

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 9:27 a.m. on Friday, September 23, 2011.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Helen Stone for the Invocation.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please bow your heads.

Commissioner Stone gave the Invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Liakakis said, in the audience this morning, I'd like to – one of our heroes that's in the military, I'd like to call on him this morning for the Pledge of Allegiance. I'll introduce him later. So Colonel Kovaleski, who is the Garrison Commander, the head of the Hunter Field Army installation now.

Lieutenant Colonel Ed Kovaleski led all in 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 our county clerk, Janice, for the roll call, please.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

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

Not Present: Patrick K. Farrell, District Four

Chairman Liakakis said, I need a motion on the floor to excuse Commissioner Patrick Farrell who's out of town and won't be back until Wednesday or Thursday of next week.

Commissioner Odell said, so moved.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, have a motion on the floor and a second to excuse Commissioner Patrick Farrell. Let's go on the board. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to excuse Commissioner Patrick Farrell from the meeting. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- 1. PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 8, 2011 AS SAVANNAH UNITY BICYCLE RIDE DAY TO BENEFIT THE WOUNDED WARRIORS PROGRAM. ROBERT BENDETTI WILL BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE THE PROCLAMATION.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next item, under Proclamations and Special Presentation. There'll be a proclamation declaring October the 8th, 2011, as Savannah Unity Bicycle Ride Day to benefit the Wounded Warriors Program. Robert Bendetti will be present to receive the proclamation. And Robert [Bendetti], if you will have Richard [Barrow] and the wounded warrior to come forth to you.

Mr. Robert Bendetti said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Richard Barrow, if you will come forth and anybody else that's with the group for this.

Commissioner Shay read the proclamation as follows:



WHEREAS, the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) began when several veterans and friends who were moved by stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq, took action to help others in need; and

WHEREAS, the idea to hold a bicycle ride to raise money and awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project was conceived by CSM Estevan Sotorosado, a Blackhawk helicopter pilot and member of the 3rd Battalion 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne); and

WHEREAS, having been deployed before completion of the plans, he needed assistance putting the event together. Richard Barrow, Kevin Jackson, Reggie Sykes, Guy Soper, Jennifer Bendetti and Robert Bendetti along with support from Chairman Pete Liakakis have stepped up to make this recreational bicycle ride a reality; and

WHEREAS, what started as a program to provide comfort items to wounded service members has grown into a complete rehabilitative effort to assist warriors as they recover and transition back to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah Unity Bicycle Race is a gathering of citizens, soldiers, kids and families all riding bicycles to support those who gave so much in their service for our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, Saturday, October 8, 2011 as:

SAVANNAH UNITY BICYCLE RIDE DAY

in Chatham County and encourage citizens to support this 3 mile Fun Ride and the athletes 30 mile recreational bicycle ride that will take place October 8, 2011 in downtown Savannah on Bull Street between Perry and Liberty Streets to raise money and awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 23rd day of September 2011.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Gail F. Gordon, Administrative
Assistant to the Chairman

[Applause].

Mr. Bendetti said, thank you very much.

Commissioner Shay said, it's my pleasure.

Mr. Bendetti said, thank you, and before I introduce Glenn [Kunkel], I just wanted to say thank you – you all. You've been very helpful and – and Pete [Liakakis] in particular if I can. I – I know you wouldn't want me to, but I just want to – to – to specifically say to you, you've been very gracious and – with your time, and you've been so helpful to this event, and we just really, truly appreciate it. I'd like to now introduce Glenn [Kunkel]. Glenn [Kunkel] at 17 years old enlisted in the Marine Corps and has served for 10 years, several tours in Iraq. He was injured in battle. He has received the Purple Heart, the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement medal, and the Iraqi Freedom Campaign medal. He was medically discharged due to his injuries and has been helped by the Wounded Warrior Project, enrolled in college, and is now a – a speaker and part of their program trying to help more wounded veterans. And I'd just like to introduce Glenn [Kunkel] and thank Glenn [Kunkel] for all that he does with the Wounded Warrior Project.

[Applause].

Mr. Glenn Kunkel said, good morning.

Chairman Liakakis and members of the Board said, good morning.

Mr. Kunkel said, thank you all very much for your – your extension of courtesy to my brothers and sisters in – in uniform, my brothers and sister – sisters that have transitioned out of uniform by proclaiming October 8th Wounded Warrior Project Unity Day. I can't tell you how much this means to me. It – it really is – impacts me on a – on a personal level because I know that when I left the Marine Corps I left a big part of me in the Marine Corps, and a – a part of me that was so big that I didn't even realize that I had that much of me to give away. And the Wounded Warrior Project's helping me to put that back together, and, you know, they are doing it by using the communities. The communities are stepping up to get these things done. And of all the places that I ever went in the Marine Corps, all of them were pretty nice places, you know, even when they were in the Anbar Province of Iraq, the one common denominator was that they had lost their sense of community, and I can clearly see that that's not something I'm ever going to have to worry about here in my own nation. So thank you guys very much for your effort and courtesies.

Chairman Liakakis said, we want to thank you also, and as we know, we have a number of people that have, you know, been discharged from the Marine Corps and all, but one of those who is a big supporter and talks about it all the times and put things together is our County Manager, Russ Abolt, and, of course, he always says, as many Marines do – all of them, that once a Marine, always a Marine. So it's not something that, you know, you just get out of the service, but you continue to be a Marine. And we thank you very much for what you're doing for Wounded Warriors and speaking out about that particular project because we know in many instances where we see in the news that unfortunately that we have a number of wounded warriors that not getting all the assistance that they need and this is very important because we need to, as always, is to support the military, to lobby for them, and to make sure that the funds are there and that we have a strong military to have our freedom protected because once you reduce the military services, what happens is it makes us vulnerable. And we need to have a strong military, and we need those veterans and others who have fought to be taken care of also with their benefit plans. So thank you very much, and may God continue to bless you.

Mr. Kunkel said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes, Briyona [Brack]?

Youth Commissioner Briyona Brack said, I have a question?

Mr. Bendetti said, yes?

Youth Commissioner Brack said, if someone like a Wounded Warrior or a person did not know how to ride a bicycle and wanted to participate, would there be like someone putting them in the program on Saturday?

Mr. Bendetti said, yeah, they could participate in a couple different ways. One, there – there have been people who have volunteered – they have special bikes that can allow for participants, and then also if they just like to volunteer for the event, they are welcome to do that. They can come out to where we're having our block party just for the comradery and either volunteer or just shake hands and clap.

Youth Commissioner Brack said, thank you.

Mr. Bendetti said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Robert [Bendetti].

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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Liakakis said, let me introduce Briyona Brack. She's on the executive board for the Chatham County Youth Commission, and she represents Savannah Arts Academy. And what we have here at every County Commission meeting we have one or more members of the Chatham County Youth Commission to participate in our County Commission meetings, which is really important. And we have the number one Youth Commission in the entire country because Priscilla Thomas, who had this vision, and she's the one that brought it to the County Commission a number of years ago and it continues and all of those members have really progressed and many of them have gone to higher heights in our area and around the country. Thank you for being here this morning, Briyona [Brack].

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, next on the item –

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, – we have another – oh, excuse me, Priscilla [Thomas], go ahead and do that now.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Before we – thank you so very much. I would like to acknowledge one of my constituents who is in the audience with me, who is shadowing me today. She is Mrs. Powell. She is the secretary of the Homestead Exemption Community Organization in Garden City, and she wanted to shadow me today. So we want to welcome her today. Would you please stand and let everybody see you and thank you so much. [NOTE: Mrs. Powell stands. Applause]. Thank you very much.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

2. PROCLAMATION AND PRESENTATION TO LARRY LOWER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a special presentation today. I'll talk about it after it's done. This presentation is to Larry Lower for his years of service from the Board of Assessors, and we'll call on our former Chief of Police and County Commissioner, David Gellatly, to do the presentation. Larry [Lower] and you – Lori [Brady], your daughter, and anybody else that might be – want to come up there, please come to the podium also.

Commissioner Gellatly said, Larry [Lower], the Chairman took away some of my thunder, I was going to invite you to come up here and in police terminology, enjoy some face time on the TV with me, you know, so. But at any rate, you know, in February or even before that in 2002, if most of you can remember we had some rather turbulent times in the Board of Assessors' office, and I'm putting that kindly. We had a lot of bad publicity, and – and we deserved the bad publicity, and we – we had a lot of – we had a real tough job that needed to be taken care of, and we were fortunate enough to go ahead and pick a really tough guy to help us clean this mess up, and – and he did. You know, Larry Lower is someone I've known a long time. Someone that's a personal friend of mine, and someone that comes from good stock. A former Savannah police officer, and also a former police chief in Harvey, Illinois. Harvey, Illinois is located in south Chicago. It's completely surrounded by south Chicago if you can imagine that. It's one of the toughest cities in America, and it was typically a city of about 30,000 that the chief of police lasted about six months, if he's lucky. Larry Lower left – lasted for three years and left because he wanted to, and that – that's one huge accomplishment. And he's one – he's one tough dude. I want to tell you that. Now I'm going to go ahead and read this plaque.

Commissioner Gellatly read the special presentation as follows:



Larry L. Lower
Chairman and Vice Chairman
Board of Assessors

February 8, 2002 - May 27, 2011

In Appreciation for bringing stability and calm to the Board of Assessors during a turbulent time and for working tirelessly in promoting the Assessor's Office through the hiring of more staff, improvement in technological resources and better equipment. We salute you for working with property owners from every part of Chatham County ensuring that they were treated fairly and equitably.

Pete Liakakis
 Chairman

R. E. Abolt
 County Manager

Commissioner Gellatly said, and believe me, this is a well-deserved plaque. This is a man that has done this and more than what's stated in – in this plaque, and I'm personally very proud of him, and our community should be very proud of him, and we're going to give you a very heavy – I want you to know, Larry [Lower], this is not particle board, this is real walnut.

[Applause].

Commissioner Gellatly said, and – and before he talks, and he talks a lot, I want to recognize his – his daughter, Lori Brady, long-time member of the school board, and she has inherited his nicer traits. Larry [Lower's] not – I never – in this whole thing, I never said Larry [Lower] was a nice guy, you know, he's not, he's a tough guy, and sometimes you need a tough guy. Go ahead.

Mr. Larry Lower said, thank you Mr. Gellatly. I – I do want to say one thing to Russ Abolt, we should have made this Marine Corps day because us Marines took charge here. And – and I'm glad that I had the background when you chose me to – to come on the Board. I really appreciate the opportunity that you gave me to serve the – the community in the – in the manner that I did. With – with that said, no one person is responsible for – for what occurs and what we do and what we're able to accomplish. You as – as Commissioners know that, that it takes many people. And the Board of Assessors, there's five members. It took every one of those individuals to go along with what we had to do, recognize the problems that were there and help solve those problems. And with that, then it passed on down to the staff. The staff is one of the best I've seen around in a long time. They work tirelessly to – to give this community something that is equitable in the property values, which nobody agrees with. No one agrees with them. They're – they're at odds with the community to start with, and they've work tirelessly towards that, and without them doing their job in a professional manner, along with the Board, there's no way we could have done what we've accomplished over the years, not at all. And again I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to end my basically 40 years of public service in this manner. Because it – it's been really rewarding for me to serve the community and you. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Larry [Lower] –

Mr. Lower said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, – we'd like to thank you on behalf of the Commission for your service. And of course, I've been knowing you many years too. I met you a number of years ago when you were on the Savannah Police Department and served all the citizens, you know, and did a lot of good things in the community. And of course appreciate your service in the Marine Corps. As I said, once a Marine, always a Marine we know but also your service on the – on the Board. A lot of people don't understand that the Assessors' Board and the Assessors is a separate operation. It's a separate – separate government entity. The County Commissioners have nothing to do with setting values on peoples' property, that is handled by the assessors and the Board of Assessors oversees that particular department. And it's really important that we have people in there that look and study and do the things that's necessary to help the people in our community. So again, thank you very much for your service in many, many areas. We really appreciate that, and we pray that God will bless you and, you know, and keep you for a long, long time.

Mr. Lower said, thank you very much. Thank you all.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

[Applause].

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Liakakis said, next what I'd like to introduce someone from the military who has had a – a long career in the Army and has graduated upward and has been recognized for his service to the Army and has done a – a – a really good job in his career and all. And I met him a few months ago, right after the change of command. As we know that Jose Aguilar – Colonel Aguilar was the Garrison Commander for about two, two and a half years, and then at the change of command, Colonel Kovaleski was taken over for that particular – that – being Garrison Commander at Hunter Field. And what we have done also, we have set in – I brought up to the County Commission that we add the Garrison Commander from Hunter Field because he's considered like a Mayor because he has a whole city out there at Hunter Field as part of the City/County coalition that I put – and had the – the County Commissioners approve that so that we could bring all the Mayors from all of the seven cities and of course Hunter Field Garrison Commander to help each other, whether it was on state or federal legislation or whatever it might be. And we can see many of the great things that has happened. So what I'd like to do right now is call Colonel Kovaleski up to the microphone.

Colonel Kovaleski said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for having me here this morning, allowing me to participate. Express my sincere appreciation for the efforts I've seen this morning, with the Wounded Warrior Project, with the bike ride on mid-October and the chance to observe the quality of people I observe with the recognition of Mr. Brady [sic]. And want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and all the Board members for all you do for the local area, and I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to be part of this community and look forward to working with you the next two years.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Colonel. We know how important Hunter Field is. It really helps our economy. But also we have many of the members of the Army that participate in civic and charitable things in our community, and our community really supports Hunter Field, more so than they do in a lot of other areas. We know we've got, you know, a great Army and all, but many of those, you know, regular – the officers and also the enlisted men also say they really like Savannah because our – our community supports Hunter Field and the military and they want to do whatever they can. And we're glad that we have organizations in our community that really support the military, Hunter Field, because that's very, very important. And I know a number of wives have stated – a number of years ago they used to go back home but many of the wives, the families of the soldiers that get sent to Iraq or

Afghanistan, they're staying in our Savannah area now because the support that they get, and we really appreciate that. And this Commission is dedicated to do whatever we can to help the military because we understand that doing that, that it helps in many ways. And, you know, some people take it for granted that, you know, our military's just out there whenever there's a war to fight, but if we didn't have the military and the things that have occurred in the past, we might not have the freedom that we've got today. We thank you for your military career, Colonel, and of course the things that you've put in place since you've got here, and any time that we can help you, just pick up the phone and call us.

Colonel Kovaleski said, thank you, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

[Applause].

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

None.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

Chairman Liakakis said, there are no Tabled and Reconsidered Items today.

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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) GENERAL FUND M&O: (A) CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$25,000 TO SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SAVANNAH OCEAN EXCHANGE AND \$296,000 TO MOSQUITO CONTROL AND (B) APPROPRIATE \$25,490 FUND BALANCE COMMITTED FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, (2) A \$36,090 SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND CONTINGENCY TRANSFER TO THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION, (3) IN THE CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND APPROPRIATE \$19,000 FUND BALANCE TO POLICE EXPENDITURES, AND (4) APPROVE TRANSFERS AMONG PROJECTS AND AMEND PROJECT BUDGETS IN THE SPLOST I, II, AND IV FUNDS AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULES.**

Chairman Liakakis said, we have some items for Individual Action. One, to request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: (1) General Fund M&O: (a) contingency transfers of \$25,000 to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange and \$296,000 to Mosquito Control and appropriate \$25,490 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to Emergency Management department, (2) a \$36,090 Special Service District fund contingency transfer to the Metropolitan Planning Commission, (3) in the Confiscated Revenue Fund appropriate \$19,000 fund balance to Police expenditures, and (4) approve transfers among projects and amend project budgets in the SPLOST I, II, and IV funds as shown on the attached schedules that has been given to all of the Commissioners. We need a motion on the floor for this item.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Shay said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. I have a motion on the floor and a second. Dean [Kicklighter]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I was going to see if we could remove two items from there and handle it separately, but that's fine. However y'all want to do it is fine.

Commissioner Holmes said, it's already been seconded.

Chairman Liakakis said, you want to make a motion for that?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, she's – there's a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Stone said, there's already a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Thomas said, there's a motion on the floor.

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, there's a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if – if – you'd be interested in amending your motion to –

Chairman Liakakis said, well –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – handle item (a) separately.

Commissioner Thomas said, (a)?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, (a).

Commissioner Stone said, I guess so. The second has to agree.

Chairman Liakakis said, (a) and what other one?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, would you amend just (a)?

Chairman Liakakis said, just (a)?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, would you amend your second?

Commissioner Shay said, yes, I will.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. We have a motion on the floor adding – or taking out item (a) from this individual action. Let's go on the board. Motion passes. Go ahead, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, probably a supporter of this expense maybe at this point should make a motion to approve item (a).

Commissioner Stone said, I'll make the motion to approve it.

Commissioner Shay said, second.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I just – not to argue but state my opposition to the expenses. So that's it.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right –

Commissioner Shay said, if I could just real briefly, and I – I think you got shortchanged in the local media this morning, Dean [Kicklighter]. I know you're not against Mosquito Control. I know you're not against these programs. You have philosophical differences with how they're funded and I – I appreciate that as a fellow Commissioner.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Commissioner Shay said, I – I would point out for the people that are watching, the \$296,000 additional expenditure, which is taken from our special emergency funds goes to help us combat West Nile virus, and without violating a – a private confidence, I'm – I'm aware of one person in our community who very likely suffered from West Nile virus and spent a very long time in the hospital. And that person, who's name I won't call, I – I feel confident may have had health insurance. But so that you understand if somebody were to become ill with West Nile virus and spend that amount of time in a local hospital and did not have insurance, the amount of money that it would cost would be many times over the amount of money that we're spending here. So this is I think the Commission exercising our responsibility to try and make sure that we don't have any more cases of West Nile virus if we can possibly avoid it. And – and again I know that Commissioner Kicklighter supports that just as much as the rest of us.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. And if I may, Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Hold it. Helen's [Stone] next.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I – I would concur with everything I think Pat – Commissioner Shay said it better than I can say it. But I do think it's an obligation. This is a public safety issue to keep our citizens safe from diseases in this community and West Nile virus is something they're fighting very strongly right now, and it – it was brought to my attention when I went out there, what their efforts have been, and they take this very personally, and I think that if we don't support them in this endeavor, it just shows this community that public safe – public safety is not high on our radar. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think we should probably split the two, because I can't speak for Commissioner Gellatly, but those are kind of lumped together, the two under (a), and they're two separate items, the \$25,000 and the \$296,000. So if we could split those on a vote, probably would help on that. But anyway, I'll address the mosquito issue after he finishes, if that's okay.

Commissioner Gellatly said, the – that – that would be my position. I got a problem with the \$25,000. No problem with the mosquito issue. But if we could split those? They kind of lumped them in all as one. I don't know why.

Commissioner Shay said, with due respect, you've expressed yourself. I think, you know, the record will reflect that. If we want to parse the ment – the motion again, I suppose we could do that. Is – is – is that your desire?

Commissioner Gellatly said, my – my desire is that – I'm going to vote against the \$25,000. They're lumped together with the mosquito portion, and I – I support that part.

Commissioner Shay said, do you want to split it again, Helen [Stone]?

Chairman Liakakis said, Jon [Hart], –

County Attorney Hart said, sure. You can –

Chairman Liakakis said, to handle that, give us your legal –

County Attorney Hart said, well you can amend the amendment. I mean there's no question about that. If – if – if both the person making the motion says they amend to split those two apart and the second concedes to that, then it can go – go forward from there.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, do you want to make a motion –

Commissioner Odell said, this is kind of like –

Commissioner Stone said, if need be –

Chairman Liakakis said, – to amend that?

Commissioner Stone said, if – if need be we can –

Commissioner Odell said, why are we doing this?

Commissioner Stone said, – we can split that in half.

Commissioner Shay said, all right, well, I mean, just so that the – the Commissioners can go on record as supporting the Mosquito Control issue –

Commissioner Stone said, right.

Commissioner Shay said, I – I –

Commissioner Odell said, may I speak to that?

Chairman Liakakis said, sure.

Commissioner Odell said, basically, Dave [Gellatly] supports Mosquito Control does not support the \$25,000 appropriation for the Savannah Ocean Exchange. That's his position. He's stated it. The vote's going to be the same.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yeah.

Commissioner Odell said, the majority's going to rule. So we can keep spinning this forever –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, let me – let me just –

Commissioner Odell said, – but it doesn't serve any purpose. Dean [Kicklighter] –

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's fine not to split it.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just – I just want to explain in a – a small amount of research, I found that we have the largest Mosquito Control government ran fighting force in the State of Georgia. A little bit of research shows that West Nile – there's people that actually carries it. The numbers are out there, and you multiply it all in. Basically, the mortality rate's next to nothing throughout the United States, and again, we have the largest Mosquito Control in the State of Georgia. Most – most counties in Georgia don't even have a Mosquito Control, and where most of the mosquitos – the pools and all from the stuff I read seems to show are the places that has the Mosquito Control's that actually test the pools but most people that actually get it, there's – the mortal – mortality rate's next to nothing with it and most counties in the State of Georgia actually has no Mosquito Control, and we have the largest in the State of Georgia. And this is an additional –

Commissioner Stone said, we have a lot of mosquitos.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – \$300,000 to the budget of the largest Mosquito Control in the State of Georgia, and, you know, again, I didn't even see the paper this morning. But, you know, I – so I – I appreciate someone looking out for me if I got tore up in the paper. But if – if increasing the size of the already largest Mosquito Control – me opposing increasing the expenses to the largest Mosquito Control fighting government agency in the State of Georgia is a bad thing, I guess I'm a bad person. So, that's it. I – I understand everybody that wants to vote for it, but a little bit of research will show that it – probably is very most likely is an unnecessary expense since most counties don't even have mosquito fighting –

Commissioner Shay said, take it back.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – so –

Chairman Liakakis said, well, there's – there's a – a big problem here. We've got one of the best Mosquito Control in the entire country –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we – we do. We're one of the biggest.

Chairman Liakakis said, – that we have, but because of the West Nile and we can't take – there are four other people that they will be getting the laboratory reports back that possibly have and looks like they do have the West Nile virus, and then there is another very serious mosquito that they also spray for to control that also. And – and we can see where you look at countries overseas, and some of the cities around the U.S., like at some places in California, that they did have a number of people that did have a mosquito illness. And if we didn't have this – it's just like putting money in the military. If didn't have this Mosquito Control, we don't know how many people would have the West Nile virus and also we have Henry Lewandowski here, who is the director of that department and does an outstanding job. What is – could you say loud, Henry [Lewandowski], what is the other mosquito that you're also spraying for?

Mr. Henry Lewandowski, Mosquito Control Director said, it occurs primarily in the spring –

Chairman Liakakis said, well come up to the microphone so everybody can hear you, please.

Mr. Lewandowski said, let me correct – I believe you're asking – we have two mosquito-borne diseases that are common in Chatham County. One is West Nile virus and the other is Eastern equine encephalitis virus, and they can both – as you pointed out cause very serious illness. The human fatality rate of Eastern equine encephalitis is about 40% and none of the encephalitis viruses that we have in this country have specific treatments. Once you acquire the virus and become ill, it's strictly supportive treatment.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. All right, then, Henry [Lewandowski]. But – and so this particular money is you getting the additional chemical that's needed to continue the spraying because they've been spraying seven days a week on this thing to protect the citizens of Chatham County. We want those citizens to know that. And even though we have a – a budget, you know, for that, but we need this additional chemical to make sure of that. And I understand that we have a – a woman in the audience that her husband suffered from the West Nile situation. Now let me call on some of the Commissioners. Would you mind standing up if she's still here.

[NOTE: Member of audience stands].

Commissioner Thomas said, the Chair – I mean the – the Manager has his hands up.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you very much. No it – I've got it. Go ahead, Harris [Odell].

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, what I don't want us to do is, I don't want us to confuse debate –

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Odell said, – with facts. And I think it's good to have a diversity of ideas. While I support giving the funds to Mosquito Control, I also support Dean's [Kicklighter] concern, and that concern is, is this a wise expenditure and – and that shouldn't offend anyone.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Odell said, he's presented questions which – we had a red light incident on Montgomery Cross Road, and there was a position paper written that was 30 some pages just on that light. Is it a good idea if we move from debate and move to fact to look at is there a logical reason that if Dean [Kicklighter] is correct we have the largest mosquito – should we not know the reasons for that? We do I think a little bit more in our departments than some other departments do in that some other departments, if you're searching for a lost victim, we use our Mosquito Control helicopters to do those kinds of thing. So when we're making a comparison, are we comparing apples to apples or, you know – but the point being is that they are legitimate questions, and they are questions that I feel that he has the right to ask. A question that I feel that the department or through Mr. Abolt should give us back a brief written response. You know, our analysis showed the following, population wise, we are where as far expenditures. What do we spend per capital [sic] for Mosquito Control as compared to Augusta, as compared to Atlanta, etcetera, etcetera? But here's my point, my point is I'd like to see us have some information that factually takes it out of a debate and put it in the realms of these are the facts and facts don't – shouldn't offend anyone.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter] and then – and then Russ [Abolt].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you Commissioner Odell 'cause I – I just – like one fact of an example of over spending in that department is easily found. Two weeks ago I was in City Market. A intoxicated – intoxicated man and woman got in a fight. I called 9-1-1. Before I know it, a Mosquito Control helicopter was flying overhead shining it's lights down on the fight. That is an excessive expense that money like that can go towards fighting mosquitos rather than gas costs to go shine a light on a couple drunk people fighting. That's all I'm asking is for us to please start looking at expenses a little bit better. You know, I didn't say that there was a – a huge gang fight going on. I – I clearly stated that there was an intoxicated woman and man in a fight and that I personally drug the man away from the woman and was holding him until the police got there, and the helicopter showed up. Now I'd appreciate the helicopter coming if I ever said I'm being shot at but, you know, for that, that's just one example of excessive expenses that's occurring in the Mosquito Control department. And one more thing, when you tack on this three – the 300,000 more dollars, the budget of Mosquito Control will now be, I believe a little over – somewhere right around \$4 million a year. Where, when I was Mayor of Garden City, we operated that entire City for \$6 million a year. And it's actually, sitting next to Savannah, you – we don't give it credit, but it's one of the larger cities in the State of Georgia that's operating for two – well at the time, 2 more million dollars a year. So thank you for at least backing that part, that it wouldn't hurt for us to take a actual look at statistics because the brief time I looked around about this, statistically, the viruses aren't as bad as the – as the threat but yes if one person gets it it's horrendous. And – but – thanks for that backing at least. It – it wouldn't hurt us a bit to take a look before we just throw another 300,000 out into this money.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Russ Abolt said, yes, Mr. – I want to help you out – I don't want to be argumentative. The reason why we have Mosquito Control is for our port and for this river. I mean we have had for years the dredging of the Savannah River. We have acres and acres and acres on the north side of the Savannah River of dredged areas. And we can tell you with prediction if – if it rains and we don't do something to kill the larva there, within a few days, we're going to have a mosquitos all over, particularly the islands area. That's why we have Mosquito Control, pure and simple. I can't comment, and I will obviously for Commissioner Kicklighter's benefit, but we have versatility, yes. We have helicopters, and we have brave individuals that fly those helicopters but – and I don't want to make any conjecture, but those helicopters are up in the evening hours and they're up because they're killing bugs for West Nile. Now whether they could deploy and do something at the police department, I don't know, but it gives us versatility. But to give you the white paper explanation and not 45 pages, the reason Chatham County has a Mosquito Control operation which goes back for decades is because of the Port of Savannah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I don't want to shut Mosquito Control down.

Commissioner Odell said, I think it's all –

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

Commissioner Kicklighter said, to clarify I –

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, Dean [Kicklighter], hold it. Let me get Helen [Stone], and then I'll come back to you.

Commissioner Stone said, to my fellow Commissioner, I'm going to make a suggestion that was very helpful to me. I spent a day with Mosquito Control. I had no idea with what was involved in running the operation. Everything from going out and collecting the chickens that they have all over the county to test the blood samples to see for the West Nile, to the change in procedure from going from a fixed wing airplane to the helicopters and understanding how much more efficient the helicopters are as far as the use of these pesticides versus the many, many years ago when they used the trucks. I think unless you can be out there and spend a day and understand what the employees there are

trying to do. West Nile is serious.

Commissioner Thomas said, very serious.

Commissioner Stone said, very serious. And I will go back to my statement that as elected officials one of our obligations is public safety, and to me clearly the health of this community falls under public safety. So Commissioner Kicklighter if you could take the time to spend a day there, I think that you would really realize the efforts that go in to checking larva all over this county, whether it's in storm drains or out on the islands, and you will clearly understand the expense that's required to run an operation like this to keep the citizens of this community safe. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, may I?

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead now Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. – Mr. Chairman, you do have a hand up when –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just –

Commissioner Thomas said, – the Commissioners are finished out in the audience.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, just to clarify my position, I don't want to shut Mosquito Control down. I simply oppose taking the \$3.7 million budget up to \$4 million. I could spend a day with the police department if we had an endless flow of money and find out that we could fight the hell out of some drugs if we could hire 500 more police officers and put them on the street. I could spend a day at – you know, you – I could go on and on. There's money that we need to spend everywhere, and yeah, if we have an endless flow, I'll tell you right now, I'll fight crime any day over a mosquito. \$3.7 million. I'm not saying get rid of the entire program, I'm saying we're now being asked to have a \$4 million mosquito fighting problem.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we had to either raise taxes with the last budget or lay off a hundred and something people. That will come around again, and great that we're fighting mosquitos, but we're not cutting grass on the sides of the road. We're not protecting the people to the max if we want to look at it in that way. I mean, sure we could do better fighting mosquitos. We could take the budget up to 10 million, and kill probably twice as many as we're doing at \$3.7 million. I don't deny the work. You do a great job, sir. I would ask for all the money on earth – you – you – you could, you know, probably be known world wide to have killed all mosquitos if we could fund it, but we don't have an endless stream of money, and we will face next year either a tax increase again or laying off hundreds of employees. If we could spend a day with hundreds of the employees that are going to be laid off, maybe that would make an impact on people because they're going to home telling their family they can't feed them, they can't pay the electric bill, they can't buy them Christmas presents. That's the reality. Or we can spend a day with the people that can't afford a tax increase again next year and that's the reality. Some of us may be wealthier than others. I've been on the higher end, and I've been down on the lower end. I don't want another tax increase personally, and there's many other ones out there that don't. And I don't want to have to lay off any employees here, but, you know what, if we all want to sit here in this fantasy world, that we are doing great, and by God it appears that we're the only government in the country that is just financially wealthy at this point, then we can afford to spend money on everything.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. I don't know, I know she's gonna stand up and talk, and I – I feel terrible that someone in her family was – had a virus from a mosquito. I'm not saying shut the program down, but I can bring you murder victim's family after murder victim family after murder victim's family, sit them in the audience and ask you to increase the police force. And that would be pretty emotional too. But we don't have an endless stream of money, and until government realizes that, this country's going to hell in a hand basket. That's my opinion. Please don't insult my intelligence any more acting as if I don't appreciate Mosquito Control. I appreciate everything every employee does for this county, that's why I'm fighting like hell to keep your jobs next year, when you're either going to get laid off or taxes are going to go up for everybody. That's my position, so thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dave [Gellatly]?

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had a lot of debate on this, and – and I – I – I have to, Mr. Chairman, tell you that I have a real problem. You've put me in a position to either vote yes or no on two put together separate, unrelated subjects, and I respectfully ask they be split up before I vote on them or I'm not going to vote period. Also, I want to – I – I have concerns, not – not really concerns, just a – a mild question, I guess. The use of helicopters in law enforcement, Mr. Abolt, I – I would like to have a general understanding and some reassurances that these – these are relatively light duty helicopters, if they would meet even the minimum qualifications for a – a police helicopter. I want to make sure for the safety of our – our people, especially when you start using them at night.

County Manager Abolt said, sure.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I do question the – a helicopter being called in under the circumstances that Mr. Kicklighter talked – discussed. That – that would be relatively a – a minor incident and you – you – you're putting a lot of people at risk every time you put that helicopter up in air, especially at night over a densely populated area. I – I would – I

would hope, and I'm sure that they have a – a policy on that. I'm – I'm curious whether that helicopter was dispatched there. Was there a police officer –

County Manager Abolt said, I can't comment. It's – it's always a tactical decision, sir, but I'll – I'll – we'll find out for you. I just don't want to –

Commissioner Gellatly said, – and was there a law enforcement officer in the helicopter? And I would like to have questions on that.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Yes, sir.

Commissioner Gellatly said, and I want us to be very careful 'cause there have been some very horrible helicopter crashes throughout this country involving helicopters that were specked out exactly for law enforcement work, and I don't believe that our helicopters have those specifications. I'm not saying that we shouldn't use them in emergency situations 'cause they're certainly better than nothing. Also, are we keeping a log as to the amount of hours that the helicopters are being used for –

County Manager Abolt said, oh, yes, sir.

Commissioner Gellatly said, – law enforcement?

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Gellatly said, and – and will they be ultimately figured in the billing?

County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, because – we've had this question before during the budget, the helicopters and Mosquito Control are an M&O function, and the purpose behind M&O is to tax people county-wide. That's why –

Commissioner Gellatly said, okay I – that – okay that – that –

County Manager Abolt said, and let me – let me give assurance which I know you've realized –

Commissioner Gellatly said, – and that would satisfy me, but I – I do have some –

County Manager Abolt said, I appreciate –

Commissioner Gellatly said, – very strong safety concerns on –

County Manager Abolt said, we'll get into it, sir.

Commissioner Gellatly said, – between light duty – light duty helicopters being involved in law enforcement.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, Priscilla [Thomas]?

Commissioner Thomas said, I wanted you to –

Chairman Liakakis said, you wanted to –

Commissioner Thomas said, Mrs. Dawson [sic] had her hand up for quite a long time. She had a question in reference to this. I don't know what it is.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. You can come forth, then.

Commissioner Thomas said, state your name.

Ms. Karen Powell said, my name is Karen Powell, and I'm a resident of Chatham County. I wasn't really sure whether I could ask a question, but –

Chairman Liakakis said, speak just a little louder, because see they are videoing this for the audience to view it.

Ms. Powell said, my name is Karen Powell. I'm a resident of Chatham County. I wasn't really sure whether I could ask a question on this committee, but my question is in reference to the mosquito issue, the amount of money that you are – they're requesting for their budget I'm assuming. I don't have a problem with that because West Nile virus is a great issue for me with the health issue, but I do agree with Dean [Kicklighter] as far as making sure that the expenditures are what they are asking for and are efficient because there are other things that need funding because our budgets or our fund – our monies are not stretching far enough to cover a lot of things that need funding. And I'm a citizen, I know about unemployment; I know about not paying your light bill; I know about not feeding your family; I know about losing your jobs. I know about all these things, and they are very important. And ma'am, I am feeling very, you know, bad about your husband, you know, contracting that disease, but there are a lot of other issues also that need attention. You know, and if we have a budget for this mosquito control issue, \$4 million is a lot of money. A lot of money. And I'm not saying that I don't support it because I do, but I'm also saying that there are other issues, our youth, our elderly people that are being mistreated, our youth that are not getting the educations that they need to just graduate high

school, all sorts of things that need attention. And I don't mean to get so emotional, but, you know, I face these things on a daily basis because I'm a mother. I'm a grandmother. I'm a citizen of this City, and I care, and I try to do my best. Every morning I wake up to put forth an effort to do my best in this community, but I'm only one person, and we all depend on you to – to help us. And you all have to make the proper decisions to help the community. And so, you know, I hope that you don't get angry with Dean [Kicklighter] because he's making a valid point. But you all are. You all have to work together collectively and come up with a solution for this issue to solve not only this problem but all the problems that we face in the community.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much. We appreciate, you know, your message that you brought to the County Commission. And now –

Ms. Powell said, and thank you for allowing me to speak.

Chairman Liakakis said, you're welcome. Harris [Odell]?

Commissioner Odell said, two things, Russ [Abolt], thank you, you are right. The dredging, that's why. That – that is a major difference between Augusta, Macon, and – and all – incidentally, Macon doesn't have an ocean either, so –

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Odell said, – so there are some differences. I don't need the white paper. What I would like to do is –

Commissioner Stone said, I'll – I'll be happy to split the vote if that's –

Commissioner Odell said, if we could split the vote –

Commissioner Stone said, I'll be –

Commissioner Odell said, – so that my elderly colleague to my left, he could vote. I'd be happy if we could split it.

Commissioner Stone said, I – I – I will be happy to –

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Jon [Hart] –

County Attorney Hart said, who made the second? Mr. – Commissioner Shay?

Clerk said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Stone said, where is Commissioner Shay?

County Attorney Hart said, we've got to have a consent from Commissioner Shay.

Chairman Liakakis said, see if you can find Commissioner Shay, please. Go this way and see if you can see Commissioner Shay, please.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and to lighten the subject, I know you're Dr. Thomas's –

Chairman Liakakis said, we – we still have got the Commissioners speaking right now.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – guest today, next meeting you come back as my guest.

Commissioner Thomas said, no she will not. She will not.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you can sit there every meeting from here on out as my guest.

Chairman Liakakis said, I didn't understand come over here. [NOTE: Administrative Assistant Gail Gordon speaks to the Chairman].

Commissioner Thomas said, that's not the point.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, I'm teasing. I'm not going to steal her.

Chairman Liakakis said, Well. Well Commissioner Shay has left the building. He had to go to his office.

Commissioner Stone said, all right, then, can there be another second, and I'll be happy to make the motion –

County Attorney Hart said, why don't you withdraw the motion –

Commissioner Stone said, I'll – I'll withdraw the motion and –

County Attorney Hart said, – and make a motion – make a new motion and we need a new second.

Commissioner Stone said, – and start over.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Hold it. Repeat that Jon [Hart].

County Attorney Hart said, we need a withdrawal of the motion –

Commissioner Stone said, that's what I said.

County Attorney Hart said, – and just make a new motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, because we haven't voted?

County Attorney Hart said, yeah, we haven't voted, so we just –

Commissioner Stone said, I will – I will withdrawal the motion – the existing motion and state that I make the motion to separate number one (a) from the transfer of money for the Ocean Exchange and Mosquito Control.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. We have a motion on the floor and a second to separate the motion one (a) and so let's go on the Board. Motion passes.

Commissioner Stone said, all right, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Now we need a motion on the floor for the first portion, \$25,000 for the –

Commissioner Odell said, I make a motion to approve the special appropriation for Savannah Ocean –

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Commissioner Odell said, – Exchange.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor, and a second. Let's go on the board. Motion passes. Next item, appropriate the \$296,000 to Mosquito Control.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Commissioner Odell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, I have a motion on the floor and a second for the Mosquito Control. Motion passes. Okay.

Commissioner Stone said, did we vote on the balance of it?

Clerk said, yes.

County Attorney Hart said, yes we have done that.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. That's got that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to approve approval of the Following Budget Amendments and Transfers: (1) General Fund M&O: (a) contingency transfers of \$25,000 to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange and \$296,000 to Mosquito Control and (b) appropriate \$25,490 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to Emergency Management department, (2) a \$36,090 Special Service District fund contingency transfer to the Metropolitan Planning Commission, (3) in the Confiscated Revenue Fund appropriate \$19,000 fund balance to Police expenditures, and (4) approve transfers among projects and amend project budgets in the SPLOST I, II, and IV funds as shown on the attached schedules. Commissioner Shay seconded the motion. Commissioner Stone amended her motion to handle item (a) contingency transfers of \$25,000 to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange and \$296,000 to Mosquito Control separately and approve the balance of the item. Commissioner Shay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present].
- b. Commissioner Stone moved to approve item (a) contingency transfers of \$25,000 to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange and \$296,000 to Mosquito Control. Commissioner

Shay seconded the motion. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present].

- c. Commissioner Stone withdrew her motion to approve item (a) contingency transfers of \$25,000 to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange and \$296,000 to Mosquito Control. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present].
- d. Commissioner Stone moved to separate item one (a), transfer of funds for Ocean Exchange and Mosquito Control into two items. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present; Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote].
- e. Commissioner Odell moved to approve the contingency transfer of \$25,000 to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 5-2 with Chairman Liakakis, Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Odell, and Thomas voting yes; and Commissioners Gellatly and Kicklighter voting no. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present; Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote].
- f. Commissioner Stone moved to approve the contingency transfer of \$296,000 to Mosquito Control. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 6-1 with Chairman Liakakis, Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Odell, Gellatly, and Thomas voting yes; and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present; Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote].

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1

AGENDA DATE: September 23, 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) General Fund M&O: (a) contingency transfers of \$25,000 to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange and \$296,000 to Mosquito Control and (b) appropriate \$25,490 fund balance committed for Emergency Management to Emergency Management department, (2) a \$36,090 Special Service District fund contingency transfer to the Metropolitan Planning Commission, (3) in the Confiscated Revenue Fund appropriate \$19,000 fund balance to Police expenditures, and (4) approve transfers among projects and amend project budgets in the SPLOST I, II, and IV funds as shown on the attached schedules.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Board of Commissioners approved a \$25,000 appropriation to the Savannah Ocean Exchange at the September 9, 2011 meeting. A transfer from General Fund M&O contingency is necessary to provide funding. A resolution is attached. Once completed, a corresponding contract for services will be presented to the Board for approval.
2. The Mosquito Control Director has requested additional funds in the amount of \$296,000 to be used exclusively for pesticides purchases during the current fiscal year. The funding source is a transfer from General Fund M&O contingency. Correspondence and a resolution are attached.
3. The CEMA Director has requested an appropriation of \$25,490 for computer software. Fund balance committed for Emergency Management will be the funding source, and the Emergency Management department budget will be increased. Correspondence and a resolution are attached.
4. The MPC Executive Director has requested \$36,090 additional funding for Unified Zoning Ordinance notices. A transfer from Special Service District contingency will provide funding. Correspondence and a resolution are attached.
5. The Chief of Police has requested \$19,000 of confiscated funds to purchase equipment for Animal Control. A budget amendment to appropriate fund balance is necessary. Correspondence and a resolution are attached.
6. The County Engineer has requested transfer among projects in the SPLOST I, II and IV funds. Correspondence and revised project budgets are attached.

FUNDING: Funds are available in the General Fund M&O, Special Service District and SPLOST I, II, and IV funds from the transfers. The budget amendments will establish funding in the General Fund M&O, and

Confiscated Revenue fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O FY2012

- a) Transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange.
- b) Transfer \$296,000 from contingency to Mosquito Control for pesticides.
- c) Increase revenues and expenditures \$25,490 fund balance committed for Emergency Management.

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND FY2012

Transfer \$36,090 from contingency to the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND FY2012

Increase revenues \$19,000 fund balance and increase Police Confiscated funds expenditures \$19,000 for Animal Control Equipment.

SPLOST I FUND FY2012

Transfer project funds as enumerated on the attached memo and adopt amended project budgets as shown on the attached schedule.

SPLOST II FUND FY2012

Transfer project funds as enumerated on the attached memo and adopt amended project budgets as shown on the attached schedule.

SPLOST IV FUND FY2012

Transfer project funds as enumerated on the attached memo and adopt amended project budgets as shown on the attached schedule.

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. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.

Chairman Liakakis said, next, CNT monthly report by Director Ragan.

Everett Ragan, CNT Director, said, good morning ladies and gentlemen. Be – be very brief this morning. Number of investigations started in August was 121 investigations. We recovered over \$26,000 of powdered cocaine, \$93,000 of marijuana. You can see the years to date so far, we’ve picked up – we recovered over \$260,000 of miscellaneous pills, almost \$600,000 in marijuana, and almost \$38,000 – well \$38,000 of powdered cocaine.

Director Ragan said, this month we recovered 12 weapons, 45 arrests. And out of the – which gives us a total of 313 so far to the year to date. Looking at the hours expended in the precincts, with – with the graphs, year to date and the hours spent in the municipalities. In the unincorporated area, in the month of August, we spent 544 hours in the unincorporated area.

Director Ragan said, significant events, we have several of them, one that I briefed on last week – excuse me, last month, was the one off Montgomery Crossroads. That’s pretty much self explanatory. And it – we had one pill case – we did a pill case out in Port Wentworth. A meth case in downtown City of Savannah off Vine Street, and another crack cocaine case over in Pooler. And that’s pretty much where we stand for – for the month of August.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I have a question.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what’s your total budget for Chatham County Narcotics Team?

Director Ragan said, little under \$4 million, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, a little under 4 million? Okay. Thank you.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you're doing a great job.

Director Ragan said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, any more questions for Director Ragan?

Commissioner Odell said, but you all are not the only one who – in Chatham County – does the Savannah Police Department have a –

County Manager Abolt said, there is no Savannah Police Department, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. Yeah, yeah it is. It is. We – we were –

County Manager Abolt said, there's no Savannah Police Department.

Commissioner Odell said, taken, so yeah it is. There's a Savannah Police Department. Chatham County was consumed. And I'm not saying that to offend or start a discussion. Our people didn't bene – well, never the less, doesn't the Savannah-Chatham County – how's that Russ [Abolt]? Metropolitan all the other name police department, don't they have a drug unit also?

Director Ragan said, no, sir, they do not have a drug unit. They – they – they do help with the street level narcotics out of the precincts. Precinct Captain's responsibility but they do not have a designated – dedicated drug unit, no, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, how many people do they have that help with the street whatever you just said?

Director Ragan said, oh, each – each precinct has a CSC – CSU, which is probably six to seven officers in each precinct plus they have a neighborhood task force which they – they utilize. So.

Commissioner Odell said, so how many people would that be total?

Director Ragan said, probably looking at 50 people.

Commissioner Odell said, and an annual cost of what?

Director Ragan said, I have no idea, sir. For – for the County? I mean for the City?

Commissioner Odell said, City of Savannah.

Director Ragan said, no, sir, I have no idea.

Commissioner Odell said, probably in excess of 4 million, wouldn't you think?

Director Ragan said, yeah, well – well when you look at that, they – they do address street level drugs, but they also – those are units that are very flexible and fluid, that if they have a burglary problem, they'll – they'll shift resources to burglary, robbery, everything else. And they're not – they're not a 100 percent dedicated –

Commissioner Odell said, oh, I know.

Director Ragan said, drug enforcement unit.

Commissioner Odell said, I know. I know, Captain. I know. And I'm not saying that they are.

Director Ragan said, sure.

Commissioner Odell said, but what I'm saying is to make an adequate – adequate comparison, we do have other people in the police department who are also doing a similar investigation – not solely dedicated.

Director Ragan said, not solely dedicated. Not long term or mid-level, just street level stuff, yes.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, that's why this is good because –

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, you all do the long term stuff.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, in fact, the – before the Metropolitan Police Department was merged – before the Metropolitan Police Department was merged – in 1994 is when the CNT was formed, and so if you look at the statistics and no city or county particular law enforcement department had anything close to these particular records. You can see they'll soon be up to over 13,000 people involved in drugs, whether they're the dealers, the ones – the suppliers and all, is – soon be 13,000 people that they have arrested since that time and no other agency did that. Some of the other police departments at one time both the County and the City had separate drug squads, but they weren't successful, and that's why even law enforcement people came to us and said that, you know, to have a combined one that's a separate organization and that's why that was set up. Thank you very much. Appreciate your hard work.

Director Ragan said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. You're doing a great job with the limited resources we give you.

Director Ragan said, thank you, Mr. Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I wish we would give you \$300,000 today to help fight some more drugs.

Director Ragan said, I wish you could too.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2

AGENDA DATE: September 23, 2011

Chatham~Savannah Counter Narcotics Team	
Monthly Report	August, 2011

NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS	
Investigations:	Number
Investigations Initiated During the month	121
Total Number of Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	86

DRUGS SEIZED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	265.16 Grams	\$26,516.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	3.10 Grams	\$310.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	258.5 Grams	\$25,850.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	670 Ounces	\$93,800.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	7.2 Grams	\$1,800.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	0 D/U	\$.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	420 D/U	\$12,600.00
Hallucinogens	\$10.00 per gram *	0 Grams	\$.00
Synthetic (Steroids)	\$10.00 per ml *	0 ml	\$.00

1999*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	375.06 Grams	\$37,506.00
Crack Cocaine	251.4 Grams	\$25,140.00
Methamphetamine	584.9 Grams	\$58,490.00
Marijuana	4,264 Ounces	\$596,960.00
Heroin	72.80 Grams	\$18,200.00
Ecstasy	546 D/U	\$13,650.00
Misc. Pills	8,753 D/U	\$262,590.00
Hallucinogens	0 Grams	\$0
Synthetic (Steroids)	450.5 ml	\$4,505.00

DRUGS PURCHASED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value

Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	57.10 Grams	\$5,710.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	4.50 Grams	\$450.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	4.10 Grams	\$410.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	54.40 Ounces	\$7,616.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	0 Grams	\$.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	50 D/U	\$1,250.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	31 D/U	\$930.00

Source: Office National Drug Control Policy

** Source: Established regional average price

WEAPONS SEIZED	
Firearms (including hand guns and long guns)	12
Year To Date Totals	66

PERSONS ARRESTED	
Felony*	8
Felony Sales/Trafficking	28
Misdemeanor	3
Felony Non-Drug**	6
Total Arrests	45
Year To Date Totals	313

*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	2	2
Hot Line / Call-In Complaints	14	13
Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies	4	4
Crime Stopper Complaints	39	31
DRUG COMPLAINTS—YEAR TO DATE	327	295

DRUG INVESTIGATIONS HOURS WORKED BY ZONE

SCMPD – All Precincts TOTAL **2,070**

Municipalities TOTAL **938**
(Unincorporated Chatham County—544 hours)

Administrative Hours	640
Case Administration	752
Pharmaceutical Diversions	240
Central Intelligence	480
Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)	53
Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies	62
Training	477
<u>Court Hours</u>	<u>129</u>
TOTAL	2,833

Total Hours Worked 5,841

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. On August 1, 2011, CNT agents were in the Port Wentworth area on Hwy 21 in reference to an investigation. While conducting a briefing in the parking lot of the Parker's convenience store, alert agents observed an apparent drug transaction take place. Agents made contact with the subjects and found forty (40) Roxycodone pills and approximately \$869.00 in currency that was used for the transaction. Two subjects were arrested and each admitted to their involvement.

2. On August 12, 2011, CNT agents made undercover purchases of methamphetamine and arrested 2 subjects. A search of a residence of one of the defendants on Vine Street resulted in the seizure of numerous items (bottles, tubing, lithium, unopened boxes of pseudoephedrine, and an inactive lab). The leftover residue in the bottles was taken ("grits") and was weighed at over 200 grams. This residue often contains meth and later field tested positive for meth. The subject was charged with sales and trafficking in meth.

3. On August 16, 2011, CNT agents responded to the Ramada Inn located in Pooler per a K-9 request. The CCSD K-9 unit was conducting training at the hotel when one of the K-9's pulled the handler to a specific room and gave a strong positive alert. CNT agents arrived and eventually made contact with the occupants of the room. While talking with both occupants, agents could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the room. Agents received written consent to search the room and found amounts of crack cocaine and marijuana. One subject was arrested who claimed ownership of both items. In addition, a small child was present inside the room (with the mother) and DFCS was alerted in reference to the drugs present and the condition of the room.

4. On August 19, 2011, CNT agents concluded a short investigation involving a subject selling powder cocaine. During the investigation it was found that the subject was wanted not only by CNT (from a previous 2009 case), but also wanted on a probation violation warrant, and wanted by the State of Mississippi on a drug violation. Agents planned an operation and received assistance from SCMPD K-9. Blocking vehicles were utilized and blocked in the subject as he arrived. However, the subject would not exit his vehicle and attempted to flee by constantly pressing the gas and spinning his tires. Agents deployed a taser through an open window, but the subject rolled the window up and pulled out the taser leads. Agents had to break the driver's side window to extract the suspect by opening the door through the open window. The subject continued to fight and a K-9 was utilized and entered the vehicle. The K-9 bit the subject several times and he was pulled out of the vehicle from the passenger side door. After the subject was out of the vehicle and the K-9 still holding on to his leg, he continued to resist and was violently swinging and resisting officers. Finally, after several minutes the subject was brought under control and was handcuffed. A search of his person revealed that he was in possession of a loaded .40 caliber pistol in his right front pants pocket. EMS was called to the scene and the defendant was transported to the hospital for treatment. A search of his vehicle resulted in the seizure of cocaine, prescription pills, packaging materials and scales. A search warrant was obtained for his residence on Cresthill Avenue which resulted in the seizure of three additional firearms (.380, a high capacity 9mm assault pistol, and a shotgun), over 7.4 ounces of cocaine, a large metal press (utilized to press the cocaine into small thin wafers), marijuana, packaging materials, several boxes of unspent ammunition (various caliber), and two Sentry safes. While executing the search warrant the suspect's brother arrived who was found to be wanted out of Mississippi for a drug offense and a search of his vehicle resulted in the seizure of a loaded firearm, and additional cocaine and marijuana. It should be noted that the brother's ID card and other receipts were found in a safe inside the residence that contained several ounces of compressed cocaine. Both subjects were arrested with a third subject being wanted due to cocaine being located in his room. Prior to leaving the residence, the mother of both subjects arrived and was found to be in possession of a shoe box containing numerous loaded gun magazines that she stated she was bringing to them. All subjects were either wanted, on probation, or on active parole for a drug offense.

5. On August 23, 2011, CNT agents received a call for assistance from the Effingham County drug unit. They had a subject in custody from Garden City who they had arrested on meth charges. CNT agents pursued an investigation in Chatham County and conducted a search at the suspect's residence which resulted in the seizure of meth, pseudoephedrine, funnels, lithium, coffee filters, aluminum foil and various smoking devices. Agents placed additional charges of possession of meth and possession of pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture meth at the Effingham County Jail. This subject was also found to have a very lengthy criminal history involving meth manufacturing.

6. On August 24, 2011, CNT agents concluded a short term investigation in reference to a subject selling powder cocaine. Arrest warrants for the suspect and a search warrant for his residence on Marian Circle were secured. This resulted in the seizure of cocaine packaged for distribution, approximately 70 ecstasy tablets, approximately \$9,500 in currency with agents recovering approximately \$560 in CNT buy money that was utilized in previous undercover purchases from the suspect. The suspect was arrested while in his vehicle and additional cocaine was seized and a loaded firearm in the console.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Liakakis said, Action Calendar. We have Items 1 through 6 and under Item 6, we have Items A through H. Need a motion on the floor for approval.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval.

Chairman Liakakis said, need a second.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, I have a motion on the floor and a second to approve all these items. Let's go on the board. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 6 and under Item 6, Items A through H. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Stone, Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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

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- 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2011, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2011, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Stone, Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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- 2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period September 1, 2011 through September 14, 2011, in the amount of \$3,000,407. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Stone, Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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- 3. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN UNDERGROUND EASEMENT WITH GEORGIA POWER COMPANY FOR THE LOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION LINES TO SERVE THE NEW PUBLIC WORKS AND PARK SERVICES BUILDING.
[DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved the Board to authorize the Chairman to sign an underground easement with Georgia Power Company for the location of distribution lines to serve the new Public Works and Park Services Building. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Stone, Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: September 23, 2011

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

Issue: Request Board authorize the Chairman to sign an Underground Easement with Georgia Power Company for the location of distribution lines to serve the new Public Works and Park Services building.

Background: Construction has started for the new Public Works and Park Services building off Varnedoe Drive in area of the Memorial Stadium. Staff has been working closely with Georgia Power to serve the new facility.

Facts and Findings:

1. Georgia Power is requesting an Underground Easement for the distribution lines to serve the new facility on County property. Georgia Power is not charging the county the cost to install the infrastructure to serve the site.
2. An Easement agreement to install a transformer and poles on private property is typical for Georgia Power. Georgia Power will continue to own the poles and transformer and provide maintenance as needed.
3. Staff agrees with the easement agreement.

Funding: No funds are requested.

Policy Statement: The Easement is a legal document that requires Chairman signature.

Alternatives:

1. Board authorize the Chairman to sign an Underground Easement with Georgia Power Company for the location of distribution lines to serve the new Public Works and Park Services building.
2. Board to provide staff with other direction.

Recommendations: Board approve Alternative #1.

District 3.

.....
 Name of Line PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING - VARNEDOE DRIVE (CHATHAM COUNTY
 No 12806 DISTRIBUTION LINE
 Parcel No 001 Account No 69596-VBS-0-E04011-0-GP530-30000000
 Letter File 9-10399 Deed File 18761 Map File N/A

State of Georgia
Chatham County

UNDERGROUND EASEMENT

Received of Georgia Power Company, hereinafter called the Company, the sum of Ten and 00/100
 ***** Dollars \$ 10.00 and other good and valuable consideration, the
 receipt and sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, in exchange for which the undersigned **Chatham County,**
Georgia whose Post Office Address is 124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401
 does hereby grant and convey to said Company, its successors and assigns, the right, privilege and easement to go in,
 upon along, across, under, and through the tract of land owned by the undersigned at Varnedoe
Drive, Savannah, GA 31406 (address of property)
 in the 6th GMD (Georgia Militia District) of Chatham County, Georgia.

**Said lands being more particularly described on a plat marked
"Exhibit A" and attached hereto and made a part hereof,**

together with the right to construct, operate and maintain continuously upon and under said land, its lines for transmitting electric current with wires, transformers, service pedestals, manholes, conduits, cables, and other necessary apparatus, fixtures, appliances of any other company, or person; together with the right to assign this easement in whole or in part; together with the right at all times to enter upon said premises for the purpose of inspecting said lines, making repairs, renewals, alterations and extensions thereon, thereunder, thereto or therefrom; together with the right to cut away and keep clear of said underground lines, transformers, fixtures and appliances, all trees and other obstructions that may now or hereafter in any way interfere or be likely to interfere with the proper operation of said underground lines, transformers, fixtures and appliances, also the right of ingress and egress over said land from said lines. The rights herein granted include all the necessary rights for Company and its assigns to install and maintain electrical lines and communication facilities to existing and future structure (s) under the easement terms herein provided, on the property of the undersigned. Any timber cut on said land by and for said Company shall remain the property of the owner of said timber.

The rights herein include and embrace the right to clear and keep clear all trees and other obstructions located within ten (10') feet of the underground distribution line.

Said Company shall not be liable for or bound by any statement or understanding not herein expressed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned ha__ hereunto set _____ hand__ and seal, this _____ Day of _____

Signed, sealed and delivered

Chatham County, Georgia

in the presence of:

Witness

By: _____(SEAL)
Name:
Title:

Notary Public

Attest: _____(SEAL)
Name:
Title:

=====

**4. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2011.
PETITIONER: EMORY L. TAYLOR, d/b/a CLARION INN & SUITES, LOCATED AT 16
GATEWAY BOULEVARD EAST, SAVANNAH, GA 31419.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved the Board for transfer of beer and wine pouring license for 2011. Petitioner: Emory L. Taylor, d/b/a Clarion Inn & Suites, located at 16 Gateway Boulevard East, Savannah, GA 31419. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Stone, Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: September 23, 2011**

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THRU: R.E. ABOLT , COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES
WILLIE LOVETT, CHIEF OF POLICE

ISSUE
Request approval for a transfer of beer and wine pouring license for 2011, **Emory L. Taylor d/b/a Clarion Inn & Suites, located at 16 Gateway Boulevard East, Savannah, Georgia 31419.**

BACKGROUND
Mr. Taylor requests approval for a transfer of beer and wine pouring license in connection with an existing hotel. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license is being transferred from Latoya C. Brown Sims to Emory L. Taylor.

- 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 return 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 County Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 7

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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- 5. **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2011. PETITIONER: JUSTIN LEVI JOHNSON, d/b/a RUBY TUESDAY, LLC, LOCATED AT 580 AL HENDERSON BOULEVARD, SAVANNAH, 31410. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved the Board for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011. Petitioner: Justin Levi Johnson, d/b/a Ruby Tuesday, LLC, located at 580 Al Henderson Boulevard, Savannah, Georgia 31410. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Stone, Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5
AGENDA DATE: September 23, 2011

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THRU: R.E. ABOLT , COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES
WILLIE LOVETT, CHIEF OF POLICE

ISSUE
Request for a transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011. **Justin Levi Johnson d/b/a Ruby Tuesday, LLC**, located at **580 Al Henderson Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31419**.

BACKGROUND
Mr. Johnson requests approval of 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 Anthony Brian Creed to Justin Levi Johnson.

- 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 return 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 County Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 7

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Four (4) digital portable radios and related equipment	Sheriff	Motorola, Inc. (State Contract)	\$12,159	Multiple Grant Fund - Sheriff
B. Two (2) Purchasing Cards to facilitate purchases which cannot be accomplished by purchase order or check	Purchasing	Bank of America	N/A	N/A
C. Upgrade emergency exit lighting and occupational sensors at the Judicial Courthouse	Special Projects	All Electric and Specialty (WBE)	\$64,767	SPLOST (2008-2014) - Courthouse Project
D. Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract for trash collection service for additional scope of work	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Republic Waste Services	\$3,588	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various
E. Change Order No. 2 to the contract to renovate eight (8) public restrooms at Memorial Stadium for additional work and extend the contract 92 days	Parks and Recreation	Y-Delta, Inc.	\$13,340	CIP - Recreation
F. Twelve 24 ton truckloads of infield mix for the Jim Golden Complex	Parks and Recreation	Glasscock Company, Inc.	\$12,350	CIP - Recreation
G. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for the design/engineering to renovate the Oglethorpe Building for additional structural engineering services	Special Projects	Lott+Barber	\$72,750	SPLOST (2008-2014) - Courthouse Project
H. Change Order No. 2 to the construction contract of the Hardin Canal cart bridges for additional work and extend the contract 70 days	Engineering	Alpha Construction, Inc.	\$7,684	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Hardin Canal project

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 Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Stone, Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4

AGENDA DATE: September 23, 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 a \$12,159 sole source purchase off the State of Georgia contract, four (4) digital portable radios and related equipment from Motorola, Inc. for the Sheriff's Department.

BACKGROUND: The Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department upgraded their radio system from analog technology to digital technology. The County continues the migration towards total compatibility with the upgraded technology with various purchases throughout the year. This purchase represents approximately half of the required purchase necessary to complete this transition.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The reason for the sole-source is that the equipment must be compatible with law enforcement locally and statewide. Motorola is on the State of Georgia contract and the GSA Schedule 70 Homeland Security Contract.
2. Communications between the two (2) agencies is mandatory from a Public Safety standpoint.
3. Staff believes the cost \$12,159 for the four (4) digital portable radios and related equipment to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: Multiple Grant Fund - Sheriff
(2503300-54.25001-25024032)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$12,159 sole source purchase off the State of Georgia contract, four (4) digital portable radios and related equipment from Motorola, Inc. for the Sheriff's Department.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve purchases for necessary technology equipment for law enforcement in the interest of public safety.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

I.C.S. APPROVAL _____
LEWIS LEONARD

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
THOMAS DRANE

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval to obtain two (2) Purchasing Cards from Bank of America to facilitate purchases which cannot be accomplished by purchase order or check.

BACKGROUND: The Board approved a pilot program utilizing the State of Georgia Contract with Bank of America for Purchasing Cards on 11 March 2011.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. There are some vendors who will not accept purchase orders or checks for their products. These vendors require a credit card. It is sometimes necessary or in the County's best interest to do business with these vendors.
2. Staff is requesting that only two Purchasing Cards be approved. These cards will be in the names of the Purchasing Agent and the Assistant Purchasing Agent. They will be responsible for purchases made with their individual cards.

- 3. The cards will only be used for purchases which cannot be made through traditional methods and all transactions will be handled by Purchasing under the County's Purchasing rules and policies.
- 4. Travel and travel related expenses will specifically not be allowed utilizing the Purchasing Card.

FUNDING: N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Board approval to obtain two (2) Purchasing Cards from Bank of America to facilitate purchases which cannot be accomplished by purchase order or check.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve processes which will facilitate efficient procurement practices.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$64,767 contract to All Electric and Specialty, a WBE firm, to upgrade emergency exit lighting and occupational sensors at the Judicial Courthouse.

BACKGROUND: In reviewing life-safety code requirements, staff has identified improvements necessary for emergency exit lighting, as well as occupancy sensors.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1. Staff obtained pricing from the following vendors. Responses are as follows:

*	All Electric & Specialty Savannah, GA	\$64,767
	Oglesbee Electric Savannah, GA	\$68,940
	Godbee & Rimes Savannah, GA	non-responsive to scope of work

*WBE firm

- 2. While the amount of the contract exceeds the \$15,000 threshold for bidding, the urgency of the work and the few contractors knowledgeable about existing conditions at the Judicial Courthouse dictated the need to take quotes rather than formally bid.
- 3. All Electric provided the lowest, responsible quote. The company has previously worked at the Judicial Courthouse and knows existing conditions. The scope of work includes emergency exit lighting and occupancy sensors.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2003 - 2008) - Courthouse Project
(3244980 - 52.12003 - 32460427)

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Board approval of a \$64,767 contract to All Electric and Specialty, a WBE firm, to upgrade emergency exit lighting and occupational sensors at the Courthouse.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
TOM DRANE

ITEM D

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$299 per month, to the annual contract with Republic Waste Services of Savannah to add two (2) additional locations and an upgrade in the size of a trash container at one (1) location.

BACKGROUND: On 8 July 2011, the Board approved a container trash collection service contract with Republic Waste Services of Savannah.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Georgia Public Defenders office located at 540 E. Oglethorpe Avenue is currently being serviced by Republic Waste Services of Savannah under a separate contract at the cost of \$194 per month. By incorporating the service into the existing annual contract the cost will be \$50 per month, which results in a savings for the County of \$144 per month.
2. Fleet Operations is currently under the existing annual contract. Under this change order, Fleet Operations is requesting to upgrade from a 4-yd container to an 8-yd container due to the increasing volume of waste. The change will result in an increase in price from \$50 per month to \$95 per month
3. Two (2) 4-yd containers are required to be added to the scope of the annual contract at 1321-B Eisenhower Drive (Construction Management Dept.). This location was not included in the original solicitation. The cost of the service will be \$154.00 per month.
4. Staff believes that the quoted prices proposed by Republic Waste Services of Savannah to be fair and reasonable and consistent with current contract pricing.
5. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (07-08-11)	\$58,848/Year
Change Order No. 1 (Pending)	<u>\$3,588/Year</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$62,436/Year

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - Various

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$299 per month, to the annual contract with Republic Waste Services of Savannah to add two (2) additional locations and an upgrade in the size of a trash container at one (1) location.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM E

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 2, in the amount of \$13,340, to the construction contract with Y-Delta Inc. for installation of more CPVC and additional gate valves to resolve unforeseen plumbing/piping issues during restroom renovations at Memorial Stadium, and an extension of an additional 92 days to the contract.

BACKGROUND: On 24 June 2011, the Board approved the award of a construction contract to Y-Delta to renovate the eight (8) public restrooms at Memorial Stadium.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. As work resumed, after Board approval of Change Order No. 1, it was discovered that the plumbing infrastructure has a redundant loop back system that has not been used since the early 1940s.
2. Staff along with the contractor began tracing the lines in an attempt to identify the plumbing layout. After most of the lines were traced and identified, the current water service was found to be tied into the existing field irrigation system. In order to resolve this issue it was determined that three (3) additional gate valves are needed as well as the removal of deteriorated galvanized steel, and installing more

CPVC, which is necessary to eliminate the redundant loopback system. There is the possibility that when the remaining restrooms begin the renovation process, more problems will arise due to dual service lines discovered at each restroom.

3. It was also found that the lines supplying the fixtures were fed by individual tees coming off a main feed on the exterior of the building. Each tee leads to individual lines that loop the toilets. These lines were also discovered to feed adjacent showers and other areas such as the concession stand and maintenance shop areas.
4. Staff is requesting a change order in the amount of \$13,340 which will allow the contractor to install more CPVC and for additional gate valves to eliminate the redundant loop supply system at the stadium and to possibly isolate the dual water service lines at each restroom.
5. The consultant has informed staff that the design called for epoxy flooring, which requires a 30 day curing process. This time period was not accounted for in the completion days.
6. Due to the numerous setbacks, restructuring of the construction schedule, delays waiting for redesign, and to allow for the installation of the epoxy flooring, staff is requesting an extension of an additional 92 days to the contract.
7. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (06-24-11)	\$293,300
Change Order No. 1 (08-26-11)	\$ 10,482
Change Order No. 2 (Pending)	\$ 13,340
Revised Contract Amount	\$317,122

FUNDING: CIP Recreation
(3506100 - 52. 22001 - 35031307)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 2, in the amount of \$13,340, to the construction contract with Y-Delta Inc. for installation of more CPVC and additional gate valves to resolve unforeseen plumbing/piping issues during restroom renovations at Memorial Stadium, and an extension of an additional 92 days to the contract.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve change orders necessary to complete projects already in progress.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM F

ISSUE: Request Board approval of \$12,350 to purchase 288 tons of infield mix at \$42.88 per ton from Glasscock Company, Inc., of Sumter, SC, for the Jim Golden Complex for Chatham County Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: The Board set aside funds in 2009 to renovate the four fields at the Jim Golden Sports Complex. This renovation included the replacement of the field lights, dugouts, backstop fencing, irrigation and sodding of one field. The infield mix will complete this project.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Request for Quotes were solicited 18 August 2011. The following firms submitted quotes:

Glasscock Company, Inc. Sumter, SC	\$ 42.88 per ton/\$12,350
Carolina Green Indian Trail, NC	\$ 47.20 per ton/\$13,596
Athletic Specialties and Construction, Inc. Gainesville, GA	\$ 56.66 per ton/\$16,319

2. The old infield mix has to be removed in order to have a good playing surface. Each field was laser graded to have proper drainage. The final step is the application of the new infield mix.
3. Staff believes the bid from Glasscock Company, Inc., to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: CIP - Parks and Recreation
(3506100 - 54.25001 - 35030948)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of \$12,350 to purchase 288 tons of infield mix at \$42.88 per ton from Glasscock Company, Inc., of Sumter, SC, for the Jim Golden Complex for Chatham County Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM G

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order 2, in the amount of \$72,750, with Lott+Barber for additional structural engineering services related to the design and engineering of the Chatham County Oglethorpe Building.

BACKGROUND: At the 18 December 2009 meeting, the Board awarded a design-engineering contract to Lott+Barber to renovate the Chatham County Oglethorpe Building at 222 West Oglethorpe Avenue (previously the Commerce Building). The scope of work included minimal structural engineering, but as the project has evolved, additional work will be required.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Since the Data Center will be moving with I.C.S., the loading requirements due to the weight of servers, UPS (backup power), and other computer equipment will need additional structural support on the 2nd Floor. In addition, the height of the equipment will require conversion of a passenger elevator for use as needed for commercial loads. Additional electrical engineering related to the work will also be required. In addition, Lott+Barber will be preparing an alternative bid to allow use of prefabricated wall panels, which may prove a cost savings as well as a savings in construction time.
2. Lott+Barber presented a proposal for the work, which totals \$72,750. The work will principally be completed by consultants under contract to Lott+ Barber.
3. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (12-18-09)	\$293,300
Change Order No. 1 (7-8-11)	
(LEED services, additional civil engineering)	\$122,670
Change Order No. 2 (pending)	
(Added structural, electrical and wall systems option)	<u>\$ 72,750</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$415,670

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

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order 2, in the amount of \$72,750, to the contract with Lott+Barber for additional design/engineering of the Chatham County Oglethorpe Building.
2. Board authorize staff to negotiate either the contract amount and/or scope of work.
3. Board take no action.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Chatham County Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual requires Board approval of change orders to contracts.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
TOM DRANE

ITEM H

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 2 (Summary), in the amount of \$7,684, and increase the contract time by 70 days to the construction contract with Alpha Construction, Inc. for construction of the Hardin Canal Cart Bridges drainage improvement project.

BACKGROUND: The Hardin Canal Drainage Improvement Project includes canal widening, new road crossings, and access roads along the canal. This construction contract is for the replacement of two (2) bridges crossing over the Hardin Canal at the Southbridge Golf Course, sized and aligned to accommodate the canal widening project. Access roads needed to construct the bridges will henceforth be used as maintenance access roads.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The project is located in Unincorporated Chatham County within a private golf course (The Southbridge Golf Course). The project replaced two (2) existing wooden bridges used by the golf course to reach various parts of the course. The wooden bridges were determined to be not sufficiently wide to accommodate future canal widening work.
2. The contract for construction was awarded as a unit price contract to Alpha Construction, Inc. on 12 February 2010. Construction commenced in April 2010. In June 2010, the contract work was expanded to incorporate improvements to the access road behind the City of Savannah landfill site. The project is now complete.
3. The change order adjusts the final contract amount to reflect the actual measured quantities of materials incorporated into the work and extends the contract period to accommodate conditions beyond control of the contractor. These conditions included issues with the golf course sprinkler system that turned out to be much more complicated than was anticipated and storm water that did not promptly drain from the work area as a result of obstructions in the canal downstream from the project.
4. Alpha Construction, Inc. completed this difficult project in a busy public golf course without interruption of golf activities and associated economic impacts. This effort was verbally acknowledged by the General Manager of the golf course.

5. Contract history:

Original Contract	(2-12-10)	\$775,157
Change Order No. 1	(8-13-10)	\$120,150
Change Order No. 2	(Pending)	\$ 7,684
Revised Contract Amount		\$902,991

FUNDING: SPLOST (1998 - 2003) - Hardin Canal Project
(3224250 - 54.14021 - 32280227)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 2 (Summary), in the amount of \$7,684, and increase the contract time by 70 days to the construction contract with Alpha Construction, Inc. for construction of the Hardin Canal Cart Bridges drainage improvement project.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
ESTELLE BROWN

PREPARED BY _____
PURCHASING AGENT

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

- 1. **AMEND THE CODE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO REQUIRE LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED®) CERTIFICATION AT THE SILVER LEVEL, OR BETTER, FOR NEW BUILDINGS, AND FOR RENOVATIONS COSTING \$100,000 OR MORE TO EXISTING BUILDINGS, THAT ARE OWNED AND FUNDED BY CHATHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, under First Readings, there are no action on that one which is the – Amend the Code of Chatham County to require Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Certification at the Silver – Silver Level, or better, for new buildings, and for renovations costing \$100,000 or more to existing buildings, that are owned and funded by Chatham County government.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

Chairman Liakakis said, there are no Second Readings.

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XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Liakakis said, you've had your information distributed on other items that was for information only.

- 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).**

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2
AGENDA DATE: September 23, 2011

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
48" pipe required for drainage improvements for Louis Mills drainage at Gamble Road	Engineering	B & D Clearing, Inc.	\$5,500	SPLOST (1998-2003) Louis Mills/Redgate/Rahn
8000 file tags for FileTrail system for State Court Clerk	I.C.S.	FileTrail, Inc. (Sole Source)	\$2,640	General Fund/M & O - State Court Clerk

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORT.**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A status report was attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 ROADS
AGENDA DATE: September 23, 2011

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer
ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County road projects.

BACKGROUND: 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 by GDOT contract. Estimated completion December 2013.
2. Diamond Causeway. The GDOT is managing a contract to construct a high level bridge over Skidaway Narrows to replace the bascule bridge. Estimated completion of September 2013.
3. Whitefield Avenue. The GDOT awarded the project on September 2, 2011 to R. B. Baker Infrastructure for \$9,371,208. Estimated completion September 2013.
4. Bay Street Widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct. ROW plans were approved by GDOT. Acquisitions were put on hold pending another assessment of alternatives on impacts to historic properties. A Public Information Open House was held on April 28, 2011. The Assessment of Effects was coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), approved by the GDOT and forwarded to SHPO for formal concurrence (final decision is expected by October 2011).
5. Local Roads.
 - a. Intersection improvements at King George Blvd and Grove Point Road. Under construction. Scheduled completion November 2011.
 - b. Faye Road and Hunt Road Bridges. Designs to construct replacement bridges are complete. ROW acquisition is complete. Permits from GA DNR, USACE and Coast Guard are pending. Intend to solicit bids for construction contracts in November 2011.
 - c. Wright Avenue. Design complete. ROW acquisition underway.
 - d. Elmhurst Road. Beechwood Road and Ridgewood Road. Design complete. ROW acquisition underway.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts All

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE
AGENDA DATE: September 23, 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 project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, sluice gates and culverts. Construction of the sluice gate structure and channel improvements from SR 21 to the Savannah River (Phase 1) was completed in 2005. Construction of Phase 2A, which includes improvements from Phase 1 to Dean Forest Road is underway. A project to identify and obtain canal rights of way in the reach west of I-95 is underway.

2. Pipemakers Pump Station. The project was identified in the 2003-2008 SPLOST as a part of capital improvements to the Pipemakers Canal Drainage Basin. The project is underway. Current work is focused on collection of data, including past reports, maps and studies, as well as meeting with technical staff of affected municipalities.

3. Hardin Canal. 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 pursuing resolution of permitting issues with the US Army Corps of Engineers for drainage improvements beyond the immediate limits of the recently completed culvert project at Dean Forest Road.

4. Golden Isles. The project will relieve neighborhood drainage issues, including structural flooding of homes, with the construction of an upgraded storm sewer system. The project was publicly advertised and bids for construction were opened in June 2011. A contract for construction was approved by the Board on July 2, 2011. Construction work is expected to commence in September 2011.

5. Wilmington Park Canal. The Wilmington Park Canal extends from North Cromwell Road to the Wilmington River (about 1.4 miles). The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization and culverts. Design work is underway on the design of five undersized culverts along the canal. Project to improve drainage coming from the southern portion of Ashley Road is underway. The existing outfall from this area is not accessible due to a lack of drainage easement.

6. 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.) A project at Elmhurst Court that replaced an undersized pipe is complete. Design work is underway to improve the conveyance system upstream of the replaced pipe. A construction project to improve drainage at the Forest City Gun Club was approved by the Board in June 2011. Construction is underway and is expected to be complete by December 2011. A project to improve drainage and provide maintenance access in the area of Remington Drive is underway.

7. Louis Mills/Redgate Canal. The Louis Mills and Redgate Canals are tributaries to the South Springfield Canal. Improvements are complete between Garrard Avenue and the CSX Railroad. Staff is currently working to extend the improvements to a point north of Marshall Avenue. A project to improve flow from the Gamble Road area north of Veterans Parkway is underway.

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 pending.

9. Quacco Canal. The Quacco Canal extends from the little Ogeechee River to the Regency Mobile Home Park (about 4 miles). The project included 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. Construction to improve drainage in the area of the Laurel Oaks Subdivision was completed in July 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 commenced in August 2011. The project will require a temporary road closure of Whitefield Avenue south of Montgomery Cross Road. The roadway is expected to be closed for approximately four to eight weeks.

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. Construction is expected to be complete in October 2011. 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. Acquisition of easements for access, construction, and maintenance is underway.

14. Grange Road Canal. The project to relieve flooding extends from Pipemakers Canal to north of Grange Road (about 1.8 miles). The Grange Road Canal outfall to the Pipemakers Canal was improved in 2004 under work being performed to improve the Pipemakers Canal. An all weather access road for the Grange Road Canal between Bourne Avenue and the Pipemakers Canal was also constructed at that time. In 2010 the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) presented a plan to the County involving expansion of GPA facilities in Garden City and the construction of certain drainage systems affecting the Grange Road Canal. An intergovernmental agreement allowing these changes to the Grange Road Canal is pending approval.

15. Skidaway Road. The project improved roadside drainage and addressed vehicle safety issues along a portion of Skidaway Road near Wormsloe. Construction is complete. A summary Change Order is pending Board approval. Staff is working with representatives of the Wormsloe Historic Site on the installation of appropriate fencing and landscaping materials as called for by the intergovernmental agreement between the County and the State of Georgia.

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 are complete. Staff is working to acquire required right of way and easements for construction.

17. Lehigh-Shipyard Lane Area. The project will relieve roadside drainage issues causing nuisance flooding in the Lehigh Avenue and Shipyard Lane area. Final design plans and required permitting are expected to be complete by December 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 and discussion with affected property owners.

20. Cottonvale Road Drainage. The project will relieve drainage and maintenance access issues causing nuisance flooding in the Cottonvale Road area. Preliminary design plans are underway.

21. Whippoorwill Road Drainage. The project will relocate and improve a canal tidegate structure to a location that can be accessed for maintenance. The existing structure is undersized and as a result was damaged by previous storm events. It cannot be accessed for repair or maintenance because it is located on private property. Design is expected to begin in October 2011.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Liakakis said, and now we need a motion on the floor to recess to Executive Session.

County Manager Abolt said, personnel and litigation, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, move for – .

Chairman Liakakis said, need a second.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to recess into Executive Session for personnel and litigation. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Board recessed at approximately 10:31 a.m. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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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:

Motion was made 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. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote.]

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APPOINTMENTS

- 1. **DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the reappointment Mark Baggett to the Board of the Department of Family and Children’s Services. Mr. Baggett’s term will expire June 30, 2016. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote.]
- b. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the reappointment Fred Foster to the Board of the Department of Family and Children’s Services. Mr. Foster’s term will expire June 30, 2014. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Farrell was not present. Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011.

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

JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION