

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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 9:28 a.m. on Friday, November 18, 2011.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Patrick Shay for the Invocation.

Commissioner Shay gave the Invocation as follows:

Lord, as we prepare for the season we call Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to you for all your blessings, for all that you have given us and helped us with in our lives. Bless all of our families and all of our citizens, and please help us to have a wonderful and meaningful Thanksgiving season. I would also ask that you bless the memory of my dear friend, David Boyce, and that you would help his family and his friends and I to bury him this weekend and to honor his memory. Amen.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner James Holmes for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Holmes led all in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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IV. ROLL CALL

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Janice for our 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
Patrick K. Farrell, District Four
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. Bocook, County Clerk

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. **INVITATION TO THE SAVANNAH CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL AT FORSYTH PARK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. (LIBRARY DIRECTOR CHRISTIAN KRUSE AND FOUNDATION DIRECTOR CHRISTY DIVINE WILL BE MAKING THE PRESENTATION).**

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Invitation – the – next on the agenda is Invitation to the Savannah Children's Book Festival at Forsyth Park, Saturday, November the 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the library director, Christian Kruse, and foundation director, Christy Divine will be making the presentation.

Mr. Christian Kruse, said, good morning.

Chairman Liakakis said, good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Mr. Kruse said, we are so excited that it's book festival time again. This year we're celebrating the 8th Annual Savannah Children's Book Festival. We celebrate the joy of reading, the power of the written word, and the magic of storytelling. This is our 8th year, and in our 8th year, we have grown from the first year we had about 4,000 people, this year, because we've got such beautiful weather, we're expecting between 40 and 45,000 people to show up in Forsyth Park. We are now the largest children's book festival in the country. Let me repeat that, the largest children's book festival in the country is presented by Live Oak Public Libraries, your public library. And we are so delighted to be able to do that. [Applause].

Mr. Kruse said, the festival is more than just a day in the park. It started in the spring with a poster contest where more than 160 entries were received from across the area. Some of the artwork you will see on the posters that are in the bags we gave you this morning. We've had a writer's contest with over 360 entries. There was a reception this past week, and the – the children got an opportunity not only to be awarded for their efforts, but they also read their works. These young poets are also outstanding speakers. We've been doing class visits throughout the year in our – no, I'm sorry, we've been doing story times throughout the year in all our branches. This week we've visited 32 areas schools to get authors and illustrators into the classrooms so that the children that can't make it to the festival will be able to take part. We're doing an art show at Space Gallery and all of the artwork that was presented this year is hanging there for the – the kids. For most of the children, this is their first official art show, and they're so excited. We had a symposium – every year we do a symposium for reluctant readers and how we can get them to read. This year over 100 educators and parents took part in that. And one of the fun things also in your bag is a golden ticket. Four weeks ago over 1600 children received a golden ticket in the mail to come to the festival. This celebrates the fact that they read over 45 hours at our summer reading program this year, and we are so delighted to have them come and have you all come in and celebrate with them too. If you happen to be in the park and see a child with a little golden sticker on it, that means that they got a golden ticket and have read so many hours over the summer, and we are delighted.

Mr. Kruse said, new this year is Literacy Lane. It's going to be down by the fountain, and we're inviting some of our community partners to take part and opening it up to them. We're also doing a storybook walk, and if you happen to be near the park around 10:15 tomorrow, come and join us for the storybook walk. We're going to walk to the park and read the story, and then we're going to end up at the stage with the first presenter. We are very, very excited for tomorrow, and I hope you can all join us. Any questions?

Chairman Liakakis said, okay –

Mr. Kruse said, oh, questions.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, we have two Chatham County Youth Commissioners here today. Let me introduce them, and they wanted to make a statement or ask a question. First on my left is James Flowers who is the Youth Commissioner for Johnson High School, and next to him is Jaylah Diggs, who's the Youth Commissioner for Jenkins High School. Glad to have both of you here this morning. So Jaylah [Diggs], if you want to ask the first question.

Youth Commissioner Jaylah Diggs said, good morning.

Commissioner Shay said, good morning.

Youth Commissioner Diggs said, my name's Jaylah Diggs, and I go to Jenkins High School, and I'm a Youth Commissioner, and I would like to know how can we as youth or as a community have more youth events or more book events during the year?

Mr. Kruse said, excellent question. We do programming throughout the year, and we're always looking for new ideas. If you have ideas of what you'd like to see at your public library, please let us know. We are always looking for new ideas. We have programming that runs the full calendar year. This is the big one that we do, but it ties together our summer reading program that had over 400 programs. We do a winter reading program right after this that has a bunch of programs. We do things throughout the year. But if there's things that you don't think we're doing that we should be doing, let us know. You could either contact my office directly or you can go to our website and there's a – a box that says contact us and there's a form and you just fill it out and it comes directly to me, and I will respond.

Youth Commissioner Diggs said, thank you.

Mr. Kruse said, you're welcome. Thank you for your interest.

Chairman Liakakis said, James [Flowers]?

Youth Commissioner James Flowers said, good morning.

Mr. Kruse said, good morning.

Commissioner Stone said, good morning.

Youth Commissioner Flowers said, my name is James Flowers, and I attend Sol C. Johnson High School, and my question is how can us as youth help volunteer our services to this cause?

Mr. Kruse said, an excellent question. Our festival now with 40,000 people, we have about 300 volunteers working tomorrow, and we can't do the festival without volunteers. It's probably a little too late this year to volunteer because we're right at the edge but if you want to volunteer for any library project, any library program, or just at a library, again, you can call the library, our volunteer service coordinator is Kathy Newman, and she would be delighted to reach out to you and find you something that you would be really good at doing. If you want to be involved in the event next year or the planning for next year's event, also, go to the website, and where there's that box that says contact us, fill out your information. It comes to me, and I'll make sure that you're invited.

Youth Commissioner Flowers said, thank you.

Mr. Kruse said, you're welcome.

Chairman Liakakis said, Christian [Kruse], we want you to know that we're glad that this Commission funds the library. It's a very important of County and – and a lot of people know, but some people don't know that if you start the children when they're one year old and start reading to them at that time, and they continue into the reading phase, that – that

the majority of them are, I guess, better students in school, and most of them go to graduation classes and all of that because it starts them in that rhythm, you know, so that they'll be more educated and learned by starting reading at an early age. And I'd like to thank you and Christy [Divine] both because you do an excellent job at the library, and we can see you and your staff have made our library system one of the best in the State of Georgia, and we really appreciate that. And the different programs that you have and allowing people to come in there to have the special meetings and all of that is really good for our community. So thanks again –

Mr. Kruse said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, – on behalf of the Chatham County Commission.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, one question. If I can, while you're here.

Mr. Kruse said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, do we have ground-breaking date for – I mean for the West Chatham branch or any idea when it – or I mean –

Mr. Kruse said, it will happen – we had hopes that it would happen before January but it looks like it's going to probably be January.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, do you have a guestimate of time of completion possible?

Mr. Kruse said, we are a little off-track but only by a couple months, so that's going to put it into late spring/early summer 2013. So a year from – from the ground breaking.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Mr. Kruse said, you're welcome.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, y'all do a great job.

Mr. Kruse said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Priscilla [Thomas]?

Commissioner Thomas said, yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Commission. I just wanted to also thank both of you and the library for supporting the summer bonanza program. You have been with us. You have helped us to motivate these 200 young kids, 7 to 15, and provided information as to the best reading books that could be available to them. And I can tell you from those visits that you have participated in, now we have readers and they just read, read, read, and want –

Mr. Kruse said, that's –

Commissioner Thomas said, – to read all the time.

Mr. Kruse said, – that's so exciting to hear.

Commissioner Thomas said, so it's very good, and we hope that you will work with us again this year – I mean next year.

Mr. Kruse said, we look forward to it.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Mr. Kruse said, thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thanks again.

Mr. Kruse said, thank you very much everybody.

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2. THANK YOU TO THE BOARD FOR QUALITY OF THE AQUATIC CENTER. MARK HALL WILL BE PRESENTING.

Chairman Liakakis said, next on the agenda, thank you to the Board for quality of the Aquatic Center. Mark Hall will be presenting this.

Mr. Mark Hall said, good morning, Commissioners.

Chairman Liakakis said, good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Mr. Hall said, ladies and gentlemen, this is a great way to start a Friday morning with a big thank you card, right? And as you can tell by the size of it, there's nobody that's going to jump out of it, okay? All right? Before I tell you the occasion of the card, though, I want to share with you or bore you for 60 seconds with a story about my family. We've been coming to Savannah for seven years. We've been buying fuel here, staying in your hotels on Abercorn, going to your restaurants, somewhere between five to eight times a year. We moved here this year. So we still buy fuel here. We still go to your restaurants, and now we pay property tax here. And – and the reason we're here is because of this Aquatic Center. We moved here to give our children a greater opportunity. And we've been coming here for years, and years, and years. We also travel all over the southeast, so we have the opportunity to compare your Aquatic Center to what's out there. And y'all have done a fantastic job, and I'm here to commend you, along with the signatures

from hundreds of children that swim at the Aquatic Center. And I want to apologize because a couple of the younger kids thought it was going to be a big paper airplane and they grabbed it and tried to turn it into one, okay? But anyways, you've got an amazing facility. And I would encourage you to come to a state swim meet, okay? There's many, many swim meets that are at your facility, but if you came to a state swim meet there, you would see all of these tags from all around the state, and I – I can't tell you 'cause I don't have the numbers what type of impact that is to Chatham County, but I can tell you this, during state swim meets, we've had to stay at hotels out by the airport because Abercorn is full, and your Olive Gardens are full. And so we're – again, we're just here to commend you for a great, great facility. And I see some familiar faces that enjoy the facility quite often, and it's good to see you.

Mr. Hall said, I guess in closing, I also want to say that we appreciate the staff that you have. They do a wonderful job. We again have comparisons to other Aquatic Centers, and you have a great, great staff. And it was a surprise that they were here this morning. I didn't – I didn't expect them. I – but I'm glad that they were here. And again thank you very much.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Commissioner Shay said, you're welcome.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, Mark [Hall], we do appreciate, you know, you coming today and thanking the County. You know, it's really important because recreation is a part of the quality of life, and the County has put a lot of resources into our recreation center, and thank you very much. We know this Aquatic Center is very important. In fact one of our Commissioners goes there and swims just about every morning at 5:00 a.m., he's in that pool, and that's Commissioner Dave Gellatly, and he's been, you know, real supportive of this because he knows how important it is. And it's good for the health of our citizens and all, and we have great, you know, directors. And Al Lipsey is the number two man in our Parks and Recreation Department and does a good job overseeing all of this and our staff also. So we gonna continue do the things that we can, and Dean Kicklighter would like to speak.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Just to let all of you know, this outstanding gentleman standing out there in front of us, y'all will like this, is actually my first cousin.

Commissioner Shay said, we like this.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and Mark [Hall], since I've – you've probably heard like rumors and stuff about – I just want you to know that I'm glad you're presenting this because every year I have to fight with these people to get more money for the Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Stone said, oh, yeah, right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, they need to see this appreciation. But no, they've all been – been great. You know better. This – this man right here is a champion of the Aquatic Center and a man of few words but everybody listens when he speaks, and – and he – he does an outstanding job backing that facility. And we are glad to have you here from a standpoint as a Commissioner bringing tax dollars in but as family, we're glad to have you here. And tell them briefly – I want you to brag quick like. Tell them about your boys. What – what they've accomplished since you've been here.

Mr. Hall said, well you know what, I – let me – let me do something bigger than that, okay? There was recently – it doesn't include my sons, but recently there was what they call the World National Tournament in Japan. They took the top eight young men and the top eight young women from each country. Y'all had a swimmer there from Savannah, okay?

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Mr. Hall said, one of the female swimmers that works out at the Aquatic Center was in Japan, and she came in second –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, wow.

Mr. Hall said, – in the world in the 200 fly. [Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, Mark [Hall], what's her name?

Mr. Hall said, her name is Patricia Forrester, and her – her father is Bill Forrester, who is a former Olympic medalist, who's had a club team for 16 years that works out of the Aquatic Center, and he is – he is the other reason that we're here, okay?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, wow.

Mr. Hall said, you've got a great facility, and you've got a former Olympic medalist – are there any Auburn fans here? Probably not. Okay –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, now Mark [Hall] --

Mr. Hall said, I didn't go to Auburn, but he was the first – he was the first athlete in the history of Auburn University to go to the Olympics and medal, and he's had a club team here for 16 years that works out of your facility.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Mr. Hall said, so you got a lot to be proud of, and we just want – and there's a lot of signatures as well on the inside of this big thank you card, but anyways thanks again.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but Mark [Hall], Destin is actually one of the higher ranked swimmers in – in the region or the country or something.

Mr. Hall said, yeah.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, where – where – where's he at?

Mr. Hall said, Destin hopefully will be in Austin in December at Junior Nationals, and he's 15.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and he –

Mr. Hall said, he is – he's ranked in the top 5 in the U.S. right now in the 200 breast stroke, and before he started swimming with Bill Forrester, he wasn't in the top 25. So anyways.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just wanted y'all to know my cousin wasn't crazy moving here for his kids not to be good swimmers, you know. They do a really –

Mr. Hall said, thank you again for your time.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – they're awesome swimmers.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, great.

Mr. Hall said, have a great day.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Mr. Hall said, great weekend –

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Hall said, – and Happy Thanksgiving.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kicklighter, I – I will look forward to working with you in the future on the funding for the Aquatic Center.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it'll make – it'll make Christmas more interesting from here on out.

Mr. Hall said, amen.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's right.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's awesome.

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3. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO CLASS 19 OF THE CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICE PROGRAM GRADUATION CEREMONY.

Chairman Liakakis said, next on the agenda, presentation of certificates to Class 19 of the Construction Apprentice Program Graduation Ceremony. Daniel [Dodd], if you will bring everybody that's, you know, involved in this to come up to the podium, please?

Mr. Daniel Dodd said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Mr. County Manager. Very happy to be here today. We're proud to present Class 19. We're almost at Class 20. This class is graduating eight students, and I have to say, I didn't think we were going to do a graduation because I didn't think we'd have enough students to come up here for the graduation because they're all working. We've only got four of them here today, because the other four are finishing projects and couldn't get the time off from work to come. So I think it's a good problem – good problem to have, and I think it's indicative of the commercial construction that continues to go on around town, especially, of course, with the detention center. Of the classes that we've had go through over the last – last few years – last five, six years now, we've got nine of the students that are working at the detention center right now and many that are working on other projects. For example, eight of them are working at Strathmore Estates. So we're excited to still continue to see good placement with this program.

Mr. Dodd said, as I've mentioned before, we're currently working to support other community centers since we've expanded to the Chatham Apprentice Program from the Construction Apprentice Program. Many of you had asked us to diversify the trades and not rely completely on construction, so we are working to do that. We're including other sectors like warehousing, hospital sector training, and we expect that this will help us to place more students on career level paths. We're looking at how to impact more people with this program by feeding into other programs and supporting other programs like Union Mission, St. Mary's Community Center, the May Street Y, other – Goodwill, other programs that are out there doing work force development. We really want to be able to integrate CAP into those programs. Another benefit with this is that by doing this we're able to provide other supports that are really critical to people that are working, you know, financial education, asset building, making sure that we're screening everybody for public benefits, and getting the – the – the sort of work one on one in support for those families. Because as we – as we know, you know, people that go through work force development programs need support for their families as well in order to move forward. Transportation, childcare, all those issues are really critical for people to move out low income and into self-sufficiency. I'd like to also introduce Chris Brown, who is the new coordinator – there you are Chris [Brown], for the CAP program. He's taken the – the place of Zelonia Williams, who for many years worked with Ms. Tara Sinclair, and so we're excited to have Chris [Brown] joining the team, and he and Tara [Sinclair] are continuing to hold regular informational meetings with local contractors that continue to open doors for subcontractors to place our students. This program continues to be a strong, positive light in this community. We are very, very appreciative of your support. Thank you all very much for your continued support of the program.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, and Daniel [Dodd], we appreciate your leadership because you have brought this program starting, you know, into one of the best that there are in the country right now, it's been recognized. And for people at – in our community that don't know this, that in 2005 when we came on board, I talked to the Commissioners, we all came together, and we joined the Savannah Poverty Initiative Program and from that we put into a pilot program, and this is the 19th class from that pilot program, and what they do is they teach life skills, and then they teach work skills, and we are really proud of this group because we can see, especially those people that really need the assistance and the opportunity that they have been able to, you know, turn their lives around.

Mr. Dodd said, thank you, sir. I'd like to ask Ms. Sinclair to come up and we can conclude the graduation.

Ms. Tara Sinclair said, good morning.

Chairman Liakakis said, good morning.

Members of the Board said, good morning.

Ms. Sinclair said, as usual I'm proud to stand before you again this morning to graduate Class 19. You all know how the program is set up as the Chairman stated, you know they – they go through life skills and then they transition to Savannah Tech. You all see many of those numbers, you know, those that have completed life skills, those who are employed, but there's a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into making these students become productive citizens again. And there's just two or three stories I would like to share with you, because they're issues that come up where we have to ensure and – and the students that they are – they have self worth. We had a incident with two young men who had a conflict in the class. Through life skills we take them through conflict resolution, and, you know, we tell them if you're having a problem with someone you sit them down, you talk with them, and you try and dissolve it that way. Well in reality that doesn't work when they're faced with that situation. So what we had to do was we brought these two young men in, and we're so thankful for the security that's over at 222 in the Commerce Building because every time a student comes in and they hear elevated voices, you know, they're at the door. So with this particular situation we had the two young men who were feuding back and forth, and they were at the point to where they had nothing to lose. For them it was a badge of honor to have a body on their belt. And Ms. Williams and I at the time had to address that, and by addressing that, we had to talk them through what their self-worth was, what they would be losing, how this would effect the community, their family, even their program. Unfortunately, I had to terminate these guys because we have zero tolerance for violence, even the threat of violence, but these guys are now communicating with each other on a positive note, and they're both working. So although they didn't graduate the program, they did benefit from life skills, and we were able to still place them. So for us that's something that you all don't see and don't hear, and you're not familiar with.

Ms. Sinclair said, I had one young man who came in, he called, Ms. Sinclair, you know, I had to sleep on a park bench last night. I'm homeless. What do I do? I used all my contacts. I called Union Mission. I called Salvation Army. I called Homeless Authority to see what we can do. Brought the young man in. We sat him down talked with him. He'd just gotten out of prison, living with his sister. Him and his brother-in-law were constantly battling. So I sat him down and I asked him, what's your responsibility in this? So teaching him to acknowledge his role, do a self-assessment, you're a grown man, another man has to take care of you. That young man is not here today because he's working. His family is now mended. So not only did we save him, but we saved a relationship that was about to be torn apart within his family. And it's because of you that we are able to do that. And I thank you for giving us the opportunity and for investing in this program year after year, and I thank Daniel Dodd for giving me the reigns to run this program, to manage this program by just standing there and supporting any and everything we do within reason, of course.

Ms. Sinclair said, we're also working very, very closely with Arneja Riley. Arneja Riley has actually been a God send for us in helping us with placement of these guys on the detention center and with any and every contractor that comes into her office looking for help. She calls me. We've been working with her on the job fairs. We're actually using everyone that attended the job fair. We're using that roster now as a form of recruitment. So anyone that signed up for – that came into the job fair, we're sending them out letters whenever we start recruiting. Another – another positive note on that is that several contractors is we're talking with them and we're finding, you know that they're having issues with these guys on the job site not coming in to work on time, being late, talking on their cell phones. So what we've offered to the contractors is make it mandatory that your guys come through our life skills. So to date we have at least two contractors who's going to make it mandatory that if you working on my job site, you have to come through this life skills program. And again, it is because of you that you have made this possible. So this means that these young men will be able to continue on these jobs and there won't be a high turn over on a lot of these job sites. So again I thank you.

Ms. Sinclair said, without further adieu we're going to go ahead and proceed with the graduation. When I call your name please come up. Travis Biggins; Joseph Hankerson; Yohann Miller; Kirk Patterson. As Daniel [Dodd] stated, these young men were able to take off for just a couple of hours, and they will be going in to work as soon as they leave here. And we have Mr. Brown who will also, you know, participate in the ceremony. But we also have a student, Kirk Patterson, who would like to share his experience with the Construction Apprentice Program.

Mr. Kirk Patterson said, good morning.

Commissioner Shay said, good morning, sir.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Mr. Patterson said, how are you all today – this morning?

Commissioner Shay said, just fine, sir.

Mr. Patterson said, my name is Kirk Patterson. I'm from Class 19. I would just like to say from day one in my – in the life skills class, we were very well informed on what to expect. Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Williams, they explained every detail to us from what we needed to what they expected. Every question we had they answered. Every time we called, if no answer, they called back. When we had a problem – when I had a problem getting situated at Savannah Tech, I called Ms. Sinclair. She got right up and came out to Savannah Tech. They, Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Williams was always there when we needed them, positive and always uplifting. In our life skills classes, I was very curious about what could they possibly teach us. Well we learned the right way to fill out applications. We learned how to stand and sell yourself to an employer. The right way to speak, and most of all, you are someone. Leaving the life skills class going to Savannah Tech we had a – a very smooth transit thanks to Ms. Sinclair and Ms. Williams. At Savannah Tech

it was a lot of hard work and studying. Like Ms. Sinclair said, what you put into it is what you get back. We at Class 19 – we at Class 19 want to say thank you for – for what you have invested in us. It won't be forgotten. [Applause.]

Commissioner Shay said, thank you, sir.

Ms. Sinclair said, thank you. This class started out with two semesters at Savannah Tech. We were traditionally with the one semester which was about ten weeks and now we're at 20 weeks. So these guys stood the long haul. They came back. They graduated, and they will also be graduating Savannah Tech in January. So if you would like to participate, we welcome you to come down as we do the presentation of certificates.

[NOTE: The Chairman and Board of Commissioners went down to participate in the certificate presentation.]

Mr. Chris Brown said, and once again I would like to say good morning to introduce myself one more time. My name is Christopher Brown, I am the new program coordinator. Just to say a – a couple words about the – the CAP program. I – I know a lot of times we look at the statistics, and I know they truly don't tell the entire story. From what I've learnt so far from being a part of CAP, I think from the last four weeks is that of the students that go through the life skills or work ethics course, a lot of them don't complete it, and they don't complete it because of – they actually – we actually have them get jobs even before they – they finish. And I know a lot of times those are not – those numbers aren't included in the statistics so. I mean, I'm very pleased, and I'm happy to work with Ms. Sinclair and also Mr. Daniel Dodd, as – as well as the county with their poverty, you know, reduction initiative. But what I'd like to do now I would like to highlight a few of the guys that are not here do to job conflicts, and that is Mr. Slater Blige; Carlos Hernandez; Bryson Sharpe; and Mr. Kenneth White. Those guys couldn't be here due to conflicts with their – their employment. But the ones that are here, will Mr. Travis Biggins step forward? [Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said congratulations.

Mr. Brown said, and next we have Mr. Joseph Hankerson. [Applause.] And next we have Mr. Kirk Patterson. [Applause.] And lastly we have Mr. Yohann Miller. [Applause.]

[NOTE: Graduates were presented with their Certificates. Chairman and Members of the Board congratulated all graduates.]

Mr. Brown said, I'd like to turn this back over to Ms. Sinclair.

Ms. Sinclair said, okay. Thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. MEMORIAL HEALTH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Chairman Liakakis said, next on the agenda Memorial Health University Medical Center. Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you, Mr. Liakakis. Let me set the stage and tell you why we're here and – Memorial Medical Center needs the County to refinance certain bonds. Before we jump into it, procedurally I would like for us to follow this procedure, if we could. I'll do a brief overview, introduction. I will call Don Waters from Chatham County Hospital Authority, do a brief history. Then we'll call Maggie Gill, the C – CFO and Chief Operating Officer –

Commissioner Farrell said, CEO.

Commissioner Odell said, CEO. I – I never got the O's that good. Maggie [Gill] will come and tell us about the financial need. Before I get started, and – I've tried over 200 cases as an attorney and I always start off ex – extremely nervous, and I have no idea why, but in two or three minutes, the nerves leave and we can get back on course. Memorial Medical Center as I know it and the Chatham County Hospital Authority both have boards of directors, and we have some of the top notch people in this region who serve on the boards at Memorial and the board at the Chatham County Hospital Authority. And never do we ever take the opportunity to thank them for their efforts. These are people who – these are not paid positions. It's extremely time consuming and it's taxing. The decisions are real. The decisions are important. On behalf of the 3 – 30 – Dean [Kicklighter], we've got how many split up? 33,200 people in our district? I am the elected – elected spokesman for 33,320 people in the Fifth District, and on behalf of those people I say to you, thank you. What you do as a community makes our job a lot easier. I mean we have serious problems. We have serious concerns, and we really need good people who are sharp, intelligent and community spirit to help us resolve some of those problems. We really need to start the – to fashion a decision not just for the current problem, and the current problem is that Memorial has a yoke which is unthinkable and from a community standpoint, I feel compelled to urge that we support this institution. There will be those who will say that it's unfair competition to support Memorial. But those people who make those statements are clearly uninformed and – and let – so that the record will show, let it be known that what happens at Memorial Medical Center impacts health care at Candler/St. Joe's. Now if we were to divide the – the uninsured, the indigent patients, Memorial is doing around 74% and 25 or so percent is being done by Candler/St. Joe's.

Commissioner Odell said, the hospitals in this community as with the nation are under fire. The margin of profits for hospitals are so desperately small that a shift in indigent care patients from Memorial to St. Joe's/Candler could be devastating. So it dramatically effects every citizen in Chatham County. It dramatically effects our ability to recruit. We want high tech jobs to come to Savannah. High tech jobs have options. Everyone wants high tech jobs. If we do not have an adequate health care basis, it impacts on a negative basis our ability to recruit industry. So when those people talk about jobs, then they must talk about the future impact of our doing nothing on this community and the

viability of this community. While I'm speaking of jobs, let – let me just say additionally, if you take Memorial Health and the health care community, you're talking in excess of 10,000 jobs. If – 10,000 jobs is a major economic engine for this community. It is our responsibility in my opinion to look at the request from Memorial, to vigorously debate it, and to do, I hope, what's in the best interest of the entire community.

Commissioner Odell said, I briefly talked to you about where we are now, and where we are now is, we have a crisis in River City and no Dorothy this is not Kansas. What will happen a year from now or two years from now, what will happen is we're going to be impacted by the Affordable Health Care Act which was passed in 2009. This Act has been demonized so, it's known as the Obama Care but – and I actually checked and the official name is the Affordable Health Care Act of 2009. The impact of that Act is that in – and I'm no expert in this, it looks as if it shifts approximately \$500 billion from Medicare and for those who do not know, you work all of your life, when you reach a certain age, you're entitled to Medicare. Chatham County is increasingly becoming a retirement community. We have many baby boomers and the baby boomers' population has grown. What impact potentially negative shifting \$500 billion from Medicare will have not only on Memorial, will have on Candler/St. Joe's. In addition to that, each – there's a certain group of people who have no insurance. But those people who have insurance, they have a contracted, agreed upon rate. If they get a bill for \$1,000, then their insurance company has negotiated a rate that pays the hospital less. The hospital does not receive a check from Aetna, Humana, Blue Cross/Blue Shield for \$1,000. No, no. They – they have a contracted amount, and the point of saying that is that because of that, and because of the combination of patients who cannot pay, hospitals not only here in Chatham County but throughout the country have a very thin margin.

Commissioner Odell said, the House of Representatives for the State of Georgia and our Senate, and it was signed into law by our Governor many, many years ago recognized this problem and allowed counties that have a hospital authority to levy a seven mills, as much as seven mills. To level as much as seven mil. And for those people who seek to do their own research, I invite you to do that and that code section is Official Code of Georgia 31-7-84(b), and I also call your attention to another code section and it's 42-CFR-482.1(a)(3), and – and the only reason why I mention that is if you receive Medicare/Medicaid funding and a patient who is deemed to be in an emergency situation presents to your institution, then by that code section, you're obligated to see them. You're obligated to treat them. If you do not treat them, the consequences as far as your reimbursement from the federal government could be Draconian, and I really wish that I had more time to study the Affordable Health Care Act to – to see and isolate it as to how it will impact Memorial and Candler/St. Joe's locally because it appears that there is a reimbursement penalties for a) readmissions if you have a person who's readmitted within a certain period of time that there's – the hospital will be, not only penalized for that patient, but penalized for that period. And the impact of which is that it's estimated that over an eighteen-month period that that could be a reduction in \$7 billion. Memorial, like many other institutions, teaching hospital, helps address future health care needs by help training doctors, and there's an additional reimbursement from the federal government because of those efforts and just looking at how it will impact – is impacted under the Affordable Health Care Act it to me, and I haven't had a chance to really study it, it looks like it potentially could be a reduction there to – to our institution.

Commissioner Odell said, we are constantly being besieged by unfunded mandates where the federal government said do this but they don't send the money, where the State of Georgia, and no criticism, but a statement of fact is not criticism, says to us do this but there are no money for us to do this. We are becoming isolated. I love this community. I have not done or offered this for any reason other than I choose to live in Savannah. I – all of my children have been born in Savannah. This is a great place to live, as I argued for the Rock 'N Roll Marathon. This is a great community. I think our addressing this is a necessity. And procedurally, I would like to call on – and this is an incredible guy, I mean not just that I like lawyers because I'm a lawyer, but he's also an entrepreneur and no one works harder on our Hospital Authority than Don Waters, and I'll ask Don [Waters] to come and then after Don [Waters], Maggie Gill. Don [Waters]?

Mr. Don Waters said, thank you Commissioner Odell for those very nice comments and for everything you all do. And I want to say good morning everyone.

Commissioner Shay said, good morning, sir.

Commissioner Stone said, good morning.

Mr. Waters said, and Chairman Liakakis, thank you for allowing us to appear today and make our case and – for the good of the community as well, and for all of us. I'm Don Waters. I'm the president and CEO of Brassler USA. We're a local manufacturing company. We're located on King George Boulevard near Highway 204, and we have 410 employees. I am appearing before you today as a member of the Chatham County Hospital Authority. I was appointed by you, by this Commission, to serve the citizens and you in matters relating to Memorial Hospital on the Chatham County Hospital Authority Board. I should say that Dr. Jerry Kaplan is the Chairman of the Chatham County Hospital Authority. Unfortunately, he had an accident and is not well and was not able to come today. So I'm a poor substitute for Dr. Kaplan who spent 51 years of his professional life at Memorial, but I'll do my best. We are here today to ask you to issue a – guarantee a new issue of bonds that would allow Memorial to refinance their existing debt. Maggie Gill, the CEO of Memorial will provide you with the financial particulars, but I would like to follow on to the good comments that Commissioner Odell made about the history, because it puts it in focus. And this won't take but – but just a moment, but I think it is important.

Mr. Waters said, following World War II there was a movement by the Veterans' Councils that have a living Memorial to those who gave their lives in World War II for our community, the citizens of Chatham County who died. Several business leaders, as well as the medical community led primarily by Dr. James Metts and the business community lead by Dr. – Mr. Reuben Clark, came together with Veterans' Councils and proposed the idea that we build a community hospital. Mr. Clark's son had been seriously injured in an automobile accident and was shocked really at the time to find out that we didn't have a modern hospital and we didn't have an emergency room. So that was the movement and the – this coalesced around the efforts of the doctors really to build a first rate hospital that would be a community hospital. In 1952 the County, the Chatham County Commission, established the Hospital Authority and authorized the building of the hospital. That involved the Authority issuing bonds that the County government guaranteed, 1952. In 1955 Memorial Hospital opened as a 300-bed hospital off Waters Avenue, and as you know the first year they saw 5,000 in-patients. So I think it was a very clear demand for this – for this facility.

Mr. Waters said, over time the demand for a more complex, technologically adaptable medical center continued to grow, and in 1984 after a Georgia Supreme Court case said it was legal to do this, we came before you then, and I was part of that group, together with Mayor Malcolm Mclean, for whom I worked for 20 years, and we asked the County Commission then to approve allowing the Hospital Authority to lease the hospital to a 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation. That would allow it to do more things with reimbursement from the federal government and to operate more efficiently. You approved that, and we entered into the lease as the Hospital Authority. The next significant event in the history

was in 1990, and many of us viewed this at the time as a regrettable thing, but the decision was made by the Memorial Board to refinance the debt in 1990 and pay off all of the bonds that had been guaranteed by Chatham County. Well that was in 1990, and although the hospital flourished for many years and added many new services, and I'll name a few of them, Rehab Institute, the Anderson Care Cancer Center and the Heart and Vascular Institute. We're here today to tell you that perhaps that was not a very good idea in 1990. We need to reestablish the County guarantee of our capital structure which had been allowed to continue for over 40 years when those bonds were paid off.

Mr. Waters said, and today Memorial's a 535-bed tertiary care medical center. It employs over 4,700 people directly for the hospital. It's one of the largest employers in the area, and it continues its history of medical education, initially with the Medical College of Georgia, with whom we still have relationships, but today in partnership with Mercer University we have a four-year medical school on the campus of Memorial. So we've maintained our mission of teaching, but more importantly taking care of the citizens of Chatham County. Now that's sort of how we got here in our history and obviously we want to answer any questions you have, but I want to ask our CEO, Maggie Gill, now to come up and also present to you about the financial aspects.

Ms. Maggie Gill said, thank you and good morning.

Commissioner Shay said, good morning.

Commissioner Stone said, good morning.

Ms. Gill said, Chairman Liakakis, Commissioners, on behalf of those 4700 team members and all of our physicians, I want to thank you for hearing this issue this morning. Many of you know that for the past four to five years Memorial struggled through some pretty challenging financial times. I'm standing before you today because in 2011 we've turned that around, and we've returned to profitability. We've focused this year on sound business practices that are sustainable; building our physician relations, looking at our revenue cycle, how we bill and collect; our contracts; cost control; and continuing to grow high quality care for this community. But we have a problem, and that's why we're here today. Memorial's current bond structure is such that our access to capital, our ability to invest in the infrastructure and growth in the organization is severely restricted. And our current bond covenants are such that we don't even have access to our own cash reserves. So in order for this essential community asset to continue, we need to have the ability to have access to capital. And the proposal before you today would enable that to happen in our partnership with the County. Essentially what would happen is we would use – Memorial would use the AA credit rating of the County as a credit enhancement to enable Memorial to refinance its bonds and in doing so it would provide essential cash flow to the organization, as well as lower our interest rates cost. As Commissioner Odell said earlier, we are under pressure with the federal government, with the state government from lower reimbursements. We've seen it, it's coming. We're under tremendous pressure to continue to manage our costs while continuing to provide the services to this community; and we all know what those services are, level one trauma, our neonatal unit, a children's hospital with many, many pediatric sub-specialists, behavioral health, the only behavioral health unit in the city that accepts Medicaid for in-patients. This is an important community asset, and Memorial serves this community. Last year alone we provided \$18 million of charity care cost just to the citizens of Chatham County. And that's cost, not charges. We also contribute to the Safety Net Council, both in direct support and in-kind support. And we want to continue to do so. We are – we are things that we can work with the County on to improve the health of this community and to reduce the cost of care for Chatham County. We've been talking with the County about some of those opportunities, and we think we can continue with that and actually have a win-win for us and the community. So we ask you today to consider this. I'm happy to take any questions. Again, we wouldn't be standing before you today if we did not have a sustainable financial model.

Commissioner Odell said, Maggie [Gill]?

Ms. Gill said, yes?

Commissioner Odell said, just by our refinancing without our spending a penny, it will free up for Memorial about 45 to \$50 million. That you must now –

Ms. Gill said, at least –

Commissioner Odell said, – hold on reserve that you'd be able to put in your operating capital. Is – is that a fair statement?

Ms. Gill said, correct. And in fact if you use the latest interest rates, it's closer to \$65 million. And it's – and what we would do is, of course, Memorial has always pledged its revenue to – for its bond payment. We've always set aside one year's payment in escrow. We have about \$100 million in cash reserves as further support. In our 50-year history Memorial has never had a problem with making its bond payment. It's just the way our bond's are structured today, we have restrictions that prevent us from refinancing and access capital and from using our own cash reserves.

Chairman Liakakis said, are you okay? Helen [Stone] and then you Patrick [Farrell].

Commissioner Stone said, okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I really appreciate what you all do, especially the members of the – of the two boards that volunteer their time and services, and I commend you for turning the finances of the hospital around, and I have a couple of comments and questions. One is could you explain to me why you ended up with this lower bond rating? Was this something that due to poor management? Just help me understand why you are at the current bond rating that you are and that it's hurting you, and – and that's why you're coming to us to go to the higher bond rating for the savings. But I'm just curious to know how you acquired the current bond rating that you have.

Ms. Gill said, well we didn't start off that way, but over the past five years Memorial has lost money on operations, and the investments that we have in the market have gone up and down with the market. It's easy with the rating agencies to fall, it's hard to build yourself back up. So we've actually had our rating adjusted down several times over the past five years. So this has actually happened fairly recently.

Commissioner Stone said, and if the county is the guaran – guarantor of these bonds, we can expect better financial management? I mean, I guess where I'm going with this, it concerns me a little bit, and I would be remiss if I did not say this on the behalf of the citizens that we represent in this community, that you got to the lower bond rating, obviously with some financial problems, and that if we're going to guarantee bonds, we need some assurance that some of those problems are going to be turned around and corrected.

Ms. Gill said, absolutely. And in fact, this year alone, we've seen our outlook with Moody's improve from negative to stable.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Ms. Gill said, so we've already started on the path of improvement. We've turned it around significantly from a financial aspect this year. We're going to build on that going forward but enable to continue to build on that, we need to be able to invest in our infrastructure and – and in growth. Growth that creates a positive return for the organization. So, I would say that you have our full commitment, and you also have 12 months of history and – and one improved rating agency outlook to demonstrate that we are serious about this.

Commissioner Stone said, and that's good news.

Ms. Gill said, thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, the second thing, and I had mentioned to this – mentioned this to you all when I spoke with you is that something of – of grave concern of mine and for I feel the tax payers of this community, to work with our state delegation about accepting, and I understand the difference between the emergency room and then bed space after that, but it does seem a little bit unfair to ask the citizens of this County to pick up monies for indigents who are coming and – and being placed in beds in Memorial from other counties. That there should be some cost-sharing there that could help us absorb the needs of these individuals. And I would go one step further, that it really horrifies me to say that some of these indigents are coming from out of state, from South Carolina. That is clearly not fair to the citizens of this community to be subsidizing for another state.

Ms. Gill said, well certainly we'd like to work with you on this issue.

Commissioner Stone said, and I – I would – I would want maybe that to be part – and I understand we cannot certainly control what the state legislature would do in going forward but I think it's something that we need to address because we are seen as – as the very fortunate ones to have this wonderful facility here, and it's certainly wonderful that other people can use it, but it's not fair for the tax payers here to pick up the cost. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Farrell]?

Commissioner Farrell said, yes. Ms. Gill, it was stated earlier that if the Commission decided to – to – to work with y'all on – on the bonding that it would free up \$65 million in capital. What – if that scenario played forward, how would that – that \$65 million be spent here in the community? What benefit would the citizens and – and the folks here in the County and at the hospital benefit from – from that \$65 million?

Ms. Gill said, great question. Some of the major projects we've been looking at over the past few years include a renovation of the – Memorial's emergency department. The last time our emergency department was upgraded was in the late '80s. It is built for a capacity of around 46,000 visits, and this year we'll see 97,000 people in that Emergency Department. It is severely undersized. Additionally, we have a heart and vascular tower that has three shelled floors but no beds in them, and on the other hand, we have in our main hospital, a capacity – we're about 95% capacity for our medical/surgical patients. We actually even have a – a group semi-private rooms, which is not particularly the community standard. So we definitely have a need to be able to build some additional bed space for this community within that tower. We also need to invest in information systems. The future of health care is to be able to – for providers to speak to one another, to be able to share data, to reduce redundancy in testing, and to provide more real time access to results, and so we need to continue to invest in information systems that will enable us to do so. Those are just a few examples.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Harris [Odell]?

Commissioner Odell said, Maggie [Gill], it's always good seeing you.

Ms. Gill said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, it's better seeing you now that we're making money.

Ms. Gill said, better to be here now that we're making money.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, let me tell you what I'd like to propose, and I've really not shared this proposal with anyone. And it's really not fair to everyone. In fact it's unfair to everyone.

Commissioner Stone said, well then don't do it.

Commissioner Odell said, and – and the proposal is that I have talked to various members of both boards, other people in the community, and other people nationally, some of my fellow graduates from Tulane who are now practicing in various places. I want to do this, but I want to make certain that we have guarantees that absolutely protect the citizens of Chatham County. I want to make certain that we have a system in place that – we can't anticipate every problem, but problems that we've had we ought to be able to anticipate resolving those. So I'd like to see this issue pass for two weeks or however amount of time the County Manager deems it's necessary, and I have developed with the help of friends, and none of whom benefit a penny from Memorial and none of any other health care institution locally, but it's a talking document. And what it does is – is quid pro quo, this for that. We will offer to do this but we also need you all to do that, and some of the – that – that we would need is that if any effort to sell the hospital, there have been thoughts about that, that's a hospital that money came here from veterans, to help the veterans, and quite honestly we would be as a Commission bar-b-qued by our veterans if we ever sold that institution. There appeared to be an effort at some point to put the hospital in a financial position where it was prey to be sold, that's not the case now. We need to ensure that – we have a good chief operating – executive officer now, but – but our agreement should not be based necessarily upon individual, it should be based upon process. I mean if – if, God forbid, if Maggie [Gill] because of the great job she's giving – doing, gets a job offer in X USA that offers her three times the amount of money and all these other great perks, and she leaves, I don't want what we do to be contingent upon a single individual. Okay? Having said that, and – and Russ [Abolt], there's no need to bite your nails. This – this is not one of those proposals. But what it is it's a proposed Resolution that we will not act on today because it'd be fair to the Commissioners – unfair to the

Commissioners. It'd be fair to Maggie [Gill]. It'd be fair to Don Waters and the Board, but I'd like to give them a copy so that it's not ambush, not surprise, you will understand from my standpoint, and I don't claim to have all the knowledge, that's why I'm giving it in advance so that I can get your input. We need your input. There's no pride of authorship in this. If you got criticism, then I think we can criticize and be civil in our criticism because this isn't about Harris Odell; it isn't about Maggie Gill; it's about what do we do to ensure health care services for all of our citizens in Chatham County. And we are blessed. This is the place – a great place to live. And – so what I'd like to do is to pass out the discussion document and to my fellow Commissioners and – I typed this myself so there may be typos, but you'll understand the concept. Oh thank you. And –

[NOTE: Deputy passes out the proposed Resolution to the Commissioners.]

Commissioner Shay said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, – and Ms. Gill, I want to give to you a copy and to Don Waters and if you all would be so kind as to make copies for your Board. We have a concern. It is a solvable situation. I think that we are – we must help Memorial. Helping Memorial helps this community. But I don't think we have enough information and guarantees today to make that decision. And some of these points that I've listed are going to make you think about other points. Russ Abolt has volunteered to be the clearing house, so if you've got any questions or concerns, you can flow those through Russ [Abolt]. Pat [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, I'll speak after you.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. And I want to give – did you get one Jon [Hart]?

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, no.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm going to personally walk down this to Mr. Hart.

[NOTE: Commissioner Odell hands the proposed Resolution to County Attorney Hart.]

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, in the meantime if could be recognized?

Chairman Liakakis said, I gotcha. Is that it?

Commissioner Odell said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Patrick [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you Commissioner Odell and all of you for giving me the opportunity to make what I think is going to be one of the most important decisions that I'll make in my 20 years on and off this Board of Commissioners. I haven't had a chance to read the Resolution yet, Harris [Odell]. It's got plenty of whereas's so I'll – I'm sure I'll have a good time reading it carefully. But I – I want to make a couple of points if I may at this time. I got a – a memo, and I think all the other members did from – from Jonathan Hart, the County Attorney, and it posed some very pertinent questions. They're general questions. Does the Board of Commissioners wish to offer the full faith and credit of the County as a credit enhancement to the Hospital Authority's bond? I – I'm – I'm inclined in your favor, but I want to suggest this language in here if it's not already in here that the Bond financing transaction will not take place unless and until there is an opinion from an independent and fully qualified financial expert to verify that this transaction will not negatively effect the county's bond rating or effect our ability to participate in future credit enhancements of a same or similar nature. I – I've been assured by a lot of people that I trust. I've – I've heard it from folks that I have no reason to doubt, but I – I would just like for us to be able to have as part of our due diligence a report from somebody who's a professional, who is, you know, like me when I give a professional opinion as an architect, liable for their advice that this was not going to effect our – our County's overall bond rating. And – and the other thing, the second question that our astute County Attorney posed to us, does the Board of Commissioners wish to have oversight participation in the Hospital Board? And what structure should this take in a reorganization of the Hospital Board not the Authority? I think we need to make sure that we have a – a – a – a much better balance. You know, not being critical of what we have right now necessarily, but a much a better balance going forward to make sure that the diverse interests of our community are represented on this Board. Certainly one of those is that this Commission would have or future Commissions more accurately would have the ability if things got nasty to intervene and do the things that they had to do in order to protect the tax payers. But in a – in a more general sense, I'm on a – a – a group right now that's not a model for you, but it's a model for governance in some ways, called the Chatham Environmental Forum. And that has three groups that offer advice and – and support to the Forum. One is from the business community, one is from the local government community, and one is from the environmental stewardship community. And in – in hearing an earlier presentation from Mr. Waters, it sounded like there was something similar to that when Memorial Hospital was originally constituted. That there were a local government representation, there were businessmen and businesswomen who knew how to run the hospital like a business, and then there were also the community of health care professionals who had a vested interest in making sure that we had a healthy community at the same time. And – and I would hope that the operating body that would hire the CEO and – and – and – and manage the operations could become more balanced in – in – in that regard.

Commissioner Shay said, I'm also on another authority – board and have been for probably too long, the Georgia International Maritime Trade Center Authority, and it – it – it became a self-perpetuating Board and a Board which tends to take the same view over and over and over again. And in many ways has lost sight of the original purpose which was to grow that particular industry in the community and instead become more focused on the – the – the more narrow interests that have to do with the profitability of the industry. I – I don't want to see us get in that position going forward after – if we do choose to guarantee about \$200 million worth of debt, I want to make sure there are always balanced representation so that local government, we can continue to do what we have to do to protect, you know, our stakeholders, the constituents of Chatham County so you can continue to run it as a business, because certainly the private sector and the – the methods of management that the private sector uses are much more efficient and – and are able to make that profit that pays the bills, and that also the health community has a stake in the management of the institution.

Commissioner Shay said, one area that I think would be particularly important is that our health community that has to do with preventative health and the future health of our community would be somehow or another wrapped up in this governance, whether that's the Coastal Health District or the Health Care Collaborative Safety Net Council. Healthy Savannah for example. Now there are only going to be so many seats on your eventual Board, but I – I really strongly

believe that if we don't as a community begin the process of investing a lot more time and talent into preventing people from getting dreadfully ill in the future, that we will not be able to sustain this institution no matter how much we credit enhance. So I would just ask that, I haven't had a chance to read the Resolution document yet, but I would ask my fellow Commissioners that – that we would look very carefully at – at those two things. That we not do anything to negatively effect the ability of this county to do similar things if we choose for other good causes with credit enhancement and that we look at a – a – a governing board structure that is more balanced and not self-perpetuating like one of the examples I gave earlier.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Farrell]? Oh, James [Holmes]?

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead?

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everything that I've sort of like had on my mind I've heard our comments came from some of my colleagues, and I – I must say, Mr. Odell, you did a fantastic research. Presentation. I love it. But to the – Ms. CEO, Ms. Gill, there's several level of operation at the hospital. You're – you're Executive Board, you're Authority Board, and then you, the CEO. If we clear this bonds up, you mentioned that it was \$50,000 that would be cleared for you to be used?

Commissioner Shay said, 50 million.

Commissioner Holmes said, 50 million.

Chairman Liakakis said, 65 million.

Commissioner Holmes said, it would increase to 65 million? Am I right?

Ms. Gill said, 65 million of available cash flow, yes.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Now with the operation of you, the Board, the employees, I'm looking at the employees now. I understand the employees haven't had a raise at Memorial in what? How – how long?

Ms. Gill said, this will be four years.

Commissioner Holmes said, four years. And would some of this cash flow be used to give an increase?

Ms. Gill said, the purpose of the cash flow is for capital investment not to sure up the operations or any kind of financial shortfall.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Ms. Gill said, the – the raises for the employees, which are high on everyone's mind, especially mine and the Board's have to be funded through the operations of the hospital. We have to be able to produce enough revenue from our own operations to be able to fund a raise.

Commissioner Holmes said, gotcha.

Ms. Gill said, and you – I – I feel compelled to say that it is a mission of Memorial, I think essential to everyone, the Commissioners, the Hospital Authority, the Memorial Board, the administration, and the team members there, and we have maintained that mission and kept that mission, and I'm here before you today because the Memorial Board and the Hospital Authority have worked together jointly to – to bring it this far. You know, profitability is important, because obviously you have to have a sustainable business model. You have to be able to give your people raises, and so we are always going to focus on how we can run an efficient operation but quality in the care that we provide is the most important thing that we do. And so – and – and over time even through our difficult financial challenges that has not wavered.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. One of the things – I'd like to make a statement that Commissioner Stone brought up. I had brought it up before because of putting Memorial, one of the things in a bind by having these people go in the emergency room in the indigent, and they come from other areas and also not only in Georgia but over in South Carolina or sometimes even I – I saw some I think it was North Carolina somewhere else. But what I'd like to see is our County Attorney, if you would get with the – the Memorial Hospital attorney and look into it because I did read something and – a couple of weeks ago that you're required for the – if you receive any federal funds that you are required to take those patients on and there might not be any relief. But I'd like to find out that for sure for our Commission and also for Memorial about that particular issue. Okay. Pat – Harris [Odell]?

Commissioner Odell said, we've got so many Pat's on here. We've got Pat Shay, Pat Farrell, I can see why – with a name like Odell, you might think the first name is Pat.

Commissioner Farrell said, got to be the glasses Odell. It's got to be the glasses.

Commissioner Odell said, Russ [Abolt], I've developed a Resolution which is simply a discussion document. How much time to answer the questions for the Commission? Because what I want to do is I want to table this, base – refer to staff, set it for a time certain, because if we're going to do it, I want to know when we're going to do it. Let everyone have all of the input, not – the Resolution, I think, every question that has been asked is in the proposed Resolution. How much time do you need?

County Manager Russ Abolt said, may I suggest this – the – the time question is really your question. This is 100% a policy issue, and as we discussed over the phone, the decision tree as I refer to containing the three points from Attorney Hart is essential for you to get that point. There's a lot of information no doubt that will have to be gained in the next several days and weeks that'll be absolutely imperative before you make a decision. I would suggest this appear back on your agenda in two weeks with in effect giving you time to use my term let it breathe. Because, ladies and gentlemen, this is – as you –y'all have said, this is probably one of the most significant if not the most significant

issue you will address for situations beyond the traditional work of county government. I mean this – this is not, you know, a budget discussion on a department. This is a major policy issue on health care, in an area that primarily the County Commissions in years gone has been removed from. So you're really at this time taking advantage of an opportunity in a good way to correct things that should be correct, but you must do it with due deliberation in my opinion. My suggestion in direct answer to your question is in effect look at the three-point decision tree. We'll put it back on the agenda and realizing there's a holiday coming up, but on – on the 2nd of December, at that time I would ask you to come to at least the point of being able to say here are all the issues you want resolved. Things like, for example, the work of an independent bond counsel. That's a major undertaking and should be done. But before we go out and start, you know, running here and running there, doing that and not know whether or not you even want to do – number one, I think it's important for you to absorb the policy challenge you have. On the 2nd of December in effect combine – come – come back and say okay from a consensus standpoint, we want to continue talking about it. At that time I will ask from you in two weeks what – here are all the issues you wish resolved if you want to continue and then we'll be about. We're – we're not going to go out unless you tell us now to start employing another bond counsel because that can be expensive. Nothing wrong with it, but in effect, we – we need to know with some degree of certainty, number one are you interested in it, and if you're interested in at least talking more about it, what do you need, and then we'll get it for you. But – but I – I'm sorry, go ahead.

Commissioner Odell said, just – just for clarification – two clarifications. We will not give to Memorial \$190 million. We are helping them refinancing a bond, or bond, series of bonds, and they have 50 years of paying it. This is not like when my son graduated from high school, and he said, daddy buy me a car, and I said but of course you look like my mother, I'm going to buy you a car. And daddy, I'll work at McDonald's and go to school and pay for it, and he has made none of the payments. I – I mean not one. This is not that situation. So – so let it be clear that it's not a bailout. It – it is an enhancement. If you look at our statutory obligation as a County, our obligation is to do more than just jails, and this is one of those necessary things that I think we need to do, and the vehicle we've been doing it through has been Memorial. I respect Jon's [Hart] opinion, and – and – but I think Jon's [Hart] opinion as to things that are not certain represents Jon's [Hart] opinion. Am I correct, Jon [Hart]?

County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Odell said, okay.

County Attorney Hart said, that's why I placed my own policy questions.

Commissioner Odell said, right. And reasonable minds could differ as to procedurally how we should proceed on this. Would you agree?

County Attorney Hart said, sure.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. How I'd like to proceed, Mr. Abolt is, you have a question from Mr. Shay that says, will this impact our ability to do other kind of financing? That doesn't require that we hire a bond counsel to make that determination. How we make that determination is that unless, and Jon [Hart] you can correct me, we have an agreement with a financial services agent that gives us financial advice, is – is that true?

County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. And within that organization we can give them the question, and they in turn can give us an opinion. It is an opinion. It is not a guarantee.

County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. We can get back without hiring any additional staff, is that true?

County Attorney Hart said, correct.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. So –

County Attorney Hart said, other than compensating them for doing the work.

Commissioner Odell said, other than – absolutely, and I'm not a communist, I believe people should be paid for what they do. So, we can do that in two weeks, but I have a problem on December the 2nd. December the 2nd, my family and I will be going to Tennessee for a 90-year-old birthday party, if she survives that long, for one of my Aunt's. So I will be out of town on the 2nd.

County Manager Abolt said, may I suggest – again, this is a process that you all must embrace, nine people must agree to – when you go through it at the end you're going to be able to make a decision. And what – what I'm apprehensive of only because of the magnitude of this decision is that you be given time to decide what questions you want answered. That's all I'm concerned about.

Commissioner Odell said, oh, absolutely.

County Manager Abolt said, I mean let – let – let me –

Commissioner Odell said, if we don't do it in two –

County Manager Abolt said, – let me continue – I'm sorry – I'm sorry, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm sorry, Russ [Abolt].

County Manager Abolt said, my – my –

Commissioner Odell said, you – you are my senior.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Yes, sir. And I'm humbled by that, sir. I'm humbled by that. I'm humbled by that.

Commissioner Odell said, and – well when I talk about Medicare I think of you.

County Manager Abolt said, I'm humbled, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, but I'm sorry Russ [Abolt], go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, I – I – you know the great deal of respect I have for each one of you. And I – I – I've been blessed with your leadership and your – the way in which you make decisions. And I – I don't want to be unmindful that there's eight other people here that may not be as familiar as Commissioner Odell with this. And – and what I'm concerned about is we – we – we will do something and at – at the time in which it may be necessary to make a decision, another member of the Board, who either feels like they have not had a chance to ask the question will feel a need for more – will ask another question of some magnitude, and – and because of the consequence, may I suggest this, that you keep it on the agenda, if you're not going to be here on the – the 2nd but for that time and during that time if any member of the Board has additional items you want researched, we'll come back on the 2nd and we'll say, okay, ladies and gentlemen, this is what we've inventoried. We haven't done anything more. This is what we've inventoried on issues that you are raising for which if the interest continues, we're going to begin doing it in earnest and then come back to you forthwith.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, hold it. Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Abolt said, yeah?

Chairman Liakakis said, for that, let's do this, since you're talking because time is of the essence on this, is that if one of our Commissioners have a concern or question that they call you and give you that information right then instead of waiting –

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, – until December the 2nd. I mean that's really important.

County Manager Abolt said, and what – what I will do, sir, because I'm going to be out a little bit too, but what I will do is we – we will become the clearing house, and so you can call me this afternoon or whenever, and we'll begin to inventory all this, but on the 2nd then staff will give you what amounts to what we understand the questions are, and we're going to say at that time, okay, now, we're – we're going to begin researching these even more than we've done so far. There – there – there has – there has to be some – some cooperation – not cooperation, but y'all must agree with the process so that at the end you can make a decision. That's my concern. And that's the wisdom of Jon's [Hart] decision tree.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter] and then Patrick [Shay].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Commissioner Odell has always expressed – Commissioner Odell has always expressed a – a great amount of interest in Memorial Hospital, and out of respect for him, I'd like to see us move forward, and out of respect to everyone working hard here at Memorial, I'd like to see us move quickly, but not exclude Commissioner Odell with anything. I think that if we could get your questions answered really quick, we could have a special called workshop/Commission meeting, and we could vote it through or not. We can do that before – before that date. I mean if you can answer them quick.

County Manager Abolt said, no, no, that – no, sir – that's – that's –

Ms. Gill said, Mr. Chairman?

County Manager Abolt said, we've got a holiday in there, sir. I don't want to mess you up but that's – that's pretty tight.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Shay]? And I'll call on you next.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well then –

Commissioner Shay said, well what I'd like to do if – if we can so that we can stay in order here is I'd like to make a motion that we take up this matter at the December 2nd meeting for information and receipt of the answers that all of us Commissioners put forward at our regular meeting on December the 2nd. And that at that time we might very well decide that we want to have a special meeting in order to take up the matter, but that that's something that we could decide to do on – December – I – I think that there's great merit to what Commissioner Kicklighter has proposed, but I – I and I believe in fairness to all of us Commissioners, we need to have a chance to – to think about this and to be able to think of other questions that come to mind and – and get those – get those questions answered. We want to move with all deliberate speed because I know, you know, that you – the – the Memorial Health management is under some pressure to do this soon, but by the same token, I think, you know, we owe it to ourselves to do it with the – the feedback with our professional staff and – and so forth. And Harris [Odell] I promise you we won't – we won't –

Commissioner Odell said, oh, I have full confidence in everybody.

Commissioner Shay said, – you know, right.

Chairman Liakakis said, listen –

Commissioner Shay said, that was a motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll call on you in a moment, Helen [Stone.] What Dean [Kicklighter] has said maybe because I said of the time being of the essence of this that we do have a workshop after we get all the info – as soon as we can get that information and to do that right away. Because if we can work together, you know, and have people from Memorial at that workshop because in a setting like this where we have other things going on, you know, it might – we need to do this because of the importance of it that we have this done in a workshop, that, you know, anybody can be invited to it, but we need to do that specifically for this Memorial issue as opposed to, you know, bringing it up in December the 2nd and then start talking about it. We've got other business that can have some distraction on it. Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Stone said, okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and just as a follow-up and a side item, since our lobbyist is here, I would like to include this on our agenda going forward the issue of talking to some of our general assembly members about what we can do to prevent the citizens from Chatham County for picking up the tab for indigents from other counties and certainly from the State of South Carolina.

Chairman Liakakis said, you go ahead.

Commissioner Odell said, Maggie [Gill] probably wants to say if you take federal money, you're not limited by State boundaries. As you all know, we have – we give money to three – two 314(e) programs, the old 314(e), neighborhood primary care centers, like Curtis Cooper is one of them, and their regulation says that they cannot restrict people, I guess, if they present in an emergency situation if you receive Medicaid or Medicare funds. But that is an issue where we really need to look at how we solve the problem because – because we want things to be safe here, we do not want to become a dumping ground for somewhere across the river who said, we don't have to do anything. You get sick enough, go to Savannah, and how do we ensure as Helen [Stone] is getting to that if we treat all of these people, and I'm talking about Americans, not from Mexico, and they're in South Carolina or Florida, or in Effingham or in Bryan County at some point should – should their governing body not be financially responsible for our – you know, I looked at one of your memos and – as to the – the patients who have AIDS, who have cancer, and the cost of that, and it appears that a lot of the outlying areas are doing nothing and having services being provided here. That we are in fact paying for them. Is – is that the reason for your memos earlier this year? You sent out a memo as to that?

Ms. Gill said, the internal memo? About cancer –

Commissioner Odell said, I don't know about internal –

Ms. Gill said, yeah –

Commissioner Odell said, but I – I got it.

Ms. Gill said, one of the – one of the – yeah – one of the initiatives that we put forth this year is, you know, we have to take – you're – Commissioner Odell, you're correct, in the emergency department, we're required to treat anyone who walks in the door without asking if they have the ability to pay. However, there are other modes of entry to the organizations through the Anderson Cancer Institute or through the operating room where we have more control, and this year we started implementing some controls in those areas so that we don't become, as you said, the dumping ground for people who are just trying to not take care of the citizens of their own community. So we've done that this year, and it has had a positive – positive impact. The other – if I just may, the other comment I wanted to make, I'm sorry, is that I appreciate the sense of urgency. And certainly we're not trying to rush the Commission into a decision, however, just – just know that that \$65 million I quoted you is based on an interest rate that moves every day, and it's going – it's not moving necessarily in the right direction. So I just would be remiss without mentioning that.

Commissioner Odell said, we've given y'all copies of the proposal, and it's simply just the ramblings of an old, former hospital administrator. It's a discussion document, and it's presented as a discussion document for you all and for the fellow Commissioners. Let the paper report it that we do not – that this is not a bailout, and a bailout is the federal government gave the car companies money. We're not giving – we're just – we're not giving Memorial 50 million –

Ms. Gill said, no.

Commissioner Odell said, – \$65 million.

Ms. Gill said, no, no.

Commissioner Odell said, what they must have on reserve will be lower if we refinance and the difference between what they must have now and what they had in the past, that cushion is 65 million that you can use in your operating or whatever. It frees up \$65 million in cash.

Ms. Gill said, correct.

Commissioner Odell said, my last point is how many of us would go to China if we had 150 jobs? You know, would – would we send the Chairman to China to recruit a company to bring back 150 jobs? Of course we would. Of course we would. We want to attract jobs. But we got 4700 employees, is that what you've got Ms. Gill?

Ms. Gill said, yes.

Commissioner Odell said, 4700 in a delicate balance, and what happens at your institution effects Paul Hinchey at St. Joe's/Candler because they have a thin mix also. It effects health care in this entire community. I'll tell you, if we can reach a consensus of the items that I've listed, and I have some things that I'm obviously less excited about it. But there's some things that are deal breakers. It is my plan to make a motion for us to and Jon Hart indicated use the County's credit worthiness to enhance Memorial. I'm – I'm prepared to make that motion after we've done our due diligence, and I don't want it to be – you know, this isn't a back room deal. This is a community deal.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Shay]?

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman I'd like to restate an earlier motion that we carry over the matter until the December 2nd meeting and at that time we hear the information feedback from our professional staff and other folk, and that, you know, at that time we can decide when we would take up the final vote in deference to the fact that Commissioner Odell will not be able to attend that meeting.

Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right.

County Manager Abolt said, we'll schedule – for process time I'm listening and trying to come up with something that would be a good strategy that would be compared – would be companion to what Mr. Shay says. You put it on the agenda for the 2nd. At that time it'll – it'll be kind of okay, here is the inventory of all the questions and some of the stuff

we may have begun working on already, but then realizing Commissioner Odell is not going to be here and what the Chairman said, sometime between the 2nd and the 16th you'd have a special workshop. And – and so in effect, you could put yourself in a position that by the 16th you could go through these three things and say, okay, I've – I've either got enough or I'm at a point of saying let's continue on. So to summarize, keep it on the agenda for the 2nd. Commissioner Odell will not be here. At that time staff will say okay, we've got 20 questions, whatever they are, we started working on those 20 questions. The Chairman then will say, let's have a special workshop between the 2nd and the 16th at which time you'll have more information, and then on the 16th you could be poised, if you wish, to go down this three-point decision tree and say yeah or nay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Commissioner Shay said, well that was – that's – and that's an interesting suggestion, but that wasn't my motion.

County Manager Abolt said, oh, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Shay said, okay? My motion was that on the 2nd we would decide whether we wanted to have a special meeting or not. So if – I – I – I – there's great wisdom in what you're saying, but – but rather than have it become part of my motion which it wasn't, I'd like to keep it as simple as I possibly can and say we're going to hear this on December 2nd, and then we as a body of Commissioners will decide the best path forward to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. That may very well follow your path, but it might not. So please let's – let's vote on this motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, a legal question.

County Attorney Hart said, sure.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, say that all the sudden everybody agreed with me and the Chairman as far as a possibly a special meeting, needing a special meeting. Would it not be – I don't know the correct terminology here, but more legal or would it be legal if this motion were to pass to all the sudden call one and advertise it? Or would it be better to just table this until the next Commission meeting which if at some point we call a special meeting and deem that to be a Commission meeting than this could be handled at that point?

County Attorney Hart said, well, that's – that's really up to the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, do you understand the legal part of what I'm asking on that?

County Attorney Hart said, not quite.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. In other words, Jon [Hart], if we vote today that we will handle this on December the whatever –

County Attorney Hart said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but tomorrow we decide we're going to have a special called meeting on Thursday, could we actually handle this item because we voted in a previous meeting that it would be handled on the 10th?

County Attorney Hart said, I – I think you would have difficulty there. You – you – you – you might be able to do that. I don't think that that's the way you want to handle it though because it's too much involved in this. You want to be absolutely according to order.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I know that. I'm not – I'm – I'm trying to leave broader options open in case we realize there's more work needed than – than we're leaving here.

County Attorney Hart said, well you can change the motion to unless otherwise taken up before December the 2nd.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Other words just if it was tabled, we'd take it off at the next meeting period.

Commissioner Shay said, okay, let me – let me restate my motion then and I think I can get us off the horns of this dilemma. I'd like to make a motion that we defer what we're talking about today until the next County Commission meeting.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. That'll weigh in for me.

Commissioner Farrell said, I accept your change in verbage.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh, he's got to change the second.

Chairman Liakakis said, any other discussion?

Commissioner Farrell said, call the question.

Chairman Liakakis said, the question's been called for. Let's go on the Board.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to defer the discussion on Memorial Health University Medical Center until the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Shay said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like a moment of personal privilege, if I could.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman. I – I had a very close, personal friend from – well all my life, pass away this week, and the family was kind enough because I was asked to be a pallbearer to delay that funeral until tomorrow because I wanted to be at this meeting today. One of the reasons I wanted to be there was because of the matter that Commissioner Stone has brought forward, and I – I – I thank her for putting this on the agenda. But I – I need to leave about a half an hour ago in order to make arrangements to get there, and so if the Commissioners would excuse me, I – I will look forward to our next meeting, whenever it is, so that we can take up the matters that are unresolved. Okay. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. All right.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion. Do we need a motion, Jon [Hart]?

Chairman Liakakis said, no.

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2. BREATHE EASY PRESENTATION BY AMY HUGHES (COMMISSIONER STONE).

Chairman Liakakis said, here we go. Item 2. Breathe Easy presentation by Amy Hughes. Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to turn this over to Amy Hughes and let her move forward with it. This is for information today. Looking forward in the future to having this on the agenda.

Ms. Amy Hughes said, thank you very much Mr. Chairman and Commissioners for this opportunity to come before you today. You know it's – it's – this presentation is a very logical segway after what you just talked about 'cause we're here to talk about something very concrete that you as a Commission can do for prevention, for health prevention in your community that will proactively improve – improve the health of your community. Many of you are probably familiar with the work of Healthy Savannah. Healthy Savannah is committed to making Savannah a healthier place to live, work, and play, and to make it the healthy choice the easy choice. And they do that through getting involved in activities that encourage physical activity, such as, you know, in bike lanes and sidewalks and – and road races, as well as nutrition, things like farmer's markets and community farm plots and things like that. School nutrition, school lunches, but also it's a very important part of being a health community to be a smoke-free community. So that's why Healthy Savannah supports this. And I am the Chairperson of the Breathe Easy Savannah-Chatham subcommittee of Healthy Savannah. I'm sorry. A brief bit of history, you – you'll recall back in 1995, this Commission, Dr. Thomas and Commissioner Shay were both around at the time, was the first government in the State of Georgia to adopt an ordinance that required restaurants to have non-smoking sections. At the time that was considered something that was very radical. And then along in 2005 the State of Georgia passed the Georgia Smoke Free Air Act, which essentially made most restaurants and most public spaces smoke-free. In 2010 the City of Savannah came along and adopted the most comprehensive ordinance in the State that closed the loopholes that existed in that 2005 Georgia Act, and we'll talk about that in a minute. And then last year through the leadership of the Youth Commission our public schools adopted – actually earlier this year in 2011, adopted the 100% tobacco free schools policy.

Ms. Hughes said, now when the State of Georgia passed the 2005 Georgia Smoke Free Air Act, there were a lot of loopholes in it, and so the legislation that the City of Savannah enacted and what we are asking you as a Commission to consider, closes those loopholes. Some of them for instance – it – it included – essentially it required that all work places be smoke-free, including bars, restaurants, outdoor eating and serving areas, and then you can see the long list of other items, it's not that long a list, but other places where smoking was apparently allowed. It also asked for a 10-foot buffer at the entrance and the air intakes of public buildings. Now why is that? Well, it's because you don't want first of all when the doors open and close the smoke to get sucked back into the building. But also to give people a – so that they don't have to dive through a cloud of smoke to get into a public building – in and out of a public building. And then the legislation also it – it expands the definition of smoking and it updates it to reflect some of the newer technologies, such as like the hookah pipes that people use or the e-cigarettes.

Ms. Hughes said, now why is this necessary and why is this important? Well we all know that the Surgeon General has told us that there is no risk-free level of exposure to second-hand smoke. That second-hand smoke causes lung cancer, heart disease, serious respiratory effects, and premature death in non-smokers, and that even brief exposure can be harmful to your health, especially if you've got some sort of underlying cardiovascular issues, like blockages, exposure to second-hand smoke can cause a heart attack. And that it has immediate harmful effects. It's not like something like oh well 20 years from now you might get cancer. No, we're talking that if you're in a smoke-filled room within about 20 minutes it's just the same as if you yourself had smoked the cigarettes. Now, I put these next two slides in here because of the discussion that you just had, and I want you to know that, as I said, there are immediate public health benefits from passing this ordinance. We have seen documentations across the world, once – once smoke-free ordinances go into effect, within 6 to 12 months, there are documented decreases in emergency room admissions for heart attacks. And you just heard Maggie [Gill] say that there were, you know, 97,000 visits to the emergency room every year in – in – at Memorial. Think if you could get a 25% decrease in heart attacks alone. Think of that from a – from a cost basis. You know, they say one stroke over a life time costs about \$140,000. Think of – think of the cost savings there. And here's some – here's some studies from the U.S. – the North Carolina study just came out that showed a 21% decrease in emergency room admissions for heart attacks.

Ms. Hughes said, you know we just came off of a beautiful pink month, and we all thought about what we could do to prevent breast cancer. Well, you know some of the most interesting research that's going on right now is showing linkages between second-hand smoke exposure, and if you're a woman, a younger, pre-menopausal woman who has the breast cancer BRCA one or BRCA two gene, that second-hand smoke exposure can be the difference as to whether or not that gene is an active cancer or whether it's dormant. So why does this focus on the workplace? Well because the workplace is – it's a major source of second-hand smoke exposure for some of – for some adults, and I say some because, you know, white collar workers are more likely to work in environments that are smoke-free, however, your blue collar and your service employees, and particularly your bar employees, are the ones who are most likely to be not protected by smoke-free rules and regulations in their businesses. Now it's important that this ordinance apply to all workers. And – and as Dr. – Dr. Lockamy would say, all means all, because nobody should have to inhale second-hand smoke as a condition of receiving a paycheck. And by eliminating the smoking indoors, it's a proven way to protect the employees and to protect the public from second-hand smoke exposure. Now some folks say oh, well

why don't we create exemptions for this type of business or this group or whatever, but when you do that you're saying those – that group of people is not worthy to be protected. And so we are about protecting all of our workers.

Ms. Hughes said, now while this may seem new to some places in Georgia, the fact is that progressive states and counties and countries have already adopted these ordinances all around the country. You've got 25 states that have state laws that require that all work places are smoke-free. You've got an additional 479 municipalities who've adopted ordinances like the City of Savannah, and you've got a total of over 21,000 municipalities that are already covered by smoke-free ordinances. In Georgia you're seeing attempts to close the loopholes in the state law. Athens, for example, bars are smoke-free Athens, and if you've been to Athens lately, you know that the bar scene is alive and well, and it in no way hurt their business. Columbia County; Decatur, City of Decatur have already passed ordinances, and of course the City of Savannah's ordinance is – is the most comprehensive one. Augusta and Macon have ordinances in process, and Fulton County, actually, just kicked off their efforts about a month ago with a summit for activists to work on this, and so they had over 100 people who are participating in that. So it's a movement.

Ms. Hughes said, Savannah has had a very positive experience going smoke-free. Part of the reason is that we – we did a comprehensive education effort for all the effected businesses. We – we sent – we communicated with everybody who had a business license in the City of Savannah, which was about 9,000. And then we worked directly and made at least three visits to all of the bars in – in the City of Savannah as well. We implemented a public education campaign through billboards and direct mail and things like that as well to inform the public, and so as a result the implementation in Savannah was very smooth and event free. And then we took it a step further knowing that in St. Patrick's Day could potentially be a challenge for our bars because we had a lot of, of course, out of town guests, and so we enacted a "Ireland is Smokefree and so are We" campaign to help them communicate to our visitors that we are now smoke-free in Savannah. So as a result, enforcement has been a non-issue for us, which is typical of the experience across the country. You know some folks said, well this is going to hurt tourism, but I don't know if you saw this article in today's Savannah paper about tourism in Savannah and how highly we're ranked and – and how our nightlife is ranked so highly, you know, number one. So tourism is doing great and it certainly hasn't impacted that at all. And we've seen – we've received a lot of positive feedback from businesses and from the public and also tourists. The folks who were here last week for the Rock 'N Roll Marathon, they enjoyed going out in smoke-free environments.

Ms. Hughes said, now how does this actually work? Well smoke-free ordinances are essentially self-enforcing. It's just like what happens right now in a restaurant. If somebody lights up in a restaurant, what happens? Well somebody – somebody will probably say, hey, you're not allowed to smoke in here or they'll point to a sign or something like that. Well that's exactly how this works too. So there's really – very, very rarely does this ever have to be enforced by anybody higher than just somebody that's there. Smoke-free ordinances are good for businesses. You're going to have people who are not from Savannah who are going to tell you that it's going to be bad for businesses and it's going to be devastating, but the fact of the matter it is not. There is study, after study, after study that shows that, and – and I'll be glad to provide you with some of those as well. In conclusion I just want to summarize and just to tell you what the ordinance is not. I mean it is in no way any – it is no way an attempt to vilify smokers or it's not a judgment about anybody's personal choice or their lifestyle. It's not an attempt to control businesses, and it's not an attempt to ban all smoking, and it's not an enforcement nightmare. Whoops, last slide didn't make it up there. Sorry. But let me just tell you what it does do is that it guarantees that all workers have the right to breathe clean air in the work place, and it protects the public by ensuring the right to breathe clean air in public places. Really it simply asks smokers to step outside to light up. And it enacts proven health policy that improves the public health in our community, and of course, it makes Chatham the greenest county in Georgia.

Chairman Liakakis said, any questions for Amy [Hughes]? Any questions?

Commissioner Gellatly said, Amy [Hughes], I just have one question. I – I received a couple months ago an email from somebody and I don't know whether it was part of this group or not, but I received an email and in it – it made it very clear that – it made it very clear that at least in part that law enforcement would be expected to take action if someone lit up a cigarette. I, you know, I mean, we – I – I would really have problems if – if that was ever a major responsibility of a law enforcement officer to light up – to intercede because someone lit up a cigarette. You know, I'd really have a problem with that, and I couldn't support it – an ordinance that would include that. I – I just want you to know that.

Ms. Hughes said, okay, thank you Commissioner Gellatly. Let me explain a little bit more in detail about that. And I would love for you and me and Chief Lovett to just sit down and talk about it 'cause he can tell you that it's been a non-issue for them. The way the ordinance is structured is that if somebody – of course the bars and restaurant and – and businesses have signage posted that says, you know, no smoking. And if somebody lights up then it's the responsibility of – of the people who work there, and ultimately the owner to say, hey, put that out. Well, chances are people will put it out. Because smokers are law-abiding citizens. They're – they're not somebody that's out there to break the rules or – or whatever. They're – they're normal people and they're very conscience – conscience and considerate of others too, and they don't want to offend anybody, and chances are they just lit up because they didn't know the rule to begin with. But in the event that a person becomes belligerent, which hasn't happened here in Savannah since the City of Savannah passed the ordinance, then the – the bar owner can say – can kick them out of their bar and say, you – you need to leave my bar. Well if the person doesn't leave the bar, then the bar owner can call the police and say, hey I've got a problem here. And so and the – the – the bar – then the police officer has the ability to ticket that person. So that's – that's the way it works. That – to my knowledge they haven't had to do that because everybody's been compliant.

Commissioner Gellatly said, okay. And – one last question. You – you had actual numbers here of cities that have ordinances and what have you. Would they be exactly the same as what's proposed here? I mean exactly? In – in other words that are in – out of these hundreds of thousands of cities, there's not one city that says you can have a private club and smoke?

Ms. Hughes said, the – well, of course, things vary from city to city. What we found in the City of Savannah ordinance was that almost – almost all of our private clubs had already gone smoke-free because they serve food. And so they were restaurants for the most part. So – and then some of them like maybe the, you know, some of the lodges had bingo, and so the state law says that bingo places are smoke-free places already. So but the – the stats that I showed you, and I'll be glad to give you all of this documented, is specifically from – these are – these are – are places that require all work places to be smoke-free. There's a lot more ordinances that are on the books, for instance 35 states have smoke-free ordinances and some – some of them are different but they don't require all work places. Like Georgia's law does not require all work places so it doesn't even count in that 35 because it's not considered good enough by the people who keep track of all of this.

Commissioner Gellatly said, well I mean this – for example there are – there are clubs that have a smoking room for those that would like to smoke a cigar. I would – I would hate for – I'm all for that no – no one should have to breathe someone else's smoke, I – I certainly believe in that. I never smoked in my life and neither has some – any member of my family but I – I also don't want to infringe on other people's rights. And they – and my other issue, of course, is I – I don't ever want to see us put in a position, and I – I received a memo that said actually it was – they were going to use the police to enforce this. Would be the first line of defense. I would never support anything like that.

Ms. Hughes said, well, as I explained how it worked –

Commissioner Gellatly said, but the concept I don't have problem with.

Ms. Hughes said, well thank you very much. Here's – I'll leave this for you. This is a list of how many smoke-free laws exist in our country right now, so that might be informative for you.

Commissioner Gellatly said, but – but see, that's my problem. There – there may be 1,000 laws in different communities but I – I – I will bet you that they're not all identical and I – and I don't want to –

Ms. Hughes said, they're not, but they've – they've gone through a very detailed analysis of each one and they have charts showing which states do what, so I'll – and which communities do what. So I'll get you that.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd – I'd appreciate that.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Amy [Hughes], you know I think the world of you, and I – I respect you and know that it's coming from a good place. I – I truly know that and believe it. I just have to point out a few things that I think is a little bit maybe overboard on it. I – first of all I agree cigarettes basically – basically should be banned from everything on there that you had a on the list except for bars and clubs or whatever and a tobacco shop. And one other thing I really disagree with was the statement that exposure has immediate harmful effects. You've included the little e-cigarette in that. There's no data out there that says this is harmful. There's nothing but a mist that comes out of this. There is no smoke that comes out. There's no data backing. So we're including something that is possibly helping people kick the addiction of smoking which we want to stop anyway and a ban that would only hinder things without the research showing it's bad. I mean naturally you're getting the – the nicotine out of it, the person consuming it, but it is literally a mist that goes in and a mist goes out, a water vapor. And that's – that's not harmful to people, but this is actually included in the ordinance proposal. So that one to me should be gone out of there right off the bat. I think that – again, everything on there other than those places, I agree it should be no long term living facilities and all that stuff, but we're talking private clubs, and we live in a day and time where in my opinion, the government has medaled into too much. We already tell people they can have a chicken; they can't have a chicken. They can have whatever. You know, your – your fence is this high, this is what you're going to do in your business, you know, and when we're talking about protecting people who can't protect themselves, children, excellent, that's why I'm all for keep it out of restaurants, keep it out of hair salons. Keep it out of anywhere children can go, but when we're talking about legal adult activities in this country, legal being 21 years old or older, that's Big Brother telling the citizens out there because it is legal that we're smarter than you. It's another little dictating type – I don't know. You know what I'm saying there. It's – it's – it's too much government involvement in my opinion. I think – I know I agree that smoking is bad for the smoker and in many cases it's bad for the people near that smoker. Drinking alcohol, number two, I think is bad for the drinker, and in many cases bad for the people around that drinker, who come in contact with it. As we all know, due to health and safety concerns, drinking or selling alcohol was once outlawed in our country. And that effort failed which was prohibition.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, here we go with this, and what we have today is if someone is properly zoned and licensed right now, although both are known to be unhealthy, an adult can smoke and an adult can drink. An adult does not walk into an establishment in my opinion of alcohol consumption out of a health desire. They're 21 years old. And I'm gonna put it this – in a – the best way I can as an adult, if you do not want to partake in a establishment that is for 21-year-olds and older, if you don't like a strip club, don't go in the strip club. If you don't like second-hand smoke, and you're 21 years old, don't go into a private establishment that allows people to smoke in there. At – someone having a job, I understand, and again, I respect, I know where you're coming from, and I truly do appreciate it because I know it's from a good place, but a job is a choice, an example, Union Camp. Years of unhealthy. Years of great money. Nothing but good cash for our community and people that live here. When they worked there, they knew what they were getting into. If you take a job in a bar that allows smoking for adults because only 21-year-olds are in there, you know what you're getting into. You have a choice not to take that job, and again, it's us as government telling private individuals what to do in their own private establishments, and I just think it's a little bit too much when we're talking a bar. But I applaud you for bringing it forward on every loophole there because it will protect the kids and people should not smoke in all those places you said, but if you go in a bar, you – you know, you're – you can get your unhealthy alcohol there, which is legal, and your unhealthy tobacco which is legal. If they wanted to make both illegal in the United States than so be it, but it's two legal activities and it's asking government to once again intrude on private business when you're talking adults. But our job is to protect the kids, and you've done an outstanding job bringing it to us of where the kids were not protected. And I thank you for that.

Ms. Hughes said, may I – may I respond real quick?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes.

Ms. Hughes said, all right. You've made a lot of interesting points, Dean [Kicklighter], which you and I have talked about personally. Let me just remind you that this is about worker protection. This is about protecting that person that's behind the bar. This is about protecting the waitress. She shouldn't have to inhale the second-hand smoke as a condition of receiving her paycheck, period. Just like when you're working at an industrial environment you're given a breathing apparatus if you're around harmful chemicals. If you're around carcinogens, you've got a breathing apparatus. We don't do that. This is a step to protect the workers. I'll be glad to provide y'all some with more – more information about e-cigs later for you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Amy [Hughes], and – and I don't mean it disrespectful –

Ms. Hughes said, oh, I know. I know.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I don't know if they still do, but at Sam's Wholesale, the ladies and men used to have to wear big belts because they would pick up heavy things, you know, heavy items and whatever there –

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, – they shouldn't have to have a job that hurt their back, but they chose that job, and what this does is it tells the private entrepreneur who created a business, a private business, how to run his business. If that person does not want to be exposed to that type of second-hand smoke, they should find a different job rather than Big Brother telling individuals how to own and operate their business. And that's all I'll say. You know I truly do respect what you're doing, but that's the only point in the clubs is I disagree. And that's it. Everything else is really good except for the e-cigarette.

Ms. Hughes said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, all right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Amy [Hughes], I assume that you will bring some literature forward and it will be disbursed to the Board and at that point in time you can look at it and then it will go for a first and second reading, and I really appreciate you bringing it forward today.

Ms. Hughes said, thank you, Commissioner.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, and may I say something, Mr. Chairman? I don't think we're just talking about bars and stuff, we're talking about public places as well where you maybe sitting down having dinner and you're sitting right next to a person, and I mean, that person is just smoking one cigarette or a cigar, one after the other. I personally have been in that situation. I don't want to be inhaling anyone's smoke or whatever. I don't mind them going outside, but I don't want them sitting next to me at a table somewhere. This is a public place, and we need to be protecting all – all persons regardless of where it is.

Ms. Hughes said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's my opinion.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, clarification – clarification of what Commissioner Stone just said. Is your expectation that we're going to have an ordinance?

Commissioner Stone said, that – that she will work with you for coming up with an ordinance that we can either vote up or down.

County Manager Abolt said, okay.

Commissioner Stone said, that is my request.

County Manager Abolt said, is there a model ordinance or how do you want –

Ms. Hughes said, yes, sir. How about if we bring you –

County Manager Abolt said, no, I'm asking her –

Ms. Hughes said, I'm sorry.

County Manager Abolt said, I mean is the expectation – what do you want us to do? Do you want us –

Commissioner Stone said, to do what the City of Savannah has looked at.

County Manager Abolt said, you – you want us to bring the Savannah ordinance to you in first and second reading?

Commissioner Stone said, I think – I think Amy [Hughes] has a model ordinance that she'd like to go over with you that I would like to be disseminated to the Commissioners to look at and then go through the normal procedures of a first and second reading for an ordinance. After we receive the copy, have time to make any comments, get with Amy [Hughes] and then go through the regular procedure of a first and second reading.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much, Amy [Hughes].

Ms. Hughes said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, appreciate that. And Mr. County Manager, you'll proceed with that, okay?

County Manager Abolt said, my – I'm going to restate what I heard said then, there'll be information come from Ms. Hughes which I will obviously give to both Dr. Skelton and – and to Chief Lovett and – and to the County Attorney to look at, and then we'll come back to you with something that eventually result in a first and second reading of an ordinance.

Commissioner Stone said, yes.

County Manager Abolt said, there's – there's – again, I'm not trying to provide a parallel, I just want to make sure the Board wants this done and we'll do it in such a way to come back for definitive action. So this is just for dissemination?

Commissioner Stone said, right. Right.

Commissioner Odell said, can we –

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Commissioner Odell said, – look at the city's ordinance too and – and pattern it because we got a – we got a Metropolitan Police –

County Manager Abolt said, my – permit me, my understanding is Commissioner Stone says that Ms. Hughes will give us something. By the something –

Commissioner Odell said, I understand that.

County Manager Abolt said, – I interpret that to be an ordinance. Then I'll turn around and give it to Jon [Hart], Dr. – Attorney Hart, the health director, and – and the – and the police chief, and I'll say I want their comments, and when we get their comments we'll bring it back to you in first reading.

Commissioner Odell said, okay, then if I said I wanted to take the City of Savannah ordinance, and you go through the same process, I think we got a tie between two Commissioners, Stone want a model ordinance. I want the City ordinance because I think it simplifies things.

Commissioner Stone said, no, no, no. What I want is for her to bring forward an ordinance that probably mirrors the City but just to bring it forward and that that's our starting point, and certainly it can be – you – you can have – I mean I think there are very few changes on what you were proposing to bring forward to us then – then what has been brought forward to the City. My – my point is just let's get it on the table, have the ability for the Commissioners to look at it before we have the first and second reading in case there are any comments or concerns that you want to – to get with Ms. – Ms. Hughes on.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, we'll look at both ordinances.

Chairman Liakakis said, Amy [Hughes]?

Ms. Hughes said, it – it – as – as they've said, it's the same piece. What I'll be giving you is a redlined copy of the City of Savannah ordinance that strikes City of Savannah and inserts Chatham County and – and of course the code sections will be different for your code section. But it's essentially the same thing.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you leave out bars and private clubs, and I'll vote yes.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

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3. ROCK 'N ROLL MARATHON (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER)

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. All right. Next go on to the next item. Dean [Kicklighter], make a motion to add Rock 'N Roll to the agenda.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I so move.

Commissioner Odell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, have a motion on the floor and a second to add the Rock 'N Roll issue onto the agenda. Let's go on the board. Motion passes. Dean [Kicklighter]?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is Trip Tollison out there still? Trip, would you come forward please, sir? The COO and VP of Governmental Affairs for the Savannah Chamber of Commerce. And he already knows the reason, but I'll elaborate here for everybody at home. We know from time to time I can get a little excited if someone disagrees with me, and I feel like I'm right, which I believe most of us feel like we're right at times. But I asked you to come up here today because – basically a couple reasons. One reason is I wanted to give you the opportunity to brag on the great work that you and the Chamber did on the Rock 'N Roll Marathon and to tell us a little bit about the amazing success. Now the next thing is I wanted to commend you and the Chairman here and the Commission here, all in public, for actually funding this marathon. Finally, the main reason I wanted you up here is because I wanted to in public – I wanted to publicly apologize to you and to the Chairman and to this Commission for my opposition to help fund the marathon. I've probably never been so wrong – well, I'd like to think I've never been that wrong in politics. But very wrong. A huge success. Thank you and all of you for seeing the big picture. You were dead on. All I could see was what I think was a little bit of a failure with the Olympics, what all was promised to us if we spent the money, and heck the few visitors were off shore that was here, and that's what I saw. But y'all had it. All of you. Great vision. And I just wanted to publicly commend you, as well as the entire Chamber and this Board. So thank you and tell us a little bit about it.

Mr. Trip Tollison said, thank you very much. We – we couldn't have pulled this off without the participation from the County. And I'm here to thank y'all. Your financial commitment and the resources you put forward made this thing possible. It was one of the most successful runs in the history of the Rock 'N Roll effort, and we – to me the best part was the citizens that came out of their houses and stood on the street and cheered on the runners. You know, whether it was Anderson Street, or even some people coming out, you know, on some parts of the Truman or whatever, it was – the community really shined. And that – to us that was the best part. Obviously, the size of the economic impact, but it was really neat watching Savannah shine, and it – it really did. But again, we couldn't have done it without y'all so thank you very much. And we accept your apology.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, thank you. No, that's not, but, hey, if I – if I jump on you in public, I want to apologize when I was wrong, and –

Mr. Tollison said, we have two more year under contract with them so hopefully we'll have the support again in November of next year.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, do we have a projection as to the revenue enhancement community wide from that?

Mr. Tollison said, we anticipated a \$30 million impact just for the three days, or the two, two and a half days, but I think it's going to be well over that. We're working on some of those figures right now.

Commissioner Odell said, and we were the smallest venue where they've had this, is that true?

Mr. Tollison said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, and – and – to me that emphasize Savannah is a place you want to go to.

Commissioner Thomas said, exactly.

Commissioner Odell said, we are a point of destination. And you will hear that in the future on some other things we want to do. People want to come to this City. This is a gorgeous City, and I – I made the motion, so I don't apologize to you for it.

Commissioner Thomas said, may –

Mr. Tollison said, thank you. We – it was great.

Commissioner Thomas said, may I say something, Mr. Chairman, before you –

Chairman Liakakis said, yes.

Commissioner Thomas said, – finalize? I – I also want to thank – you already thanked several people, but I also want to thank those community organizations that got the people out there early in the mornings at the various stations. I was there too at 5:00 o'clock in the morning when they first came down Bay Street, and we had to get all the water and everything ready for them, and we had young people, senior citizens, you name it, everybody was out there. But we want to applaud all of those community organizations that came together and helped to make it happen. So just wanted to make sure that they hear that as well. Okay?

Mr. Tollison said, absolutely. Absolutely.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right? Because we'll need them again.

Mr. Tollison said, thank y'all very, very much.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Keep up the good work.

Chairman Liakakis said, some of the hierarchy with the Rock 'N Roll Marathon stated to me that Savannah had the fastest – I guess people signing up for the Savannah Rock 'N Roll Marathon than other places around the country that – on that. And there were a lot of other firsts that Savannah had accomplished for that marathon. So it went beyond, you know, just having somebody set up a race. And they did a great job, and let me just tell you this too, and I'm going to say it at the Visit Savannah meeting. Joe Marinelli did an excellent job, because not only being him the executive director for our Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Visit Savannah, but he was down there on the water front because there were thousands of people that wanted to go across the river to sign up and all and – and I went down there to make sure that we had all of our county bus – the different ferry's and all down there, but Joe [Marinelli] was running back and forth to make sure that the people were moving out. And the people at the Trade Center, they did an excellent job over there also. So thank you again, Trip.

Mr. Tollison said, this community's very fortunate to have Marinelli and that – that team, they do a fantastic job. But the reason, the main reason why the runners rushed to register for the race 'cause they understood that your Assistant County Manager was running in the race and they wanted to be near him. So, I just wanted to put that in the record. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to add the Rock 'N Roll Marathon to the agenda. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Shay was not present for the vote.]

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

1. AT THE BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 2011, PURCHASING ITEM G WAS TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 2011.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, next item. At the Board meeting of November the 4, 2011, purchasing item G was tabled until the next Board meeting, and then it was left on the board. And that's the construction contract for the Mother Mathilda Beasley Pavilion. We need a motion to take it off the item.

Commissioner Thomas said, move to take it off the table.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll – that's in James Holmes' district?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes it is.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah.

Commissioner Odell said, you want it off?

Commissioner Holmes said, we're going to vote on it.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll second Dr. Thomas' motion.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. You want to?

County Manager Abolt said, it's been resolved. The marathon runner you referred to went to the Historic Savannah Foundation. They like it. Let's get it done.

Commissioner Holmes said, appreciate it.

Commissioner Odell said, you need to make a motion.

Commissioner Holmes said, make a motion that this item on the – on the agenda be approved immediately. As soon as possible.

Commissioner Odell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Let's go on the board. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Thomas moved to remove the item from the table. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion.
- b. Commissioner Holmes moved to approve Item G, construction contract for Mother Mathilda Beasley Pavilion. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
G. Construction contract for the Mother Mathilda Beasley Pavilion	Special Projects	R.L. Construction (WBE)	\$334,267	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Mother Mathilda Beasley Park

AGENDA ITEM: ~~X-6-G~~
AGENDA DATE: ~~November 4, 2011~~
AGENDA ITEM: **VIII-1**
AGENDA DATE: **November 18, 2011**

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Michael A. Kaigler, Assistant County Manager/
 Director of Human Resources

ITEM G

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award \$334,267 contract for construction of the Mother Mathilda Beasley Pavilion with R. L. Construction, a WBE firm.

BACKGROUND: Thomas & Hutton Engineering, in association with Greenline, completed the design of the Mother Mathilda Beasley pavilion. The 1,200 square-foot structure will be a raised structure (level with East Broad Street), which should help keep it secure and allow storage beneath it. The design echoes the property's historic use as a railway terminal and resembles the pavilion at Tom Triplett Park but on a small scale suitable for its location in the park. The multi-purpose design provides an area for assembly and restrooms. The facility will be locked except for reserved uses, but keys will be available at St. Benedict the Moor, the church across the street, and the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. This project was property advertised and bids were received and opened on 19 October 2011. The bid responses are as follows:
 - * R. L. Construction Savannah, GA \$334,267
 - ** Pioneer Construction Savannah, GA \$419,200

- * Collins Construction Savannah, GA \$428,000
 - * WBE firm
 - ** MBE firm
2. The bid from R. L. Construction appeared to be the lowest responsible bid. Because of the almost \$85,000 difference from the second bid amount, which was \$8,800 apart from the third bid amount, Assistant County Manager Pat Monahan and Charlie George of Thomas & Hutton Engineering met with R. L. Construction's principal and superintendent/estimator to review bid quantities and unit pricing. Nothing in the pricing would warrant discarding the low bid.
 3. Staff checked references on R. L. Construction and received favorable remarks.
 4. It should be noted that Chatham County contracted with R. L. Construction for the Mosquito Control project, which was completed in 2002. R. L. Construction completed the construction but with some delay and need for re-work (non-substantive issues).

FUNDING: SPLOST (2003-2008) – Mother Mathilda Beasley Park (3234150 - 53.17009 - 32370082).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award a \$334,267 contract for construction of the Mother Mathilda Beasley Pavilion with R. L. Construction. A WBE firm.
2. Board opt not to award a contract and direct staff to re-bid the project.

POLICY ANALYSIS: As a purchase in excess of \$10,000, the County's Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual requires Board approval.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: (1) IN THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES \$72,027 FOR A CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL GRANT TO THE VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (2) IN THE RESTRICTED COURT FEES FUND INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES \$10,000 TO RECOGNIZE REVENUE RECEIVED FROM THE SAVANNAH CHATHAM METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND (3) APPROPRIATIONS OF CONFISCATED REVENUE TOTALING \$51,210 FOR THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM.**

Chairman Liakakis said, Items for Individual Action, one to request approval of the following budget amendments and transfer: (1) in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures \$72,027 for a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council grant to the Victim Witness Assistant program (2) in the Restricted Court Fees Fund increase revenues and expenditure \$10,000 to recognize revenue received from the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and (3) appropriations of Confiscated Revenue totaled \$41,210 for the Counter Narcotics Team. Need a motion.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved for approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: (1) in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures \$72,027 for a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council grant to the Victim Witness Assistance program (2) in the Restricted Court Fees Fund increase revenues and expenditure \$10,000 to recognize revenue received from the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and (3) appropriations of Confiscated Revenue totaling \$41,210 for the Counter Narcotics Team. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 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) in the Multiple Grant Fund increase revenues and expenditures \$72,027 for a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council grant to the Victim Witness Assistance program (2) in the Restricted Court Fees Fund increase revenues and expenditure \$10,000 to recognize revenue received from the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and (3) appropriations of Confiscated Revenue totaling \$41,210 for the Counter Narcotics Team.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has awarded a \$72,027 grant to the Victim Witness Assistance Program. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Multiple Grant Fund are attached.
2. The Office of the District Attorney received a check in the amount of \$10,000 from the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department to help fund a position in the Violence Intervention Program in the Restricted Court Fees Fund. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Restricted Court Fees Fund are attached.
3. The Counter Narcotics Team Director has requested a \$51,210 appropriation of confiscated revenue for equipment. A staff report is attached.

FUNDING: The budget amendments will establish funding in the Multiple Grant and the Restricted Court Fees Funds. Funds are available in the Confiscated Revenue Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

MULTIPLE GRANT FUND FY2012

Increase revenues and expenditures \$72,027 for a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council grant to the Victim Witness Assistance Program.

RESTRICTED COURT FEES FUND FY2012

Increase revenues and expenditures \$10,000 for the Violence Intervention Program in the District Attorney's Office.

CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND FY2012

Appropriate \$51,210 to the Counter Narcotics Team for equipment.

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.

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2. LEE HUGHES WILL PRESENT SUGGESTED ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN 2012 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AND ASK FOR YOUR PREFERENCE IN SCHEDULING LUNCHEON WITH THE DELEGATION.

Chairman Liakakis said, Item 2, Lee Hughes will present suggested items to include in the 2012 legislative program and ask for your preference in scheduling the luncheon with the delegation. Lee [Hughes]?

Mr. Lee Hughes said, good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. First of all the – there's been a development since this was added to your Commission agenda in that I've had discussions with the Dean of the Legislative Delegation and it appears that December 2nd is the best date for us to have our annual meeting with the legislative delegation after the County Commission meeting. You remember we adjourn from here and then have lunch here in this room and go through our items with them. So I guess y'all will have to adopt that by a motion at some point.

Chairman Liakakis said, need a motion then if you want to do it on December the 2nd? Or – or we don't even need a motion for that, right Jon [Hart]?

County Attorney Hart said, no.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, so December the 2nd unless somebody has a –

Commissioner Odell said, somebody does, me. I won't be here. We already got an update from Memorial. That's going to be a very long meeting.

Mr. Hughes said, if you like I can –

Commissioner Odell said, but I won't be here, so.

Mr. Hughes said, Mr. Chairman, I can go back to the Dean of the delegation and ask him if we can make that on the 16th instead if that's what works better. We can talk about that afterwards if you want me to do that.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Do that then.

Mr. Hughes said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, I think the issue would be to help out, it would be at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. So if there's a need for a special call, then Lee [Hughes] can do this without having a special called meeting on the 16th.

Commissioner Odell said, oh, I – I agree. My only point is December 2nd –

County Manager said, yeah, I understand.

Commissioner Odell said, – I won't be here. December 2nd y'all got an update on Memorial.

County Manager Abolt said, I understand.

Commissioner Odell said, I like to keep the agendas – 'cause I worry about Dave [Gellatly]. That's why I did that. I don't want it too long for David [Gellatly].

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you. I appreciate it.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm that guy, Dave [Gellatly].

County Manager Abolt said, we'll shoot for the 16th –

Commissioner Gellatly said, you are.

County Manager Abolt said, – we'll shoot for the 16th for the luncheon.

Mr. Hughes said, you should each have in your packet a – the document entitled November 15th, 2011, Draft #4 of 2012 priorities. There's five items on that. There are actually people here in the audience that can speak to these. The first one was brought to our attention by Linda Cramer. If we need further discussion – description of it, it's to change the law to allow non-lawyer employees to authorize garnishments. She's here to answer any questions if you have on that.

County Attorney Hart said, this is just a situation that arose out of a Supreme Court ruling saying that the garnishment was – if you signed it you're practicing law.

Commissioner Odell said, you are.

County Attorney Hart said, and – and – so what they're going to do is they're going to put some legislation in there so that you can answer a garnishment without having to get a lawyer to do it. And it's more of an administrative issue than anything else.

Commissioner Odell said, but isn't that the unauthorized practice of law?

County Attorney Hart said, that's what the Supreme Court said.

Commissioner Odell said, my people.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Mr. Hughes said, number two was brought to our attention by Dr. Skelton. The formulas to determine how the funding by the State for Health Departments have changed, and the change resulted in some counties getting more of that money and some counties getting less of that money than they did previously. The two biggest losers in the State were actually Glynn County and Chatham County. What this item in front of you suggests that we should try to accomplish with the – with the legislature is to restore – not to change the formulas, but to restore the funding that we will miss out on because of the new formulas in this current year budget, which is the FY 2012 or it would be the amended budget. And also in the FY 2013 budget. And it's – each of those years the item is \$180,000. So we're asking for an additional \$360,000 from the legislature to make our local Health Departments whole. And again, Dr. Skelton was – is – is here to answer any questions you may have on that.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Go ahead.

Mr. Hughes said, number three – number three was brought to us by the Board of Assessors. When there are – the way I understand this is that when a personal property exemption has been granted, it is for a certain number of years, and when those exemptions are renewed for the additional years, they have to – currently they're not allowed to give notice of that renewal by electronic means. This is simply to allow them to do that through electronic means. Number four was brought to us by the Metropolitan Planning Commission and Mr. Thomson is here today. There's actually – since this was added to your agenda, the City of Savannah has suggested that perhaps this is not ready to be brought to the legislature this year. Mr. Thomson can – can answer any questions that you have on that, but we don't want to get out in front of the City on this since many of these properties are within the City limits. If you have any questions?

Commissioner Odell said, so basically, we're going to remove that from the list because the majority of the concern are within the City limits and the elected officials of the City don't want to get out in front on this yet.

Mr. Hughes said, I agree with that. That would be my recommendation, to remove this from our list. The last item on the current list of our priorities, Assistant County Manager Monahan can speak to this in more detail than I do. This is asking for State funds for the extension of the Slip One Riverwalk on Hutchinson island. Pat [Monahan], you want to speak to this?

Commissioner Odell said, I kind of think we're all familiar with it. If we can get some money, Pat [Monahan], go get it.

Assistant County Manager Pat Monahan said, this was – the Chairman asked me to put this on the agenda after a recent meeting. This is the project as – as Commissioner Odell has pointed out has been on the books since 2003. The County has approximately 1.4 million set aside, the – the State has 6.6 million set aside. So we have \$8 million, but the initial – all the permits are in place, the design's done, the right of way's been acquired, the only thing is based on the projections, it will be a \$14 million project. So unless we wait till the sales tax, which may be too late because the permits expire, then the best option would be to seek participation from the State similar as the State has participated in the Savannah River Landing Extension, as well as the Slip 3 Extension.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Any questions for Lee [Hughes]?

Commissioner Gellatly said, right here.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Dave [Gellatly].

Commissioner Gellatly said, it's not particularly a question for you, Lee [Hughes], but what – what I'd like to see, this – this is my – I think probably my eleventh meeting that we've had like this, and I'd like to have – I would like to just know what we asked for last year and – and how our State legislators have done on each one. Did they come – did – did they give 100% what we asked for? Did we get 50%? Or did they just ignore us? And I think that one of the things that we've asked for time and time again was some help from the State – not help but just have the State pay the bill at the jail, and that – that's pretty much been ignored. I would – I would like to have – almost everything else you do in life, you have a report card. I'd like to have an annual report card, and I'd – I would guess that Russ [Abolt] that if we – if we asked for five items last year, how did they do? I'd – I'd like to be able to see that, you know. And – and I – I – I kind of think sometimes that we're – we're spinning our wheels on it – on it. I – I – in many areas I – I say – see very little results from what we're asking for. And it – and it may not be their fault. It may just be the money's not there, you know, or something like that. But I'd – I would just like to know, if we have this meeting every year, and we ask for five things, I think at the end of the year, I'd like to see some kind of a report card what happened.

Mr. Hughes said, I agree with you.

Commissioner Farrell said, I agree.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, can we do that not just for this past year? I don't know what we've gotten in the last four years.

Commissioner Thomas said, nothing.

Commissioner Odell said, we've asked for a lot of stuff. We feed our legislators. What's happened? We've requested these items in 2008 and the results were this in 2008. We requested this in 2009 and the results was this. I'd like to have it written if we could –

Commissioner Thomas said, I agree.

Commissioner Odell said, – so that we can look at it at our leisure and just kind of enjoy the fact that we're making a impact on State legislation.

Commissioner Gellatly said, and – and why aren't we asking them again this year to pay the jail bill?

Mr. Hughes said, well if I could speak to that, Mr. Chairman. I have a list of other items that we will be active on that are not on this list of the top priorities. Commissioner Kicklighter –

Commissioner Gellatly said, I would – I would tell you that paying the jail bill, at least –

Commissioner Stone said, should be a top.

Commissioner Gellatly said, – for this one Commissioner is a top priority and it has been every year and it'll continue to be –

Commissioner Thomas said, mine too.

Commissioner Gellatly said, until they pay their bill. Thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, it's only \$20 million.

Commissioner Gellatly said, it's only 20 million, yeah.

Chairman Liakakis said, no, excuse me, it's almost \$34 million. I get a report every month on that – in that, and that means they are paying \$22 a month. It costs almost \$50 a day for a State – for our prisoners in our county jail and of course the state only recently, a few months ago, they raised it to \$22. They were paying \$20 and then they raised it to \$22. But it's almost right now 34 – somewhere around \$34 million that the State of Georgia owes us for State prisoners in our County jail. And let's see about – is it agreement with everybody here let's make that one of the priorities?

Members of the Board collectively said, yes.

Mr. Hughes said, it's your list. It's the Commissioners' list, and we can certainly add that to it. Mr. Chairman, let me talk to you about these other items that also did not make the list because there might be some that you want to add. The – the approach that we take with this list of priorities is that this real estate on this sheet of paper is very precious. If we have 30 priorities on that list, then it's going to dilute the – every item that's on there. So we want to keep the list as manageable as possible, but clearly if something matters that much to all of the Commission that we want to add it on there, we can do that. The other – the other way to look at this is – and Commissioner Kicklighter often brings this up. There are state-wide issues that – there are issues that effect us that can only be solved with a state-wide solution, and we work very closely with the Association of County Commissioners on all of those issues. These items here are all specific to Chatham County. There are some other state-wide issues that do effect us. Commissioner Farrell last year brought to – brought up the point about the franchise fee, the inequities in the franchise fee collection and then redistribution. We thought we might have some success in getting that corrected through the Omnibus Special Council on Tax Reform legislation which ultimately failed with three days left – left in the session. The legislative leadership has indicated they are going to go back and try to pass that again this coming year. There are some aspects of that that will help, maybe not solve all of that, but will help address some of those inequities. So that's one issue that we will be active on. It's not on this list, but that we will be very active on. In addition to that, there's issues of LOST negotiations and the fact that the unincorporated area may not – is not the same as one of the municipalities and perhaps they need to be – that needs to be considered in the formulas for how those revenues are – are negotiated. ACCG this year will be part of a broad effort to revise the metals theft laws in the State. And that has been brought by a Commissioner, and that is something that we will be actively supportive of because that's a big issue, and I'm sure Chief Lovett can speak to that as well. Also the Transportation Sales Tax. That was taken off the table last year. The legislature said they were not going to make any changes to it in 2011. I say last year, last session. In 2012 there will be efforts to amend that law. I don't know if it will be successful or not, but that's something

that we will have to watch closely. The Chairman has pointed out specifically the language related to penalties for communities that do not accept – that do not pass a referendum on the – on the sales tax, and we have to make sure that – that we protect our interests in that debate.

Mr. Hughes said, next on my list was seek opportunity to increase reimbursement rate for prisoners in county detention center. That has been on our list every year. We had a member of the – of our legislative delegation at one time who had introduced legislation to increase it. We've had discussions every year except for this year with budget – budget writers and members of those appropriations committee and reminded them that we are paying a disproportionate share of that bill that should – they should be helping us with. We haven't – we haven't been successful in changing that. I'm happy to take that back to them again, and I – I frankly agree with you that even though that's a state-wide issue, it probably deserves space on this list, and I – I hear loud and clear from the Commissioners –

Commissioner Stone said, yes.

Commissioner Gellatly said, Lee [Hughes] – Lee [Hughes], I'm glad you hear loud and clear –

Commissioner Thomas said, I am too.

Commissioner Gellatly said, – because it's not an option. I think it's abuse of authority on their part. You know, if I go to a hotel and my bill's \$50.00 and I decide to pay \$26.00 of it, I'm going to be in some real serious legal problems right away. And this – this is having a negative impact on each and every one of the citizens in Chatham County, and as you stated it correctly, it's also a problem for the other 158 counties in – in Georgia. And something needs to be done about that, and – and they need to take it seriously and that's why I want a report card. I'd – I'd like to see at the end of the year if we – if our legislators did in fact enter some more legislation or exactly what did they do to help us on that. It's a real serious issue, and it has a horrible, negative impact on – on every member – every citizen in this County. \$20 million is a lot of money there, and if we're – we're talking about that, it probably ought to be number one on the list. Thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, and in addition to that, Mr. Chairman, I think too that – that it's not fair for them to not pay Chatham County or any other county that's due the – the funds that are due to them. But I also think its also unfair to provide private companies with the amount of money that they request but yet they do not respect our requests.

Mr. Hughes said, in fact, Commissioner, that's – that – I'm glad you brought that up. That was in fact a member of the delegation had written a legislation that said the state could not reimburse a private company more than it did the counties.

Commissioner Farrell said, perfect.

Mr. Hughes said, which seems –

Commissioner Farrell said, perfect.

Mr. Hughes said, – very reasonable.

Commissioner Farrell said, very good start.

Mr. Hughes said, but that could be one of the approaches that we take on that.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay.

Commissioner Gellatly said, that would be great.

Mr. Hughes said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Is that it Lee [Hughes]?

Commissioner Odell said, they're reimbursing private companies –

Commissioner Stone said, do we need to do a resolution on that?

Commissioner Odell said, yeah.

Mr. Hughes said, a Resolution from the County Commission would be very helpful –

Commissioner Stone said, yeah.

Mr. Hughes said, – and I'd be happy to help draft that.

Commissioner Stone said, why don't we do that because I think that's appropriate.

Chairman Liakakis said, go ahead, Patrick [Farrell]?

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, along those lines, maybe all the counties in the State would – that's a very simple, easy to understand approach to this phenomenon that we've been subject to for quite a number of years. On the report card, I – I might make a – I'd like to make a suggestion that – that we have two – two groups of – of items. One that is specific to Chatham County and one that has state-wide ramifications. And – and that – and as we're analyzing what effectiveness we're having from our local delegation that that could perhaps help clarify some of where, you know, whether this is a – a state-wide issue or just a local issue and – and kind of have two groups. Not – not that one is more important than the other by any means. I mean, they're not ranked in importance.

Mr. Hughes said, let me make sure I understand what you're saying –

Commissioner Farrell said, perhaps, like the River Walk, that would be specific to Chatham County, \$6 million.

Mr. Hughes said, right.

Commissioner Farrell said, funding for the jail –

Commissioner Stone said, state-wide.

Commissioner Farrell said, – would have to be a state-wide solution that would have enormous impact on Chatham County, but it's – it's a state-wide issue. You know, whether or not we got \$6 million for the River Walk Extension I don't think would have a lot of impact on the other 158 counties.

Mr. Hughes said, and aren't you also asking though for what kind of response and support we got from the local legislators and what kind of response and support we got from the legislature in general because the two are obviously often not the same. I mean as – as hard as the – the local legislative delegation may work, they may ultimately be unsuccessful which they sometimes are. So.

Commissioner Farrell said, it's just – just data.

Mr. Hughes said, okay.

Commissioner Farrell said, it can – it can be interpreted by any person any way they would like to interpret. But if it's a fact, it'll speak for itself.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, yes?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, one that hopefully will be a lot easier that I think is potentially trouble for the whole state but it could be solved pretty easy is I think they all needed reminders that we on the local government levels do not all have individual secretaries working for us, and their new genius idea to get all of us to file electronically and – rather than the voter registration calling us and us walking in and signing it over, and then, fining us hundreds upon hundreds upon hundreds if you don't, is horrible because I think it – it almost structures a type of forced – like potential corruption. In other words, people are going to have to go ask big business and ask people for money to pay fines that it's the fault of the State for their new rule assuming that everyone has 100 employees working for them like they do. And, you know, on a local level, a lot of times people don't even really carry a lot of money in their accounts, if any, and they're still getting fined, you know, hundreds upon hundreds of dollars. And I know it's happened. I've talked to a bunch of – on the local level around here, a bunch of them are – have been fined. I talked to Senator Carter. He said he's aware on it – aware of it and will do something, but that will be real easy to correct again. Let the people of the small governments do it like they did and have the option to do it on line and remove those huge fines because that will prompt people to have to go raise money and, you know, on local levels. I mean a lot of the things are completely volunteer. There's – there's no money paid to the local governments, and, you know, it's not a – a big career choice. I imagine most up here can tell you you actually lose personal money when you're involved on the local level rather than gaining. And so I don't want that to take up much of your time, but put that in somebody's ear would be a great thing.

Mr. Hughes said, no that's something we should work on the way to word that. It's probably something we should bring to the Association of County Commissioners' attention. We don't need to make it harder for people to serve in public service positions. And while, you know, it's ironic that one of our action items is to allow for electronic delivery of something –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah.

Mr. Hughes said, – but they would also still have the old-fashioned way.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. I mean, allow it, but don't fine us like we're making what our U.S. Congress is making. I mean, you know, give us a – a little punishment there, but, you know, let's not bankrupt people trying to pay a fine because they didn't file a report that stated they had no money or took no money from anyone. So then they'll have to go raise money and –

Commissioner Odell said, – to pay for something –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, to pay the State of Georgia who already owes the County they're working hard for tons of money. And, so –

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Dave [Gellatly]?

Commissioner Gellatly said, I – I just wanted to make another observe – observation what – but before I do I want to agree with Commissioner Kicklighter. This new system they put in place, it was all screwed up when they started it up to begin with and then they issued fines against just about – it looks to me like they've issued fines on about 30 to 40 or more percent of all the elected officials in the State of Georgia, when in fact it was their own screw up. You know, I would – I would certainly like to have conversation with the legislators what are they going to do – do about that. You know, and after saying that, it – the electronic way is probably in – in time will prove to be an efficient way, but the way they started it up was really stupid, and I mean that in the nicest possible way.

Mr. Hughes said, okay.

Commissioner Gellatly said, that wasn't my point. I – just said that because – what – what I – I want us all to be aware of, the Commissioners, in – in – in a couple years we're going to be opening a – a brand new jail with hundreds and hundreds of beds. We don't have a clue how we're going to staff them. At least I don't. Maybe y'all do. But on top of that, if the state continues paying us \$22 for a \$50 bed, they're also going to be very, very tempted when this new jail comes on line, to just leave their prisoners right in the Chatham County Jail, and they've got a long, not so proud history of doing that. And that would be a huge, huge expense for us opening a brand new jail and finding out that now we've got two or three times more state prisoners than we did before because they're not going to pick them up because we got a brand new shiny jail here. I would – I would hope before this – I would hope it wouldn't materialize. I would hope that the State would do the right thing and pay for the prisoners, but if they're not going to do that, I – I think that legally somehow we need to start thinking about what are we going to do when we open that jail if the State decides to just flood it with state prisoners? How we're going to protect ourselves from that. And that could – that could be reality.

Mr. Hughes said, I think that's also be part of your story to the – to the legislative delegation –

Commissioner Gellatly said, yes.

Mr. Hughes said, – that there's a cost today but it's only going to go up exponentially when there's a new jail.

Commissioner Gellatly said, there's going to be a huge temptation for them to warehouse them in Chatham County with a new jail coming on board.

Mr. Hughes said, right.

Chairman Liakakis said, Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Abolt said, first of all you'll know the staffing requirements by – by your budget retreat. Secondly, and my plan as mentioned before in cooperation with Marshal Steve Smith and the Sheriff is that we're not going to have empty beds. We're going to rent our beds out to good paying customers. And so I think the way to do it would in effect say to the State, there aren't any empty beds in Chatham County because we have contracts with the U.S. Marshal Service. We have contracts with other counties and they're – they're – they're paying the appropriate fare for these beds. And that's – that's my strategy to how we're going to fund this jail. We're going to take advantage of the vacant room, the vacant beds, and we're going to rent them out, and we're going to make enough money to help fund the cost of that new jail.

Commissioner Odell said, but the point is, Russ [Abolt] if the State of Georgia leaves more prisoners because we've got this shiny jail, then we have less beds to rent out. And I guess my point is – or David's [Gellatly] point –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I like the way you took that point.

Commissioner Odell said, – David's [Gellatly] point is we have a problem of \$34 million magnitude. We're going to be opening a new jail. It makes sense what you've done with Steve Smith and others so that if we do have the availability, we can contract with the federal government, and the federal government will pay a reasonable amount for stacking a prisoner there. Other counties will pay your amount.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, our problem is the State of Georgia is not so inclined or agreeable and there's something, and I know – I've been accused of not showing the reverence for our State officials as – as some people think I need to. There's something that we need to do to convince them that this is an urgent problem because it's a problem because citizens of Chatham County are in fact subsidizing the State of Georgia. So when they talk about no tax increase, that's a tax increase. Because we paid for it. We paid for it out of property taxes. The State ought to be paying. We would be \$34 million richer. Could you use \$34 million, Mr. Abolt?

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Odell said, you think you could? You could – you could find a place on our – we got items on our CIP list that have been on that list since I had all of my hair at the top, which is like 15 years. What do we do without just feeding these people and nothing happens? Yeah. I don't mind feeding the folk, but I agree again with David [Gellatly], I don't want that to be – to be assembled. Go ahead. Are you in a hurry?

Chairman Liakakis said, no.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. We do need to have some level of accountability, and Mr. Chairman interrupted me and made me lose my thought.

Chairman Liakakis said, well I was going to –

Commissioner Odell said, I understand, and I'm gonna let him have the floor.

Chairman Liakakis said, so that you know what happened a few years ago, I talked to them in Atlanta, and I talked to some – a couple of the legislators and all, and – 'cause I had mentioned to our County Commission that we ought to sue the State of Georgia. So I took that message up to Atlanta, and I was told by some of the legislators that the monies that they would have to pay out for State prisoners in the county jail, pay the full amount, that they did not have that kind of money in the budget to be able to pay it out. And if we sued them that more than likely that we would win the suit, but in the – from then on, that we would be in a negative position from the State of Georgia, that they would do things, you know, we wouldn't receive monies like we supposed to or different things like that. So that's – that's what I was told to let you know. That came from the State house.

Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but that literally concerns me. They refuse to do the right thing. If we compel them to do the right thing –

Commissioner Farrell said, they're going to punish us.

Commissioner Odell said, they're going to punish us.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I know that several members – several members of the Commission worked on this issue in the past, and I know that the Association of County Commissioners still keeps this as one of their priority items, so I think we just have to keep on keeping on and remind them what they do owe us, and I believe – I – I agree with everything that's been said today. It's not the right thing to do, and I think that they need to own up to their responsibility, and I think we need to keep pushing for it because it's the tax payers' money. It's not our money. It's not the county's money. It belongs to the tax payers.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Is that it, Lee [Hughes], 'cause we –

Mr. Hughes said, no.

Chairman Liakakis said, you got others?

Mr. Hughes said, there's some – there's some follow ups to those very things. First of all I moved that to the top of the list hearing what the Commission said. Secondly, I can talk with the County Attorney and perhaps Commissioner Gellatly and see if one way we might address that is if there's either State law that we could change or local law that we could change that limits the number of days they can leave a state prisoner in our – in our county detention center. Might be another way to help cut some of those costs. Finally, there were two other items that have come to my attention in – in the last week. Some of them today that might – you might consider to add to this. One was Commissioner Stone's and Gellatly's experience related to election fraud. During the pre-meeting you referenced that there are some ways to possibly address that. This – this is not a final version of this list, and if Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Gellatly wanted to add that item to it, we certainly could. And also, there was discussion during the – the discussion about the hospital bond issue, Commissioner Stone suggested that we look at possible legislative fixes for the requirement to accept indigent patients from other communities. I don't know how to begin addressing that, but if – if we worked on something like that it could become one of our priorities.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but we can't from what we heard earlier, it's a federal law, so.

Commissioner Stone said, but you can address it. I mean you can address it through a share cost from the other counties. It – it can be looked at. I'm not going to say that we're going to get the outcome that we might want, but I think for us to just blindly accept it and have our Chatham County tax payers paying for it is wrong. So I think that we do need to look at it and I – and I believe some work on this – I – I did a little bit of research, and I know a couple people that might be able to assist with this that have done some research on it, and I'll be happy to get with you at a later time and – and go over this and try to come up with something that – that might be a solution.

Mr. Hughes said, you know, the legislative session begins the second Monday in January this year. It's the ninth. We have never gone into it with a list of priorities and limited whatever advocacy work we did to that list. So, you know, the sooner the better, but if we come up with that and sometime in January we can still –

Commissioner Stone said, I'll get it to you way before then.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you.

Mr. Hughes said, that's all that I have.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

Chatham County 2012 Legislative Priorities Draft #4

1. Change law to allow non-lawyer employees to authorize garnishments.
2. Restore adequate grant-in-aid funding levels for Chatham County Department of Health. (\$180K in amended FY 2012 budget and \$180K in FY 2013 budget.)
3. Change law to provide that renewals of personal property inventory exemptions can be delivered electronically.
4. Change law to allow local governments to obtain clear title on properties that have been identified as "blighted" or otherwise "uninhabitable" so that the property can be redeveloped, restored or converted into affordable or workforce housing.
5. Secure \$6 million in state funds for extension of Slip 1 Riverwalk on Hutchinson Island.

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3. TO PRESENT THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 FIRST QUARTER REPORT DATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011, TO THE BOARD FOR INFORMATION.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Next, to present the fiscal year 2012 first quarter report dated September the 30th 2011 to the Board for information. That was in our packet. Is there anything you can quickly tell us?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Cramer is available for questions. To give you a highlight, the first quarter's looking reasonably well. We're picking up in Mosquito Control in companion to our problem with West Nile. We're going to have some line item problems relative to overtime and other things like that. We're going to have to make adjustments on – as the year goes on. Essentially we all know that it lasted – earlier this week we collected our property taxes so the cash flow and the revenue is expected, we would hope would be coming in as planned. There is a slight downturn beyond what we forecasted in SPLOST. It's down about 14%. We already cut it by 12%. We're watching that closely. And Ms. Cramer and her staff and my folks, we're in charge.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Good.

Commissioner Farrell said, let me ask you something. Mosquito Control is kind of a seasonal business, which I'm familiar with. If – if – if there was a lot of overtime during the busy season, is there a possibility that that could be balanced out by –

County Manager Abolt said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, – by cutting back a little on –

County Manager Abolt said, we – we –

Commissioner Farrell said, – on regular scheduled hours in the less busy part of the year?

County Manager Abolt said, – Dr. – Dr. – Dr. Lewandowski is a master of this. We're saying – it's a situation that's manageable. We're going to solve.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

For information.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

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

ISSUE: To present the Fiscal Year 2012 First Quarter Report dated September 30, 2011 to the Board for information.

BACKGROUND: Financial reporting conveys information concerning the position and activities of the County to its citizens and other interested parties. Interim financial reports generally are prepared for use by professional government managers and board members. Such reports monitor levels of year-to-date operations and determine compliance with budgetary limitations.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

- 1) The First Quarter Report covers various county funds and activities while presenting budget-to-actual comparisons. Adopted and amended fund budgets are presented as well as variance data. Prior year numbers are presented for comparison on the General Fund and Special Service District Summary Report.
- 2) The amended budgets shown herein represent budget transfers approved through September 30, 2011. In some cases, subsequent adjustment have occurred. Year-to-date expenditure and project balances are presented. Open purchase orders and outstanding contractual obligations are not included in the year-to-date expenditure amounts. Since the County has not yet received its audited statements, budget amendments related to fund balance carryforwards are not reflected on the first quarter statements.
- 3) Notable items include the following:

General Fund M&O

- The General Fund received revenues of \$14.5 million through September 30, 2011 and expended \$44.6 million. This represented 9.6% and 29.6% of budgeted amounts respectively. Expenditures exceeded cash receipts by over \$30 million.
- General property tax collections were \$7.1 million or 6% of annual budget estimates. Second installment property tax billings were mailed in October 2011; therefore, favorable revenue variances are anticipated for the second quarter.
- Sales and use tax revenue constitutes 7% of the General Fund's overall budget. Revenues in this category were favorable for the quarter at 27% of budget estimates.
- Finance has processed and received payment for Savannah inmate billing charges through July 2011.
- Cash balances in the fund were low for the quarter due to cyclical tax revenue collections and pension fund contributions that were made at the first of the fiscal year. The pension fund contributions are reflected at the department expenditure level.
- Unusual expenditure variances for the following departments are explained below:
 - The report shows a number of departments with year-to-date expenditures realized of approximately 30%. In most cases this was caused by annual pension contributions made in July 2011.
 - Mosquito Control – 37.7% - the Department utilized 60% of its overtime budget and 62% of its materials and supplies budget in the first quarter.
 - Construction Apprentice Program – 44.05% - Funding for this department has been modified from a traditional department to a quarterly distribution, net of employee expenses. As a result, there should not be a budget variance by year end.
 - Other finance uses – 69% - Most budgeted interfund transfers occur during the first quarter annually. This includes transfers to the Solid Waste Fund and the Risk Management Fund.

Special Service District (SSD)

- Through September 30, 2011, the SSD Fund has received revenues of \$2 million, 7.9% of budgeted amounts. Expenditures of \$7.5 million were recorded, 27.7% of budgeted amounts.
- General property tax collections were \$1.16 million or 7% of budgeted revenues. Since the second installment property tax billings were mailed in October 2011, it is anticipated that revenues will significantly increase in the second quarter.
- Business license revenues were 3% of budget; however, most licenses are collected at the first of the calendar year.
- Since insurance premium taxes are received in the second quarter, they are not shown on this report. However, in October revenue of \$3,647,030 was received which exceeded the 2012 budgeted amount by \$257,031. The State distributes this revenue pro rata based on population numbers, and the County's share increased due to the 2010 Census results.
- Other financing uses showed a year-to-date utilization of 69% as a result of transfers out to the Risk Management Fund and the Building Safety & Regulatory Services enterprise fund.

Sheriff Confiscated Fund

- Realized expenditures of \$51,097 are within the fund's overall budget for the year. The current budget does not reflect 2011 fund balance carryforwards of \$90,765.

Multiple Grant Fund

- Grant are reimbursement-based, and quarterly grant drawdowns should eventually offset any differences between fund revenues and expenditures.

Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance (LDAO) Fund

- The FY 2012 budget anticipated revenue shortfalls in this fund during the year. The fund enters the fiscal year with a fund balance of \$164,000 which will help cover shortfalls until fee revenues improve. The budget also includes an interfund loan of \$86,657 to cover any additional expenditure gaps.

Capital Project Funds

- Project accounting schedules are shown herein for all of the County’s capital project funds, including the SPLOST funds.
- The County’s SPLOST collections reached over \$165 million through September 2011. The referendum anticipated total collections of \$445 million; however, actual revenues have not kept pace with the projections and are now 14% below initial estimates. County projects have already been adjusted for a 12% overall revenue shortfall.

Health Insurance Fund

- Medical costs are on pace with budget through the first quarter. Retiree health care claims and administrative costs of \$1,141,707 were recorded in the OPEB Trust Fund for the year-to-date.

FUNDING: N/A

POLICY ANALYSIS: Interim financial reports provide revenue and budgetary oversight by comparing actual receipts or expenditures against budgeted amounts.

ALTERNATIVES: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

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4. ~~BOARD CONSIDERATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY (GPA) REGARDING STORMWATER DISCHARGES INTO THE PIPEMAKERS CANAL, CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING A PORTION OF THE GRANGE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY SURPLUS, AND CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY THE GPA TO QUITCLAIM THE RIGHT OF WAY. [DISTRICT 8.]~~

[NOTE: This item was removed from the agenda.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR A NEW BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2011. PETITIONER: PAUL CHILDERS D/B/A THE PIZZA 3.14 CO., LOCATED AT 7360 SKIDAWAY ROAD, UNIT A, 31406. STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVAL CONTINGENT UPON COMPLETION OF RENOVATION AND CODE COMPLIANCE. [DISTRICT 3].

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, item 5, request approval for a new beer and wine pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011. Petitioner Paul Childers, the Pizza 3-1-4 C-O located at 7360 Skidaway Road. Staff recommends approval contingent upon completion of renovation and code compliance [sic]. And y’all have already explained that to the people that they have to do that – get that completed, correct, Greg [Anderson]?

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, that’s correct, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the – Mr. Childers is in the – in the audience today. The ball is in his court. This is an opportunity for us to respond. If he does get – and we pray that he does get his renovation done and all the code issues addressed by – by next week, his – his intent is to open the day after Thanksgiving. And certainly we’re closed Thursday and Friday, so Wednesday is the drop dead date for him, and he is aware of that. So, this is an opportunity for us to – to respond to his request and give him the opportunity to not only open but also to serve alcoholic beverages at that time.

Chairman Liakakis said, need a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved.

Chairman Liakakis said, need a second.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved for approval for a new beer and wine pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011, Paul Childers d/b/a The Pizza 3.14 Co., located at 7360 Skidaway Road, Unit A-1, Savannah, Georgia 31406, contingent upon completion of renovation and code compliance. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, and Odell were not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-5
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 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 new beer and wine pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2011, **Paul Childers d/b/a The Pizza 3.14 Co., located at 7360 Skidaway Road, Unit A-1, Savannah, Georgia 31406.**

BACKGROUND

Mr. Childers requests approval for a new beer and wine pouring license and Sunday Sales license in connection with a new restaurant. The restaurant is scheduled to open the day after Thanksgiving.

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 location of the proposed restaurant is currently under renovation and is scheduled to be completed in time for a day after Thanksgiving opening. Since this meeting is the last before the scheduled opening, the issuance of the requested licenses is contingent upon the renovation being completed and approved for code compliance.
3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday Sales Ordinance.
4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

POLICY ANALYSIS

Issuance of the requested licenses cannot be done until the renovated tenant space is completed and approved for code compliance. Conditional approval by the Board of Commissioners enables the restaurant owner's desired schedule to be met, if the renovation is completed and not having to wait for the next board meeting in December and lose two weeks of operational time.

RECOMMENDATION

The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval; contingent upon completion of the renovation and code compliance.

District 3

 Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

 Chief Willie Lovett

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6. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.

Chairman Liakakis said, CNT Monthly report, Director Ragan. Everett [Ragan]?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, as Director Ragan comes forward, I know in the past some thought it was tongue and cheek that Director Ragan would always plan his big busts in – in advance of the Board presentation, but he did it again. As you know earlier this week he made a big bust, and I'll guarantee you it's a trend, so that at every meeting, two days prior to your agenda, Director Ragan, now in his work plan, is committed to major bust. Director Ragan.

D. Everett Ragan, CNT Director said, we cannot set the time table when people's going to be messing with drugs, we only do it at the – at the – when we're called upon. Ladies and gentlemen, I know it's been a long meeting, we'll be very short this morning. October we initiated another 87 cases, 46 of those already closed out. We've had a – I wouldn't say a low amount of arrests, but our arrests were reduced to 28 this past month. Reasons for that were additional people in training. Again, we had our people in Meridian, Mississippi for the free training on the meth labs. We had a – did some work on a new SPICE initiative where people called in and took several days to get our businesses notified, and four agents were working administratively on an upcoming case. So all in all it was still a good month, had some good significant events, and if – I know it's been a long day so –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you had some – you had some amazing, huge busts –

County Manager Abolt said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you may have had a lower amount, but you had some major busts. So –

Director Ragan said, yes, sir, we had some really good arrests.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, so –

Director Ragan said, really good. And let – and the case Mr. – Mr. Abolt was talking about again we'll talk – perhaps a little bit further the next month, but it is a significant incident in Pooler. It's one that – that it will continue. We've got additional individuals that will – we will pick up on that – on that case. And we added – we added 13 charges to the primary defendants yesterday. So it's a large case. It's the first time I've seen a moon – an operating moonshine still

in many, many years. And – we had state revenues there were testing it, and one gallon was like 139 proof and then another gallon was 180 proof white lightning. So –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, how did it taste? No, I'm just kidding.

Director Ragan said, I didn't – well you know you say – you say that but back in my family – well my brother's family history, there was – there was an incident with some old – my grandfathers and great uncles that may have had dabbled in that back in the day, and I can remember when I was in my mid-teens a family member bringing some by the house. And it's been, you know, 40 years since I've ever tasted it, so I happened to mention that to the gentleman that – the defendant at the house. He said well – he said well Director Ragan, go ahead and take you a pint, and I said, no, sir, I said, I still like being a police officer –

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's right.

Director Ragan said, – being a police officer for many years. He said, well police gotta drink too. I said, yes, sir, but it ain't going to be white lightning anymore. But any questions about the monthly report?

Chairman Liakakis said, well, thank you very much, you and your staff did a great job.

Director Ragan said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-6
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

**Chatham~Savannah
 Counter Narcotics Team
 Monthly Report October, 2011**

NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS	
Investigations Initiated During the month	87
Total Number of Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	46

DRUGS SEIZED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	.2 Grams	\$20.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	9.4 Grams	\$940.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	2051.00 Grams	\$205,100.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	1.50 Ounces	\$210.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	.3 Grams	\$75.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	0 D/U	\$.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	676 D/U	\$20,280.00
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	428.46 Grams	\$41,906.00
Crack Cocaine	269.00 Grams	\$25,960.00
Methamphetamine	2,636.3 Grams	\$58,530.00
Marijuana	4,293.9 Ounces	\$600,936.00
Heroin	73.10 Grams	\$18,200.00
Ecstasy	613 D/U	\$15,325.00
Misc. Pills	9,947 D/U	\$278,130.00
Hallucinogens	0 Grams	\$0
Synthetic (Steroids)	460.5 ml	\$4,605.00

DRUGS PURCHASED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	11.10 Grams	\$1,110.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	119.40 Grams	\$11,940.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	.70 Grams	\$70.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	.40 Ounces	\$56.00

Heroin	\$250 per gram*	0 Grams	\$.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	15 D/U	\$375.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	0 D/U	\$.00

Source: Office National Drug Control Policy
 ** Source: Established regional average price

WEAPONS SEIZED	
Firearms (including hand guns and long guns)	3
Year To Date Totals	71

PERSONS ARRESTED	
Felony*	13
Felony Sales/Trafficking	9
Misdemeanor	1
Felony Non-Drug**	5
Total Arrests	28
Year To Date Totals	385

*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	0	0
Hot Line / Call-In Complaints	18	18
Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies	5	5
Crime Stopper Complaints	30	28
DRUG COMPLAINTS—YEAR TO DATE	434	409

**HOURS EXPENDED IN MUNICIPALITIES—YEAR TO DATE
 DRUG INVESTIGATIONS
 HOURS WORKED BY ZONE**

SCMPD – All Precincts	2,199
Municipalities (Unincorporated Chatham County—499 hours)	942
	TOTAL 3,141

Administrative Hours	640
Case Administration	613
Pharmaceutical Diversions	240
Central Intelligence	480
Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)	150
Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies	1
Training	392
Court Hours	26
	TOTAL 2,542

Total Hours Worked **5,683**

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On 10/04/2011, CNT agents executed a search warrant on Stubbs Lane located in Bryan County in reference to a methamphetamine lab. A result of the search produced numerous items associated with the manufacturing of meth along with two firearms. Upon processing the lab, agents were able to seize approximately 1928 grams (4.3 pounds) of bi-product or "grits" which field tested positive for meth. One subject was arrested and charged with trafficking meth, manufacturing meth, and possession of firearm by felon.
- On 10/11/2011, CNT agents conducted a search at a residence located on Moore Avenue in Pooler. The initial contact was due to a previous meth investigation and additional complaints involving a subject manufacturing meth. A search of the residence produced numerous items associated with manufacturing meth along with additional bi-product, "grits". One subject was arrested and charged with trafficking in meth and manufacturing meth.

3. On 10/12/2011, CNT agents received a tip from a local pharmacy involving several subjects purchasing pseudoephedrine from multiple stores along Ogeechee Road. Agents located the subjects at the CVS pharmacy on Ogeechee Road. Agents made contact and discovered that three subjects were in a vehicle purchasing pseudoephedrine from various stores on Ogeechee Road in an effort to conceal their activities. A search of the vehicle produced five boxes of pseudoephedrine from the various pharmacies. During interviews of these suspects, the intended recipient of the pseudoephedrine or the "cook" contacted one of the subjects and attempted to set up a meeting to pick up the aforementioned pseudoephedrine. Agents instead arrived and met with the subject who was found to be in possession of meth, other items associated with its manufacture, and approximately \$936 in currency. A total of three subjects were arrested and charged with possession of pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture meth, and possession of meth.
4. On 10/13/2011, CNT agents in a joint investigation with the Postal Inspector's office, executed a search warrant on Cotesby Lane (Landings) in reference to a United States Parcel package containing steroids. CNT was alerted by ICE agents of an incoming package from Turkey that was found to contain a large quantity of steroids. A search revealed a vast amount of steroids in the residence and in the trunk of a 2009 BMW that was parked in the garage. In addition to the steroids, agents located HGH, Xanax, and other illegal substances. One subject was arrested for possession of steroids (schedule III and IV controlled substances) and agents seized the aforementioned BMW.
5. On 10/21/2011, CNT agents in another joint investigation with the Postal Inspector's office, executed a search warrant after being alerted to a possible delivery of a large amount of Roxycotin to a residence in the 400 block of East Walburg Street. The parcel package was found to contain over 570 pills of Roxycotin of various strengths. The pills were in prescription bottles filled by a nurse practitioner out of Maine. Upon conducting interviews of the recipient, it was found that the recipient was an addict and was over medicating herself. DEA Diversion was notified in Maine and will be conducting an investigation into the nurse practitioner.
6. On 10/21/2011, CNT agents delivered ADA approved letters to all the stores in the Savannah and Bryan County area that were currently selling synthetic marijuana and bath salts. The letter urged them to stop selling the two items due to them containing controlled substances and having ill effects on the consumer. This activity was covered by the media and after the letters were delivered CNT began receiving calls from various neighboring jurisdictions asking for a copy of the letter. They advised that they were having the same problem in their communities and praised CNT efforts for combating it.
7. On 10/25/2011, CNT agents worked with SCMPD in reference to a subject in possession of large amounts of marijuana and a firearm in the Westlake area. Agents identified the target and found that he had an extensive criminal history and had recently fled from SCMPD involving other drug and firearm charges. Agents determined the suspect's location and began to approach him while in a vehicle and he immediately took flight on foot. Agents gave chase and with the assistance of SCMPD captured the subject in the nearby wood line. Inside the vehicle, agents found, marijuana, a digital scale, and a firearm in the driver's compartment. A check on the firearm revealed that it was reported stolen. The subject was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Agents contacted BATF in reference to referring the investigation for a Federal "Ceasefire" prosecution.
8. On 10/27/2011, CNT agents, along with Bryan County deputies conducted an early morning arrest sweep involving several subjects involved in manufacturing meth. Agents arrested 5 subjects in Bryan County and two in Chatham County with the help of the Pooler and Bloomingdale PD. During the arrests in Bryan County, agents discovered an inactive meth lab located on Malden Branch Road. Numerous items were seized that were being utilized to manufacture meth in a small shed on the property. Agents also seized finished meth and one firearm during a search of the residence and property. Three more subjects were arrested in Pooler and Bloomingdale for purchasing pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture meth.
9. Also during the month CNT sent three agents to a two week Meth Lab Certification School. This particular class provides certification for the agents to enter, process, and transport items found/seized in a meth lab.

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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, okay, next, Action Calendar. We have items 1 through 5 and under 5, we have items A through E. Any specific items that any of the Commissioners like to hold out? I've got one that I'm going to pull, 5-C. I'd like a motion on the floor to approve all items on the Action calendar except Item 5-C.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Motion passes. Item 5-C, this is a three-year contract to provide utility bill audit services, and the – there were three bidders on this and Utility Analysis, Incorporated, let me explain to you about that. I was concerned and have been about the power bills – our electrical bills, and I was able to get the – through the County Manager to get a number of safeguards and to turn off the electricity that – that was on this building 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We've served – saved a considerable amount of money. Now they're doing the same thing at the judicial building on Montgomery Street, and then I talked to an individual company about a special payments that we would pay the vendors. There are some 52 formulas on the Georgia Power Company for administering electrical rates. There are 52. And in that, when I was talking to these – this

one utility company that does this analysis, they stated that what they would do is they would go out and look at our bills. So I had these bills for all of our electrical power units to be sent to these utility companies. Then we had three bids, and one came back, the Utility Analysis, and the way it is set up now is that the – the amounts of money – this is a three-year contract and here’s what they do, they take our electrical bills and they see – and they compare them to those 52 formulas that the power company has, and if it’s not in the right formula, then they get them to change that through us, and there is a savings of money. So here’s the way it is broken down, the first 0 to \$50,000 they keep 80%, we receive 20%. From 50,000 to 100,000, they keep 70%, we get 30%, and it goes down to some other figures, and 500,000 to \$1 million, they keep 70% and we receive 30% on that, and then if it’s over \$1 million, they keep 80% and we receive 20%, but we will be getting money that we are paying out – they will be – the power company – we will receive that money and this is a three-year contract and after three years, we receive the full savings, so it’s – be 100% savings. So, that particular item, I’d like for somebody to make a motion now –

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Chairman Liakakis – that we accept this.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved.

Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, yes?

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Curl is right in this, the percentage is flip-flopped, sir. You – you picked up two different columns. The county is the major beneficiary. So the first column is what we would retain –

Chairman Liakakis said, oh yeah –

County Manager Abolt said, – the second column –

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, yeah, yeah, right.

County Manager Abolt said, yeah, so we – we – we get –

Chairman Liakakis said, I see that.

County Manager Abolt said, – 80% of the first one, 70, 60, 70 and 80 again.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah.

Commissioner Stone said, that’s good.

County Manager Abolt said, and I do want to recognize the Chairman. He – he – from time to time just gets to be a junk yard dog on some things. He’s a junk yard dog on this. Had it not been for him, we would not have been here. The County had some bad experiences before when we tried this, people wanted to sell us some hardware. Say, you put this little gadget on your light bulb, you know, you’re going to save this, and – but it required an up front investment. This does not require an up front investment. So it’s a very good idea. I want to publicly recognize the Chairman for opening my eyes.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, so we’ll receive the – the – the majority of the money and they get paid that percentages that they are saving us.

County Manager Abolt said, the highest percent will be 40% for them.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Stone moved to approve Items 1 through 5 and under item 5, Items A through E, except Item 5-C. Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell, and Thomas were not present for the vote.]
- b. Commissioner Stone moved to approve item 5-C, approval to award a three (3) year contract with Utilities Analyses, Inc., of Suwanee, GA, to provide Utility Bill Audit Services for Chatham County. Payment for this service would be from identified savings. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas 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 NOVEMBER 4, 2011, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 4, 2011, as mailed. Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present for the vote.]

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 27, 2011 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2011.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period October 27, 2011 through November 8, 2011, in the amount of \$3,120,293. Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present for the vote.]

=====

3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EXECUTION OF A REAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT WITH GDOT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH TRUMAN TRAIL, PHASE 2, AND SPECIFICALLY FOR THE WIDENING OF THE JULIE BACKUS SMITH TRAIL AT LAKE MAYER. [DISTRICT 3].

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved the Board to approve execution of a real property agreement with GDOT to move forward with Truman Trail, Phase 2 and specifically for the widening of the Julie Backus Smith Trail at Lake Mayer. Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

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

ISSUE:

To confirm execution of a Real Property Agreement with GDOT to move forward with Truman Trail, Phase 2 and specifically for the widening of the Julie Backus Smith Trail at Lake Mayer.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County received a Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant for Truman Trail Phase II. The grant funds a project to widen the Julie Backus Smith Trail at Lake Mayer with a four-foot wide path of recycled rubber and then connect to Truman Trail, Phase 2.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Real Property Agreement is attached. The agreement certifies that Chatham County will dedicate the property for the project and conform to the federal Uniform Relocation Act. The County can comply with these measures.
2. The Chairman and Clerk executed the documents because of time constraints.

FUNDING:

This part of the project will be part of the County's matching funds for the Truman Trail, Phase 2, which includes \$1,008,000 in a federal grant, \$200,000 TE Grant, and \$300,000 in 2003-2008 SPLOST for Open Space and Greenways, or a total project budget of \$1,508,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board confirm execution of a Real Property Agreement with GDOT to move forward with Truman Trail, Phase 2, and specifically the widening of the Julie Backus Smith Trail at Lake Mayer.
2. That the Board take other action, as appropriate.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Development of the Truman Trail promotes a Board-adopted project to enhance recreational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative #1.

District 8

REAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into on this the ___ day of ___, by and between the GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Department is authorized to receive federal funding for Transportation Enhancement Activities for Georgia pursuant to provisions of 23 U.S.C. Section 139(b)(8); and

WHEREAS, CHATHAM County, Georgia, has represented to the Department that it has the authority to receive and expend federal funds for the purpose of the project, is qualified to provide its services necessary for the implementation of the project, and the Department has relied upon such representation;

NOW, THEREFORE, it being duly considered and in recognition of the value and benefits accruing to the Local Government from said proposed Transportation Enhancement Project funding does promise and covenant as herein made; it agrees that:

ARTICLE I

Project: Coastal Georgia Greenway Multi-Use Trails in 9 Counties - Truman Trail Phase II
P. I. Number: 0000538

Description of Real Estate:

the project consists of the widening of the existing multi-use trail within the Lake Mayer Community Park located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Sallie Mood Drive and Montgomery Cross Road in Savannah, Georgia.

ARTICLE II

- Chatham County, Georgia, acknowledges that federal funds are being used to purchase the property designated in Article I, and, if this property ever changes ownership, the local government will reimburse the Georgia Department of Transportation the Fair Market Value of the property based on the Project's actual share ratio.
CHATHAM County, Georgia, acknowledges that federal funds are NOT being used to purchase the property designated in Article I, but if acquisition is needed, it will be acquired in accordance with Public Law 91-646, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the FHWA including, but no limited to, Title 23, United States Code; 23 CFR 710, et. seq., and 49 CFR Part 24, and the rules and regulations of the Department. This work shall be coordinated with the Georgia Department of Transportation Office of Right of Way.

ARTICLE III

It is further agreed that this agreement will be referenced in the warranty deed for the above referenced property.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals, on this day and year first above written.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA (SEAL)

BY: PETE LIAKAKIS
CHAIRMAN, CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

(AFFIX CITY/COUNTY SEAL HERE)

ATTEST: JANICE BOCOOK
CLERK TO THE COMMISSION

(AFFIX NOTARY SEAL HERE)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (SEAL)

BY:

ITS:

(AFFIX NOTARY SEAL HERE)

=====

4. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN EASEMENT WITH GEORGIA POWER TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN A NEW TRANSMISSION LINE ON

CHATHAM COUNTY PROPERTY (PIN 1-1005-01-030) LOCATED ON S.R. 204/ABERCORN EXTENSION. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve authorization for the Chairman to execute an easement with Georgia Power to construct and maintain a new transmission line on Chatham County property (PIN 1-1005-01-030) located on S.R. 204/Abercorn Extension. Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

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

ISSUE: To authorize the Chairman to execute an Easement with Georgia Power to construct and maintain a new transmission line on Chatham County property (PIN 1-1005-01-030) located on State Route 204/Abercorn Extension.

BACKGROUND: Georgia Power plans to construct a new Little Ogeechee-New Dutchtown 115KV Transmission Line adjacent to State Route 204/Abercorn Extension. The new transmission line must cross a parcel owned by Chatham County. Georgia Power requests an easement to construct and maintain the new line.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Chatham County owns the lot (PIN 1-1005-01-030) located on State Route 204/Abercorn Extension, between U.S. Highway 17 and Pine Grove Drive.
2. Georgia Power will construct the new transmission line to serve the area surrounding St. Joseph's Hospital.
3. The easement was reviewed and approved by the County Attorney as to legal form.

FUNDING: No funds are required.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To authorize the Chairman to execute an Easement with Georgia Power to construct and maintain a new transmission line on Chatham County property (PIN 1-1005-01-030) located on State Route 204/Abercorn Extension.
2. To not authorize the Easement with Georgia Power.

POLICY ANALYSIS: The Board must approve easements.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve Alternative No. 1.

District 7.

Name of Line	LITTLE OGEECHEE-NEWDUTCHTOWN 115KV TRANSMISSION LINE		
No	12039		
Parcel No	032	Account No	69596-VBS-XALACQG-248804-0-0-35000000
Letter File	6-3775	Deed File	18133
		Map File	P-239

State of Georgia
Gwinnett County

E A S E M E N T

For and in consideration of the sum of Ten and 00/100 ***** Dollars \$ 10.00 In hand paid by **Georgia Power Company**, A Georgia Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "Georgia Power" which term shall include successors and assigns), the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged,

Chatham County (hereinafter referred to as "the Undersigned", which terms shall include heirs, Successors and assigns) whose Post Office Address is 124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

does hereby grant to Georgia Power the rights to, from time to time, construct, operate, maintain, renew and rebuild overhead and underground electric transmission, distribution and communication lines, together with necessary or convenience towers, frames, poles, wires, manholes, conduits, fixtures, appliances, and protective wires and devices in connection therewith (all being hereinafter referred to as "the Facilities") upon or under a tract of land being more fully located and described below (hereinafter referred to as "the Premises"), together with the right of Georgia Power to grant, or permit the exercise of, the same rights, either in whole or in part, to others, and said rights are granted to Georgia Power together with all rights, privileges and easements necessary or convenient for the full enjoyment and use of the Premises for the purposes above described, including the right of ingress and egress to and from the Premises over lands of the Undersigned and the right to cut away and keep clear, remove and dispose of all trees and undergrowth

and to remove and dispose of all obstructions now on the Premises or that may hereafter may be placed on the Premises by the Undersigned or any other person.

Further, Georgia Power shall have the right to cut, remove and dispose of dead, diseased, weak, or leaning trees (hereinafter referred to as "danger trees") on lands of the Undersigned adjacent to the Premises which may now or hereafter strike, injure, endanger or interfere with the maintenance and operation of any of the Facilities located on the Premises, provided that on future cutting of such danger trees, Georgia Power shall pay to the Undersigned the fair market value of the merchantable timber so cut, timber so cut to become the property of Georgia Power.

The Undersigned shall notify Georgia Power of any party with whom it contracts, and who owns as a result thereof, any danger trees to be cut as set forth above. Georgia Power shall also have, and is hereby granted, the right to install, maintain and use anchors or guy wires on lands of the Undersigned adjacent to the Premises and the right, when required by law or government regulations, to conduct scientific or other studies, including but not limited to environmental and archaeological studies, on or below the ground surface of the Premises.

The Premises are shown on a plat made by or for Georgia Power, and on file in Georgia Power's Land Department and are described as follows:

The tract of land which is the subject of this easement is more particularly shown on a Georgia Power Drawing entitled "LITTLE OGEECHEE-NEW DUTCHTOWN 115KV TRANSMISSION LINE" crossing the property of CHATHAM COUNTY, designated as Exhibit "A", a copy of which is attached hereto, made a part hereof, and incorporated by reference.

Georgia Power shall pay or tender to the Undersigned or owner thereof a fair market value for any growing crops, fruit trees or fences cut, damaged or destroyed on the Premises by employees of Georgia Power and its agents, in the construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of the Facilities, except those crops, fruit trees and fences which are an obstruction to the use of the Premises as herein provided of which interfere with or may be likely to interfere with or endanger the Facilities or the proper maintenance and operation, provided the Undersigned shall give Georgia Power written notice of the alleged damage within thirty (30) days after the alleged damage shall have been done. The Undersigned shall notify Georgia Power of any party with whom the Undersigned contracts and who owns, as a result thereof, any growing crops, fruit trees or fences, and the Undersigned shall inform said party of the notification provision set forth herein. Any growing crops, fruit trees or fences so cut or damaged on the Premises in the construction, operation and maintenance of the Facilities are to remain the property of the owner thereof.

It is agreed that part of the within named consideration is in full payment for all timber cut or to be cut in the initial clearing and construction of the Facilities and that timber so cut is to become the property of Georgia Power.

The Undersigned will notify Georgia Power in the event of Undersigned has contracted with another party who owns as a result thereof the timber to be so cut.

The Undersigned has the right to use the Premises for agricultural or any other purposes not inconsistent with the rights hereby granted, provided such use shall not injure or interfere with the proper operation, maintenance, repair, or extensions or additions to the Facilities, and provided further that no buildings or structures other than fences (which shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height and shall neither obstruct nor otherwise interfere with any of the rights granted to Georgia Power hereby) may be erected upon the Premises.

The Undersigned expressly grants to Georgia Power the right to take any action, whether at law or in equity, and whether by injunction, ejectment or other means, to prevent the construction, or after erection thereof to cause the removal, of any building or other structure(s) located on the Premises (other than fences as provided for herein), regardless of whether the offending party is the Undersigned or not. The Undersigned will notify Georgia Power in the event the Undersigned contracts with a third party who owns, as a result thereof, any buildings or other such structures. The Undersigned acknowledges and agrees that said rights are necessary for the safe and proper exercise and use of the rights, privileges, easements, and interests herein granted to Georgia Power.

Georgia Power shall not be liable for or bound by any statement, agreement or understanding not expressed herein.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD forever unto Georgia Power the rights, privileges, easements, powers, and interests granted herein, which shall be a covenant running with the title to the Premises.

The Undersigned warrants and will forever defend the title to the rights, privileges, and easements granted herein to Georgia Power against the claims of all person whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Undersigned ha_____ hereunto set _____ hand_____ and seal, this _____ day of _____, _____.

Chatham County

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

_____(SEAL)

Witness

Notary Public

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Stone moved for approval to award bids for Items A through E except Item C 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.) Commissioners Farrell and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present for the vote.]
- b. Commissioner Stone moved to approve item 5-C, approval to award a three (3) year contract with Utilities Analyses, Inc., of Suwanee, GA, to provide Utility Bill Audit Services for Chatham County. Payment for this service would be from identified savings. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present for the vote.]

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Change Order No. 2 to the annual contract for maintenance and repair of two (2) drawbridges for additional scope of work	Public Works and Parks Services	Alloy Industrial Contractors (WBE)	Varies by service	General Fund/M & O - Bridges
B. Double deck convection oven	Detention Center	Restaurant Equipment Company	\$12,616	CIP - Detention Center Expansion
C. Three (3) year contract to provide Utility Bill Audit Services	Finance	Utility Analysis, Inc.	Payments to vendor would be from identified savings	General Fund/M&O - Utilities
D. Authorize to renew building, contents, computer and related property insurance coverage	Finance	Wells Fargo	\$700,278	Risk Management Fund - Insurance and Surety Bond Premiums
E. One (1) used non-typical replacement vehicle	CNT	Fairway Lincoln	\$32,960	CIP-Fleet Replacement

AGENDA ITEM: X-5
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

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

ITEM A

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 2, to the as needed annual contract with Alloy Industrial Contractors, a WBE firm, to add additional scope of work to the contract for maintenance and repair of two (2) drawbridges.

BACKGROUND: On 16 January 2009, the Board approved an annual contract to Alloy Industrial Contractors for maintenance and repair of two (2) drawbridges.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. During the last three (3) years, it has become increasingly difficult for the Bridges Section to locate and then employ a Bridge Mechanic to perform the day-to-day routine preventative maintenance that is required. It has been determined after three (3) unsuccessful attempts at filling and retaining a Bridge Mechanic as well as the closure of the Skidaway Bridge anticipated by September 2013, that the most cost effective means is to contract for the day-to-day maintenance and repair.
2. The Bridge Section currently has an existing contract for maintenance and repairs with Alloy Industrial Contracting for work that is considered non-routine or above the capabilities of Bridge Staff.

3. The Skidaway Bridge will be closing in September 2013 with the Islands Expressway several years later.
4. Staff desires to expand the scope of services currently rendered by Alloy Industrial Contractors to include the following day-to-day tasks:
 - a. Routine inspection and preventative maintenance of two (2) County bridges, estimated to require two (2) to five (5), 8-hour days per month
 - b. Maintaining a log book for all routine maintenance performed for the County on each bridge
 - c. Providing Journeymen Mechanics to perform the maintenance
 - d. Providing a service truck equipped with small hand tools
5. The hourly labor rates for the expanded scope of service will be the contract rates. The estimated time required to perform these additional duties is between two (2) and five (5) 8-hour days per month.

FUNDING: General Fund/M & O - Bridges
(1004230 - 52. 22001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 2, to the as needed annual contract with Alloy Industrial Contractors, a WBE firm, to add additional scope of work to the contract for maintenance and repair of two (2) drawbridges.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve change orders necessary to ensure the safety and accessibility of the traveling public, twenty-four hours a day, seven (7) days a week, utilizing a vendor until such time as the drawbridges are eliminated as a result of anticipated GA DOT improvements.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$12,616 purchase of one (1) double deck, convection oven from Restaurant Equipment Co. of Savannah for the Chatham County Detention Center Expansion.

BACKGROUND: The Detention Center needs to purchase a new convection oven to replace an existing oven that has broken and can no longer be repaired due to its age.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Detention Center will need six (6) convection ovens in order to keep up with the daily cooking requirements of the expanded facility but currently has only five (5) in working order.
2. The replacement of the non-functional oven will be critical to serve the existing and expansion areas of the CCDC facility.
3. The requested convection oven is the same model as the existing ovens currently in service that have proven to be durable and reliable for the high level of use that is required.
4. Staff obtained pricing for the double deck convection oven from the following vendors:

Citisco Food Service Gainesville, GA	\$ 9,933
Restaurant Equipment Company Savannah, GA	\$ 12,616
Restaurant Equipment World Orlando, FL	\$ 13,128

5. The low bidder Citisco Food Service is not recommended for award because they did not meet the BTU requirements of the specified oven.

FUNDING: CIP - Detention Center
(3803355 - 54.25001 - 38060407)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$12,616 purchase of one (1) double deck, convection oven from Restaurant Equipment Co. of Savannah for the Chatham County Detention Center Expansion.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of equipment necessary to the operation of the Chatham County Detention Center.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
TOM DRANE

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a three (3) year contract with Utilities Analyses, Inc., of Suwanee, GA, to provide Utility Bill Audit Services for Chatham County. Payment for this service would be from identified savings.

BACKGROUND: The Board of Commissioners adopted goals as part of the FY2012 budget process. Maintaining effective management of the County's resources is included as a goal. Utilities are a significant annual expenditure.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for Utility Bill Audit Services was publicly advertised and responses were received on 27 November 2011.
2. The intent of this RFP is to contract with a firm for the audit of utility bills to ensure that all electrical and natural gas accounts are correctly billed and that the County receives the most advantageous rates available to them in the marketplace. The contractor shall be responsible to not only review and audit invoices, but also be responsible for final recovery of all owed amounts.
3. Three (3) firms responded to the RFP. The technical proposals were distributed to and scored by an evaluation committee. The evaluation committee did not deem it necessary to conduct firm interviews. Please refer to the matrix on page 8 for scoring details of the technical proposals submitted by each firm. Proposal results are as follows:

	<u>Total Points</u>
Utilities Analyses, Inc. Suwanee, GA	100
Troy and Banks, Inc. Buffalo, NY	95
Utility Management Services Wilmington, NC	90

4. Once the monies have been recovered, the County will pay Utilities Analyses, Inc., of Suwanee, GA, a varying percentage of the collected monies. (Please see attached page 9 for the fee breakdown).

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - Utilities
(1001569 - 52.12001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award a three (3) year contract with Utilities Analyses, Inc., of Suwanee, GA, to provide Utility Bill Audit Services for Chatham County. Payment for this service would be from identified savings.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to explore opportunities to reduce expenditures.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
GLORIA SAUGH

ITEM D

ISSUE: To seek authorization from the Board of Commissioners to renew building, contents, computer and related property insurance coverage in the amount of \$700,278 from Travelers, Cincinnati and Hartford based on quotations provided by the County's insurance broker of record, Wells Fargo

BACKGROUND: The County currently insures \$309 million of building, contents, and computer equipment through Travelers, Cincinnati, and Hartford Insurance Companies.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Underwriting restrictions with regard to coastal property and revised risk modeling have significantly limited the number of insurance carriers willing to provide coverage. The three current carriers continue to provide the most comprehensive coverage at the most reasonable cost. A Marketing Summary of all carriers contacted and their responses is attached.
2. Due to recent severe weather nationwide, the risk models on which insurance carriers base their pricing have indicated a premium increase is required. The rates quoted reflect an approximate 10% increase in property and contents premiums. The annual insurance property appraisal and the addition of new locations have also influenced pricing. A Premium Summary and Rate Comparison is attached.
3. The Tybee Pavilion, Library and various communications equipment are covered under a separate property policy with a renewal date of 3 May 2012. The Tybee Pier is not insured.
4. Travelers currently insures the Judicial Courthouse and surrounding structures located on Montgomery Street and the Detention Center/Sheriff's Offices located on Carl Griffin Drive. These two areas account for \$112 million of the County's total insured property, and will increase substantially after renovation and expansion at the Detention Center is completed. Based on the concentrated values at these two locations, Travelers has proposed an increase in the wind deductible from 2% to 3% in return for

\$5,000,000 of excess flood coverage for these locations. The maximum wind exposure for the County will remain at \$2.5 Million if the 3% wind deductible is chosen.

- 5. Travelers and Cincinnati have both included \$5 Million of Earthquake coverage for no additional premium.
- 6. Due to qualifying events the possibility of incurring an insurable terrorist event is very remote. As a result, terrorism coverage is not recommended.

FUNDING: Risk Management Fund – Insurance and Surety Bond Premiums
(625 9922 - 52.31021)

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Accept the renewal quotations from Travelers, Cincinnati and Hartford and accept an increase in the Travelers wind deductible in return for excess flood coverage for the Montgomery Street locations and the Detention Center and Sheriff’s Offices. The total annual premium for all required and recommended coverage is \$700,278.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: Insurance carriers continue to place underwriting restrictions on coastal property and increasingly apply catastrophe modeling to develop premiums.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM E

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$32,960 purchase of one (1) used non-typical replacement vehicle for C.N.T. from Fairway Lincoln.

BACKGROUND: C.N.T. has approved funding to replace 13 vehicles through the CIP, Police Merger. These vehicles are no longer suitable for department operation.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- 1. A standing request for "good" used vehicles is in place with local dealers and they are encouraged to let us know when they have something they feel we should consider. Staff check with local car dealers that normally respond to bids and came back with this proposal. This provides CNT with maximum flexibility.
- 2. The Fleet Manager and a representative from C.N.T. selected a vehicle from Fairway Lincoln, at a cost of \$32,960, based on utility and value.
- 3. This is the final vehicle purchase for FY 2012 base on the SCMPD merger agreement.

FUNDING: CIP - Fleet Replacement
(3503222 - 54.22001 - 35030650)

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Board approval of a \$32,960 purchase of one (1) used non-typical replacement vehicle for C.N.T. from Fairway Lincoln.
- 2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

PREPARED BY _____
PURCHASING AGENT

=====

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.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let’s see, quickly. There’s no first readings.

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

Chairman Liakakis said, no second readings.

=====

XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Liakakis said, you received information.

1. PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

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2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (See Attached).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 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>
500 tons of crushed stone base for Louis Mills Canal at Gamble Road	Engineering	Martin Marietta Aggregates	\$9,875	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Queensbury Drainage
18,000 printed file folders	Magistrate Court	VIP Printing & Office Supply (WBE)	\$4,119	General Fund/M&O - Magistrate Court
Officials for youth football games September 20 thru September 28	Public Works and Park Services	Coastal Football Association	\$2,835	General Fund/M&O - Park Services
Pressure wash and paint exterior of concession stand box at Ambuc Park	Public Works and Park Services	Ron Snelling Painting	\$2,696	CIP - Park Services

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 ROADS
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

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

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

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. Construction underway 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. Preconstruction meeting was held October 13, 2011. Clearing scheduled to begin in December 2011. Estimated completion September 2013.
4. Bay Street Widening. 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.
5. Local Roads.
 - a. Intersection improvements at King George Blvd and Grove Point Road. Complete.
 - b. Faye Road and Hunt Road Bridges. Designs to construct replacement bridges and ROW acquisitions are complete. Permits from GA DNR, USACE and Coast Guard are pending.
 - c. Stone Street. Notice to proceed with construction project issued October 27, 2011.
 - d. Wendy Hill Road. Bid opening for construction contract scheduled for November 17.
 - e. Wright Avenue. Design complete. ROW acquisition underway.
 - f. Elmhurst Road. Beechwood Road and Ridgewood Road. Designs are complete. ROW acquisition underway.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts All

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE
AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2011

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

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

ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County 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 effected 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. 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.) Design is underway on a project to improve drainage at Tara Manor. A project to improve drainage and provide maintenance access in the area of Remington Drive is underway.
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. A 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. Golden Isles. The project will relieve neighborhood drainage issues, including structural flooding of homes, with the construction of an upgraded storm sewer system. A contract for construction was

approved by the Board on July 2, 2011. Construction work is underway and expected to be completed by March 2012.

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 substantially complete.

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 and permitting of improvements to replace undersized culverts at Yemassee Road and Ridgeland Road are complete. Bid opening was held November 10, 2011. Staff expects to present a recommendation for award of contract to the Board in December 2011.

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 substantially complete. Design work and permitting 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. Final design plans and permitting are 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 effecting 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 address vehicle safety issues along a portion of Skidaway Road near Wormsloe. Construction is complete. 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. The bid package is to be released this month.

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 effected 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 and acquisitions of required easements 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 underway.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.
Districts: All

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Liakakis said, so we need a motion to recess –

County Manager Abolt said, personnel –

Chairman Liakakis said, – recess to Executive Session.

County Manager Abolt said, personnel, litigation, land acquisition.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to recess to Executive Session. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was recessed to Executive Session at 12:36p.m. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay, Odell and Thomas were not present for the vote.]

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE ADDITIONAL SUM TO SETTLE CONDEMNATION CASE, DEAN FOREST WIDENING (CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA V. WILLIAM LINKENHOKER, ET AL., CV11-06720FR).**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the sum of \$8,200 to settle the condemnation case, Dean Forest Widening (Chatham County, Georgia v. William Linkenhoker, et al.) Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay and Farrell were not present for the vote].

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2. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZATION OF RELEASE OF CLAIMS REGARDING JUNE 6, 2011 AC WATER LEAK AT JUVENILE COURT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved for authorization of a Release of Claims regarding the June 6, 2011 AC water leak at Juvenile Court. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay and Farrell were not present for the vote].

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APPOINTMENTS

1. **SEDA**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the appointment of Eli Karatossos to serve on the Chatham County Savannah Economic Development Authority with a term to expire January 7, 2015. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes, Shay and Farrell were not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, Chairman Liakakis declared the meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF DECEMBER, 2011.

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

JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION