is Lazaretto Creek boat ramp. Materials are donated; volunteers build the loaner boards; and County staff install them. Life jackets are also donated by the public or other local businesses. And we have several locations that life jackets can be dropped off, for example, the Aquatic Center, the Islands YMCA, the Habersham YMCA, the Tybee YMCA, Memorial Hospital, West Marine, and the JEA. Several groups partnered with us to monitor the life jacket station. Savannah Chatham Metro Marine Patrol and the Port Wentworth Power Squadron monitor these jackets, and if they are missing, they actually restock them. The success of our Kids Don't Float Program is made possible by the many partners that I've mentioned, and actually on our screen we have several of the life jacket loaner boards that are installed at Skidaway Narrows, as well as the other one that is installed at the Houlihan boat ramp. And I thank you for your time this morning to tell you a little bit about the Kids Don't Float Program, and we are very excited about the next location, which is going to be the Lazaretto boat ramp. Thank you this morning.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Did you have any of the participants or those that are helping you with that, Misty – would you want to have any of them to say or?

Ms. Bethune said, if I could introduce Allison Gramza, she's the Safe Kids' Coordinator. It's through her efforts – I'm just a spokesman for Safe Kids, but it's through Allison's efforts as our coordinator that she really leads the team, and this year we're fortunate enough to have an intern who's going to work on the Kids Don't Float Program. She's going to take statistics and data at our different locations where we actually have the different loaner boards. And so if I can introduce Allison [Gramza].

Ms. Allison Gramza said, thank you Misty. Misty [Bethune] serves as our water safety chairperson for Safe Kids Savannah, and just wanted to mention in addition to her presentation, in 2008, when we installed the initial life jacket loaner boards, Savannah was actually chosen for the national kick off of that program through Safe Kids USA. So we were the – identified as the site to be the national kick off for that for the country.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much. We really appreciate that because it can save many lives and give good training to the young people to use these.

Commissioner Farrell said, I'd like to thank the – the public. I've heard many comments, when you hang a bunch of expensive life jackets out 24/7 in a very public place, that one would assume at times that they would maybe go out and not come back, and I've had time and time again where people have told me these life jackets are here everyday. When people finish with them, they hang them back up. So it's – it's a great compliment to all the people that use the waterways on Chatham County. That they're respecting the program, and respecting the lives of these children that – that may come a little unprepared to be on the water ways. So. Congratulations.

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## **CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION**

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do before we go to the next item, is introduce two of our Chatham County Youth

Commissioners. On – on the far left in the brown outfit is Anika Smith who is the Youth Commissioner who is representing St. Vincent's Academy, and then also Gabrielle Hunter, who's sitting next to her is a Youth Commissioner also from St. Vincent's Academy. Glad to have both of you with us today.

Youth Commissioner Anika Smith said, thank you.

Youth Commissioner Gabrielle Hunter said, thank you.

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## **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Liakakis said, and out in the audience since I introduced some people, I see that we have the former Chairman of the County Commissioner, and also a State Senator, and the Commissioner for Transportation for the State of Georgia, Tom Coleman. Glad to have you here, Tom.

Chairman Liakakis said, and in the background, I see another Senator, who was Senator Pro Tem, the number two person in the State Senate, Senator Eric Johnson. Glad to have you here also.

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

None.

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## **VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. RECOGNITION OF BOYS SCOUTS FOR WETLANDS/BERM RESTORATION (Commissioner Farrell)**

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Next that we have on the agenda our County Commissioner Patrick Farrell will handle this, and he is involved in many things in the community, still being a community activist and doing a lot of things, and he is going to have this particular item for Recognition of Boy Scouts for Wetlands/Berm Restoration.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Pete [Liakakis]. At this time I'd like to ask Daniel Vaughan and his family and any of the representatives from Troop 16 to please come up to the front of the meeting room. Before I read this proclamation, I'd like to have Suzanne Cooler come up and – during one of our conversations, she mentioned some things, and I said, well, that was – that was really outstanding. We should share that with the rest of the community, some of her information. So, Suzanne [Cooler], if you could kind of give a little background on what we're – what we're doing today.

Ms. Suzanne Cooler said, yes, thank you. Hi. I was just going to explain a little bit about the project that Daniel [Vaughan] organized. It was a berm restoration project through a wetland area. And the wetland area and the berms serve as a storm water detention area that will help reduce flooding in an area but also will help improve water quality as it discharges to the marsh adjacent to this area. This area is through a very heavily wooded wetland. Basically what had to happen is they had to come in and hand truck with wheelbarrows loads of dirt, and put them back through the wetland to establish a berm, which is a raised area to slow down water flow. No heavy equipment could be used because it would kill the trees, so they had – each of these boy scouts had to come in and physically place this dirt and stack it and – not only place it and stack it but to stabilize it so it wouldn't wash out, and what I had said to Commissioner Farrell is we don't see this quality work out of professional contractors usually. So we were quite impressed with the quality of the work that was done, and the enhancements that it will provide to this wetland area for storm water quality and quantity control.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, can you hire them in the future then?

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, construction may be in his future. We'll see. Speaks volumes about the – the wonderful program, the Boy Scouts of America, and the – and the type of workmanship and character that it builds, and we'd – we'd all like to get behind that. At this time, I'll read the proclamation.

Commissioner Farrell read the proclamation as follows:


  
**The County of Chatham**  
**Georgia**  
**Proclamation**

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners takes great pride in recognizing our youth of today who are our leaders of tomorrow and in that spirit we applaud Daniel Vaughan; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Vaughan of Boy Scout Troop 16 was given the assignment of Stormwater Management Berm Re-enhancement as a project to earn Eagle Scout; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County's Stormwater Management Ordinance requires the control of stormwater which flows into any wetlands. Daniel Vaughan led his fellow troop members in restoring a berm in the wetlands to serve as stormwater management for the Village of Bull River development; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel Vaughan carefully planned his project and organized his troop for the task at hand; they used wheel barrels and shovels to construct a berm through the wetland to help slow down the flow of water which enhances the quality of the water and protects downstream properties from flooding.

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

**DANIEL VAUGHAN**

for successfully completing his Eagle Scout Project which will have a great impact on our environment and extend appreciation to Scott Master, Andrew Seaver, Committee Chair; Frank Mullis; and Assistant Scout Masters, Jeff Cramer, Scott Vaughan, Don Hollinger, Melvin Wiley, Tony Dammicci, Ed Dowd, Jerry Benson, John Taylor, and Allen Hutcheson for their dedication in assisting these young men to grow into contributing citizens.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick K. Farrell, Commissioner  
District 4

Commissioner Farrell said, Scott [Vaughan], please step forward.

[NOTE: Scott Vaughan presented Daniel Vaughan with the proclamation.]

Commissioner Farrell said, we also have Certificates of Appreciation for all the scout members. Daniel [Vaughan], if you would like to come forward. Also, I'll hand the rest of them to the assistant scout master, Scott Vaughan, for distribution to the other scouts. Would y'all like to say anything?

Mr. Scott Vaughan said, Mr. Seaver is the scout master.

Commissioner Farrell said, assistant scout master, right?

Mr. Andrew Seaver said, I just appreciate your recognizing Daniel [Vaughan]. We at Troop 16 like to really instill in our boys something that really truthfully contributes to the community, and this certainly did that, and you'll probably see more similar projects from our troop coming your way. So. Appreciate that.

Chairman Liakakis said, good. Thank you very much. We really appreciate all of you and the things that the Boy Scouts, you know, has contributed because we see many things that they do in the community, and I know that your Troop 16 can be really proud of themselves for doing this, you know, this particular project.

Mr. Daniel Vaughan said, I – I just wanted to thank all of you for recognizing the troop and helping make all this possible, 'cause without all the help that I've gotten, this wouldn't have come about. By the troop and family and friends this wouldn't have really come about, and I really appreciate it.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. That was great. Patrick [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, if I could, I'd like to thank the scout leader and our eagle scout, or eagle scout candidate. The values that you're helping young men to espouse last a lifetime. I'm a testimony to that. There are many times in my life as a architect or a County Commissioner where I have a dilemma, and I'm not sure what the right way forward is, and amazingly enough many times I go back to the values that I learned in the Boy Scouts of America. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone]? Oh excuse me. Hold on, Patrick [Farrell].

Commissioner Stone said, I would – I would –

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone], go ahead.

Commissioner Stone said, I would just like to echo what’s been said and – and furthermore, the precedent that is set today by your troop hopefully will send a message in this community that we will encourage our young people to step up to the plate and become volunteers in their community that they are love – that they love early on in life, and I just think it’s wonderful that you all have set this trend, and I thank you very much.

Commissioner Shay said, here, here.

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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Next on the agenda today, we will recess as the County Commission and convene as the Chatham Area Transit Authority. They have a short agenda today. As soon as they do the short agenda, then what we will do is convene again as the Chatham County Commission.

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 9:45 a.m., and convened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Following adjournment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the Board reconvened at 9:55 a.m., as the County Commission.

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**VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS**

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

- 1. **AMENDMENT TO SECTION 7-3(c)(5) OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE TO REORDER THE SECTION AND TO PERMIT DIGITAL BILLBOARD TECHNOLOGY IN CERTAIN ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS. MPC STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**  
**MPC FILE NO. Z-110315-00018-1.** *This item was tabled at the May 13, 2011 meeting.*

Chairman Liakakis said, reconsidered items. Item 1, amendment to Section 7-3(c)(5) of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to Reorder the Section and to permit digital billboard technology in certain zoning classification. MPC staff recommends approval, and it gives the file number there for the MPC. Any member of the Commission may call up the motion to reconsider, and the call up for the motion to reconsider does not need a second. So –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Oh, it’s not automatic when I did it before?

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, all you need – all you gotta do is say you want to have the motion heard because it was a motion to reconsider and enter into the minutes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. I – I want to have the motion heard.

County Attorney Hart said, okay. Then – then – then the next step is to take up the question of whether you wish to reconsider. You need to vote affirmative or negative on that motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah.

Commissioner Odell said, point of parliamentary procedure, if we vote – if – if there’s a no vote to reconsider, as a matter of procedure, the motion to reconsider is dead?

County Attorney Hart said, correct. What – all you’ve done is decided not to take up the reconsideration and the action you took at the last meeting stands.

Chairman Liakakis said, so, is there any discussion on the motion –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, discussion is – the only thing is – is I – I wanted to give you the opportunity to explain why you opposed this because you didn’t state that you opposed until we voted. And you’re the leader of this group, the Chairman, and I feel that if you have a strong opinion then, like you seemed to have once the vote was taken place, I feel like it would be good for us to know why you so strongly opposed it and it could have possibly swayed my vote to vote against it too. And – so I just wanted you to have the opportunity to explain why you so strongly opposed it.

Chairman Liakakis said, well one of the reasons is I wanted additional information, but the main reason was the information that was distributed to the authority is that if you – these digital billboards and it says – information that came from a safety organization that if you took your eyes off the road for two seconds to watch one of these digital billboards which change every 10 seconds, that it could cause an accident, and that was something that I wanted to find more information about and that’s why I did not – did not vote on it because of that safety factor, ‘cause that’s really important. If we have people that go up and down our highways, they take their eyes off the road for those short few seconds, what happens is those billboards, those digital billboards really look good, and if they’re changing as they do every ten seconds, and you look up at that, then what happens it could cause an accident, information that was distributed and so that’s the reason.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, with the understanding and I can appreciate the fact that I believe that your – your guidance is possibly amongst the – our colleagues here respected a little more than mine. Is it your wish to have another vote on this because I believe they would follow your guidance on this and your wishes more than mine. Because I can leave it where it is. I – I voted where I voted but if you would like to reconsider, I’m – we may – it may

go the other way. But I'll – I will just leave that totally up to you.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, well, right now, then we need a motion to reconsider and the substance of the issue is that it's to be reconsidered. Harris [Odell]?

Commissioner Odell said, I'm going to recommend that the motion to reconsider be denied, and we that accept the recommendation of the Metropolitan Planning Committee. I have four daughters. The biggest cause of car accident is not billboard, it's young ladies, like my daughter who put on make up and try to drive. Now if we can't prevent that, you know, I'm – I – I don't think its logical for us to think that we can eliminate any and all risk. To do that would be a bubble environment, and we cannot exist like that. When the good and the bad and the benefits of this I urge my fellow Commissioners, let's put this to bed. We're going to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and this is a step in that direction. It's already in 90% of my district, which the City of Savannah has approved, and I urge you to defeat this.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and – and I'm not even strongly saying we should. I'll — I'll leave it to the Chairman. He can either argue to reconsider or not. 'Cause I – I really don't care either way.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, we have a motion the floor to deny the reconsideration. We need a second. Does anybody want to second that motion?

Commissioner Holmes said, I second it.

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

Commissioner Odell said, point of clarification, if Jon – Jon, the motion how it was stated by the Chairman is it – we're voting to deny the motion for reconsideration or approve the motion?

County Attorney Hart said, you're – you're – you can do it either in the positive or the negative. All you're doing is saying we're going to vote whether we're going to reconsider the substance of the next motion.

Commissioner Odell said, okay, and a denial of the –

County Attorney Hart said, if you vote no you don't want to reconsider it –

Commissioner Odell said, that's my answer.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Let's go on the board.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what is the motion to what? Deny?

Commissioner Farrell said, the motion – yeah, deny –

Commissioner Stone said, deny.

Commissioner Farrell said, – the motion to reconsider.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, y'all voted wrong, didn't you?

Commissioner Odell said, no we didn't. No we didn't. It's good. We're not reconsidering.

Commissioner Stone said, no. No. It's to deny reconsideration.

County Attorney Hart said, you're not reconsidering the motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we voted to not reconsider.

Commissioner Stone said, correct.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so y'all – I just won.

County Attorney Hart said, the substance of the motion is do you want to reconsider, yes or no? If you don't want to reconsider it's a no vote and it ends the matter.

Commissioner Odell said, it's a no vote, and it ends the matter. So the vote is correct.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, there you go.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. It's denied. We move on.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Jon, that is backwards. Just for the record, the no is wrong.

County Attorney Hart said, okay. The intent is you're not going to reconsider.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I don't have all the education you two attorneys do, but no was wrong on that.

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

Commissioner Odell moved for denial of the motion to reconsider. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 7-1. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in the affirmative to reconsider the motion. Chairman Liakakis, Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, and Gellatly voted in the negative to deny the motion to reconsider. [Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-2~~**  
**AGENDA DATE: ~~April 29, 2011~~**  
**AGENDA ITEM: ~~XII-2~~**

~~AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2011~~  
**AGENDA ITEM: V111-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**



**CHATHAM COUNTY – SAVANNAH  
 METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

*Planning the Future – Respecting the Past*

- Shedrick Coleman  
*Chairman*
- J. Adam Ragsdale  
*Vice-Chairman*
- Jon Pannell  
*Secretary*
- Lacy Manigault  
*Treasurer*
- Russ Abolt
- Ellis P. Cook
- Ben Farmer
- Stephen Lufburrow
- Timothy Mackey
- Tanya Milton
- Rochelle D. Small-Toney
- Susan Myers
- Jon Todd
- Joseph T. Welch
  
- Thomas L. Thomson,  
PE, AICP  
*Executive Director*

DATE: May 23, 2011  
 TO: Chairman and Commissioners,  
 Chatham County Commission  
 THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
 FROM: Thomas L. Thomson, Executive Director  
 SUBJECT: Follow-up Information on Proposed Text Amendment to Allow  
 Digital Billboards

I wanted to follow up on questions asked and comments made at the May 13, 2011 public hearing for the proposed text amendments to allow digital billboards.

1. Commissioner Shay asked if SR 204 at I-95 was considered to be a Protected or Restricted roadway. All of I-95 in the unincorporated County and the portion of SR 204 between Gateway Blvd West and US 17 are considered to be Restricted Roadways. This means that billboards can only be located within 3,000 feet of the intersection of SR 204 and I-95 or the intersection of either of those roads and another arterial road.
2. Chairman Liakakis expressed concern with regard to the statement Ms. Wood made about billboards being a distraction to drivers. According to a 2001 Federal Highway Administration report, the states of Nevada, Utah, Texas, New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts reported no evidence of increased traffic safety problems after the installation of digital billboards in their city centers and along their highways. Additionally, Five state DOT personnel have stated that a relationship between crashes and digital billboards was not identifiable.

The proposed text amendment includes language that allows the County Manager to order the modifications of a digital billboard "based solely on accident statistics and/or reports which demonstrate causal connection between increased accident levels and signs.

[www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org)

110 EAST STATE STREET, P.O. BOX 8246, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31412-8246 PHONE 912-651-1440

Follow-up Information to the County Commission  
 Proposed Text Amendment to Allow Digital Billboards  
 May 23, 2011

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3. At the meeting, Ms. Wood stated that "The Metropolitan Planning Commission has been persuaded to recommend this zoning change because, I believe, they are not fully aware of all its ramifications." MPC staff has extensively independently researched the subject of digital billboards, both in 2007 when Lamar submitted a text amendment to allow them in the City of Savannah and within the last year as part of the drafting process for the Unified Zoning Ordinance. Staff researched Georgia State Law, communities around Georgia as well as those in other states, including reviewing the copious amounts of material provided us by Ms. Wood. The standards proposed in the subject text amendment are consistent with or more restrictive than many of those ordinances.

MPC staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed text amendment to the Planning Commission because it is a way to reduce the number of nonconforming billboards at no expense to the County while allowing a new technology that could be used for Public Service Announcements such as Amber Alerts and Severe Weather Warnings. In addition, the spacing between digital billboards is much greater than that for standard billboards.

TLT/ahb

cc: Ardis Wood

**Frances Rasmussen**

**From:** Ray Wood [[raywoodx@comcast.net](mailto:raywoodx@comcast.net)]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2011 8:34 PM  
**To:** David Gellatly; Dean Kicklighter; Helen Stone; Frances Rasmussen; Pat Farrell; Pete Liakakis  
**Cc:** Russ Abolt

Dear Commissioners,

Here are 4 reasons why you should **VOTE "NO"** on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, regarding permitting electronic billboards in the unincorporated part of Chatham County:

**COST**

No commission should bind those in the future with the inability to act because of cost. Yet, allowing digitals would do just that because future commissions/taxpayers could never afford to buy them out (required by Georgia law) should that be deemed necessary to widen roads, create scenic highways, construct a building, etc. A standard billboard \$200,000 and in many cases, much less. A digital is at least \$2,000,000.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Just remember that Savannah had the chance to buy Battlefield Park for a dollar. By the item they agreed they wanted it, the price tag was \$6,000,000!

We can remove regular billboards in sensitive places such as the historic districts of our County for a fraction of what it would cost to remove digitals.

**A ROTTEN DEAL**

Lamar's offer to remove 2.5 square feet of regular billboards permission to erect a square foot of digital is only a deal for Lamar. THEY have picked which ones to remove. Besides, consider that Jim Edwards reported last week for NBC on BNET: "**Lamar tore down about 10 percent (15,000) of their billboards during the recession since their revenue did not justify maintaining them.**" Hence Lamar tries to leverage what they don't want anyway to get digitals in place.

**BEAUTY**

An attractive community that distinguishes itself from Anyplace U.S.A. tips the balance toward choosing where to vacation, work, and retire. Our economy depends greatly on how we look.

**SAFETY**

Finally, electronic billboards should be denied because they are a safety hazard. The National Highways Traffic Safety Administration of 2006 says that **anything that distracts you from looking straight ahead at the road for more than two seconds significantly increases your chance of a crash.** No one can reasonably argue that you will be looking at those digital signs for fewer than two seconds.

Last year in Savannah and the unincorporated part of Chatham County, there were **13,046 car crashes. 35 people died and 2,068 were injured.** Surely we don't want to do anything that would aid and abet such tragedy.

Sincerely,

Ardis Wood  
Representing a coalition of citizens  
including the Savannah Area of Garden clubs Council

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

**LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:**

**Amendment to Section 7-3(C)(5) of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to Reorder the Section and to permit Digital Billboard Technology in Certain Zoning Classifications. MPC File No. 110315-00018-1.**

**ISSUE:**

The petitioner is requesting an amendment to Section 7-3(C)(5) of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to reorder the section and to permit digital billboard technology in certain zoning classifications.

**BACKGROUND:**

Flashing, running light signs, illuminated signs with moving parts, and electronically controlled sign face and message boards are, with some exceptions, currently prohibited in the existing Ordinance. The exceptions include an announcement sign that displays time and temperature or signs that display room rates and restaurant specials at hotels and motels.

**FINDINGS:**

1. The petitioner is proposing an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would 1) reorder the existing wording of Section 7-3(C)(5) into subsections (a) and (b), and 2) would create a subsection (c) which will permit digital billboard technology in certain zoning classifications. Development standards are also proposed to be made a part of subsection (c).
2. Outdoor advertising is evolving toward use of digital billboard technology as a means to improve business use while conveying useful information to motorists.

3. Digital technology produces static image that are changed via a computer. The images do not scroll, flash, feature motion pictures or emit intermittent light.
4. Digital billboards are presently operating in communities large and small across the country. In late 2007, the City of Savannah amended its zoning code to allow digital billboards in the community. Most communities, including Savannah, have created development standards designed to limit the placement of such billboards and to protect nearby properties, particularly those of a residential character.
5. Common provisions of sign ordinances pertaining specifically to digital billboards include spacing standards; brightness levels; time of image display; spacing from residential uses; and most are only allowed in heavier commercial and industrial districts.
6. The proposed amendment has been crafted to mirror the existing Savannah Ordinance with minor changes. (An amendment to the City of Savannah Ordinance has also been filed simultaneously to assure compatibility between the City and County.)
7. As proposed, the amendment will require the removal of existing non-conforming billboards at a ratio of two and one-half square feet of billboard face for every one square foot of digital billboard face to be erected. No digital billboards will be permitted until the appropriate number of the non-conforming billboard faces are removed and certified by the County Manager.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the petitioner's request to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow digital billboards subject to development standards.
2. Deny the petitioner's request.

#### **POLICY ANALYSIS:**

As technologies have evolved, more and more communities are allowing the use of digital imagery on billboards. Provided that certain limitations and conditions are made a part of the Ordinance requirements, these signs can be an effective means of communication for the traveling public and the community as well. The proposed amendment has such limitations and does not provide for additional signage above and beyond that presently allowed. The amendment allows for a new type of signage and facilitates the removal of existing nonconforming billboards located in unincorporated Chatham County.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The MPC and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend...**

**Approval** of the petitioner's request to amend Section 7-3(C)(5) of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to allow the use of digital billboard technology subject to said use meeting certain conditions and limitations as follows:

#### **REPEAL**

Section 7-3 Sign Standards

(C) Restricted Sign

- ~~(5) Flashing signs, running lights, illuminated signs with moving parts, and electronically controlled sign faces and message boards. This provision shall not apply to signs that are exclusively to convey public service messages such as time and temperature or as allowed under Sec. 7-3(B); "Illuminated Sign" standards for certain principal use signs. Hotel and motels may display room rates and restaurant daily specials on illuminated stationary signs that are not flashing signs, running light signs, illuminated signs with moving parts and electronically controlled surfaces and message boards.~~

#### **ENACT**

Section 7-3 Sign Standards

(C) Restricted Sign

- (5) Flashing signs, running lights, illuminated signs with moving parts, and electronically controlled sign faces and messages except as follows:**
- a. **Signs used exclusively to convey public service messages such as time and temperature or as allowed under Sec. 7-3(B) "Illuminated Sign" standards for certain principal use signs.**
  - b. **Hotel and motels may display room rates and restaurant daily specials on illuminated stationary signs that are not flashing signs, running light signs, illuminated signs with moving parts and electronically controlled surfaces and message boards.**

- c. A separate use sign that can be changed at intervals by an electronic mechanical process or a sign using light emitting diodes (LED) shall only be permitted with the following restrictions:
1. The message must not change displays over a period of not less than ten (10) seconds, with all moving parts or illumination moving or changing simultaneously; and the sign cannot display any illumination that moves, appears to move or changes in intensity during the static display period. No auditory message or mechanical sounds may be emitted from the sign. Further, any such sign shall contain default design that will freeze the sign on one (1) position if a malfunction occurs.
  2. Such sign shall only be allowed within the B, B-C, I-L, and I-H zoning districts.
  3. Each sign structure shall have no more than one (1) digital display per direction with a maximum of two (2) signs per structure. Further, no cut out shall be permitted. Images shall be confined to the digital sign face.
  4. All digital signs shall be modulated so that from dawn to dusk, the brightness shall not be more than 7,500 NITS (Candles per square meter). From dusk to dawn, the brightness shall not be more than 350 NITS).
  5. New locations for signs under this subsection (as opposed to conversions of existing signs) shall not be permitted within 250 feet of a residential zone. Conversion of existing signs, whether conforming or nonconforming, to a sign permitted under this subsection shall not be permitted within 150 feet of a residential zone. The minimum distance between digital billboards shall be 5,000 feet on the same side of the street and 1,250 feet on the opposite side of the street. Distance shall be measured pursuant to the requirement of Section 7-3(L)(8)(g) herein.
  6. Such signs shall be permitted only along four (4) lane or more arterial roadways as defined in Section 7-3(L) herein.
  7. Such signs shall not be permitted inside the boundaries of any locally designated Historic District or Property or any Historic District as defined by the National Historic Register.
  8. Such signs may be ordered modified by the County Manager or his designee based solely on accident statistics and/or reports which demonstrate a causal connection between increased accident levels and signs permitted under this section.
  9. One (1) new digital billboard face will be permitted within unincorporated Chatham County when a number of existing nonconforming billboards within unincorporated Chatham County that correspond to a ratio is removed. The ratio shall be two and one-half (2.5) square feet of existing nonconforming billboard face space for every one (1) square foot of digital billboard face to be erected. Nonconformity shall be determined by applicable sections of this Ordinance. Final approval for new billboard faces shall not be granted until the number of nonconforming billboard faces are removed and certified by the County Manager and his/her designee. The petitioner shall be required to meet all other requirements of the County Code, unless otherwise permitted herein.
  10. Each digital billboard shall have information attached identifying the agent or agency responsible for its construction and maintenance and the permit number issued by the Zoning Administrator for such sign.

PREPARED BY: Jim Hansen, AICP, Director  
Development Services

April 5, 2011

Gregori Anderson, Director  
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Frances Rasmussen

**From:** Ray Wood [[raywoodx@comcast.net](mailto:raywoodx@comcast.net)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2011 9:16 AM  
**To:** David Gellatly; Dean Kicklighter; Helen Stone; Frances Rasmussen; Pat Farrell; Pete Liakakis  
**Subject:** Digital Billboards

Dear Commissioner:

This Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> can be luck or unlucky for Chatham County. That is when you will be asked to permit more billboards to be converted to digital ones. Savannah City Council will be petitioned for the same thing on June 2. Here are some reasons why the answer should be "NO".

1. In the event of road widening or a scenic highway overlay, taxpayers are required to buy out the cost of a digital (5 times the price of a regular billboard), plus pay for lost revenue. We could easily be looking at more than a million dollars for one board! Unlike countries such as Australia that have a 20 year sunset clause, Georgia does not. Therefore, allowing digitals means you forever tie the hands of future generations to remove them.
2. Digitals are a safety hazard. The National Highways Traffic Safety Administration of 2006 says that anything that distracts you from looking straight ahead at the road for more than two seconds significantly increases your chance of a crash. No one can reasonably argue that you will be looking at those digital signs for fewer than two seconds.
3. Lamar Outdoor Advertising is offering to remove 2.5 square feet of regular billboards for every 1 square foot of digital conversion. However, this is an apples and oranges slight-of-hand. Billboards are not valued by square footage, but by location of where the most number of people see them. Typically boards are put in poor neighborhoods where the rent is less expensive and residents aren't as knowledgeable about how to protect their property. It is no great concession to remove those that are less seen and often in disrepair.
4. Although these billboards are slated only for 4 lane highways, the light and change of light every 10 seconds can be seen from many blocks away. What is more, brightness is not fixed. On a cloudy day, digitals look twice as bright.
5. Digitals are environmentally bad. One board can use as much electricity as that needed to power 30 homes and emit 180 tons of carbon dioxide per year.
6. The Metropolitan Planning Commission has been persuaded by Lamar to recommend this zoning change because, I believe, they are not fully aware of all its ramifications. Also, the MPC tries to moderate between businesses and the interests of the people. Archibald Bulloch was the first to read Georgians the Declaration of Independence in Johnson Square. I believe his words are appropriate now: "This is no time to talk of moderation. In the present instance, it ceases to be a virtue."

For more information on digital billboards, visit [www.scenic.org](http://www.scenic.org)

Sincerely,

Ardis Wood  
232-7708

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## **IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

1. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: 1) APPROPRIATIONS OF CONFISCATED REVENUE TOTALING \$32,130 FOR THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM, AND 2) INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES IN THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND \$36,227 FOR GRANTS AWARDED TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, under items for Individual Action, 1, to request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) appropriations of Confiscated Revenue totaled \$32,130 for the County Narcotics Team, and 2) increase revenues and expenditures in the Multiple Grant Fund \$36,227 for grants awarded to the Sheriff's Department. Need a motion.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, do we have a second?

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the Board. Motion passes.

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

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) appropriations of Confiscated Revenue totaling \$32,130 for the Counter Narcotics Team, and 2) increase revenues and expenditures in the Multiple Grant Fund \$36,227 for grants awarded to the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

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

**ISSUE:**

To request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: 1) appropriations of Confiscated Revenue totaling \$32,130 for the Counter Narcotics Team, and 2) increase revenues and expenditures in the Multiple Grant Fund \$36,227 for grants awarded to the Sheriff's Department.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Counter Narcotics Team Director has requested a \$26,650 appropriation of confiscated revenue for equipment and improvements to the property room. An additional appropriation of \$5,480 to clear the lien on a seized vehicle has also been requested. The two appropriations total \$32,130. Staff reports are attached.
2. The Sheriff's Department has been awarded two grants through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency that total \$36,227. An amendment to increase revenue and expenditures in the Multiple Grant Fund has been prepared. Staff reports are attached.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the Confiscated Revenue Fund. The budget amendment will establish funding in the Multiple Grant Fund.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the following:
  - CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND**
  - a. appropriate \$26,650 to the Counter Narcotics Team for equipment and improvements to the property room.
  - b. appropriate \$5,480 to the Counter Narcotics Team to clear the lien on a seized vehicle.
  - MULTIPLE GRANT FUND**
  - a. increase revenues and expenditures \$21,351 for a GEMA grant to the Sheriff's Department;
  - b. increase revenues and expenditures \$14,876 for GEMA grant to the Sheriff's Department.
2. Amend or deny the request.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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**2. TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CHATHAM COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW.**

Chairman Liakakis said, item 2, to hold a public hearing on the Chatham County Fiscal Year 2012 budget as required by State law.

Chairman Liakakis said, ladies and gentlemen, this hearing is being held in compliance with State Law relative to Chatham County's proposed fiscal year 2012 budget. We will be discussing the total budget with all the various funds. The information packets showing the proposal budget for all funds are available at the front entrance. A list is being passed around asking for the names and addresses of those present. The purpose of this is to document that public input was solicited for future audit purposes. We will start at the right side of the room and go row by row. If you wish to speak, come to the podium, state your name, address, and name of the group or organization you represent, if any. We have staff available to help pass out any written materials to the Commissioners. So I'll start on my right and go – I'm gonna go row by row. What I'll do then is ask anybody on the first row that would like to discuss the budget.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, as their coming forward, to perfect the record, I'll just say for the record, the budget proposed is \$622,010,859.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, where possible and not to limit public discourse and discussion, but to eliminate redundancies and to allow every person who wishes to speak, if we could set a – a reasonable limit as to the presentation and request written documentation to 5, 10 minutes tops. Then we won't have one person to talk for two hours and 100 other people who perhaps want to speak can't speak for two minutes. Is – is that a general consensus?

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Good idea. Okay. So and we'll limit it then to – since this subject I can see a number of people in here are really concerned about it, we will limit the – the talk on these items to five minutes, and so we'll ask one of our people – do you have your watch there with you, Gail [Gordon]?

Ms. Gail Gordon said, no.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, then we'll ask the – who up front here – Janice [Bocook] –

Clerk said, yes, sir?

Chairman Liakakis said, do you have your watch with you?

Clerk said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, so we'll do that. And the reason why I'm saying that is because a lot of times people will go over the time that has been allotted and I – I don't want anybody to feel bad because I'll say you went over the time element, but we'll let Janice do that.

Clerk said, appreciate that.

Commissioner Shay said, that's why you make the big bucks, Janice.

Commissioner Farrell said, welcome to the official – the official county clerk's duties.

Clerk said, thank you, appreciate it.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Anybody on the first row? Second row? Come up to the podium, please.

Mr. Robert Bush said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Robert Bush, and I am a member of the executive committee of the Chatham County Safety Net and Planning Council, and I'm here to speak today for a short period of time on behalf of the Council and in the stead of Dr. Paula Reynolds, whom you usually hear from, who could not make it today because of medical reasons. But in 2004 this Commission chartered the Chatham County Safety Net and Planning Council as an effort to encourage our attempts to prevent duplication, enhance efficiency, and to make healthcare delivery in our County more cost efficient. You wanted us to help you solve a problem. The foresight of this body enabled us to move forward to structure the best response possible through local action. With few additional dollars, we have joined hands to maximize our resources. We have moved Chatham in the direction of cost efficiency. Our achievements have been lauded in Atlanta, particularly our leveraging has been considered remarkable. Our achieve – I know this because I was present when the Safety Net's grant application was being considered by the Governor's Health Information Technology & Transparency Board successfully. The Healthcare Georgia Foundation awarded the Safety Net the 2010 Joseph D. Greene award for its compassionate and unselfish efforts to improve the health of all Georgians. All of this to say that our evolution and accomplishments since the day you kicked off this inexpensive initiative have been exemplary. And they have been noticed by even larger communities in our state as inspired answers to one of the largest problems facing municipalities across the United States today, the skyrocketing cost of healthcare and the diminishing access to healthcare for persons without insurance or with inadequate insurance. Practically the burden falls on all of us, yet we have limited control over the larger system healthcare occurs under. That's where the Safety Net and its partners come in. Because our model is to maximize already existing funds and to build and develop relationships, we do not receive significant additional funds. We will be devastated to lose 25% of our funding as is proposed. Our partners already survive on limited funding stretched by their own ingenuity and cooperation. Our federally qualified health centers are crucial to this system. The Curtis V. Cooper Health Center and the J.C. Lewis Health Center. They must function well so that our emergency departments which are already running at capacity will not clog with unnecessarily exigent cases. But they will clog if we diminish our system – system's capacity to provide front end care, and they will be forced to divert patients needing immediate care to hospitals in other communities like Statesboro, which they have had to do in the past when the need has outstripped the capacity. The money allocated by you to our federally qualified health centers this year will only fill a gap. There is no additional money to create additional resources. Demand is project – is projected to increase while we are fighting to maintain this current level of services. Taking the 25% away means that significant resources which cushions our community from excessive costs will go away. Health care costs are expensive, but they are less expensive when there is a system, a net, to catch those who cannot afford and who do not have insurance. We have spent the days since you gave your blessing to our early efforts creating this net. We have asked for very limited funding to meet what is a huge need, and we've made progress. Last year Chatham County was named a County of Excellence by Georgia Trend magazines because of its work with its Safety Net. Funding us less will not make the need go away, and there will be consequences. The excellent care given by Curtis V. Cooper and J.C. Lewis will be replaced by expensive care in our emergency departments, and we will pay for it through costs, and very possibly through lives. Thank you. And I'm done except for if you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer whatever you might have.

Commissioner Odell said, I have something.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Harris [Odell].

Commissioner Odell said, Robert [Bush], thank you. You know, we hear so many lawyer jokes, but I'd like the public to know that you're also an attorney.

Mr. Bush said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, well respected attorney. The Safety Net program with unemployment being elevated over the last couple of years, we have more people who've lost their healthcare. So as the need for the services of not deadbeats, but people who've come up on hard times is increasing, a 25% cut in your budget that's already a bare minimum, I think is outrageous and uncivilized.

Mr. Bush said, thank you, Commissioner Odell.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay thank you, Robert [Bush].

Mr. Bush said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Third row?

Mr. Robert James said, no, Mr. Chairman, we're still on the second row.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, you're on the second

Mr. James said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh. I thought you were –

Commissioner Odell said, he was on the end. Bob [James] was on the end.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Bob [James]. Come forth.

Mr. James said, well, I simply don't move as fast as the young attorney. Mr. Chairman, I would like to – I'm Chairman – I'm Robert James, president of Carver State Bank, but I'm also Chairman of the Board of Step Up Savannah, the community's poverty reduction initiative, and I'd like for Mr. Daniel Dodd, –

Chairman Liakakis said, he's right here, behind you.

Mr. James said, – our director, to come forward because we're going to try to honor the two minutes rule, and so I get two minutes, and Daniel [Dodd] gets two minutes, but I'd like for him to have his first and some other people.

Mr. Daniel Dodd said, thank you, Mr. James. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. We just have five people that wanted to speak very briefly on the program. It's me, Mr. James, two students, and someone from Savannah Tech, but we will be, hopefully, within five minutes with all five of us. Chatham County has funded a unique job training program in our community for six years now. Nobody else is doing this way – nobody else is doing it this way and with these results. Over 350 people have graduated from the program since you started it six years ago. You are taking people that were unemployable, giving them skills, providing them the opportunity to give back to their families, their neighborhoods, and our local economy. Had it not been for your vision, we would not be here with these accomplishments. We have some people here today. At this point I would like them to stand. Your program has not only affected them individually, but their families as well. If people from the Construction Apprentice Program would stand, that are here. Okay. When we called – when we called past students to see if they could come, we were really happy to see that many of them were working therefore could not be here today, however, some are between projects and jobs and were able to take time off to come. We know that your time's limited so we are going to be succinct with what we want to say. As I said before, we have two students from the program, and we have a representative from Savannah Technical College, Dr. Ken Boyd, and of course, the Chairman of Step Up's Board, Bob James. Thank you again for your vision for helping hundreds of individuals and families over the last six years. Dr. Boyd?

Dr. Ken Boyd said, thank you, Daniel [Dodd]. Good morning Mr. Commissioner and Commissioners. Let me just be very quick from Savannah Technical College's perspective here. This program, the Chatham Apprentice Program, has been excellent for the past six years that I've been associated with Daniel [Dodd], Mr. James, and the entire Board. The value can be summed up in three words, recruitment, retention, and opportunity. First recruitment. CAP recruits students from Savannah neighborhoods that can be hard to reach, and frankly we're presenting a great opportunity for them. Secondly, retention. Workforce readiness training produces the best results when it's personal, and when it's one on one dealing with an individual and their academic studies, and that is provided entirely by the staff, not only at Savannah Technical College, but Mr. Dodd's staff as well. Finally, employment opportunities. Again, there's a great partnership, not only from the college, but Daniel's [Dodd] organization, the Board of Step Up, and also the construction industry in our area. With that winning trio, all we're really doing is putting people through the academic paces and then right into employment, and that can do nothing but good for our area. So Savannah Technical College is a proud partner and always has been of this program. So we appreciate it very much.

Mr. Slater Blige said, good morning, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Slater Blige, and I live at 110 Palm Avenue. I'd like to speak to you a little about the program. This program isn't just about construction, it's about long and short-term goals. It's about attaining and maintaining jobs; about team work and motivation; about picking oneself up when he or she has fallen. I can't speak for all students past and present, but I think for most of us, this has been a positive experience, and without this program, in the past, before I was enrolled, I'd probably be out there doing bad things, like selling drugs, or probably breaking into your house right now.

Commissioner Farrell said, we're glad you're here.

Commissioner Stone said, glad you're here.

Mr. Blige said, that being said, I'd like to ask you one question, how can you put a price tag on helping people help themselves and become productive members of society? Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Commissioner Shay said, thank you for being here.

Commissioner Stone said, and not breaking in our houses.

Chairman Liakakis said, right.

Commissioner Odell said, that's always a good thing.

Mr. Kenneth White said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and council members. My name is Kenneth White, and I'm just here to say – reiterate what Mr. – Mr. Slater said. It's kind of hard to speak on something when you're passionate about it. When it's messing with your livelihood or when it's really dealing directly with you. Being in this program means a lot to me. I got skills that I lost but recently just picked up. Stuff that supposed to be every day. It's just hard. Like Ms. Williams or Ms. Sinclair, they reiterate, they beat it into us, do the right thing every day, you know. Think before you do. And with that, I'd just like to say y'all have a good day. Thank you.

Commissioner Shay said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, Bob [James]?

Mr. James said, I'm going to finalize our appeal to you but just by first thanking you for your service. I know you have an awesome task of trying to manage the county's budget, and it's – and to serve on the Commission like this, which is – is community service, but it's public community service, and we thank you very much for your service. The Construction Apprentice Program is not duplicated in our community. Many of our contractors now, because of – of the economic conditions cannot take people and do on-the-job training and – like they would in the past, and so several of them are depending upon you for the work that you do and by funding this Construction Apprentice Program. It's not duplicated in our community. These young men and women are – are brought in and trained and – and taught skills, and they are becoming gainfully employed immediately, so again, Mr. Chairman and other members of the Commission, we ask that you reconsider any efforts to discontinue this program. It's a vital part of our Savannah economy, and thank you very much for your – for your consideration.

Chairman Liakakis said, Bob, hold it just a minute. You wanted to ask a question?

Youth Commissioner Gabrielle Hunter said, no, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, you're okay? Okay, Gabrielle [Hunter]. Thank you.

Mr. James said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute, Harris [Odell] would like to say something.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you. Bob [James], I appreciate this program and what we've not considered in our budgeting process is the unintended consequences of our actions.

Mr. James said, yeah.

Commissioner Odell said, it cost us, or cost the State of Georgia approximately \$50,000 a year to house someone. So every person that we can keep out of the system, potentially saves the citizens of the State at least \$50,000 a year. There's a major difference between a hand up and a hand out. And this is a hand up, and I appreciate it.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank y'all for the work you've done; thank you for – I hear you're going to volunteer and clean the gentleman's ditch out that the County can't do, and I do really appreciate that. I just want to, I guess, be the dose of reality, possibly of what we're facing right now. While the Manager's proposal is to cut out I guess over \$100,000 but he's still budgeting \$93,515 and proposing that the program end 12/31/11. The reality of this is it's, if you really think about it, budgeting anything at this point for a non-essential service makes no sense because his budget proposal proposes laying off 100 Chatham County employees. This is a program with \$93,000 recommended to fund to help people get jobs. Keep \$93,000 divided by the average \$22,000 salary he said, we keep four jobs of people, that maybe they won't lose their job and be out breaking into somebody's house. The point was to create jobs. This money right now can be used to save existing jobs. There's no guarantee, you're not 100% with the graduates, although y'all are excellent. But I just want you to understand, and I'll state this, I've been going through this budget with a fine tooth comb, and I believe I'll be able to present a budget that's – virtually has no lay offs, no tax increase, not any reduction in the CNT and it's very possible that – the monies would be there because I do agree that you're one of the most important non-essential services we could have, creating jobs. And – and so at the top of that category, y'all – y'all are right up there as – as the best but unfortunately, you are in that category of non-essential services, and, you know, I hope for the best. Again I appreciate what y'all have done but just keep in mind, \$93,000, that saves at least four current jobs here. So it makes no sense to fund something to help people get jobs when you can actually save jobs with that money. So thank y'all.

Chairman Liakakis said, so I want everybody in the audience to know this. This is just a public hearing that we have. There's no vote today. So I don't want anybody, you know, to take the wrong idea. We're just doing a public hearing, and we're getting the information which is important from the different organizations that want to talk to us. Thank you.

Mr. James said, thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Third row?

Mr. Philip Solomon, Jr. said, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. My name is Philip Solomon, Jr. I am a past Board chair of Union Mission, and I am appearing here on their behalf. I think a disclaimer is probably necessary because over the past several years, our spokesman has been Herb McKenzie, and he and I both wish that he was here today to deliver this, but he has been out of the country for a number of – two and a half months, and has only just returned to a special program for his grandchildren, and I will ask to represent in his place. In the interest of the time that y'all have given us, I will be the only presenting, unless y'all want to ask something of the others who are here. But what I would like to do is just ask the Union Mission Board members that are here to please stand. The reason I do this is aside from Senator Johnson and Senator Coleman, who y'all justly pointed out, we are bringing some of the best people that we can to bear on one of the biggest problems in Savannah, which is homelessness. Our chairman is John Tatum; our vice chairman is Don Waters; our secretary is the eminent Tom Coleman; the only accolade y'all left out when talking about Tom is he was also a member of Troop 16.

Commissioner Stone said, oh, wow.

Mr. Solomon said, and Bill Lattimore, our treasurer. In this – in representing them, I would like to thank all of you for your generous past support of Union Mission and for the opportunity to make this brief proposal. Because we have come to you before in the past, I think it's important that I point out that this is not coming to you with a new problem or coming to you with another problem. This is the exact same problem that we partially addressed together in 2009, which was the most unfortunate, although well intended effort on Union Mission to provide behavioral health care. Our trying to provide behavioral health care to the indigent and homeless in Savannah left Union Mission with a debilitating debt. No non-profit can operate or retire a debt of that size on its own. In the interest of time, I won't go into the reasons for it, I'll be happy to do that later. Herb and the rest of us will be contacting each of y'all to answer any questions and provide any information that you want between now and your vote. Before asking for your support, and it's substantial, let me first tell you what we've done. We've cut our annual operating budget and expenses by \$450,000 or more than 10% of our operating budget. Without the debt burden, everyone of our programs is running on a self-sustaining basis. Each and every year, Union Mission brings into this community \$3.3 million in state and federal grants, and we raise another \$600,000 each year from foundations and individuals. That's almost \$4 million a year we bring in to provide services to the most needy in our County. All of this is in jeopardy if we cannot eliminate this remaining debt. The Board of Union Mission is determined that it can and will raise \$700,000 toward retirement of that debt. No small feat in these economic times. How we propose to retire the remainder of the debt is – is what brings us before you today. Union Mission owns a property on Fahm Street that houses the vitally important J.C. Lewis health and dental programs. The property is in good repair and has an assessed value of \$3.2 million. If this building were transferred to the County for 2.6 million, not 3.2, Union Mission would be completely debt-free and it would help secure the use of that building for the vital purposes that it serves. A bond to cover that transfer would cost the County \$225,000 a year for 20 years. This would not be an inconsequential amount at any time and especially at this time. We read in the newspaper almost daily and have heard today the difficult decisions y'all make and have to make among very worthwhile organizations. If Union Mission's board cannot raise the \$700,000 we've pledged, we will not ask you to commit anything. But if we are successful in raising the 700,000, we believe 225,000 a year by the County it will enable Union Mission to continue to secure each and every year \$4 million justifies it as wise use of tax payer dollars. In closing I'd like to mention just a few of the services we provide with that 4 million. We provide emergency shelter to over 100 men, women, and children a year. We provide transitional permanent supportive housing to over 600 homeless men, women, and children every year. We provide employment and training services to more than 4,000 registered homeless individuals; we provide counseling programs to more than 1200 people who would be limited in their operations to receive this. We provide – we have the only comprehensive HIV/AIDS housing and clinical programs in the County. And in the jail referral diversion program alone, 30 to 50 new court referrals are made to Union Mission

each – each month. Approximately 250 clients are currently serving in these programs and an average of 20 clients complete the court-mandated counseling program each month. While this does not save Chatham County any money, it does free up seriously overcrowded jail space for the more serious offenders. No decisions are required today. What we are seeking is your consideration during your budget deliberations. Herb McKenzie, Tom Coleman, and I will be in touch with each of you to provide any additional information and answer any questions you might have about this. I'd like to thank you for your service to this community, for your support of Union Mission, and for any consideration you will give this important request.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Odell said, excellent program. A necessary program.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Odell said, absolutely, totally necessary.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. And I'll say this again, it was just mentioned, if you have any material that you would like to give like the last couple of presentations that were made, have it sent over here to the Commission office, to my office, I will distribute it to each of the Commissioners so that they can have that, look it over, while they are analyzing and considering the budget.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Russ [Abolt]? Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry.

Chairman Liakakis said, anybody else on the – on the third row?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I have a question.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Russ [Abolt], if I may, you budgeted \$168,487 for Union Mission this year for debt service. How many years will that last?

Ms. Linda Cramer said, 20-year life.

County Manager Abolt said, 20-year life. I don't know how much is left.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we did this –

Ms. Cramer said, 18 more years.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. We did this a couple years ago –

County Manager Abolt said, it was recently.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so 18 more years with the \$168,000 commitment. I do believe that was one of our better investments on return for the dollars, but I do – you're all very well aware you're probably one of the only non-profits that's even receiving monies in the proposal from the Manager right now, and, you know, again, I know this makes good financial sense, that's why I supported it in the past, and – and show us those dollar figures you're going to save in next years budget and maybe, you know, somehow we can try to work something like that in there that will actually save us even more. So – but it's tough. Thank y'all.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Anybody else on the third row? Fourth row? Anyone on the fourth row?

Ms. Jackie Ogden said, good morning. I'm Jackie Ogden, County Coordinator with UGA Cooperative Extension here in Chatham County. Also representing the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens. First I will thank you very much to the Commission for your long stay support of the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens. Many accomplishments have happened since 2003 with your vision and sight for supporting this 55-acre facility. We could not have accomplished what has been accomplished up to this day if it had not been for citizen support, particularly in the friends of Coastal Gardens who have untiringly raised funds as well as volunteered time to support the effort, coupled with the financial commitment of this Commission and the County. In addition, citizens at large, including master gardeners, members of our naturalist program, extension volunteers, 4-Hers and citizens far and wide through all out – throughout Chatham County have helped to keep this facility not only alive and growing but also prospering. At the same time, this facility has allowed citizens to have a venue to continue to use for personal and family and business gatherings while contributing dollars back in to its livelihood so that we could take the monies from Chatham County and conditioned with the University of Georgia dollars that are provided and citizen input and volunteer input to maximize the return on the investment. I'm here today primarily because there is a proposal of our 50% cut of the County dollars that are provided to the Bamboo Farm for the next fiscal year. Those cuts will impact our work force. There are three full-time positions that are paid for with County dollars as well as their benefits and two part-time positions. Those positions would become in jeopardy. At the same time over these years, the University of Georgia has put in a work force as well paying 100 percent of those salaries and benefits. But more importantly, our new master plan would have not been launched if it were not for the insight of our folks with Friends of Coastal Gardens. Our president Mr. Alan Beals is here to share what is happening not only at the farm but what continued full-funding we are requesting of the Commission for the next fiscal year. Mr. Beals.

Mr. Alan Beals said, thank you Jackie [Ogden], and ladies and gentlemen it's a pleasure to be – be before you again. As Jackie [Ogden] has pointed out, we are – we're engaged in a major development effort at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens. At the present time, we have three gardens that are significant – nationally significant bamboo, of course. We have 65 some species of bamboo, but we're far more now than a bamboo farm. We have the largest and most diverse collection of camellias east of the Mississippi. We have a – a nationally recognized iris collection, and we are about to launch for the first time a – a new bamboo maze that will be the first in the United States. If you – if you go to Google, and you put in bamboo maze, you get two in the world, one in Denmark, one in southern France. The largest one and the – will be the new bamboo maze at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens. This will be a major new attraction for the community, for the children of the community. We have already started on that project. It will be completed in about 18 months. We expect to dedicate it and open it in the fall of 2012. In addition to – to these facilities, we have just yesterday received 700 sasanqua plants that will be as a new beauty wall on I-17 and Canebrake Road. The entire two perimeters of the Bamboo Farm. They – those will be in bloom in the months of

November and December. The Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens is transitioning into a 24/7/365 facility. The positions that you fund, those five positions are maintenance employees. All of them are at risk in a 50% cut. This kind of a facility, if you've been there lately, is in the best condition for visitors of now over 100,000 a year. People who visit here from all parts of the United States, but primarily used by Chatham County citizens. This is a facility that is becoming – across the board, you can go there any day of the year and there will be something that will be an enrichment and an educational experience for the citizens and particularly the children of this community. This spring alone more than 4,000 children grades kindergarten to fifth grade participated in our educational roots and shoots program where children come from these schools, they are – they're given a – a – a program run by volunteers and learning about plants, how they grow, how they fit into your – into their home garden, and they've got something to take back with them to plant in their own backyards. This is a – this is an incredible developing facility for all of the people of Chatham County. We encourage your continued support, and we thank you for that support that you have been giving to us. We're excited about the future, and about the other developments that we have underway.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, I was here along with a couple other people in 2001 when we were facing a \$12 million deficit, and I guess I got to play a lot of the bad guy then and not raising taxes, and I guess that's the role I seem to be taking here today. Y'all have done a great job here. Jackie [Ogden], before I finish, is your husband teaching seniors next year at St. Vincent's?

Ms. Ogden said, I don't – I don't believe so.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Good. Good. All right.

Ms. Ogden said, still chemistry and physics though.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, the Bamboo Farms, as y'all well know, and I want the public to understand this part of it, back some years back the State of Georgia cut \$150,000 funding. The County Commission at that time, we were fairly prosperous because of all the growth. We were able to come in at that point and take up the – the, you know, help out. We funded the full \$150,000 from several years back, and – but now times are tough again, and basically, y'all are wonderful but the reality of what we're facing with 100 layoffs of the County, and – and I don't mean this with any disrespect, but not only does this expense fall into the non-essential services for County, it falls into like the times are great expenses of the County, when money was just rolling in here. We could afford to help what the State of Georgia – help them because they failed to do their job. But when times are tough and the realities we're facing telling 100 people they're – they're laid off possibly or all of you, which that's you too, that your taxes are going up when – when you may not have the money to cover your current taxes, it's tough. The Manager I thought was very gracious with his proposal of cutting it in half, down from basically 150 to his proposal 90 – well –

County Manager Abolt said, 71 –

Ms. Ogden said, 71 –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, 71,456, and again, that's – if you look at it in – in the scheme of what we're having to look at or what I believe we have to look at, that's – that's at least three jobs out of that 100 right there. Again, thank y'all. Times are tough. I don't know what's going to happen. Like they said, this is a discussion, but should you hear a proposal from me that says I recommend cutting the entire thing, I just want you to know why, and – we appreciate you though. Thank you.

Mr. Beals said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Mr. Beals said, all right, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, yeah, Gabrielle [Hunter] wanted to ask you a question, Alan.

Youth Commissioner Gabrielle Hunter said, thank you. I wanted to know what exactly is a bamboo maze?

Mr. Beals said, a bamboo maze – I think most people are familiar with corn mazes, you know, they lay out a design on the ground and encourage people to find their way through the maze to – to a successful outcome on the other side. We're instead of using corn, we're going to be using bamboo, which we have a lot of. And the bamboo maze will be an exciting attraction for – for youth and for – and I believe for adults as well. It's a – it'll be a very exciting proposition for kids. We know from the experience of the corn mazes out in the Midwest and so forth, that – indeed there are even some here in the State of Georgia, corn mazes, that attendance at these kind of venues and so forth becomes a very exciting opportunity for – for young people, particularly children to enjoy.

Youth Commissioner Hunter said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank y'all very much. Oh, wait a minute. Anika [Smith]?

Youth Commissioner Anika Smith said, Anika. It's Anika. Are you – is this – is there only one located in Savannah?

Mr. Beals said, yes.

Youth Commissioner Smith said, okay.

Mr. Beals said, yes. Just the – it's on Route 17 just south of – of Abercorn Extension.

Youth Commissioner Smith said, okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, Alan [Beals], before you leave, I think the Bamboo Farm is an essential service.

Mr. Beals said, thank you, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, I want you all to know, and I visited with my grandkids and that is a wonderful place. We got tennis courts and soccer fields galore, but we only have one Bamboo Farm. I think it's a major attraction. It's that ingredient that makes this a civilized community.

Mr. Beals said, just in the last few days we went through the strawberry picking season. To see the hundreds of children from the schools and so forth, the excitement in their faces, the sparkle in their eyes, the smiles, as they picked the strawberries, sampled a few here and there, wonderful, wonderful and exciting venue. Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman? In that perspective of beauty and everything nice, I agree, it's an essential service. I want you to know where my thought pattern comes from. The Manager's proposal includes not filling all of the gaps at the CNT. Fighting drugs in this country, that's essential to me.

Mr. Beals said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so right now we're – we're – at this point, I'm looking at a budget that has 90 something thousand, or whatever dollars for bamboo, and I don't mean that disrespectfully, but not filling a job to fight drugs – I'm not worried about a piece of bamboo coming out and killing me. I'm not worried about it hurting my kid, but, you know, again, essential to me, no disrespect, and I just want you to know where I'm coming from.

Mr. Beals said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, its – it sounds great, and we can all hold hands up here and sing like it's great, bad things are coming down the pike with this budget no matter what. It's either going to be a tax increase or things are going to get cut, and I'm sorry for explaining what – what I really believe my heartfelt thoughts on what's essential and what's not in government.

Mr. Beals said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank y'all very much.

Mr. Beals said, thank you. We do – and we do use community service folks who come out –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, sir. Y'all are awesome. You really are.

Mr. Beals said, so we're working on that side of the equation as well, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you, Alan [Beals].

Ms. Ogden said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, anybody else on the fourth row?

Ms. Judith Goethe said, I'm referring back to what Dean [Kicklighter] said, Kicklighter, which is essential to him. This is my son. He is essential to me, and you're talking about closing the only gym in Savannah that will take handicapped people and help them accomplish something.

Chairman Liakakis said, give your name.

Ms. Goethe said, I'm Judith Goethe.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, and then –

Ms. Goethe said, this is my son, Everette Goethe –

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah and –

Ms. Goethe said, he is handicapped –

Chairman Liakakis said, – explain, please, about what you're talking about closing so that everybody will know.

Ms. Goethe said, the gym out there by Memorial Stadium is the only gym in Savannah that these people can go to. We have some parents out here. There's two other children out here. We're very concerned about it. You look at them and you say, oh, these are just medals. These children work three hours at least a week. They go out of town and they compete with other mentally handicapped children. They work as hard for these medals as we do to pay for a car. They are very important to these children. He started at – at Jenkins. The bus would carry him out to the gym; he fell in love with it as a sport. If you play ball and you close a field, you have other fields you can play on. He has no place else to go. Okay? Now I know you're very concerned about your budget. I'm concerned about my child.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll surprise you. My budget proposal will keep every service you're talking about for your child.

Ms. Goethe said, 'cause they've already been –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so –

Ms. Goethe said, they've already been cut one time 33%. I saw in the paper that they're cutting \$200,000, which will close the gym.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, ma'am, if I may. I consider the government's role essential to help those citizens who may not necessarily be able to provide all of the – the help needed for themselves. I think that's number one essential thing this government should do. And –

Ms. Goethe said, but is it in your budget to help keep –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, ma'am.

Ms. Goethe said, – the \$200,000?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, in fact I presented an option last year's budget that would have combined a public/private partnership and the entire program would have been self-sufficient within one year. I believe we'll be able to eat the cost, bring in the public/private partnership again and run that at no cost to the tax payers here, and your children and everyone will still be able to benefit from that. So it's –

Ms. Goethe said, but you can't guarantee it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I can't guarantee anything.

Ms. Goethe said, no.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm one person and that's a –

Ms. Goethe said, because I don't know how many others up there would vote the way you're saying the way we need to vote.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me explain this to you so that everybody knows.

Ms. Goethe said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, you know a number of the Commissioners are not, you know, talking about how they feel, what their ideas are, how they're going to approach the budget and all of that, so we don't want anybody out there – we have a Commissioner he's making a statement, but we want everybody to know now because we're not saying how we're voting, you know, in here.

Ms. Goethe said, I understand that.

Chairman Liakakis said, because we've got to go through a lot of things and all. So we want everybody to know, please don't get, you know, in despair or something until we see what we can do.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if it were a dictatorship, we'd be all right if I was running it right now.

Chairman Liakakis said, does anybody else want to speak in your – about your –

Ms. Goethe said, I don't know if any of the other people that are out here would want to speak or not. I've got some behind me.

Chairman Liakakis said, come forth and identify yourself, please.

Mr. Daniel Ware said, my name is Daniel Ware, I live in the Bluffs off President Street. I'm the guardian of one 34-year-old autistic man who lives with us. He's not going to go out and rob anybody this weekend. He's not going to use drugs. Being retired from Savannah Impact, I've dealt with most of that. Let's take care of those that can't help themselves. That's all.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Ladies, any one of you want to speak?

Ms. Jean Akers said, my name is Jean Akers and I've been involved with the gym for about seven years, and the City of Savannah buses the people in. They come a lot of them on wheelchairs and this is their great opportunity. They look forward to going there, and there's this one young man, he is wheel-chair bound, and he has learned to get – lay on the floor, which he can't walk, he can get in his wheelchair in 37 seconds if he has a fire in his home or something happens to him. So he has learned life skills that will save his life. And all these things that these – we call them children but they're adults, that they enjoy in this place is a great opportunity for them and it gives them value and purpose, and they just can't talk enough about today's the day I go to the gym. Today's the day I work out. They work out on machines. They – they strengthen their upper body and lower body. They learn social skills. They travel all over the State of Georgia, and they've been to Miami to represent the City of Savannah. So these are citizens that can't speak for themselves, but they speak for the – Chatham County. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Appreciate it. Thank all of you for coming. Okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, may I ask a quick question of staff, please? And it's nothing – I need to ask them if they can provide something for us. Russ [Abolt], would it be possible to provide us with a number should the entire Chatham County staff receive a furlough day? The amount of money that the County would save if everyone in the County took one furlough day. And that's the understanding also, I know the first thing popped in my head was public safety, you don't lay off – or you don't ask – you can't furlough –but they – that's staggered so not everyone's taking a day, because in this economy it just makes great sense to me that everybody takes a tiny hit rather than watching 200 of our brothers and sisters or whatever go, you know, without a job. So I – I believe it'd be a lot of money, and I believe that a little bit of sacrifice on all our parts could possibly save a lot of people and a lot of programs at – at this point. So if we could get that number, I think it would be really good.

County Manager Abolt said, sure. Be happy to.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Thank y'all very much. Anybody else on the fourth row? You want to speak about the same subject?

Mr. Joe Steffen said, this issue, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, and – and in the time element?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh yeah, and Russ [Abolt], include the – include the Commissioners if by law it can be furloughed.

Mr. Steffen said, members of the Commission, I'm Joe Steffen. I am the attorney and also the Government Affairs

Director for Savannah State University. I am here to talk on the issue of Anderson Cohen, but I want to first thank you for your ongoing and continuing support of Savannah State University and bring you greetings from our new president, Dr. Dozier. She had hoped to be here today to greet you, but she's at the MEAC conference in Norfolk and dealing with our new membership in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. As you know we are the only Division I athletic program in this area, and we very much are opposed to the closing of Anderson Cohen Weightlifting Center. And it's not just for the Olympians past and the Special Olympians here in the room and the future Olympians that train there, but it's on behalf of the Savannah State University Athletic Department. As you know, we want our athletes to be stronger and faster and more competitive as we enter into this conference affiliation, and we currently train and partner with the center in order to develop our young men and women athletes in Savannah State University. As many of you know, Savannah State's been a very good partner of the county's. We have shared the use of the track complex for over ten years. Savannah State University has solely borne the cost of the upkeep of that facility. So in a sense, we've been more than good partners, and we would ask you that you continue to be good partners with us.

Mr. Steffen said, if I might also take my additional two minutes and take my SSU pin off for just a moment, I want to briefly address one issue as a tax payer and as a father, and a father also of one child who has some special needs. As you all know, we here in Chatham County are recovering from a very fragile economy, and we're just in the beginnings of that recovery. Our economy is still very fragile. My entire adult life we've been talking about all the supply side issues, but it's time that we pay equal attention to the demand side. In this economy, the very worst thing this Commission could do is cut 100 jobs. Those folks will be drawing unemployment from the State impacting negatively on the State budget; they will stop buying our goods here in the County; they will stop going out to eat paying our restaurants; and yes, their families will stop going to Savannah State University 'cause they won't be able to afford it. I would suggest to you, and I would urge you to show the courage that even if it requires raising revenue to do so, I will tell you on behalf of my family, on behalf of myself and my wife, if we had to pay 2 or \$3 extra a year on some service or some assessment because we were going to save 100 jobs here in Chatham County, we would happily do that. Don't cut any jobs in this economy.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Anybody else on the fourth row?

Commissioner Odell said, Joe [Steffen], thank you.

Mr. Steffen said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, excellent, excellent.

Chairman Liakakis said, fourth row? Anybody else fourth row on the right? Fifth row? Anybody on the fifth row? The sixth row? Anybody to speak? The last row? Okay, we'll start here on my left here. Anybody on the first row would like to speak? Come up and identify yourself, please.

Ms. Lakesha Green said, good morning to the Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Lakesha Green. I serve as the Executive Assistant, as well as the Theater Director for AWOL, All Walks of Life, Incorporated, and on behalf of Tony and Davena Jordan, who in their absence due to a prior engagement out of town, I stand before you this morning in reference to funding of juvenile delinquency prevention. Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, we'd first like to thank you kindly for supporting us in the past despite these economic times. I can truly say that our – your dollars have afforded us – you were stewarded in providing us the greatest impact possible to keeping our young people safe and off the streets. Attached you will find a letter, as well as a 2010/2011 report with numbers, as well as impact that – and deliverables that we did for 2012 and 2011. Since 2007, AWOL has successfully stewarded over \$130,000 in juvenile delinquency grant funds via federal pass through a grant of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and have administered by the Governor's Office Children's and Families. These funds have allowed AWOL to develop an Arts and Technology program with prevention programs and afforded us the opportunity to work with over 500 Chatham County youth and for them to have access to after school programs and nightly and arts and technology activities. Unfortunately, effective since May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2010 this funding relationship came to an end. We are simply asking you and the community in all its efforts to sustain this program here in Savannah. We are a valuable resource and we recognize that we are to our youth, to our parents, and our teachers, but most of all to our local juvenile court system. In addition, AWOL has leveraged this program 100% with in kind partnerships, as well as cash funds. In closing we are proud to announce once again that AWOL, relentless support and partnership, AWOL has been selected once again as the 2011 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, awarded by the President's Committee. That means that Chatham County and AWOL has won once again. This was selected by the President's Committee and not only that, it's efforts that we've done in this community. Being a part of this elite list of arts groups says that we are deemed the top. We are the best. And without your support and your continued support we want to be able to sustain here in Chatham County. Once again thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact us. Like I said before, attached there's a letter and our report to you all. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Appreciate that.

Commissioner Shay said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, anybody else on the second row, I mean first row? Second row, please?

Mr. Harry South said, thank you, Chairman, my name is Harry South. Thank you Commissioners. Ms. Stone. Hey, I'm here for the Howard Cohen/Paul Anderson real quick. I'm just going to speak on a different level. As you know, they do a great program for the special needs children out there. Also too, this area is the only place that a child could go to to go and participate in any type of weightlifting whatsoever. There's a great part of minorities, females, young male athletes that are trained in this area. Speaking to the hardship that's going on right now in this country is that a lot of people do not have the means or the money to go and work out at say a YMCA or Gold's Gym or something like that. They don't have that. As you know healthcare is a big issue. Prevention should be the number one issue. A lot of people are not using the facilities for prevention. Is the fire department underneath the County?

County Manager Abolt said, no.

Mr. South said, no, okay, well I noticed a lot of the fire departments do work out at the nicer facilities, so I think especially insurance or something in the healthcare industry for 25 years. I know prevention is a key issue to getting insurance down, so I don't know if the Commissioners ever thought about your County employees for their healthcare, their insurance to get a bigger prevention program in tact because I know there's a lot of County employees that might want to use that area instead of spending the extra money going to those – those areas.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a great wellness program now that we encourage all of our employees, you know, for their diet, their exercising –

Mr. South asked, where would that be at, Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis asked, excuse me?

Mr. South asked, where would they go at to facilitate?

Chairman Liakakis said, well, I mean, they've got the ability if they want to to go to the gymnasium, but we've got plans in there that our Human Resources department has set up to help our employees because we know as you mentioned about insurance, you know, on that. So, we thank you very much for your comments on this subject.

Mr. South said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, you're welcome. Anybody else on the second row?

Commissioner Farrell said, Harry [South], weren't you recently inducted in the Greater Hall of Fame of Savannah?

Mr. South, yes, I was.

Commissioner Farrell said, congratulations.

Mr. South said, thank you.

Mr. Howard Cohen said, Mr. Liakakis and Commissioners, my name is Howard Cohen, I am the owner of Howard's Gym. This is 59 years of business in Savannah. I'm also the President of Team Savannah, who has the contract with the County to run the Howard Cohen/Paul Anderson Weightlifting facility. I'm very disturbed at what's happening. Naturally I'm interested in the success of the – of the gym itself, and all of you on the Commission know the progress that has been made there. Team Savannah as far as competitive weightlifting has fulfilled all the possible dreams of the Olympic legacy that was put in effect 16 years ago. Of four facilities, weightlifting, track and field, soccer, and the swimming, the Team Savannah is the only group that was able to produce Olympians. We produced three Olympians in that period of time. Beyond that, you – you met some of the folks from the Special Olympics, that's part of our program. We brought in to the facility the Special Olympic group. It's been very successful, and you've got people training there as they told you that could not go any place else and train. Mr. South was here and told you about the young boys training for potential success athletic. At their young age they cannot go to gyms and train. This Team Savannah has made provisions for them to come. I understand budget, and I understand debt. I was very surprised to see that it was not mentioned of reductions, it was total closure. Closure to Team Savannah would be a kiss of death. It takes years to produce what we have done, and as is all – as in all athletic events which you're familiar with, you get to the top and you stay there for a while and then all of the sudden, you're not there anymore, that's because of getting older and new ones coming up, and you have to start the program over again, which we've done. And we're in the process now of developing for the next group to come and take over. To put us out of business would be disastrous. And I know that a number of you on the Commission have made up their mind one way or the other, and naturally I'm trying to convince the ones that's on the borderline to see our way. We would appreciate some consideration. All I got was what was in the paper. They singled out the weightlifting facility as closure. They didn't mention about anything else. I don't know what's the total picture. I don't know if you at this time know the total picture, but and there was a mention about somewhere down the road there would be money and this would be able to start back again. Well I've been in Savannah for a long time, and I've seen a lot of conditions where they mention the bad situation and they knew it was going to get better, and I just say, if you know it's going to get better, please consider not voting to close down the facility. We would appreciate another avenue. Thank you very much for your help.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Okay. Thank you, Howard. Anybody else? Let's see, all right, let's go to the fourth, fifth, sixth. Anybody in the last – the sixth row or the seventh row? Okay. Then we now – since we've heard the people for this particular public hearing and our Commissioners, as I stated, we will be working on this budget. We've got a lot of work to do on that, and the County Manager and his staff will be working with us so hopefully in the not to distant future that we can come up, you know, and give good information, hopefully, to our citizens. Okay. We thank you. The – now we are closing the public hearing and beginning our agenda item again.

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-2**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

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

**ISSUE:**

To hold a Public Hearing on the Chatham County fiscal year 2012 budget as required by State Law.

**BACKGROUND:**

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

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- (1) A Public Hearing was advertised on May 12, 2011 in the *Savannah Morning News* to be held at 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 27, 2011.
- (2) Copies of the proposed budget were made available to the public in the Finance Department and the main branch of the Live Oak Public Library on the date the budget was presented to the Board, which was May 13, 2011. Copies of the proposed budget are available at all branches of the library.
- (3) On a date at least one week before adoption, Chatham County is required to hold a public meeting. The budget adoption must be advertised at least one week in advance.

- (4) The budget adoption was advertised on May 18, 2011 in the *Savannah Morning News* for Friday, June 24, 2011, budget adoption.
- (5) The budget for fiscal year 2012 covers the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) Proceed with the public hearing on May 27, 2011 and adopt the FY 2012 budget on June 24, 2011.
- (2) Reschedule the hearing and adoption of the FY 2012 budget and re-advertise within limits established by State Law.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

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

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

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

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

"On a date after the conclusion of the hearing required in subsection (f) of Code Section 46-81-5, the governing authority shall adopt a budget ordinance or resolution making appropriations in such sums as the governing authority may deem sufficient, whether greater or less than the sums presented in the proposed budget. The budget ordinance or resolution shall be adopted at a public meeting which shall be advertised in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection (e) of Code Section 36-81-5 at least one week prior to the meeting."

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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**3. REQUEST BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A \$100 WATER & SEWER ACCOUNT ADJUSTMENT FOR SERVICE CHARGES FOR MR. DAVID GROOVER AT 102 REMINGTON DRIVE. Staff recommends denial of the adjustment.**

Chairman Liakakis said, item 3, request Board consideration of a \$100 water and sewer account adjustment for services charges for Mr. David Groover at 102 Remington Drive. Staff recommends denial of the adjustment.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, Mr. County Manager.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, pardon me. This is – these are one of those rare occasions in which a customer of our utility system wishes to exercise their right based on charges given to them as a result of their activity or inactivity. In this particular case, a few weeks ago Mr. Groover at the address the Chairman identified into the record called me. He has had difficulties in paying his water and sewer bill. On two occasions we have assessed a surcharge on it, and in the past too there has – has been an issue of tampering with the meter. An additional charge was initially put on for tampering with the meter, that was adjusted. Any way there is a problem in the way Mr. Groover perceives his responsibility as a rate payer but he has a right to come forward to you. But it is my very specific recommendation you deny this request but certainly Mr. Groover will have the opportunity to present his case to you now.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, any questions? Go ahead, sir.

Mr. David Groover said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, thank you. What happened and – and – well I'll address the part about the tampering which Mr. Burt Matthews came out and – and said there was no tampering, and he took that off. But one of his technicians, I guess, had said that. But anyway, back when y'all vote, I don't know a year or so ago, to raise the water rates, you were talking about budgets and hard times, I could talk about that for well over five minutes. But anyway, I had spoken to Ms. Stone, who is my Commissioner, and asked her about raising the rates when I was, you know, when I was already having trouble paying all my bills, not just my water bill, and she'd said, you know, that that's what y'all had decided needed to be done for various reasons, and kind of recommended that the reason – one of the reasons was that people would, you know, watch their usage more closely. Which, if you will look at my bills, I've watched my usage very, very closely. What's happened two times, March being the first – or the first time I spoke with Mr. Deschenes, Roger Deschenes, who's in finance, back in March, paid my water bill, but they had assessed a \$50 additional fee – the water bill was \$60 or \$70 and they had assessed another 50 'cause I – I was late. I was late twice. And I did pay the bill fully and spoke with Mr. Deschenes about possibly doing something about the \$50 charge because it was a huge charge on a relatively small bill, which I paid it as soon as the funds were available to pay it. And I had spoke to him about that and it was – I was under – my – I – I don't want to mis-speak for him, but it was my thought that he was going to see about helping me out with that. Then this last water bill, when it came in, again I paid it and paid it late, and there was another \$50 assessed because I was late. It was a \$62.50 bill, and I was assessed a \$50 late fee on that. I – I'm not asking to do anything about the water bill, I paid both of them. But I didn't pay the – the late fee of \$50 on either one of them, and then they cut me off, or – or said they cut me off, and they came out again and said I had tampered with the meter. Well, Mr. Burt Matthews, who's I think over that division, he actually personally came out. I talked to him and requested that he please come out to tell him I had not tampered with it. He came out, he found the lock, who he said his – his technician put on my meter. It was in the ground. It was not – he said you would have had to have special gear to cut it off. It was functional, I guess, and he took that assessment off. So even though Mr. Abolt did speak about metering tampering, there was no meter tampering nor was there any

evidence of meter tampering, and if Mr. Matthews were here, he could address that. But he did take that – he was – he came out. He was very professional, and he took that off. But there are two – I was late twice. No question about it. I'm not denying that. It was just, you know, it's just – it – it's just budget, you know, trying to – trying to pay what I can as quick as I can.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Mr. Manager, do we have any information about an employee, you know, about that thing about the tampering?

County Manager Abolt said, that was – that was – that was waived because of the situation that couldn't initially be proved. You – you have before you now whether or not you wish to waive the penalty fee which has nothing to do with tampering. I'm just trying to – my presentation and also from Ms. Cramer and Mr. Drewry that this is not the first instance. There is – there is a habit here, and the gentleman has been very forthright where he's making his choice to pay bills based on priority, and the water utility apparently is not his highest priority. And staff can only do what the ordinance says, and for non-payment, we put on a late charge. This is not the first occasion. In fact, you'll see in Fact and Finding number 2 it goes back to August of last year, and there seems to be a habit to ignore the utility bill, and that's why I'm making a recommendation to you that you do not allow the forgiveness of the late fee.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to make sure the Commission is informed that several months ago we – we learned that we had a delinquency problem in our water bills, and the County Attorney was instructed with finance to do something about it. We sent out letters and told people they either needed to pay or get on a payment plan or else we would take them to court. About half of the people responded to that letter and have brought their bill current. This week a letter will be going out with a draft of a lawsuit against each of the other individuals in the – to take them to Magistrate's Court. What we intend to do is to send them a copy of the draft suit and tell them you've got ten days to make arrangements, and then we will, if they – if they do not respond, we will take them to Magistrate's Court. And what I am trying to tell you is that we can't have selective enforcement here, okay? These other people who are delinquent, I'm sure they have good stories. So that's all I'm saying.

Commissioner Odell said, do we have a threshold limit though? My understanding is there should be something known as the diminimus rule, which to me means that if it's such a minuscule amount, we're going to pay a Magistrate Court filing fee, which potentially – the filing fee is more than this guy's bill.

County Attorney Hart said, we don't have to pay that Magistrate's Court filing fee.

Commissioner Odell said, so they wouldn't have to pay it if we collected it.

County Attorney Hart said, correct, and what we – and all of these that we are pursuing are – are delinquent, delinquent. We're not going after the guy that's one month behind or whatever.

Commissioner Odell said, I – I – yeah, my guess is we don't have a lot of options but my – my legitimate concern, I believe, is that most people if you're talking about this amount would pay it other than – rather than go through the having to come here and ask us to forgive it. There are a lot of people who are experiencing extreme hard time. I mean extreme hard time and to the point that every little penny is a substantial. Unlike say the – the for-profit companies that lack human compassion, the County is us, we are all the citizens of this community, and being all of the citizens of this community, I would hope that we would take a little greater consideration and whether we can or not is – where we can. This gentleman is under extreme duress, and, you know, I don't know if there is anyway we could waive it. Even though it's not in my district.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, this \$50 charge, I'm assuming that that is the straight across the board charge –

County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Stone said – for delinquent payments.

County Manager Abolt said, \$100.

County Attorney Hart said, \$100. It's two.

Commissioner Stone said, well I know he's got two, but where I'm going is it's – that's what's assessed to everyone? It's not a percentage of their bill? It's a straight \$50 charge.

County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Stone said, and is there any warning before this charge is implemented?

County Manager Abolt said, yes. Yes there is. But again, you know, it's your call. I don't want to – I don't want to say – I – I don't want to take a lot of your time and the customer's time. If – you have discretion, and – and without asking you to do much more, you have options. I'm recommending for the sake of the integrity of the enforcement to deny because of the history. But you're – you're serving as – as judges here. You – you can say forgive it and then if it happens again no more – no more breaks.

Commissioner Odell said, technically we can't do that.

County Manager Abolt said, Ms. Cramer said also she'd be glad to work with the gentleman to have him over time pay his penalty. But the issue is the enforcement of the penalty and what appears to be on more than one occasion an instance in which the water bill was paid late. Our option was to assess the penalty.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, wait a minute, it's – James [Holmes] had his hand up.

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Groover?

Mr. Groover said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, the information that was given to us here. A check that you made – you made out to us – made out to – supposed to been made out to Chatham.

Mr. Groover said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, but Groover made the check payable to Cheat em. Did you wrote that check, sir?

Mr. Groover said, I did, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, is that –

Mr. Groover said, I was frustrated that day, and I did.

Commissioner Holmes said, frustrated with who?

Mr. Groover said, the – the person I was talking to and I was asking them to – to help, and, you know, it was – in the last couple years financially with taxes and this, I had a lot of dealings with Mr. Powell – Powers with taxes. Got them all paid but was behind. Was behind. Been behind on –

Commissioner Holmes said, take you're time.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay –

Mr. Groover said, I just – I've been behind on a lot of bills.

Commissioner Holmes said, so that was from the missed –

Mr. Groover said, I was very frustrated with the County at the time. It wasn't even to do with the water bill, it was more to do with taxes.

Commissioner Holmes said, all right, thank you, sir.

Mr. Groover said, over five – a bunch of taxes, and – and I was trying to get – I had – I had appealed something and it – it didn't go in my favor, and I paid the taxes late, and I was trying to then get the assess – the – the penalties and interest – help on that because I – I had appealed it, and I – I lost the appeal, but by the time the appeal process was over the tax deadline had occurred so then I was in to – and – and I didn't understand. Mr. Powers did say you should have paid your taxes, then appealed it, and then if there was any coming back, but I didn't pay them and waited the appeal, and I was very – thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, you can take as many of those as you want.

Chairman Liakakis said, just hold it right there a minute.

Mr. Groover said, it's just frustrating.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, I appreciate the fact that you would come forward to us in this way and – and obviously with the humility that you have and, you know, to allow us to consider this and – and the way that you obviously struggled. What I would like to do is make a motion to instruct the County and appropriate staff to work out a payment plan so that you can pay the County what the bill is because we – we just – we have to do it that way, but that you would not have to humiliate yourself any more, and I can – I can infer from the way that you've come forward today that, you know, you're doing the best that you can, and we're doing the best that we can, and for a citizen to be in a situation that you're in, there is no need for us to go on in a televised meeting here and continue this process. That motion is that we can't forgive the penalty but we will instruct staff to work with you to spread that payment out over a period of time that's reasonable but that also something that is not so much of a burden to you.

Commissioner Stone said, and I'll second that –

Mr. Groover said, they did give me that opportunity.

Commissioner Stone said, I'll second that motion.

Mr. Groover said, and I – I can actually pay the – I've got the \$100.

Commissioner Shay said, they'll – they'll work it out.

Commissioner Stone said, they'll work it out with you.

Mr. Groover said, okay.

Commissioner Stone said, and I'll second the motion.

Mr. Groover said, it – it was just that it was such a large penalty on a fairly small bill.

Commissioner Shay said, I understand.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, we have a motion on the floor. We need a second.

Commissioner Shay said, Helen [Stone] has already seconded.

Commissioner Holmes said, Helen [Stone] has already seconded it.

Commissioner Stone said, yeah.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay wait a minute. Okay, we have a vote on – let's go on the board.

Commissioner Odell said, so we wish you a good holiday.

Chairman Liakakis said, and they will work with you on that.

County Manager Abolt said, before he leaves the building, Ms. Cramer will set a time to work it out.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes.

Mr. Groover said, thank you –

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you for coming.

Mr. Groover said, – Mr. Chairman and Commissioners.

Commissioner Shay said, I'll pay 20 of it right now.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Shay moved that the penalty has to be assessed, but to instruct the County and appropriate staff to work out a payment plan. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director  
 Robert W. Drewry, Director of Public Works & Park Services

**ISSUE:**

Board consideration of a \$100 water & sewer account adjustment for Service Charges for Mr. David Groover at 102 Remington Drive. Staff recommends denial of the adjustment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Only the Board of Commissioners has the authority to approve an adjustment.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Customer Name and address: Mr. David Groover, 102 Remington Drive, Savannah, GA 31406.
2. Mr. Groover has been a Chatham County water & sewer customer since May 3, 2007. Mr. Groover is appealing two \$50 cut-off charges, one from March 2011 and one from May 2011.
3. On March 9, 2011, Mr. Groover's water service was cut-off for non-payment. His meter was locked. When Mr. Groover contacted Finance water & sewer staff to find out why his water had been cut off, he indicated he had problems receiving his mail. He stated he had not received his regular bill from January 28, 2011 or his delinquent bill from February 27, 2011. He also said the bill from his insurance company had been returned to them as undeliverable. Water & sewer staff verified that the mailing address in the system was correct.
4. Mr. Groover paid the regular portion of his bill (\$62.50), but did not pay the \$50 Service Charge. He asked if we could waive the Service Charge due to the mail problems. Staff denied the request due to his history of late payments which led to cut offs on 4 previous occasions.
5. Mr. Groover's next bill was mailed on March 25, 2011, also for \$62.50, plus the balance forward of \$50.00. This bill was due April 15, 2011. Mr. Groover did not pay the bill and a delinquent bill was mailed to him on April 26, 2011. Mr. Groover still did not pay the bill and he was placed on the cut-off list for May 10, 2011. The instruction was to lock the meter. Another \$50 Service Charge was added to his account. Mr. Groover placed a check in the amount of \$62.50 in the Eisenhower Drive payment drop box which was picked up on May 11, 2011.
6. Since no reconnect fees had been paid, the customer should not have had water service. Finance staff requested Public Work to inspect the meter for possible tampering with the lock. Public Works went out, saw no lock, and proceeded to remove the meter. As a result, a \$200 meter tamper fee was assessed. Later this fee was removed after the Public Works water & sewer Superintendent went out and determined that the meter had not been locked. The meter was reinstalled.
7. Mr. Groover has expressed dissatisfaction with Chatham County's application of late payment Service Charges in the past. In fact, on August 6, 2010, he wrote a note which he sent back with his payment stating: *"I have been told my payment was several date late which I am not disputing, as I didn't write the check until funds were available. But a \$50 Late Fee on a less than \$100 bill? This is terrible that in this economy a County would try to gouge the citizens like this."* Furthermore, Mr. Groover made that check payable to "Cheatem", not Chatham, County and wrote *"In Protest of \$50.00 Fee"* in the memo section.

**FUNDING:**

Not applicable.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

Again, only the Board of Commissioners has the authority to approve such an adjustment request.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board of Commissioners denies the request.
2. That the Board of Commissioners approves the write-off of \$100.00.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1 is recommended.

Prepared By: Roger Deschenes

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#### **4. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next on the agenda, CNT monthly report given verbally by Director Ragan.

Director Everett Ragan said, good morning, Mr. Chairman, Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Holmes said, good morning.

Director Ragan said, just a quick – keep it real short today.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right.

Director Ragan said, very quick back in April we had 92 investigations we started; 67 we closed out. Highlights were \$118,000 worth of marijuana received – that we confiscated. A little over \$6,000 in pills that we picked up. Most of our work again continued to be in the City of Savannah. However, with the – with the municipalities, Garden City still continued to be one of our – our hottest areas. Just running right on down to the – we had 45 arrests, four of those which were misdemeanors, and we picked up 17 guns off the streets. I'm sorry, Mr. Abolt, I – I didn't need that right now. But – and we looking at significant events, some of the cases we looked at, you see some marijuana we picked up off of one investigation. We turned that investigation into – these little – these plants here were actually ladies who were about 60 years old who were still reliving the 60s and they – they were growing marijuana and selling – and selling prescription drugs on the side, and – and she liked to smoke marijuana every day. So she was a little over 60 years old. But once we – once we were able to get those plants, then she turned us on to a meth cook. You'll see the remains of a meth cook off Riveria Avenue and the amount of guns the gentleman had at his house. Again, you don't see any assault weapons, but you see guns there that were readily available to the individual when he's high on methamphetamine. He target practiced in his backyard. But we got those off the street in case – in case he had any police officers riding up on the area. So. I would like to touch base just briefly on a very active, ongoing investigation. Yesterday, us, CNT, GBI, and DEA under the umbrella of DEA, that one of my agents and a GBI agent prepared search warrants for – served two search warrants, one in Pooler, one in Garden City. At the same time we were making an arrest in Marietta, Georgia, and DEA was serving search warrants in Boca Raton. Making arrests in Boca Raton, Florida, in reference to one of the pill mills that was operating in Garden City. That investigation is very active and continuing. But fortunately we believe we have been able to – to close that one down. The doctor who was working for them yesterday morning surrendered his DEA license. So he can no longer prescribe the medications, and just a little caveat to that and we – we talk about pill mills, this one particular one – this was – this was very aggressive. They were – they had moved up from Florida, they were operating here. Trying to operate in Marietta; operating in North Georgia and other communities. When we hit the – raided the place yesterday, there were about 15 clients waiting to get in to the pill mill in Garden City. Clients sitting out in their car, sleeping in their cars from overnight were from as far away as West Virginia, North Carolina, South Georgia, just coming up to get the pills. So that was a – that's a good lick for us, and it showed a lot of cooperation between us and the feds and the – and the State beyond that. So.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Everett, because we see that you've done an outstanding job and the drug squad people keep continuing the good job also. We really appreciate that. That really helps out with this latest raid and arrest that you have made. Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Abolt said, I just want to echo what the Chairman said, you know, what the Director just explained is why we have CNT. The aspect of the regional nature, of the scourge we have in abuse of prescription drugs, they're right on it. And while Director Ragan and his troops are doing this, they're also pride – as the Chairman referenced I – I know that at least last Sunday they had over 30 agents committed to those – those events and the demonstrations. This is the man that not only is doing what Roy Harris has done for so many years but also had mastered the technique of Director Harris, he has major busts the day or two before he makes his presentation to y'all.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm impressed with that. I really am.

Director Ragan said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Under action – thank you very much, Everett.

Commissioner Farrell said, the criminal – are you trying to say the criminal community should be afraid when we're fixing to meet?

County Manager Abolt said, watch the – watch the Commission calendar.

<p>Chatham~Savannah Counter Narcotics Team</p>	<p>April, 2011</p>
<p>Monthly Report</p>	

NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS	
Investigations:	Number
Investigations Initiated During the month	92
Total Number of Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	67

DRUGS SEIZED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	7.20 Grams	\$720.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	18.30 Grams	\$1,830.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	60.30 Grams	\$6,030.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	844 Ounces	\$118,160.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	1.70 Grams	\$425.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	65 D/U	\$1,625.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	218 D/U	\$6,540.00
Hallucinogens	\$10.00 per gram *	0 Grams	\$0
Synthetic (DMT)	\$40.00 per gram *	0 Grams	\$0

\*Source: Office National Drug Control Policy

\*\* Source: Established regional average price

\*\*\*Source: IAW National Drug Standards – One marijuana plant equals 2 pounds of processed marijuana.

DRUGS SEIZED—YEAR TO DATE		
Drug Type	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	79.70 Grams	\$7,970.00
Crack Cocaine	64.60 Grams	\$6,460.00
Methamphetamine	123.00 Grams	\$12,300.00
Marijuana	2,827 Ounces	\$395,780.00
Heroin	1.70 Grams	\$425.00
Ecstasy	224 D/U	\$5,600.00
Misc. Pills	3,247 D/U	\$97,410.00
Hallucinogens	0 Grams	\$0
Synthetic (DMT)	0 Grams	\$0

DRUGS PURCHASED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	21.40 Grams	\$2,140.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	4.10 Grams	\$410.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	0 Grams	\$0
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	1.00 Ounces	\$140.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	1.4 Grams	\$350.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	0 D/U	\$0
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	39 D/U	\$1,170.00

Source: Office National Drug Control Policy

\*\* Source: Established regional average price

WEAPONS SEIZED	
Firearms (including hand guns and long guns)	17
<b>Year To Date Totals</b>	<b>36</b>

PERSONS ARRESTED*	
Felony*	11
Felony Sales/Trafficking	28
Misdemeanor	4
Felony Non-Drug**	2
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Year To Date Totals</b>	<b>143</b>

\*Felony includes Manufacturing Methamphetamine or Marijuana

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

DRUG COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED		
Drug Complaints	Received	Assigned
Project Log/Official Complaints	1	1
Hot Line / Call-In Complaints	3	3
Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies	2	2
Crime Stopper Complaints	29	28
<b>DRUG COMPLAINTS—YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>127</b>

**DRUG INVESTIGATIONS  
HOURS WORKED BY ZONE**

SCMPD – All Precincts	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,282</b>
Municipalities	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>733</b>
Administrative Hours		685
Case Administration		662
Pharmaceutical Diversions		480
Central Intelligence		480
Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)		128
Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies		9
Training		543
<u>Court Hours</u>		<u>99</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,086</b>
<b>Total Hours Worked</b>		<b><u>6,101</u></b>

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

1. On 04/01/2011, a female subject wanted in a recent investigation that resulted in the seizure of over 1,200 Oxycodone pills turned herself in to agents. She was charged with possession with the intent to distribute Oxycodone and possession of marijuana. (110322021)
2. On 04/05/2011, eleven (11) state defendants in the recent joint DEA/ICE/CNT (MURDOCK-HUTCHINSON) Title III investigation pled guilty in Superior court.
3. On 04/12/2011, CNT received a call for assistance from the Bryan County Sheriff’s department in reference to an active methamphetamine lab located in Bryan County. CNT Agents trained and certified in clan lab responded and dismantled the active lab. Bryan County contacted a hazardous material clean up company who responded to the site and removed the items associated with the manufacture.
4. On 04/13/2011, a CNT agent was driving into work and noticed a subject sitting in traffic rolling a blunt. A marked unit was utilized and the subject was stopped and was found to be in possession of several bags of marijuana, powder cocaine, crack cocaine and a digital scale. The subject was also found to be on active probation from a previous drug arrest.
5. On 04/14/2011, CNT agents concluded a short term investigation involving persons manufacturing marijuana. Agents made contact with two subjects residing in an apartment complex off Apache Avenue. A search of the apartment produced 16 marijuana plants of various sizes. Agent also seized lights, scales, chemicals and other items used to manufacture marijuana.
6. On 04/27/2011, CNT agents concluded a short term Pharmaceutical investigation involving subjects selling Dilaudid. This resulted in the arrest of 4 defendants and the discovery of a marijuana grow located inside a residence on Damascus Avenue. Agents seized approximately 17 large marijuana plants, and various equipment used to manufacture marijuana. Agents also seized approximately 95 pills of Lorcet/Dilaudid, and several bags of dried high grade marijuana.
7. On 04/28/2011, Major Case agents executed a search warrant on Riveria Drive, Savannah, Georgia in reference to the subject manufacturing methamphetamine. Agents made contact with the owner and found him to be in possession of Xanax and a meth smoking device. A search of the residence revealed numerous items (lithium batteries, salt, solvents, coffee filters, blister packs of pseudoephedrine, cold packs, etc..) discarded in two trash cans in the kitchen of the residence. All suspected items were taken outside and sorted accordingly. Additional coffee filters that field tested positive for meth and marijuana were found in the master bedroom area. A search of a storage shed next to the residence revealed a large standing safe that contained an assortment of shotguns, rifles, and handguns. The owner of the residence was charged with manufacturing meth and possession of Xanax.

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Liakakis said, under Action Calendar we have items 1 through Item 7, and under Item 7 we have Items A through L. We need a motion on the floor to approve all items unless you have something you want to hold back.

Commissioner Stone said, I – I don’t want to hold it out, Mr. Chairman, item number 3, the E-911 collection, I just want us to be cognizant of the fact that for the prepaid wireless money there will need to be a Resolution from this County, and I don’t know the time frame on it, but I will find out.

County Manager Abolt said, it’s in – it’s in the late summer or early fall. Linda’s on top of it.

Commissioner Stone said, I don’t want us to miss the deadline so that we can recoup our – or make sure that our monies for the 911 centers get back here through the pre-paid wireless and not just through the contract wireless.

Commissioner Odell said, I’ll make a motion to approve the calendar. Helen [Stone], do you want to pull three or?

Commissioner Stone said, no, I do not want to pull it – I just – I just want to go on record that we need to pass this Resolution so that we are entitled – so that we will be entitled to this money for our 911 centers.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, pull 8-G, please.

Commissioner Odell said, balance of the calendar with the exception of 8 – which one?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's 8-G.

Chairman Liakakis said, which one now?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, 8-G or I can just ask a quick question –

Chairman Liakakis said, eight?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – and we can approve it all whatever.

Chairman Liakakis said, we don't have an eight.

Commissioner Odell said, yes, we do.

Commissioner Stone said, yes.

County Attorney Hart said, it's the next page over.

County Manager Abolt said, rotor blades.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, we – Dean [Kicklighter] wants to hold that one out.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, or I can ask one quick question.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, whatever.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Do we need motion on the floor for all of the – well you made the motion. All of the other items except for Dean's [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Odell said, right. And Helen [Stone].

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, well she doesn't want to hold anything. Let's go on the board. Okay. Go ahead, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. 8-G is replacing of a helicopter main rotor blades of \$50,150. Just curious, looking at the budget, we, being the County unincorporated area residents, they pay for police services through a contract through the City of Savannah. Does the City of Savannah reimburse Mosquito Control per operation when our helicopters are utilized in police –

County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. First off, I'll have to apologize to contradict. We don't have a contract. We have an Intergovernmental Agreement for combined police department. So there is no contract. But Mosquito Control's already funded by M&O. So M&O, all tax payers in Chatham County which definitely benefit from Mosquito Control and the ancillary services it gives in public safety, fire fighting, and all, they already pay for it.

Chairman Liakakis said, 'cause they do a good job, Dean [Kicklighter], especially –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, they do a great job with the helicopter –

Chairman Liakakis said, – you know, fighting fires with that helicopter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, they do an excellent job. I'm not going to vote against the helicopter blade, but, you know, and considering we pay millions.

County Manager Abolt said, but it's an M&O function, see so everybody pays for it.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We need a motion, Dean [Kicklighter] on it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve.

Commissioner Odell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- a. Commissioner Odell moved to approve the action calendar, Items 1 through 8 and under Item 8, Items A through N, except Item 8-G. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Item 8-G. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 13 , 2011, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2011. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 5, 2011 THROUGH MAY 16, 2011.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period May 5, 2011 through May 16, 2011, in the amount of \$6,709,901. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**3. TO PRESENT TO THE BOARD AN ANNUAL RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE NECESSITY OF THE "E-911", WIRELESS ENHANCED "E-911", AND VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VoIP) SERVICES "E-911" CHARGES.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to present to the Board an annual Resolution to Reaffirm the necessity of the "E-911", Wireless Enhanced "E-911", and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Services "E-911" charges. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

**DATE:** May 16, 2011  
**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Linda B. Cramer, Finance Director

**ISSUE:**

To present to the Board an annual resolution to reaffirm the necessity of the "E-911", wireless enhanced "E-911", and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services "E-911" charges.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Board of Commissioners has approved resolutions establishing E-911 charges. The state code requires that the necessity of the charge to be reaffirmed by resolution on an annual basis.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

- 1) As provided for in state law, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution on November 8, 1992, to be effective 120 days thereafter on April 1, 1992, increasing E-911 rates in the unincorporated area and all municipalities with the exception of the City of Savannah from \$.16 to \$1.50. On March 12, 1999, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution reaffirming the need for the charge of \$1.50 per month per exchange access facility.
- 2) On August 13, 1999 the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution increasing the fee to \$1.00 per month charge per wireless telecommunications connection. On April 21, 2006, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution increasing the fee to \$1.50 per month per wireless telecommunications connection to be effective September 10, 2006.
- 3) On December 21, 2007 the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution amending the charge of \$1.50 imposed upon each exchange access facility to include Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Service.
- 4) The Official Code of Georgia section 46-5-134(d)(3) requires that Chatham County reaffirm the necessity for the "911" and wireless enhances "911" charge beginning with the thirteenth month following the month in which the emergency "911" system service is first provided and during such month annually thereafter.
- 5) The charges provide funds to pay for the operation of the E-911 services and for purchase of equipment for such purpose. Under the intergovernmental agreement for police services between the City of Savannah and Chatham County, the County will remit E-911 fees to the City to fund the Savannah-Chatham County Metropolitan Police Department's E-911 functions.

**FUNDING:** Not applicable.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- (1) That the Board of Commissioners approve the resolution for the Chairman’s signature.
- (2) That the Board not approve the resolution.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Official Code of Georgia section 46-5-134(d)(3) requires that Chatham County reaffirm the necessity for the “911”, wireless enhanced “911”, and VoIP “911” charges annually.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

**WHEREAS**, E-911 service serves a life-saving link between people and emergency services by improving response times and the accuracy of automated address location; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County now provides this valuable service to promote the safety, health and well-being of residents of Chatham County and its thousands of visitors each year; and

**WHEREAS**, it remains in the best interests of the citizens of Chatham County to maintain this E-911 service, which Chatham County provides to the unincorporated area and all cities (except Savannah) as a public Answering Point; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County does hereby desire to establish a method of paying for this service that would also reduce reliance upon property taxes for these funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of \$1.50 per month per exchange access facility provided to the telephone subscriber was approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on November 8, 1991, to be effective on the first day of April 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of \$1.50 per month per wireless connection provided to each telephone subscriber was approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on April 21, 2006 to be effective on the tenth day of September 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 13, 1999, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted an amended resolution to impose a wireless enhanced 911 charge within the geographic area that is served or would be served by Chatham County; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 21, 2007, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted an amended resolution to impose an E-911 charge on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service in the geographic area that is served by Chatham County or that would be served by Chatham County for the purpose of such an emergency “911” system.

**NOW THEREFORE**, as required by the Official Code of Georgia, Title 46, Chapter 46-5-134(d)3), the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County does hereby reaffirm the necessity for a monthly “E-911” charge of \$1.50 upon each exchange access facility subscribed to by telephone subscribers whose exchange to access lines are in the areas served by Chatham County’s Public Safety Answering Point, reaffirm the necessity for a monthly charge of \$1.50 per month per wireless connection subscribed to by subscribers whose billing address is within the geographic area that is served by Chatham County or that would be served by Chatham County for the purpose of such an emergency “911” system, and reaffirm the necessity for a monthly charge of \$1.50 per month on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service in the geographic area that is served by Chatham County or that would be served by Chatham County for the purpose of such an emergency “911” system.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these charges remain effective as reaffirmed by the enactment of this resolution.

**BE IT SO RESOLVED ON THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2011.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Liakakis, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Bocook, Clerk

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**4. TO APPROVE A WATER AND SEWER AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND A DECLARATION OF RESTRICTION COVENANTS FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY DETENTION CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a water and sewer agreement between Chatham County and the City of Savannah and a declaration of restriction covenants for the Chatham County Detention Center Expansion Project. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager  
FROM: A. G. Bungard, PE, County Engineer

**ISSUE:** To approve a Water and Sewer Agreement between Chatham County and the City of Savannah and a Declaration of Restriction Covenants for the Chatham County Detention Center expansion project.

**BACKGROUND:** The CCDC is tied into the City's water and sewer systems. The Agreement acknowledges that there will be future expansions. The water and sewer systems being constructed with the initial [current] phase are sized to accommodate the future phases.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The City of Savannah requires all "developers" who tie into the City's water and sewer systems to execute the Agreement. In this case the County is the developer. The Agreement stipulates that the water and sewer systems will conform to City requirements.
2. The water and wastewater fees are established in accordance with the City of Savannah's Revenue Ordinance based on the Equivalent Residential Units. For the CCDC expansion project, however, the City of Savannah agreed "not to impose, charge or otherwise attempt to collect any fees, assessments or connection charges for water and sewer services related to construction, renovation, or expansion of the Chatham County Detention Center within the scope of the capital project as approved by the voters in the 2008-2014 Special Purpose Sales Tax referendum." Upon completion of the Detention Center, the City may charge for normal, periodic usage of water and sewer services at the Detention Center.
3. Fees for the City to televise the sanitary sewer lines [and the storm sewer conduits] will be paid by the County's contractor as part of the construction contract.
4. Not all of the property can be served by the City's gravity sewer lines. There is existing grinder pump station and force main on the CCDC property connecting to the City's sanitary sewer system. The Declaration affirms that the pump station and force mail will be maintained, replaced, and repaired by the County.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To approve a Water and Sewer Agreement between Chatham County and the City of Savannah and a Declaration of Restriction Covenants for the CCDC expansion project.
2. To not approve the Agreement or the Declaration and provide staff further direction.

**FUNDING:** No funds are required for the execution of the Agreement or the Covenants.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** That the Board approve intergovernmental agreements.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Board approve Alternative #1.

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5. **REQUEST FOR A TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2011. PETITIONER: DANIEL R. BERMAN, d/b/a VILLAGE BAR & GRILLE, LLC, located at 3 SKIDAWAY VILLAGE WALK, SUITE A. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a request for a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011. Petitioner: Daniel R. Berman, d/b/a Village Bar & Grille, LLC, located at 3 Skidaway Village Walk, Suite A, Savannah, Georgia 31411. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

TO: Board of Commissioners  
THROUGH: R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES  
WILLIE LOVETT, CHIEF OF POLICE

**ISSUE**  
Request for approval for a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011. Petitioner: **Daniel R. Berman, d/b/a Village Bar & Grille, LLC, located at 3 Skidaway Village Walk, Suite A, Savannah, Georgia 31411.**

**BACKGROUND**  
Mr. Berman requests approval for a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Erich Christoph to Daniel R. Berman.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Marshal inspected the site for compliance and approved the facility.
3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 4

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Willie Lovett

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6. **REQUEST FOR A TRANSFER OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2011. PETITIONER: NIKOLAY A. STOYANOV, d/b/a TROY MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT located at 346 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD, SUITE B. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a request for a transfer of beer and wine pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011. Petitioner: Nikolay A. Stoyanov, d/b/a Troy Mediterranean Restaurant, located at 346 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, Suite B, Savannah, Georgia 31410. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

TO: Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE

Request for approval for a transfer of beer and wine pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011. Petitioner: **Nikolay A. Stoyanov, d/b/a Troy Mediterranean Restaurant**, located at **346 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, Suite B, Savannah, Georgia 31410.**

BACKGROUND

Mr. Stoyanov requests approval for a transfer of beer and wine pouring license and Sunday Sales license in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Roy C. Samuelson to Nikolay A. Stoyanov.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Marshal inspected the site for compliance and approved the facility.
3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 4

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Willie Lovett

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**7. REQUEST FOR A NEW LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2011. PETITIONER: PETITIONER: NIKOLAY A. STOYANOV, d/b/a TROY MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT located at 346 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD, SUITE B. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a request for a new of liquor pouring license for 2011. Petitioner: Nikolay A. Stoyanov, d/b/a Troy Mediterranean Restaurant, located at 346 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, Suite B. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-7**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

TO: Board of Commissioners  
 THROUGH: R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
 FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES  
 WILLIE LOVETT, CHIEF OF POLICE

ISSUE

Request for approval for a new liquor pouring license for 2011. Petitioner: **Nikolay A. Stoyanov, d/b/a Troy Mediterranean Restaurant, located at 346 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, Suite B, Savannah, Georgia 31410.**

BACKGROUND

Mr. Stoyanov requests approval for a new liquor pouring license in connection with an existing restaurant.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.
2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Marshal inspected the site for compliance and approved the facility.
3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

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

District 4

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief Willie Lovett

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**8. 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).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved for 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.) Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Change Order No. 2 to the construction contract for the Administrative Legislative Center to provide additional work for the HVAC upgrade	Facilities Maintenance & Operations	Boaen Mechanical Construction, Inc.	\$14,790	CIP - Facilities Maintenance & Operations

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
B. Annual agreement with automatic renewal option for two (2) additional one (1) year terms to provide five (5) eight (8) Yard Trash containers for non-hazardous waste disposal	Detention Center	Atlantic Wastes Services	\$14,040	<del>General Fund/M &amp; O - Detention Center</del> CIP - Detention Center Expansion Project (3803355 - 54.13009 - 38060407) [Item corrected 5/26/2011]
C. Annual pricing agreement for various chemicals	Mosquito Control	•Adapco, Inc. •Gil Manufacturing, Inc. •Clarke Mosquito Control Products •Univar USA, Inc.	Varies	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
D. Staffing and operations Cost Projection Study for Detention Center expansion	Detention Center	National Sheriff's Association	\$29,500	CIP - Bond Detention 2007
E. 24 desktop scanners	ICS	Entre' Solutions	\$17,616	General Fund/M & O - Sheriff Department
F. 15 desktop scanners	ICS	Entre' Solutions	\$11,010	General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
G. Replacement helicopter main rotor blades	Mosquito Control	Helicopter Technology Company	\$50,150	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
H. Sole Source purchase and installation of two (2) Tampa Style picnic shelter/pavilions at Westlake and Lamarville Parks	Public Works and Park Services	Hasley Recreation and Design, Inc., Greensboro, GA	\$83,865	CIP - Recreation
I. Change Order No. 2, deduction to the contract changes in the scope of work after the last review and project evaluation for landscaping at the Judicial Courthouse	Special Projects	Pioneer Construction, Inc.	N/A	SPLOST (2008-2014) - Courthouse Renovations
J. Two (2) Dell PowerEdge R810 servers	ICS	Dell Computer	\$25,981	General Fund/M & O - ICS
K. Sole source purchase for batteries for the Uninterruptible Power Supply units at the 911 center at the Police Annex	ICS	Nationwide Power	\$17,763	General Fund/M & O - ICS
L. Summary Change Order No. 2 to the construction contract for Quacco Road/Regency Park Drainage Improvement project	Special Projects	R. B. Baker Construction, Inc.	\$21,740	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Quacco/Regency Drainage Project

AGENDA ITEM: **X-8**  
AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
THRU: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER  
FROM: MICHAEL A. KAIGLER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER/  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
SUBJECT: AWARD OF BIDS

**ITEM A**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$14,790 to the construction contract with Boen Mechanical Construction, Inc., for additional work for the HVAC Upgrade for the Administrative Legislative Courthouse.

**BACKGROUND:** On 12 February 2010, the Board approved a contract to Boaen Mechanical Construction, inc., for the HVAC Upgrade for the Administrative Legislative Center.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. It was determined that the existing water source loop is lacking the efficient supply of heat to accommodate the facility, does not provide a continuous supply of hot water throughout the HVAC loop system, and does not maintain a predetermined loop temperature and does not enhance the building comfort level during the winter season. To remedy this issue, the contractor will install a space saver electric hot water boiler.
2. Boaen Mechanical Construction, Inc., submitted the price for this additional work to be \$14,790. The engineering consultant, as well as staff, believes this price to be fair and reasonable.
3. Contract history:

Original Contract (2/12/10)	\$538,296
Change Order No. 1 (4/29/11)	32,795
Change Order No. 2 (pending)	14,790
Revised contract amount	\$585,881

**FUNDING:** CIP - Facilities Maintenance and Operations  
(3501565 - 54.13001 - 35031217)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$14,790 to the construction contract with Boaen Mechanical Construction, Inc., for additional work for the HVAC Upgrade for the Administrative Legislative Center.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

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

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

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

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award a \$14,040 annual agreement with automatic renewal options for two (2) additional one (1) year terms, to Atlantic Waste Services, to provide five (5) 8 yard trash containers for nonhazardous waste disposal for the Chatham County Detention Center.

**BACKGROUND:** Chatham County Detention Center will be undergoing construction and the current trash compactor will be removed during this time.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Requests for Quotes were received and opened on 5 May 2011. The following companies provided quotes:
 

Atlantic Waste Services Pooler, GA	\$14,040 per year
Waste Management Garden City, GA	\$15,276 per year
Republic Waste Savannah, GA	\$17,988 per year
2. Staff believes the total cost of \$14,040 annually for the disposal of nonhazardous waste to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** CIP - Detention Center Expansion project  
(3803355 - 51.12003 - 38060407)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval to award a \$14,040 annual agreement with automatic renewal options for two (2) additional one (1) year terms, to Atlantic Waste Services, to provide five (5) 8 yard trash containers for nonhazardous waste disposal for the Chatham County Detention Center.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

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

**ITEM C**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award annual price agreements for the purchase of various chemicals, in the forms of liquid, pellets and granules from Adapco, inc., Gil Manufacturing, Inc., Clarke Mosquito Control Products, and Univar USA for Chatham County Mosquito Control.

**BACKGROUND:** These chemicals are time release growth regulators used in the mosquito control program.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Pricing quotations required the vendors to commit to holding firm the price for the purchase of the chemicals for a period of one (1) year.
2. The following vendors submitted quotes (see attached matrix for pricing on pages 14-17):
  - Adapco, Inc.  
Sanford, FL
  - Gil Manufacturing, Inc.  
Montgomery, AL
  - Clarke Mosquito Control Products  
Roselle, IL
  - Univar USA, Inc.  
Orlando, FL
3. Staff recommends the four (4) vendors for the purchase of the various types of Altosid. The pricing offered by the four (4) vendors is the manufacturer list cost. Awarding to the four (4) vendors will enable staff to purchase from the vendor that would have the best delivery and would give staff several backup vendors for purchase.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control  
(1005144 - 53.17009)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval to award annual price agreements for the purchase of various chemicals, in the forms of liquid, pellets and granules from Adapco, Inc., Gil Manufacturing, Inc., Clarke Mosquito Control Products, and Univar USA for Chatham County Mosquito Control.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve price agreements for essential and safe chemical products which control the mosquito population in Chatham County.

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

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

**ITEM D**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$29,500 Agreement and Scope of Service with the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) to conduct a staffing and operations cost projection study for the Detention Center expansion.

**BACKGROUND:** Project construction is underway for the Detention Center Expansion with the anticipated completion in the third quarter of 2013. The additional recurring cost of staffing and operating the facility will be an extraordinary challenge for the County's General Fund.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. County staff believes additional input regarding projection of increased staffing and operating costs is warranted.
2. The Finance Director has requested this project and the Sheriff has been instrumental in obtaining the attached consulting proposal from the NSA.
3. A proposal was also received from TATC Consulting, but the \$29,500 proposal from the NSA was most economical.

**FUNDING:** CIP - Bond Detention 2007  
(3803355 - 52.12099 - 38060407)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$29,500 Agreement and Scope of Service with the National Sheriff's Association to conduct a staffing and operations cost projection study for the Detention Center expansion.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve Agreements when the magnitude of the anticipated operating cost for a new facility requires the development of the most accurate forecast possible.

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

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

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$17,616 purchase of 24 desktop scanners from Entre' Solutions for the Sheriff's Department. These scanners will be used at the Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the county-wide implementation of Document Imaging.

**BACKGROUND:** During the process of working on the Document Imaging project for the Sheriff's Office, it was determined the purchase of 24 desktop scanners would be needed to allow multiple users' scanning capabilities within their specific area or office. Scanners are a necessary tool used to implement the document imaging needs of the department.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. I.C.S. staff obtained bids from various vendors, GHA was the lowest bidder at \$734 per unit; while Florida micro and Entre' came in at \$735 and \$790.34, respectively.
2. On 27 March 1998, the Board approved a "local preference" policy which, when a firm from outside Chatham County submits the "absolute low" bid, allows the lowest bidding Chatham County firm to match the "absolute low" bid. If the local firm does match the "absolute low" bid, the local firm is awarded the purchase. As indicated above, a non-Chatham County firm offered the "absolute low" bid. The Chatham County firm was asked if they would match the outside firm's bid.
3. The local vendor, Entre' Solutions, was offered the option of matching the lowest bid received. They accepted this offer and we were able to procure the equipment from a local vendor rather than going to a company with national level distribution.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Sheriff  
(1003300 - 53.16009)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of a \$17,616 purchase of 24 desktop scanners from Entre' Solutions for the Sheriff's Department. These scanners will be used at the Sheriff's Office on conjunction with the county-wide implementation of Document Imaging.
2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of essential hardware to perform necessary functions throughout the County.

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

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

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

**ITEM F**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$11,010 purchase of 15 desktop scanners from Entre' Solutions for the Detention Center. These scanners will be used at the Detention Center in conjunction with the county-wide implementation of Document Imaging.

**BACKGROUND:** during the process of working on the Document Imaging project for the Detention Center, it was determined the purchase of 15 desktop scanners would be needed to allow multiple users' scanning capabilities within their specific area or office. Scanners are a necessary tool used to implement the document imaging needs of the department.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. I.C.S. Staff obtained bids from various vendors. GHA was the lowest bidder at \$734.00 per unit; while Florida Micro and Entre' came in at \$735.00 and \$790.34, respectively.
2. On 27 March 1998, the Board approved a "local preference" policy which, when a firm from outside Chatham County submits the "absolute low" bid, allows the lowest bidding Chatham County firm to match the "absolute low" bid. If the local firm does match the "absolute low" bid, the local firm is awarded the purchase. As indicated above, a non-Chatham County firm offered the "absolute low" bid. The Chatham County firm was asked if they would match the outside firm's bid.
3. The local vendor, Entre' Solutions, was offered the option of matching the lowest bid received. They accepted this offer and we were able to procure the equipment from a local vendor rather than going to a company with national level distribution.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Detention Center  
(1003326 - 53.16009)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of a \$11,010 purchase of 15 desktop scanners from Entre' Solutions for the Detention Center. These scanners will be used at the Detention Center in conjunction with the county-wide implementation of Document Imaging.

- 2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of essential hardware to perform necessary functions throughout the County.

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

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

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

**ITEM G**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$50,150 purchase of replacement helicopter main rotor blades from Helicopter Technology Company of Los Angeles, CA.

**BACKGROUND:** Mosquito Control staff conducts aerial missions with three (3) helicopters and one (1) airplane. Staff performs the required annual, and 100 hour inspections on all aircraft. Time life components are replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements that are FAA approved.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. Chatham County owns and operates four aircraft; three MD 500 helicopters are used for mosquito surveillance inspection flights, both immature and adult mosquito control missions, police operations, firefighting, and several emergency support functions including search and rescue, and damage assessment; one Air Tractor airplane is used for immature mosquito control and firefighting.
- 2. The main rotor blades installed on the helicopter purchased in 2004 are reaching the maximum number of flight hours allowed by the FAA.
- 3. The helicopter would have to be grounded in the main rotor blades are not replaced.
- 4. The main rotor blades in question have been in service since July 2000.
- 5. Mosquito Control Aviation staff has received three (3) quotes:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Helicopter Minit Men, Inc. Columbus, OH	\$54,975
Heli-Mart, Inc. Costa Mesa, CA	\$52,400
Helicopter Technology Company Los Angeles, CA	\$50,150

- 6. The Helicopter Technology Company provided the lowest quote of \$50,150 for the five (5) main rotor blades.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control  
(1005144 - 53.17009)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Request Board approval of a \$50,150 purchase of replacement helicopter main rotor blades from Helicopter Technology Company of Los Angeles, CA.
- 2. Provide staff with other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to support environmentally sound, cost effective mosquito control operations.

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

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

**ITEM H**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an \$83,865 sole-source contract to Hasley recreation and Design, Inc. For the purchase and installation of two (2) Tampa Style picnic shelter/pavilions at Westlake and Lamarville Parks.

**BACKGROUND:** Since 2003, the Board has approved sole-source contracts with Hasley Recreation and Design, Inc., for these same shelters/pavilions for Tom Triplett Community Park, Runaway Point Park, Grays Subdivision, Runaway Point Park and Lake Mayer respectively.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. The two (2) new shelters will replace existing shelters that have deteriorated to the point that repairs are not feasible.

- 2. For continuity and standardization, staff believes continuing to sole-source these structures to be in the best interest of the County. It is anticipated maintenance issues will cost less in the long term having this uniformity and allow staff to expedite repairs and purchases.
- 3. Hasley Recreation and Design, Inc., Greensboro, GA, will provide the installation in accordance to all County codes. The frames are rated with a wind load of 120 mph.
- 4. The shelter for Westlake Park is 26' x 26' for a price of \$46,920. The shelter for Lamarville Park is a smaller 24' x 24' shelter, but is the same style as the Westlake Park shelter. The price for the Westlake shelter is \$36,945. Staff believes the price from Hasley Recreation to be fair and reasonable.

**FUNDING:** CIP - Recreation  
(3506100 - 54.13009 - 35030427)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval to award an \$83,865 sole-source contract to Hasley Recreation and Design, Inc., for the purchase and installation of two (2) Tampa Style picnic shelter/pavilions at Westlake and Lamarville Parks.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

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

**ITEM I**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Change Order No. 2, in the *deductive* amount of \$6,273 to the construction contract with Pioneer Construction, Inc., an MBE firm, for changes to the scope of work after the last review and project evaluation.

**BACKGROUND:** On 11 February 2011, the Board approved a construction contract to Pioneer Construction, Inc., for landscaping improvements at the Judicial Courthouse.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

- 1. On 8 April 2011, the Board approved Change Order No. 1 for additional scope of work due to unforeseen site variations that surfaced after the project was initiated. The principal issue that initiated the change was excessive water collecting at the MLK Boulevard side of the project. The optimal decision was to design a catch basin to collect water and drain it into the sewer at MLK Boulevard.
- 2. After review, it was found that much of the Change Order No. 1 work was made redundant by site modifications. The catch basin was made a moot issue as a result of contour modifications at the pooling area. Other changes resulted from modifications made to the design during this review.
- 3. The project manager, along with the landscape architect, has evaluated the project and believes the project will not be compromised by the change order and would result in a net savings to the County of \$6,273.
- 4. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (02/11/11)	\$116,741
Change Order No. 1 (04/08/11)	\$ 7,897
Change Order no. 2 <i>Deduction</i> (Pending)	\$ (6,273)
Revised Contract Amount	<u>\$118,365</u>

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2008 - 2014) - Courthouse Renovations  
(3244980 - 54.13011 - 32460427)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of Change Order No. 2, in the *deductive* amount of \$6,273 to the construction contract with Pioneer Construction, Inc., an MBE firm, for changes to the scope of work after the last review and project evaluation.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve *deductive* Change Orders when it is in the best interest of the County.

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

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

**ITEM J**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$25,981 purchase from Dell Computer for two (2) Dell PowerEdge R810 Servers for I.C.S.

**BACKGROUND:** These servers will be used for replacement for two (2) very large older servers that are used for the VMWare Virtual Infrastructure, they are out of warranty and have exceeded expected life.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The I.C.S. department has determined that the servers that multiple departments use for many internal services, executing within VMWare, are nearing the end of the current support agreement and should be replaced.
2. These items are being purchased from Dell Computer using the State of Georgia Contract pricing. The pricing includes five (5) years of on site support and mission critical four (4) hour dispatch technical support.
3. These computers are instrumental in the Green Initiative in Chatham County by allowing the power consumption to be reduced nearly 10% for the included servers.

**FUNDING:** General Fund/M & O - I.C.S.  
(1001536 - 52.22001)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Request Board approval of a \$25,981 purchase from Dell Computer for two (2) Dell PowerEdge R810 Servers for I.C.S.
2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of essential hardware to run needed software applications used throughout the County.

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

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

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

**ITEM K**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$17,763 sole source purchase from Nationwide Power for battery replacements for the Uninterruptible Power Supply units at the Police Annex, located at Police Memorial Drive, and the Building Safety Offices, located on Eisenhower Drive.

**BACKGROUND:** All critical devices at each location utilize these UPSs, including the 911 center.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Request Board approval of a \$17,763 sole source purchase from Nationwide Power for battery replacement for the Uninterruptible Power Supply units at the Police Annex, located at Police Memorial Drive, and the Building Safety Offices, located at Eisenhower Drive.
2. Provide other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** it is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of essential hardware to run needed software applications used throughout the County.

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

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

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

**ITEM L**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of Summary Change Order No. 2 to the construction contract with R. B. Baker Construction Inc., in the amount of \$21,740 for the Quacco Road/Regency Park Drainage Improvements project.

**BACKGROUND:** The Quacco Road/Regency Park Drainage Improvements project is a part of the Chatham County Drainage Improvement Program. The project involved replacement of the cross drain culvert at Quacco Road and a new storm system parallel to Quacco Road from the canal crossing to Quacco Trail. Final clean-up work was completed in April 2011.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The project is located along Quacco Road in Unincorporated Chatham County. Problems associated with the existing canal drainage system included moderate flooding of the Regency Mobile Home Park and the Willow Lakes Subdivision attributed to the low elevations near the Quacco Canal and the limited drainage capacity of the existing culverts.

- 2. The original contract involved replacement of the cross drain culvert at Quacco Road and a new storm system parallel to Quacco Road from the canal crossing to Quacco Trail. A previously approved change order extended the improvements from Quacco Trail to the entrance road of the Willow Lakes Subdivision.
- 3. The contract for construction was awarded as a unit price contract to R. B. Baker Construction, Inc. This change order represents measurements of final quantities installed at the contract unit prices.
- 4. Contract history:

Original Contract	(10-16-09)	\$931,800
Change Order No. 1	(8-13-10)	\$222,113
Change Order No. 2	(pending)	\$ 21,740
Revised Contract Amount		\$ 1,175,653

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (1998 - 2003) - Quacco/Regency Park Drainage  
(3224250 - 54.14021 - 32280387)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1. Board approval of Summary Change Order No. 2, to the construction contract with R. B. Baker Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$21,740 for the Quacco Road/Regency Park Drainage Improvements project.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

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

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

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Chairman Liakakis said, okay. That's it. You've had information items given to you, and we need a motion on the floor –

County Manager Abolt said, do First Readings, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, First Reading.

County Manager Abolt said, you have to do First Readings.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, the First Reading, yeah.

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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. **MODIFY THE CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE FOR VARIOUS FEES AT THE AQUATIC CENTER, INCREASE SOLID WASTE FEE AND AMEND SECTIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITY TAXES – CABLE TV FRANCHISE FEES AND HOTEL/MOTEL TAX.**

Chairman Liakakis said, there's no vote on it today. Just one second. Item one, modify the Chatham County Revenue Ordinance for various fees at the Aquatic Center, increase Solid Waste fee and amend sections relating to Public Utility Taxes – cable TV franchise fees and hotel/motel tax. Of course there's no action or vote on that today. So that concludes the agenda.

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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).**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
200 traffic sign posts and hardware	Public Works and Park Services	Vulcan, Inc.	\$4,644	SSD-Public Works
Misc. office supplies	Detention Center	VIP Printing & Office Supply (WBE)	\$5,967	General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
One (1) compressor case half	Mosquito Control	Heli-Mart, Inc.	\$5,500	General Fund/M & O
Automotive tires for stock	Fleet Operations	Pep Boys	\$2,717	Inventory Account
One (1) starter generator	Mosquito Control	Heli-Tech, Inc.	\$3,200	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
Annual maintenance for software support for the virtual server	I.C.S.	DLT Solutions, Inc.	\$3,999	General Fund/M & ) - I.C.S.
150 finished stop signs, 75 blank signs	Public Works and Park Services	Vulcan, Inc.	\$4,258	SSD-Public Works
Annual UPS maintenance agreement	I.C.S.	Nationwide Power Solutions, Inc.	\$5,420	General Fund/M & O - I.C.S.
57 tons of asphalt hot mix	Public Works and Park Services	Carroll & Carroll, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$5,70	SSD-Public Works
Annual fire alarm test and inspection service agreement	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Simplex Grinnell	\$2,509	General Fund/M & O - Various SSD - Building Safety
One (1) new outboard motor with power tilt controls	Mosquito Control	River Supply, Inc.	\$5,295	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
Steel framing for new chlorine storage area	Aquatic Center	Omega Steel, Inc.	\$5,400	General Fund/M & O - Aquatic Center

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**3. ROAD AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.**

A status report was attached as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 ROADS**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** R. E. Abolt, County Manager  
**FROM:** Leon Davenport, P.E., Assistant County Engineer  
**ISSUE:** To provide information on the status of Chatham County road projects.

**BACKGROUND:** Funding priorities for projects using Federal aid are established in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For awarded construction contracts, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates.

**FACTS AND FINDING:**

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. Construction underway. Estimated completion December 2013.

2. Diamond Causeway. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) awarded a design/build contract in 2009 to LPA/United Contracting (joint venture) to construct a two lane high level bridge over Skidaway Narrows to replace the bascule bridge. Construction ongoing with an estimated completion of September 2013.
3. Whitefield Avenue. ROW was certified to the GDOT on June 23. Permitting and design are complete. The GDOT will let the project in July 2011.
4. Bay Street Widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct. ROW plans approved by GDOT. Right of way acquisitions are on hold pending assessment of alternatives to minimize impacts to historic properties. Public Information Open House was held on April 28, 2011. Coordination with the GDOT, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Federal Highway Administration (FWA) is ongoing. Next step is approval of Assessment of Effects by the GDOT, which will then be forwarded to SHPO for concurrence. A decision should be received in the next 3 months.
5. Local Roads.
  - a. Kings Ferry Boat Ramp roads and parking. Under construction. Ramps and parking area are closed to public use. Board awarded a contract on August 13. Contractor terminated for cause on May 16, 2011. Surety Company has 25 days to respond. 30 days of construction will complete the project.
  - b. Fenwick Avenue/Medford Street. Paving of dirt roads is under construction. Paving phase is complete. Estimated completion date of project is May 31st.
  - c. Intersection improvements at King George Blvd and Grove Point Road. Construction plans complete. Utility relocation in progress. County Contract with GDOT complete. Board awarded a contract on February 11, 2011. Notice to Proceed issued April 27, 2011. Scheduled completion November 2011.
  - d. Billings Road. Construction underway. Paving complete. Estimated completion date is May 31.
  - e. Elmhurst Road. Beechwood Road and Ridgewood Road. Design complete. ROW acquisition underway.
  - f. Wright Avenue. Design complete. ROW acquisition underway.
  - g. Faye Road and Hunt Road Bridges. Designs to construct replacement bridges are expected to be complete by August 2011. ROW acquisitions are underway on both projects. Anticipate soliciting bids for construction contracts in September 2011.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.

Districts All

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE**  
**AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2011**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

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

**FROM:** A. G. Bungard, 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 SR21 to the Savannah River (Phase 1) was completed in 2005. Construction of Phase 2A which includes improvements from Phase 1 to Dean Forest Road is underway.
2. Hardin Canal. The Hardin Canal extends from Bloomingdale to Salt Creek near US 17 (over 12 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, bridges and culverts. Projects that replaced culverts at SR 307 (Dean Forest Road) and within the Southbridge golf course area are complete. Staff is investigating permitting issues and the need for further improvements.
3. Golden Isles. The project will relieve neighborhood drainage issues including structural flooding of homes with the construction of an upgraded storm sewer system. Staff is soliciting bids for construction and expects to present a recommendation for award of a contract for project construction by July 2011.
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. Design work is underway on the design of five undersized culverts along the canal.
5. Queensbury Drainage Improvements. The project area is south of Montgomery Cross Road and west of Ferguson Avenue (includes Tara Manor, Ennis Mobile Home Park-Elmhurst Court, and the Forest City Gun Club.) Construction is underway on a project to improve drainage from the Tara Manor area and a mobile home park.

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. Construction of drainage improvements along the perimeter of the subdivision is complete.
7. Louis Mills/Redgate Canal. The Louis Mills and Redgate Canals are tributaries to the South Springfield Canal. Work to upgrade an additional culvert is underway. Construction of drainage improvements from the CSX railroad to a point upstream of Garrard is complete. A project to enable access for maintenance west of Veterans Parkway is under construction. Staff is reviewing alternative concepts to extend needed drainage improvements within the system.
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). Phase II was completed in June 2010 (replaced five undersized culverts south of and under Vidalia Road). Final design plans of improvements to replace undersized culverts at Yemassee Road and Ridgeland Road are complete. Required permitting is underway.
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. Construction of drainage improvements serving the Willow Lakes area and Regency Mobile Home Park area was completed in April 2011.
10. Laberta-Cresthill Area. The project will relieve flooding within the Cresthill Subdivision. An engineering firm evaluated the storm water drainage system and the outfall to Hayner's Creek. The Board approved a construction contract on April 29, 2011. Construction will begin in June 2011.
11. Norwood Drainage Outfalls. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance. The Board approved a construction contract on March 25, 2011 to improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance at Norwood Place. Design work is also underway for the outfall at Skidaway Road.
12. Henderson/Gateway. Drainage is provided by the Little Neck Canal and the Henderson Branch Canal (combined length 2 miles). Development of the subdivisions led to increased rates and volumes of storm water runoff which the canals cannot handle. A project to replace the golf cart culvert and culvert at Henderson Oaks Drive is complete. Staff is investigating further improvements to facilitate improved drainage from the Gateway area.
13. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. The project will be accomplished in phases. The first phase to replace the storm drain pipe at Beaulieu Avenue was completed in January 2010. The second phase will replace three undersized storm drain pipes and reshape the existing ditch. Staff is in the process of acquiring required easements for access, construction, and maintenance.
14. 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.
15. Skidaway Road. The project will improve roadside drainage and address vehicle safety issues along a portion of Skidaway Road near Wormsloe. Construction is underway.
16. 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. Final design work and permitting is underway.
17. Lehigh-Shipyard Lane Area. The project will relieve roadside drainage issues causing nuisance flooding in the Lehigh Avenue and Shipyard Lane area. Staff is in the process of acquiring required right of way for construction and maintenance. Final design plans and required permitting are expected to be complete by July 2011.
18. Wahlstrom Road. The project will address drainage and maintenance access along the portion of Wahlstrom Road north of the railroad tracks. The drainage infrastructure in the area received infrequent maintenance in the past due to extensive industrial activities in the area and lack of access. Current work is directed toward identifying ownership and responsibility of existing infrastructure and locating existing drainage easements and rights of way.
19. Wymberley Area. The project will address inadequate neighborhood drainage including road side ditches, culverts and rear yard areas not accessible for maintenance of public systems. Current work consists of property and jurisdictional wetland delineations to be used to develop preliminary design alternatives.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.  
Districts: All

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## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Liakakis said, and on the – for – we need a motion on the floor for executive session for –

County Manager Abolt said, personnel, litigation.

Chairman Liakakis said, for legal matters.

County Manager Abolt said, personnel and litigation.

Chairman Liakakis said, and personnel.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, have a motion on the floor and a second. Let's go on the board. Motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

After motion by Commissioner Stone and a second by Commissioner Holmes to recess into Executive Session for personnel and litigation matters, the Board recessed at 11:25 a.m. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote. Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. **CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Upon motion being made and seconded to appoint Natalie S. von Loewenfeldt to serve on the Chatham County Board of Tax Assessors with a term to expire June 27, 2012, the motion was voted on and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman Pro Tem declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm.

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**APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF JUNE, 2011.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION**