

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2012, 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 9:38 a.m. on Friday, October 19, 2012.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Tabitha Odell for the Invocation.

Commissioner Gellatly said, she -- you're going to have someone else do it for her.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Excuse me. I forgot. Because she's been talking a lot at all these meetings she goes to and she's got a sore throat, and so I'll call on our illustrious County Manager for the opening prayer this morning.

County Manager Russ Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Somehow I knew you were going to do that.

County Manager Abolt gave the Invocation as follows:

Heavenly Father, this season, as we approach Thanksgiving, there is so much for us to recognize, one is the approaching opportunity to exercise our right to vote in a democratic society and very important in the life of this Commission who's completing seven and a half, now eight years. What a wonderful journey it's been in their service to this -- this County and the citizens that they serve. Democracy is alive and well in Chatham County and for that we are thankful. We're also thankful for the actions of our men and women who go in harm's way, for those FBI agents and others in homeland security that stopped the plot to again commit a terrorist act in New York City. All this shows repeatedly each day that you bless us and you hold us in the hollow of your hand. For all this we say thank you in Jesus name. Amen.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Liakakis said, I call on Commissioner Dave Gellatly to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

Chairman Liakakis said, I now call on our County clerk, Janice, for the roll call, please.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
Helen L. Stone, Chairman Pro Tem, District One
James J. Holmes, District Two
Patrick Shay, District Three
Patrick K. Farrell, District Four
Tabitha A. Odell, 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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Chairman Liakakis said, I need a motion on the floor to excuse Commissioner Shay and Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter's a little under the weather, and Commissioner Shay is overseas at this point.

Commissioner Thomas said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Farrell said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to excuse Commissioner Shay and Commissioner Kicklighter from the Commission meeting. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. RECOGNITION OF JUVENILE COURT'S FAMILY DEPENDENCY TREATMENT COURT (FDTC) AS A NATIONAL PEER LEARNING COURT, ONE OF ONLY FIVE COURTS IN THE NATION.

Chairman Liakakis said, next on the agenda we have recognition of Juvenile Court's Family Dependency Treatment Court as a National Peer Learning Court, one of only five courts in the entire country. So what I'd like to do now is call on the Chief Judge of Juvenile Court Stone to come forth and to bring anybody else she would like to discuss this item now.

Juvenile Court Chief Judge Patricia Stone said, good morning Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Thank you for -- for having us here this morning. This is Jean Cottier. She is our coordinator of the Family Dependency Treatment Court, and we're here this morning because we wanted to share some very, very good news with you and with our community. We have some Chatham County employees who are really making a tremendous difference in our community, and so we wanted to let you know about the -- the work of the Family Dependency Treatment Court and to say a special thank you to some of our -- our Chatham County employees who have done such a good job and who are very deserving of this award. As you know the Family Dependency Treatment Court began in January of 2008. We've been going strong since then. We have -- since its inception in 2008, the Family Dependency Treatment Court has served 151 parents and children in Chatham County. The mission of the Family Dependency Treatment Court is to improve the lives of children and their families by addressing the deprivation that is -- is caused by the parents' substance use. So it's for parents whose children have either been removed in the home and placed into foster care due to their substance abuse or they're at risk of going into foster care, and some of the children are able to be at home with their parents subject to the condition that they complete this program which is a very rigorous program and has a lot of requirements. So we are -- are excited to be able to doing -- to be -- to be able to do this kind of work that can reunify parents with their children. These parents are able to get their lives straight, to stay clean and sober and healthy and stable so that their children can either remain with them or can be placed back with them for the long term. The requirements as I said, they're pretty extensive. They have to complete drug and alcohol treatment; they follow all treatment recommendations, including individual, group, family, marriage, whatever counseling that they may need. They do three AA sessions weekly. They provide three to five random and observed drug and alcohol screens per week. They attend weekly court sessions. They receive unannounced visits from a specially trained community policing team. They complete parenting classes. They have two separate family education programs that they have to complete. They provide -- have to provide appropriate and stable housing for their children. They review their personal credit reports. They develop sustainable budgets. They have to learn how to pay their taxes. Many of these folks have never had a job and some have been working and not paying taxes so we -- we try to get them to be a productive member of our community. They have to complete resumes. They have to do at least 25 job searches per week until they are working 40 hours per week. They have to attend scheduled visitation and attend all of the medical appointments for their children. They're -- they're generally -- generally getting their lives together so that they can demonstrate good parenting skills and be good role models for their own children.

Judge Stone said, in June -- on June 26th of 2012, our Chatham County Family Dependency Treatment Court was recognized as the top family court in the State of Georgia at the -- [applause.]

Judge Stone said, yes. Good news. So we were awarded as the top family court in the State of Georgia at the 2012 Georgia Accountability Court Conference, which was in Atlanta, as I said on June 26th of 2012, and this recognition was awarded to our Family Dependency Treatment Court by MPC Research, which is a company that provides research-based information to guide public policy and is a leading authority in accountability courts. So we were very excited to receive that recognition. In September, on September 5th of 2012, the Family Dependency Treatment Court has -- was selected as a National Peer Learning Court by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the team received an Award of Excellence as a national -- at a national symposium to improve family recovery, safety and stability. Now there are approximately 360 family drug courts, Family Dependency Treatment Courts here in the United States of America, and they only chose five family drug courts to receive this recognition. So we were very, very excited to be one of the five in the country that was chosen for this award. The agencies that are involved in our Family Dependency Treatment Court are obviously the Chatham County Juvenile Court, the Department of Family and Children Services, Special Assistant Attorney General, the Court-Appointed Special Advocate, CASA. We have Recovery Place to provide all of our treatment. We include Safe Shelter to work on domestic violence issues. We have

a parent attorney, Michael Love, who represents all the parents, and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

Judge Stone said, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office is an integral part of this team, and it is a team effort, but we could not do the work that we do without the Sheriff's Office. We have a specially trained community policing team. This team, most of the members are -- were able to be with us this morning, and we want to recognize them as well. This team of deputies goes into the homes, goes into the parents' work place, and goes unannounced and does extra drug screens. As I said, it's important for accountability purposes to make sure that we know what parents are doing when they're not at the courthouse. What they're doing at home with their children; what they're doing at work; and certainly we want to make sure that they are clean and sober and attending all of their appointments and certainly being compliant with the program. And the only way we can know about their compliance truly is by having the Sheriff's deputies go into the home and to give us reports, weekly reports and participate with our team so that we can do the best that we can for these children and families. The Sheriff has kindly allowed us to use the deputies and our community policing team in Chatham County is very well known throughout the State. They've actually done some training for other drug courts who are trying to get up and running, and so ours is very well known. The Chatham County Sheriff's Department is known for what a great job they do at community policing, and they are a model for the State. So, at this point, I would like to provide an award. This Award of Excellence to the Sheriff -- Sheriff St. Lawrence. We are so appreciative for his participation. If we did not have them, like I said, there's no way we could do this meaningful work and make such a difference with these children. So, a big thank you to the Sheriff. This is the award that we received at the -- the national award that we received to be a peer learning court. It is an Award of Excellence to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. It says that we have been selected as a National Peer Learning Court because of demonstrated use of sound evidence, supported practices and policies, and strong collaboration among the Court, child welfare, substance abuse treatment agencies, along with other community partners and their commitment to the improvement of the family drug court field. So I'd like to present this to the Sheriff, Sheriff St. Lawrence. [Applause].

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, thank you. Let me just say that it is quite an effort on the part of Judge Stone in accomplishing what she has accomplished, and we lend our support as best we can, but as she said, the Sheriff's deputies are very much involved and needed in this program. We talk about -- we talk about all the time about our young people. My understanding from Judge Stone is she's had no repeats. These people go through this program, and it seems to set them on the straight and narrow, and I think we need to do more things like that if we can. But thank y'all very much for this award. Judge Stone, thank you.

Judge Stone said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait up there Sheriff and Judge. Number one, I'd like to say what a great job the Juvenile Court has done. Their judges have made a big difference in many of the lives of juveniles in our community. Instead of locking them up they put them through programs and do whatever they can because they feel that -- the judges feel that it's better to try to get those families treated and instead of the child being taken out of the home maybe for abuse or something else, and -- and they've been really successful in this, and we can see why you're one of five in the entire nation. We feel you're number one. But --

Judge Stone said, well they didn't -- they didn't give us number five, they just picked a top five. We might have been number one. We don't really know.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Okay. Very good. And then, of course, the Sheriff -- I would like for all your deputies, your Chief Deputy, Roy Harris, and all of you to come up to the podium also right now, because we want to see this on television because this is played several times, and we know our Sheriff department is the best in the country. We can see the leadership of Sheriff St. Lawrence and what he has done over the years. He's done a lot of creative and -- and -- things in that jail over there, and what he's done in the Sheriff's Department has put in a lot of innovative things to make it a great Sheriff's Department, and we really appreciate that because we can see how you always respond to other needs in the community and your deputies, of course, do a great job, and that makes a big difference. Because when we go, and I know I've been to a number of -- in the state, a number of meetings and all, and I listen to some of them, and they talk about how good our leadership is in our community, and some of them talk about the Sheriff. Not too long ago, a couple of months ago, there was a law enforcement convention here in our area, conference, and one of those top people with that conference came up to me and was really congratulating us for having a great Sheriff's department under our Sheriff Al St. Lawrence. So that's terrific that we've got all of these wonderful sheriff's departments, the juvenile court, and we feel that we've got one of the -- the best employees that you can have giving their services to our citizen. And now I'd like to call on Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you. I would like to thank all of you, especially the Juvenile Court and the Sheriff's Department for these programs that you're implementing because the research that you provided for me of a child that is incarcerated not only is the cost-wise of over \$200 a day, but once an individual, a young person, gets into this system, it's very hard to get them out and it's very sad that that's where their life ends up, going through our court system. And if it were not for you all and your innovative ideas and the lives that you have touched, we would be paying significantly more and would be losing significantly more citizens. So I am very grateful for what you're doing. I hope that you will continue on the path that you -- that you are currently on and that you all continue to each and every day go out there and try to change the lives of families. So thank you very much.

Judge Stone said, thank you, and if -- if you don't mind, I would like to -- to call the names of these deputies because they are the ones doing the work, going into the homes. I mean it is a very difficult job if you can imagine going into their homes and making sure everything's appropriate, making sure the children are safe, and doing those drugs screens. Boy, my hat goes off to them because that is not a fun part of their job. So I would like to introduce Deputy Ron Robinson, who is the leader of our community policing team. I do have some news for you. We were just asked by the folks who judged all of the courts across the nation, we were just asked for our community policing team to do some training at the next national conference. So we really do appreciate Deputy Robinson and his leadership. He helped create this program. He -- he was on board from the beginning, and we're just very, very appreciative for him.

So we have an award for him as well. Same Award of Excellence, and we just very much appreciate all you do. [Applause.]

Judge Stone said, and we have certificates as well to award to these deputies who work so hard. We have Steven Darnstaedt, Allison Whaley, Ayana Cooley, Shania Gardner, Edward Gray, Sr., Nicole Scott, Michael Street, and then we also have Brian Lee and Ronald Cason, who were not able to be here. I believe they're on vacation, but we are very appreciative to all of them. So thank you very much for all of your hard work. [Applause.]

Deputy Ron Robinson said, thank you.

Judge Stone said, and one more thing, and I know that you have other -- other matters to deal with this morning, but Commissioner Stone brought up the cost savings. Certainly it is -- I can say it is the most meaningful work that I do as a Judge at the Juvenile Court. This Family Dependency Treatment Court not only helps the parents to get their lives together, but that's making such a tremendous impact on those children, and hopefully, they will not end up being the youth that we see on the delinquency side that are -- that are committing offenses here. That they will have the support and help and appropriate home from their own families. So that part is such meaningful work, but it is also a cost-savings, and so, many of our parents are able to come out of the Sheriff's jail and on the -- subject to the condition that they work this program. So we're actually saving money for the county. There are some other cost savings certainly, but according to a 2002 Office of Justice Program study, the estimated cost relating to the birth of a drug-exposed baby is between \$960,000 and \$1,788,000. The Chatham County Dependency Treatment Court has had nine drug-free babies to date for a total estimated cost savings of between \$8.6 million and \$16 million. And that's money that comes right out of our community that has to pay for these children, and now they're healthy and happy and in good homes. So, thank you very much. We could not do this without your support. I remember coming before you in 2007 and asking that you help us fund the coordinator position that Ms. Cottier was able to fill, and we absolutely could not do this work at all without your support and without you funding that position. So really kudos to you as well, and we're very thankful for all of you. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, Chief Judge Stone, I would like for you to name since you're Chief Judge the other two juvenile judges who have done a great job also.

Judge Stone said, yes, sir. Judge Leroy Burke and Judge Lisa Colbert are on board. We are very excited. As you know we have a new team there at the Juvenile Court, and we are moving forward and continuing our good work, and we are a team. We are very fortunate to -- to have so many people at the Juvenile Court who genuinely care about children. And so we're -- we're excited to do this work, and we just cannot thank you enough for the support. And so thanks again to the deputies and Deputy Robinson and especially the Sheriff who have just done so much to make this program work. So thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, I think -- excuse me, Judge. Brianna Adams is one of the Chatham County Youth Commissioners, and she wanted to ask a question.

Judge Stone said, sure.

Youth Commissioner Brianna Adams said, I wanted to congratulate you, and on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission, I would like to congratulate the Family Dependency Treatment Court for being one of five courts in the nation as a National Peer Learning Court.

Judge Stone said, well thank you very much. Thank you for all that you're doing. So it's good news. We always like to share the good news and -- and again we appreciate your support. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you, Judge, and Sheriff, thank you for your leadership and the great things, the programs that you have put in for the safety and the changing of people's lives in our community.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I -- I -- I guess people don't realize it, but the 100-bed facility the juvenile home houses, it stays full. They have a cap on it of 110, so the more that Judge Stone can do, and Judge Burke and Judge Colbert to try to straighten some of these young people out, it's -- it's just great. And again, there have been no repeats out of her court. So we're very proud of that, and I'm glad to support it in any way I can. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Judge Stone said, thank you.

[Applause.]

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2. RECOGNITION OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT AS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY DEPENDENCY TREATMENT COURT TEAM.

Chairman Liakakis said, and that was not only the recognition of Judge Stone and the Dependency Treatment Court, but also the second item was the recognition of the Sheriff's office.

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3. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2012 AS PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) MEMBERSHIP MONTH. JAMES PUTNEY WILL BE

RECEIVING.

Chairman Liakakis said, now, next we have on the agenda the proclamation to declare the month of October 2012 as Parent Teacher Association membership month. James Putney will be receiving and since we've had a teacher in our midst as a Commissioner, I want to have her read this proclamation. So we'll have Commissioner Stone to take care of this this morning.

Commissioner Stone said, oh, goody. I didn't bring my glasses.

Commissioner Farrell said, you can borrow Pete's [Liakakis].

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, you want to borrow these a minute?

Commissioner Stone said, I'll see if I can get through it. You know I have to say as a former teaching -- teacher, teaching is not only a profession, it's a career, and it comes from the heart because you directly affect the lives of so many young people and you may not even be aware of it each and every day. So, it gives me great pleasure to try to read this without my glasses to -- to you all and for being here today and for what you've contributed to this community.

Commissioner Stone read the proclamation as follows:



WHEREAS, education is the gateway to a brighter future for our children, county, and state. Georgia's Parent Teachers Association (PTA) and the entire 6th district of the Parent Teachers Association is committed to excellence in education and recognizes the importance of membership in that pursuit of excellence; and

WHEREAS, through active, ongoing engagement with their children, parents have the power to ensure their children succeed in achieving educational goals. Parents, community, and civic engagement can take place at school and in the home; and

WHEREAS, the partnerships are powerful, by working directly with their children's schools and teachers, parents can build a strong foundation on which their children will thrive; and

WHEREAS, PTA Membership Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of engaging in a child's education from Pre-K to 12th grade.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2012 as:

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) MEMBERSHIP MONTH

in Chatham County and encourage parents to remain actively involved in the education of their children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 19th day of October 2012.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Gail F. Gordon, Administrative
Assistant to the Chairman

Commissioner Stone said, and I think that we've already heard the importance of parental involvement just prior to this with what Judge Stone is trying to do out in her court to reunite parents with their children and to keep these homes together. And that combined with the parents being involved in the children's school, their academic life, their extracurricular activities through their sports, they become better individuals, better citizens, and happier all the way around. So thank you very much. [Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, James [Putney]?

Mr. James Putney said, yes, sir?

Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself for our county clerk, please, and I want to let everybody know that James Putney has been a long time employee, a really good employee for Chatham County and has done a lot in his area for service to our citizens. Go ahead, James [Putney].

Mr. Putney said, thank you, sir. My name is James Putney. I am the Sixth District Southeastern Georgia PTA membership chair for the entire State of Georgia. I am a county employee, and Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I want to thank you all again this year for giving us another opportunity to receive this month as PTA membership month. In being a member of PTA you have to join every year, and over the years we keep increasing membership. We keep trying to get parental involvement. We keep advocating for community involvement. PTA is the nation's oldest child advocacy program, and we've been striving for over 100 years to do what Judge Stone is now doing. We've been to many pre-jail seminars. What can we do to prevent kids from returning? How can PTA work in corroboration with some of these other organizations, and we too think that's a good program.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Tabitha [Odell]?

Commissioner Odell said, hello. Is it possible to get a copy of the by-laws?

Mr. Putney said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Mr. Putney said, there is a possibility to do that. However, now, keep in mind, each school has their own by-laws, and the State has their own by-laws, but I will have you a copy before you go home this afternoon --

Commissioner Odell said, thank you very much.

Mr. Putney said, -- of the State by-laws. And speaking of by-laws, if there's no more questions, Mr. Chairman, it was brought to my attention, and I know all the Commissioners do a lot of outstanding work, but we have two awards that we would like to present to two of the Commissioners that's on the Board here with us today if that's all right with you, Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Holmes. As we know, Commissioner Thomas is a native of Savannah. She was a principal. She's done a lot of work in the schools. She was the founder and executive director of the Chatham County Youth Commission. Dr. Holmes -- Coach Holmes, which we all know is a coach, Boys' Club, Savannah State College, still working with Mother Mathilda Park getting the pavilion out there, and still doing many wonderful things for the youth. He encourages them to get on the right track. If he find them out there and they're not on the right track, he gets them on the right track. And just these two people alone have done and is still doing many of the things that the PTA is about, working with kids for the health, education and welfare of their future in the homes, in the schools. So what I would like to do at this time is present them with -- if I can get it open, a Georgia PTA Honorary Life Achievement Award. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, quite a surprise here.

Mr. Putney said, and along with that -- it comes from the Georgia State -- Honorary Life Achievement Award is awarded this 19th day of October 2012 to Dr. Priscilla Thomas and James J. Holmes. Presented by Georgia PTA for their dedication and support on behalf of Georgia Children. It is signed by Donna Kosicki, State of Georgia PTA President. So I thank you both on behalf of what you do for the children of Georgia.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you so very much.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Putney, for this recognition. I want you to realize that Parent Teacher's Association as a retiree, my PT stand for part-time. Thank you.

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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Liakakis said, what I'd like to do right now since I called on Brianna Adams, and Brianna Adams is representing Johnson High School. And each County Commission meeting we have members of the Chatham County Youth Commission to come up to all of the County Commission meetings, which is really important. And then we have Lydia Peay, who is the Savannah Christian leadership. Did I get your name right? I wanted to make sure of that.

Youth Commissioner Lydia Peay said, yes, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. And we thank both of you for coming today, and we appreciate you being members of the Chatham County Youth Commission.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

Chairman Liakakis said, and next on the agenda I'll need a motion to add the Food Day proclamation because inadvertently it had been left off of the agendas. Need a motion.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, have a motion on the floor and a second to place this on the agenda. Let's go on the board. Motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to add the Food Day Proclamation to the agenda. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

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4. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE THE OCTOBER 24, 2012 AS FOOD DAY.

Chairman Liakakis said, now I call on Commissioner Priscilla Thomas to present this proclamation.

Commissioner Thomas said, who's receiving?

Chairman Liakakis said, and let's see I think Rene Teran will be accepting. Is she in the audience? Rene?

Mr. Rene Teran said, I am.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, okay. Let me say, Mr. Rene.

Mr. Teran said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Thomas said, wonderful. It gives me great pleasure to present this proclamation which states:



WHEREAS, the health and well being of our citizens is of primary concern for the County of Chatham; and

WHEREAS, promoting safer, healthier diets is a critical factor in improving citizens' overall health; and

WHEREAS, supporting sustainable family farms and local agriculture benefits the local economy; and

WHEREAS, obtaining fair pay and safe conditions for food and farm workers is beneficial for both the producer and consumer so that the food we produce and consume is safe and fair for all; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to food and reducing hunger is of critical importance to aid those who live in food deserts; and

WHEREAS, reforming factory farms to protect the environment and farm animals is necessary to sustain future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, October the 24th, 2012 as:

FOOD DAY

in the County of Chatham and I urge all citizens to participate in the activities planned for this special occasion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 19th day of October 2012.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Gail F. Gordon, Administrative
Assistant to the Chairman

Commissioner Thomas said, congratulations. [Applause.]

Mr. Teran said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, thank you so much for this -- this great honor, and on behalf of the -- the National Food Day Organization, Well-Fed Magazine, the Savannah-Chatham Food Policy Council, and Healthy Savannah, I most graciously accept this. We appreciate your support now for a second year in a row in making this Food Day recognized here in Chatham County. You have enabled us to -- for the second year in a row once again put on the largest Food Day festival in the entire United States, and we invite everyone here to -- to come join us the last Sunday of this month on October 28th, for the Savannah Food Day Festival. I also have a small token of our appreciation. It's just a small representation of the -- the vibrancy of local, independent business that exists here in Chatham County with your support, and just a small representation of the -- the vibrant food culture that is continuing to develop here in Chatham County, and we invite all of you to come out. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you so very much. Appreciate it. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much, Rene [Teran]. We appreciate you and the organization doing this because it's very important because we find out, especially in our wellness program that people eat properly, most of the illnesses that they have they wouldn't have, and of course, it helps them in many ways to -- when you're much healthier than people that have gained weight, you know, will lose that weight if they do it properly, hopefully, and we can see how good it is for all of our citizens in our community. So thank you very much for that.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS

1. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS TO AN ORDINANCE THAT WOULD OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THE YOUTH COMMISSION (COMMISSIONER THOMAS). NOTE: ORDINANCE IS ON FIRST READING TODAY.

Chairman Liakakis said, next we have Commissioner's Items, and on Item One, introductory comments on an Ordinance that will officially recognize the Youth Commission of Chatham County, and the Ordinance is on First Reading today. I call on Commissioner Thomas to talk about this. There will be no voting on it today because this is just on the First Reading today.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen. This request for approval to amend the Official Code of Chatham County to recognize the Chatham County Youth Commission as the official youth arm of Chatham County government. As you all know, in 1992, the Chatham County Youth Commission was formed, and it is now a model that has been expanded throughout the United States. We have been recognized by the National Association of Counties, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, and the National League of Cities and has been duplicated in so many of the other counties in Georgia, and we are now in Fargo, North Dakota. We have received inquiries from other counties throughout the United States, as far as Canada, and just three weeks ago, I ran into a member from the Nigerian government who had some young people at the conference for transit, and we began to talk, and I told them about the Chatham County Youth Commission and now they are asking me -- they have sent me a formal letter asking more information about the Chatham County Youth Commission because they too would like to start a Commission in Nigeria and looking forward to come to Savannah to meet the Chatham County Youth Commission.

Commissioner Thomas said, I want to also say that we have had the blessings of our County Manager and his staff and all of the Commissioners that have been on board since 1992. It has been a pleasure working with these young people. As you know, we set high standards for these young people and we want them at the table because we cannot discuss youth issues without having youth representation. And -- so today, what I'm asking is that we amend the Official Code of Chatham County, Georgia to recognize the Chatham County Youth Commission as the official youth arm of Chatham County government.

Chairman Liakakis said, and as I mentioned, it's on the First Reading and there's no vote on it or activity --

Commissioner Thomas said, today.

Chairman Liakakis said, -- on First Readings.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, I'll read that Ordinance out when we come to that area.

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2. THANK YOU TO EMPLOYEES AND DEPARTMENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE

DIABETES WALK (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Liakakis said, on Item Two under Commissioner's Item, Commissioner Thomas wants to thank the employees and departments who participated in the diabetes walk, and if any of them are in the audience, if they would come forth at this time.

Commissioner Thomas said, yeah, I'll do that in a minute, Mr. Chairman. We have a Commissioner --

Chairman Liakakis said, you wanted to ask a question?

Commissioner Thomas said, -- who wanted to say something.

Youth Commissioner Peay said, I would like to say something. First I want to say on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission I would like to thank Commissioner Thomas for founding the Youth Commission and for your value -- your valued input and support. I also would like to thank the Commissioners for their support as well. This is my third term on the Chatham County Youth Commission, and my sister was it -- was in it as well, and Youth Commission gives you -- gives you the opportunity of so much things. And it gives you the want to succeed and everything. And I hope the ordinance will be approved in the next two weeks.

Commissioner Thomas said, and one other thing -- a couple other things I forgot to mention, and most of all, and I -- I apologize to Mr. Johnson -- Van Johnson who has served as the Director of this Youth Commission for years. He gives of his personal time to work with these young people and has done an outstanding job, so Mr. Johnson we want to know that we appreciate you so much and hope that you will continue. Also, I'd like to give you just very briefly, we have had over 400 graduates since 1992. Our oldest Youth Commission Commissioners are now 37 years old. We have 50 percent who have earned a Bachelor's degree, 10 percent have earned Master's degree, 5 percent have earned the law degrees, 7 percent have served in the military via military academies, 2 percent have earned Doctoral degrees, and 1 percent have served in elected office. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Now we'll go to --

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, for diabetes. Anybody who's here for the diabetes, she wants to speak. If you'll just come up to the podium, we'd like to recognize you also.

Commissioner Thomas said, I'm going to ask Ms. Tamala Fulton to please come step up first and give her remarks, and then she will introduce the others to us.

Ms. Tamala Fulton said, good morning.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, y'all come on up and stand behind her while she's doing her message.

Ms. Fulton said, Mr. Chairman, Board of Commissioners and Mr. Abolt, on Saturday, October 6th, many of the county employees participated in the Diabetes Walk at Oatland Island. It was about a two mile track around the lovely area, and we did this to raise awareness about diabetes management. We had several representatives from a number of departments within the county. We have a few of the representatives here. This is not inclusive of all the departments that participated, but we do have representatives from the Clerk of Superior Court, from Finance, from Facilities Maintenance, Human Resources, and the Sheriff's Department. So, in addition to participating in the October 6th walk, many of our employees donated their money and time to raise efforts and awareness for fighting diabetes. So at this time I would like to thank my fellow Chatham County co-workers for contributing their time and money in this effort, and I would especially like to thank Dr. Priscilla Thomas for spearheading this effort.

Commissioner Thomas said, Tamala [Fulton] and to all of the employees of -- of Chatham County, we are so proud of you. You made us extremely proud because you showed the type of leadership that we need and wanted. This is something that we did for a very great cause, and we have in our audience today the general chairperson of the Diabetes Association for this year, Colonel George Bowen and we have Ms. Suzanne Willis and some others, and we would like for them to come forward at this time and share whatever they would like to share with us at this time. And I want to say to the employees, you are going to be giving -- given a certificate. I didn't get them ready today, okay? But you are going to be given a certificate of recognition for all of your hard work. Thank you so very much.

Ms. Suzanne Willis said, good morning Chairman, Commissioners. I'm Suzanne Willis. I'm with the American Diabetes Association, and just as Commissioner Thomas said, we're so proud of Chatham County. Our annual Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes campaign event was on October -- Saturday, October 6th, at Oatland Island Wildlife Center. We were able to feature a large health and fitness festival, children's activities, a light breakfast. Our participants went on a two-mile walk, and when they came back there was an optional Zumba class. So it really was a terrific day. This year Chatham County unlike quite a few years in the past, really stepped up, and that -- kudos goes to Commissioner Thomas for really spearheading the team and putting leaders in place like all these wonderful people. I didn't even realize they were here and had come to our event, but we were so proud of them. And Sheriff Al St. Lawrence, as well as Chief Deputy Roy Harris were big leaders. We had over 120 registered deputies. They were all there in their red shirts --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Ms. Willis said, -- looking great. They really did a great job with all the Chatham County employees. We have been so honored to work with all of you. What a great group. The Youth Commission and Mr. Van Johnson --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Ms. Willis said, -- organized that. We had over 30 members come out that day. And let me tell you what, these are young leaders. They were the best volunteers that we've had probably ever. I had so many compliments on what great volunteers you had and what a smooth event, and, you know, I certainly can't take credit to that. That's the volunteers who make this event happen, and the volunteers like this who help spearhead our campaign. We're sitting at just 100,000. Our goal is 105,000, and we're going to be reaching that goal through that in November because American [sic] is American Diabetes Month. You'll be seeing all kinds of different people step up to sell pin ups and do dress down days in honor of American Diabetes Month. So, we are so fortunate to have your guys's time and effort, and Commissioner Thomas, your personal time and effort, as well as our Chairman this year, Colonel George Bowen. He stepped up --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes he did.

Ms. Willis said, -- above and beyond --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes he did.

Ms. Willis said, -- this year. I think he is the hardest working chairman --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Ms. Willis said, -- we have ever had. Tamala Fulton, she did a terrific job as well --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes, she did.

Ms. Willis said, -- getting all the departments and just being that internal cheerleader. She is fabulous to work with. And actually also here not part of Chatham County, but I did want to recognize Paula Chrysler. She went and is here with Food Day, but she was our top corporate team with the Wound Care Center.

Commissioner Thomas said, beautiful. Beautiful.

Ms. Willis said, so we are excited to have everybody's time and effort and support in making our event and our campaign and diabetes awareness in our community so much more. So thank you. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Thomas said, we have -- I want to also say that we have had businesses in the -- in the community that worked along with us. I know for sure that in my district, District 8, I went to several of the businesses, and one business in particular was Anchorage Lounge, Sheila -- Shelly Wells. She did an outstanding job in terms of helping me to garner all of those quarters and pennies and dimes that you saw us counting, and it was just a pleasure. And she asked me on yesterday do we need to do more, so I'm asking you to give me another jar because we have not really met our complete, you know, quota, and I'd like to take another jar out there and let them put some more in there.

Ms. Willis said, we'll do it. We'll hit our goal. American Diabetes month. So -- George [Bowen] did you want to?

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Ms. Willis said, thank you so much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much for your leadership and all of that and your staff people 'cause this diabetes, you know, things that y'all, the campaign that you all put on every year is really important because more money is needed, and, of course, because the research and, of course, helping those people because a lot of people realize that diabetes can cause many terrible medical situations. I've got a friend of mine now who had his foot cut off, and then his right leg and left leg. He's in a wheelchair at this particular point. He cannot walk, and he is blind. And all that was because of diabetes. So, you know, we encourage people when they have a diabetic situation, don't let it go into something more serious. Try to get it treated right away, and watch your diet and the things that the doctors tell you. And, of course, this is another great example about Chatham County employees participating --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, -- in the community, because we see our county employees working on a charitable organization to help people in our community, and our employees, we're so proud of them, whoever they might be, because a huge amount of them participate in many charitable and civic things in our community, and all of y'all can be proud for what you're doing because you're showing love for our citizens and others when you reach out to do these things. And, of course, with the Sheriff's Department again, we see there's another example of what our Sheriff's leadership and his assistant, Roy Harris, has worked with our department. So thank all of you and may you all be blessed.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you so very much.

Ms. Willis said, thank you. [Applause.]

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

Chairman Liakakis said, there are no Tabled and Reconsidered items on the agenda today.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

- 1. TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: (1) in the GENERAL FUND M&O: (a) transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange, and (b) transfer \$18,801 for Payment to Others in the Community Outreach Budget to Temporary Salaries, (2) in the Confiscated Revenue fund appropriate \$24,867 confiscated revenue for the Counter Narcotics Team, and (3) in the Sales Tax IV Fund transfer funds as outlined in the attached memorandum.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next, we have items for Individual Action. To request approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: (1) in the General Fund M&O: (a) transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange, and (b) transfer \$18,801 from Payment to Others in the Community Outreach Budget to Temporary Salaries, (2) in the Confiscated Revenue fund appropriate \$24,867 confiscated revenue for the County Narcotics Team, and (3) in the Sales Tax IV Fund transfer funds as outlined in the attached memorandum. Need a motion on the floor to approve these actions.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approval of the following budget amendments and transfers: (1) in the General Fund M&O: (a) transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange, and (b) transfer \$18,801 for Payment to Others in the Community Outreach Budget to Temporary Salaries, (2) in the Confiscated Revenue fund appropriate \$24,867 confiscated revenue for the Counter Narcotics Team, and (3) in the Sales Tax IV Fund transfer funds as outlined in the attached memorandum. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1
AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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

ISSUE: To request of the following budget amendments and transfers: (1) in the General Fund M&O: (a) transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange, and (b) transfer \$18,801 for Payment to Others in the Community Outreach Budget to Temporary Salaries, (2) in the Confiscated Revenue fund appropriate \$24,867 confiscated revenue for the Counter Narcotics Team, and (3) in the Sales Tax IV Fund transfer funds as outlined in the attached memorandum.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Board of Commissioners approved a \$25,000 appropriation to the Savannah Ocean Exchange at the October 5, 2012 meeting. A transfer from General Fund M&O contingency is necessary to provide funding. A staff report to approve the contract is on today's agenda. A resolution is attached.
2. The Assistant County Manager has requested a transfer of \$18,801 from Payment to Others in the Community Outreach Program budget to Temporary Salaries to cover the cost of a temporary clerical support position for the Community Outreach Program. Correspondence is attached.
3. The Counter Narcotics Team Director has requested a \$24,867 appropriation to pay for surveillance fees incurred during major investigations. A staff report is attached. The request has been sent to the County Attorney for review.
4. The Assistant County Engineer has requested transfers among road projects in the Sales Tax IV Fund. Detail is provided in the attached memorandum.

FUNDING:

Funds are available in the General Fund M&O, the Confiscated Revenue and Sales Tax IV Funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- a) Transfer \$25,000 from contingency to Special Appropriations for the Savannah Ocean Exchange.
- b) Transfer \$18,801 from Payment to Others in the Community Outreach Jail Program Budget to Temporary Salaries.

CONFISCATED REVENUE FUND

Appropriate \$24,867 to the Counter Narcotics Team to pay for surveillance fees incurred during major investigations.

SALES TAX IV FUND

Transfer funds among projects as outlined in the attached memorandum dated October 9, 2012.

2. Amend or deny the request.

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Estelle Brown

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2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A PILOT PROGRAM AT THE ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER AND RESCUE CENTER WITH A GOAL OF INCREASING ADOPTIONS.

Chairman Liakakis said, next, request Board approve a pilot program at the Animal Control Shelter and Rescue Center with a goal of increasing adoptions. The six-month pilot program would include funding for half-time veterinarian services. Mr. County Manager?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Odell, Commissioner Stone and gentlemen, this -- this is an opportunity given us that really started with a lot of wonderful people that either work at or volunteer at the animal shelter. They've taken the charge very seriously from this Board to not only shelter but find homes for them, and they have been very successful. In the opening remarks to the staff report, you'll notice that we've followed your lead, and I hear the Chairman repeatedly in my mind telling me, minimize euthanasia. We're minimizing euthanasia and the pet adoptions. It's phenomenal. In 21 months they've reached almost 2500 adoptions. I have some first-hand knowledge of that, but that aside it's wonderful. The animals placed in homes find themselves with stability and a loving environment, and that's the goal of this Board. We have found though over the years that because -- not over the years but over the months that there is an issue of creating what we refer to as adoptability on the condition of having pet rescue organizations come forward and the term that's used daily, pull animals from the shelter for adoption. A partial roadblock to that has been the certification as to the health of those animals. In working with a lot of folks, to include Commissioner Stone, Scott Sell and the Department of Ag, and many other creative folks, we've come up with a pilot program that in fact will in my words create a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval or as Scott Sell from the Department of Ag says, the Carfax. And what this means is a shelter can in effect move more animals out of harm's way and out of the specter of euthanasia by getting them adopted out. Many, many rescue agencies then can come forward with -- with no -- no doubt whatsoever that these animals are certified for adoption and will move those animals out of the shelter in plenty of time.

County Manager Abolt said, it also deals with something that we're very excited from the standpoint of the creativity of Chief Lovett and the staff. And I want to say we all know the priorities of Chief Lovett and the fact that the man is receptive to this type of innovation says a lot about his character. But most importantly we want to create an environment where in effect the shelter operates not just smoothly but can meet the satisfaction and criteria of both our health department and the Department of Ag. We think we're on the road to do that. We also want to use the innovation of having a half-time vet for this pilot period to work with the Sheriff's folks. Their veterinarian requirements for their drug dogs, as well as the MPD and their requirement for the K-9 unit. This is a real win/win. I -- I don't want to say I can guarantee it's going to be successful, but I fully project myself in six months coming back with a program that you will almost demand that we find the funding to continue it on a permanent basis. It does exactly what you want. It creates occasions and opportunities to move animals that have been disoriented, abandoned and lost and put them in loving homes, and I want to tell you, this is a cool program.

Chairman Liakakis said, and I see Lieutenant Boulware and some others with our -- our volunteers' programs that head up the adoption program at our Animal Shelter which is fantastic. Last year they adopted out almost 1,500 pets to owners in our community, and I think a little over 900 this year already adoptions have been done. And they go through a procedure -- make sure that they're -- they take all of their shots and everything so when somebody comes in to adopt a pet, they are getting a healthy pet. But I'd like the three of you to come forth right now up to the podium, please. Lieutenant Boulwell -- Lieutenant Boulware would you like to make a statement because you head up the animal program for the county?

Lieutenant Brenda Boulware said, well, sir, thank you for your support. Thank the entire Commission, Mr. Abolt, and

especially Chief Lovett. He is very supportive of the Animal Control Unit and Rescue Center. We are a work in progress, and we're trying to -- our best to improve as we go along, and I could not do it without the help of FACTS and Pound Pups, and their representatives is Diane Abolt and Michelle White. Just last weekend, for instance, we adopted eight -- she -- matter of fact, Pound Pups adopted 18 animals out in two days. So, we're moving right along. We're -- we've got work to do, but we're moving along. We're improving.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, Diane [Abolt], would you like -- oh, wait a minute. I see, Helen [Stone], you wanted to say something?

Commissioner Stone said, I'll let them finish, and then I'll make my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Diane [Abolt]? How about coming forth? This is Diane Abolt, the County Manager's wife, who has put hundreds and hundreds of hours along with some other volunteers, but she has been number one in really giving a tremendous amount of time so that we can have these pets adopted and not euthanized because when you do that, as we know, the dogs, especially, give you unconditional love no matter what, and they bring so much happiness to people's homes and the cats are the same way. And we really appreciate that Diane [Abolt] and like for you to say something.

Mrs. Diane Abolt said, I appreciate that.

Chairman Liakakis said, pull down the mike so -- we want to make sure we hear what you got to say.

Mrs. Abolt said, I appreciate the opportunity to do that. It's been my pleasure to actually be a volunteer at the Shelter and help. As I -- when I retired I went in there thinking I'd be there a couple of days a week, a month, well, I'm there almost every day, and my mission is to try to get as many animals into loving homes. We want them not to just be placed in a home, but we want it to be a good situation all the way around, that the animal is going to be cared for and treated as it should be. All these animals coming out of the shelter deserve a second chance, and they're -- you can tell by their attitude, they're very appreciative of the home that they get.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank all of you all -- all of you here today with Animal Control and Diane [Abolt] for your efforts in the volunteering sector, but I know that there have been some issues out there, and I -- I want everyone to know that we are working through them. This is Chatham County's first endeavor in the adoption of animals for the citizens in our community, and this is also an opportunity for all of the animal organizations to work together because the mission here is one and the same, and that is to find homes for animals that need homes and to provide citizens with loving pets. And I can tell you first hand, there's nothing like the love of an animal. I also believe that we have an opportunity here going forward with this part-time veterinarian to build on this and hopefully down the road with -- we would qualify possibly for some grant money, national grant money that maybe we could eventually have a spay/neuter -- low cost spay/neuter clinic there to help members of the community and to help with this drastic problem of over population. It is just an opportunity, and I -- I think that we will work through the issues, and I appreciate the County Manager and the Assistant County Manager meeting with me and trying to come up with what I would consider a game plan that will be a win/win situation going forward. But we do need to appeal to the citizens in this community, as well as the other animal organizations because one entity cannot do this by themselves. It just can't, and there are just so many wonderful, wonderful animals out there and believe me, they do give you unconditional love. And having lost one yesterday, I can tell you, there's nothing like it. So thank you all, and I want to make this facility for Chatham County one of the best in the community. So -- I mean one of the best in the State. So thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, and one of the things too that I had a discussion with the County Manager also is to see about that we can encourage more volunteers to help out there plus to see what we can do to add some more employees to the Animal Shelter because that will help out tremendously, and that's really important that we get that done in -- as soon as possible in that. And the -- of course our County Manager is always willing to do whatever he can to solve problems in our community. Russ [Abolt]?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman before you vote I -- I do want to say something. First of all, Diane [Abolt] and I as you know are going to be celebrating our 46th wedding anniversary in a few days, and I made the best choice ever 46 years ago, but I want to talk about the woman. She -- she is the Mother Teresa of dogs and cats. I want you to know that FACTS is a arm of Animal Control that has nothing to do with the Abolt family other than the fact that I tell you the Abolt family has given an awful lot to FACTS, but FACTS is something that will go on after Diane [Abolt] and I are not here. It is a non-profit organization that takes money, provides medicine and care for these animals. It is a great partnership between a public entity, Chatham County, and a non-profit. It's a great legacy for you. When you go out to that Animal Shelter as I know you do, you cannot be anything but pleased with the plaques on the wall for this beautiful facility. It's not just an animal shelter, it's a pet rescue center, and that says everything about what you want it to be, and with patience we're going to make it happen.

Chairman Liakakis said, and of course we like to -- I'd like to personally say I'm sorry for the situation that happened with her long-time pet dog that she had. She lost him a couple of days ago. And I encourage people, if they can have the ability to have a pet, to get a pet, and see what love and what companionship because many senior citizens that have pets, that's the only, you know, companionship that they have because they -- some have no families or anything but they bring a lot to that individual or family when they do have pets. So thanks again to all of you, to also -- to you, Ms. White, and we appreciate what you're doing because you're doing things that are helping many citizens in our community plus the pets.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Mrs. Abolt said, I wanted -- I just wanted to say something about Michelle White. She is my right-hand person, and she is Pound Pups. When I went out to Animal Control and started volunteering there, she was already in place. She gives all of her time, her effort. She drives in every day. She is there to help any family who wants to adopt an animal. She is just a marvelous person, and she has got the heart of animals at -- to the dearest part of her.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, I -- I just want to say kudos to Diane [Abolt] and Ms. White and others. I've never seen a more dedicated person as Ms. Abolt. I mean, pets are everywhere. I don't care where you go, what activities you are -- are having, I mean those pets are there. I mean if they need to -- if she needs to be there with you, those pets are going to be there too if she needs to have them there. It -- it just shows you that -- that, you know, there is true love in -- in what you do and very committed and we thank you so much for all the time that you have given to this cause, and I hope that the community will appreciate what each of you are doing. Thank you.

Ms. Michelle White said, and just to let y'all know that when people do come down to adopt, it is not here is your dog or your cat, we are done with you. We do take the effort and we give them an educational packet, and Ms. Diane [Abolt] and myself get numerous phone calls at sometimes 11:00, 12:00 o'clock at night saying, oh, this is going on with this dog or this cat, you know, what -- what can we do behavioral wise or something like that. We do an extensive interview with people before they walk out the door with an animal to ensure that they are going into the proper home, and they can provide the proper veterinary care and loving environment that they need. So just to ensure y'all we do everything we can, and we couldn't do it without Lieutenant Boulware and the staff there. The staff goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that these animals are well taken care of.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Appreciate y'all coming.

[NOTE: Commission heard Item 3 at this time. After the completion of Item 3, the Board returned to this Item for the vote.]

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, we need to vote on number two, that was on the half-time veterinarian. Had great discussion --

Chairman Liakakis said, oh yeah, for that part-time veterinarian services, need a motion.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

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

County Manager Abolt said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve a pilot program at the Animal Control Shelter and Rescue Center with a goal of increasing adoptions. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2
AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Chief Willie C. Lovett, Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department
 Patrick Monahan, Asst. County Manager

ISSUE:

To approve a pilot program at the Animal Control Shelter and Rescue Center with a goal of increasing adoptions. The six-month pilot program would include funding for half-time veterinarian services.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County opened the Animal Control Shelter and Rescue Center in July 2010. The state-of-the-art facility has 116 kennels with dog runs to segregate dogs for intake, daily care and aggressiveness. A separate area serves as holding pens for cats. Besides expanding the sheltering of stray dogs and cats, the facility also added programs to encourage adoptions in hopes that the average annual 4,000 euthanasia of dogs and cats became significantly curtailed.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The success of the Board's goal in funding a facility with emphasis on rescue through adoption can be viewed in the data. Before the new facility opened, euthanasia of dogs and cats averaged about 4,000 annually. Since then, the euthanasia rate for stray dogs and cats has dropped by about 50%, while adoptions total 2,457 during the last 21 months (through September 2012).

- 2. The goal to adopt as many dogs/cats as possible and keep euthanasia rates low continues to stress the facility's capacity. Because of the recurring number of stray dogs/cats collected by the Animal Control officers, the facility continues to house an average about 150 dogs daily plus others in temporary fostering programs.
- 3. Part of the issue with adoptions stems from the potential cost to a future owner who cannot be assured about any dog's or cat's illness, which can be a burdensome expense. Some animal welfare organizations are reluctant to accept dogs and cats for adoption without certainty of good health since the cost to cure illness can be expensive or because of the risk of communicating disease to healthy pets.
- 4. Staff is proposing a pilot program to certify dogs and cats as adoptable. While costs would be incurred up-front in the added due care in certification and medicines, costs may be reduced in the expense of housing and euthanasia.
Highlights of the program include:
 - 4.1 Only qualifying pet welfare agencies would participate. Agencies can "pull" dogs or cats, which means they would identify a group of adoptable pets.
 - 4.2 The dogs or cats would be examined by an in-house veterinarian, who would work 20 hours weekly at the shelter, test and provide any medicines and treatment. The dog or cat would become "certified as adoptable."
 - 4.3 An adoption area would be established for those "certified adoptable." The area would be certified as disease-free based on protocols established by the veterinarian. The veterinarian would also be responsible for helping to develop protocols for the facility for general animal welfare.
 - 4.4 A veterinarian on-site also creates other operational and budgetary efficiencies. Some of the non-emergency services could be scheduled during the on-site veterinarian's service at the Animal Control shelter rather than by Animal Control officers driving dogs and cats for office visit care.
- 5. An on-site veterinarian could also save money for other law enforcement K-9 unit services. The Sheriff's Office and SCMPD now contract for veterinarian services. The veterinarian at the Animal Control shelter could assume these services, too.
- 6. Staff would return after six months to report on whether the pilot program achieved its goal of increasing adoptions and reducing euthanasia and capacity concerns.
- 7. Chatham County would seek proposals for veterinary services, and a professional services contract would be presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

FUNDING:

Cost of funding the pilot program for six months would be \$30,000 and could be achieved through a funding swap. This includes half-time, on-site veterinarian services and increased cost of medicine and treatment. Pending Board approval of this report, at the November 2 meeting a \$30,000 transfer will be recommended from CIP Fleet to the Animal Control FY 13 budget for Other Contractual Services, and transfer \$30,000 from CNT Confiscated funds to CIP Fleet for the planned purchase of a truck for Animal Control. Depending upon the success of the program, staff would return to fund the program on a recurring basis. In addition, the move to an on-site veterinarian would offset some of the \$18,375 budgeted annually for veterinarian contract services in Animal Control's budget and contracts for K-9 services in the Sheriff's Office budget and the SCMPD Budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. That the Board approve a pilot program for six months at the Animal Control Shelter and Rescue Center with a goal of increasing adoptions. The six-month pilot program would include funding for half-time veterinarian services.
- 2. That the Board deny the pilot program and direct staff to resolve capacity issues with a more aggressive policy toward euthanasia.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Code of Chatham County requires only that Animal Control house stray dogs and cats for at least five days, a short-term stay which meets the basic need for a shelter. With the new shelter and the Board's commitment to reduce euthanasia through increased adoptions, the rescue program moved from fledgling to successful as can be viewed in a 50% reduction of euthanasia and the rescue of some 2,500 dogs and cats. The rescue and adoption must be balanced by the shelter's capacity issues. Housing strays for adoption exceeds the basic stay requirement but also requires a commitment to the conditions for a more extended lengths of stay to ensure physical and behavioral health and well-being of dogs and cats.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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[NOTE: Item 4, Briefing by Chief Lovett, was taken out of order and heard at this time.]

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3. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.

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

CNT Director D. Everett Ragan said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. The -- I did want to put something on the record and clarify it before Chief Lovett left. But, the fact of the matter is I saw on the agenda that I was in front of him, and I offered earlier since he was the Chief that I would approach Chairman Liakakis and get him bumped up ahead of me, and he -- he politely refused and told me he didn't want to do that. But, so I just want to let him -- let him know that I did not approach you to bump him up ahead of me, but it was -- that was the right thing to do. He did not want to go first, so. 'Cause I know how his memory is, and he won't forget if I -- if I bumped him up ahead of time.

Director Ragan said, but during the month of September we had 127 investigations; 85 of those have already been closed out. The drug of choice that we recovered at that -- for September was methamphetamine. It was about -- almost \$10,000 worth of -- recovered; \$7,000, a little over that -- \$7,700 worth of cocaine was the second, and then marijuana was, of course, the -- was -- was following along behind. One of the things that we -- we did notice in -- in recovering some of our hallucinogens was the old, back in the '60s, the liquid LSD on the sugar cubes. We actually bought LSD on the sugar cubes, our agents did, and we recovered some in a search warrant in mid-town Savannah, and we bought and recovered some out of a house on Tybee Island. So -- just so happens that the guy who -- who we arrested on Tybee Island had actually purchased his LSD on the sugar cubes from the same guy we hit in mid-town Savannah.

Director Ragan said, looking at year to date, over 19,000 in cocaine we have seized and \$215,000 worth of marijuana. Only one gun we recovered this -- this month, and 42 total arrests. We picked up, as far as adoptions from other agencies, all from Savannah-Chatham Metro on meth labs that were seized in mid-town Savannah on those. The graphs can show the hours we expended to date in the City of Savannah, in the precincts and in the municipalities, and in the unincorporated area, and just a couple little cases we did, meth cases, and off of Myrtle Street a significant -- I say significant amount. It was an individual we've been looking at for a while. We had gotten him on some misdemeanor stuff but finally we rolled up on him and before he could get away, we were able to recover trafficking amounts of cocaine off of his -- off of his person. So, he's -- he's bought some good time with trafficking.

Director Ragan said, I -- I do wish to make some comment as to what Chief Lovett was -- was talking about earlier in reference to people released. One of my agents is very upset. We just had a guy that -- four kilos of cocaine, he did less than three years in prison and is now released back into Savannah and we're a bit upset about that one because it was a cocaine -- four -- four kilos you catch with cocaine in our jurisdiction is -- is significant coming in, and he was less than three years and he was -- he was back out. Actually some of the people who cooperated in this investigation are still in, and he was the supplier. They gave some medical excuse or something for him to be released back out, but they cut his time earlier. And of course, not to say anything about the Governor, but he does his -- I don't know if you -- he does on his agenda has the -- the non-violent let's get them out of prison. That includes drug dealers and includes burglars and things of that nature, who steal for drugs and that kind of stuff. So he gets them out earlier. If you can't associate guns and violence with them, then that's one of his priorities now is getting them out as quickly as possible.

Director Ragan said, not to take up much time, and something I want to share with this Commission about and some comments that the Chief made earlier. In - in the early '90s, and I've heard it mentioned with City Council and I've heard it mentioned -- I was in fact interviewed about it this past week on an upcoming magazine article on basically the health of the county as far as the demographics and the living environment and drugs was -- was one of them -- topics they wanted to talk about, and of course, they brought up the -- the Jivens gang and -- back in 1991. And that was the year we had 59 homicides in the City of Savannah. Chief Gellatly and I both had many, many, many sleepless nights 'cause I'd get the phone call, then I'd have to call him, and then we would go from there. And in speaking with the lady, and -- and my position now as Director of CNT, the -- Ricky Jivens is an anomaly to this county. And I made comment and I eluded to the fact that the division of Chatham County government with the formation of CNT in 1994 which brought drug enforcement -- local drug enforcement to the forefront in this county, working with every municipality and hand in hand with the Drug Advisory Board and the federal agencies we have, we will not be taken by surprise again by another individual who resorts to the type of violence that a drug dealer like Jivens had. It just absolutely will not happen again. We have too many -- too many checks and balances in place, too much conversation going on to where it took a period of time for us get everybody involved in that investigation, it would take just a phone call now and we could be on top of it. So, what we experienced then in drug enforcement, with CNT, and the support of this Commission gives to the CNT, that -- that -- that will not happen again within this county.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. Appreciate the great work that you with your leadership with our drug group that is working hard in our community and have made a tremendous amount of arrests and all, Everett [Ragan], so thank you, and just keep up the good work and keep us informed too.

Director Ragan said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, you're welcome.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

For information only.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3
AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

**Chatham~Savannah
Counter Narcotics Team
September, 2012**

NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS	
Investigations Initiated During the month	127
Total Number of Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	85

DRUGS SEIZED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	77.10 Grams	\$7,710.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	0 Grams	\$0.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	97.5 Grams	\$9,750.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	38.26 Ounces	\$5,356.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	0.1 Grams	\$25.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	0 D/U	\$0.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	25 D/U	\$750.00
Hallucinogens	\$10.00 per gram *	17.5 Grams	\$175.00
Synthetic (Steroids)	\$10.00 per ml *	0 ml	\$0.00

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	192.6 Grams	\$19,260.00
Crack Cocaine	135.6 Grams	\$13,560.00
Methamphetamine	913.6 Grams	\$91,360.00
Marijuana	1,539.5 Ounces	\$215,530.00
Heroin	2.5 Grams	\$625.00
Ecstasy	98 D/U	\$2,450.00
Misc. Pills	1,192 D/U	\$35,760.00
Hallucinogens	20.5 Grams	\$205.00
Synthetic (Steroids)	39 ml	\$390.00

DRUGS PURCHASED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	5.50 Grams	\$550.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	3.4 Grams	\$340.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	0 Grams	\$0.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	6.3 Ounces	\$882.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	0 Grams	\$0.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	1 D/U	\$25.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	30 D/U	\$900.00
Hallucinogens	\$10 Dosage Unit	0 D/U	\$0.00

Source: Office National Drug Control Policy

** Source: Established regional average price

WEAPONS SEIZED	
Firearms (including hand guns and long guns)	1
Year To Date Totals	33

PERSONS ARRESTED	
Felony*	19
Felony Sales/Trafficking	17
Misdemeanor	2
Felony Non-Drug**	4
Total Arrests	42
Year To Date Totals	291

*Felony includes Manufacturing Methamphetamine or Marijuana

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

ADOPTION CASES FROM OTHER AGENCIES		
DATE	AGENCY	OFFENSE
9/6/12	SCMPD	MANUFACTURE OF METHAMPHETAMINE
9/6/12	SCMPD	MANUFACTURE OF METHAMPHETAMINE
9/10/12	SCMPD	MANUFACTURE OF METHAMPHETAMINE

9/10/12	SCMPD	MANUFACTURE OF METHAMPHETAMINE
9/10/12	SCMPD	MANUFACTURE OF METHAMPHETAMINE

DRUG COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED		
Drug Complaints	Received	Assigned
Project Log/Official Complaints	0	0
Hot Line / Call-In Complaints	4	4
Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies	5	5
Crime Stopper Complaints	45	42
DRUG COMPLAINTS—YEAR TO DATE	392	376

DRUG INVESTIGATIONS HOURS WORKED BY ZONE

SCMPD – All Precincts	2093
Municipalities	<u>411</u>
(Unincorporated Chatham County—245 hours)	
TOTAL	<u>2,504</u>

Administrative Hours	640
Case Administration	440
Pharmaceutical Diversions	480
Central Intelligence	480
Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)	395
Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies	18
Training	948
Court Hours	<u>42</u>
TOTAL	<u>3,443</u>

Total Hours Worked 5,947

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. On 9/7/12, after receiving several complaints on the house located at 730 E 50th Street, CNT Agents made contact with the homeowner and conducted a search of the residence resulting in the seizure of a non-active methamphetamine lab. Two subjects, including the homeowner, were arrested at this time on unrelated warrants.

On 9/10/12, after observing suspicious activity occurring at this same location, a concerned citizen called the Savannah Metropolitan Police Department. SCMPD quickly responded to the possible burglary in progress and entered the house at which time they observed what they believed to be a methamphetamine lab inside. SCMPD contacted the CNT. CNT Agents specially trained in clandestine labs responded to the scene and confirmed the observations made by Metro Officers. Evidence found during a search suggested meth cooks had taken place at the residence since the 9/7/12 arrests. CNT Agents arrested four additional persons for Manufacturing Methamphetamine and Possession of a Controlled Substance within 1,000 feet of a School.

2. On 9/7/12, CNT agents, working in an undercover capacity, learned several people were in the process of obtaining items needed for the manufacturing of methamphetamine. Agents identified the three suspects and discovered their current location. A search of their motel room at I 95 and Highway 204 resulted in the seizure of marijuana and the items needed to manufacture methamphetamine. All three suspects were charged accordingly. This marked the third CNT arrest for one of the suspects and he was also wanted by the Chatham County and the Effingham County Sheriff's Departments.

3. On 9/14/12, CNT conducted a search warrant at 3210 Myrtle Street and arrested one person for Trafficking in Cocaine and for possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute. The agents seized 47 grams of cocaine powder and crack cocaine and over an ounce of marijuana. All drug evidence was packaged in small plastic baggies for sale at the time of the seizure. The suspect is a convicted felon and the charge of Trafficking Cocaine carries a mandatory sentence of 10 years.

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4. **BRIEFING BY CHIEF LOVETT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next on the agenda we have a briefing by the number one chief of police in the USA, North and South America, Chief Lovett. Please come forth.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, if I may. Beyond being all those wonderful things, he's also a recipient and has a loving home he's extended to a pet from Animal Control.

Chairman Liakakis said, very good.

County Manager Abolt said, he's a good guy too.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Chief, you want to pull that mike up just a little bit? You're a little taller than some of those other people.

Chief Willie Lovett said, yes, namely, Ms. Abolt, I'm a little bit taller than she is. Yes. Good morning.

Commissioner Farrell said, good morning.

Commissioner Thomas said, good morning.

Chief Lovett said, I received a memo, I guess, and it was in reference to what Metro was doing in terms of the unincorporated area of Chatham County and it asked basically several questions. Some of those questions I can answer, others are situational questions that will depend on many things, and I cannot give you a definite answer. One of the things that I can give you a definite answer on is one of the questions which asked what was the minimum staffing in the unincorporated area of Chatham County at any time, and that is, a minimum -- we have 6.72 beats in the unincorporated area of Chatham County. And basically what that means is at no time just patrol officers alone would there be less than 7 officers on patrol. Now you have to add into that investigations, traffic and other officers, so I can't give you a definite answer at any time how many officers are actually in the unincorporated area, but I can tell you that there's never less than 7 beats being patrolled in Chatham County. You have to keep in consideration also that the Islands precinct is located in the unincorporated area of Chatham County and there is always additional officers there, as well as traffic and investigators which are located in the precincts.

Chief Lovett said, another question that was asked is how many -- how are the prisoners being released into Chatham County and who releases those people? Well, they don't tell us when they are releasing people into Chatham County. Unfortunately, the way we get notified is usually when they commit another act and are caught. Then we realize that these people have been released into Chatham County, and you asked also where they come from. Well, they come from all over the state. Chatham County in my opinion receives percentage-wise more prisoners than any other county in Georgia, and there are several reasons for that obviously. The economy's good, there's jobs here, and it's coastal, and they just want to come here, and other prisoners when they get out, make it their home, ask for a bus ticket to Chatham County, and so we end up with them. That is something that I have spoken with several Commissioners about -- yes, sir?

Commissioner Farrell said, is that a choice of the released prisoner --

Chief Lovett said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, -- where they -- where their final destination --

Chief Lovett said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, -- is when they're released?

Chief Lovett said, yes.

Commissioner Farrell said, so there's no real control over it?

Chief Lovett said, not by us. I would imagine that if -- if the state wanted to step in they could probably have some method of persuasion, but they don't do that. They just want to get rid of them so they come here.

Chairman Liakakis said, in the past I remember where we found out that they were going to be a large number -- I think it was 25 or 30 state inmates that were being released in Chatham County, and once found out about that, I called the state and asked the City Manager, when I was on City Council is to let's make sure that we do whatever we can to make sure that those inmates are not released because they do not live in our area, and some of them had some pretty serious crimes that they had committed, and some of those were repeaters of crime and -- in that. And so with the City, you know, and us talking to some legislators and others up there, we were able at that time to stop that from happening. So I think they -- hopefully that they're going to get the message because that's not fair to the citizens of Chatham County to bring in people that have committed crimes and have committed, you know, some serious crimes and being released to come into our community. And we have situations that we want to make sure in that item for the police not having to take on the responsibility too when they've got plenty to do in our community and have others to come in and cause us problems.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone] is next.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you. Chief, I know that I've discussed this with you from time to time and made mention of this to our state attorney general, has there been any follow-up and is -- what can I do to assist or what

can this Commission do to assist you in -- in trying to work out a system with the state that would preclude them from -- from simply dumping more than should come here here? I mean it just not seem to be an efficient or an appropriate way to do things. I mean to -- to burden this community with residents that are not from here that are going to come here with \$25 in their pocket and no job and expect them to do something other than what they've been doing?

Chief Lovett said, I agree with what you're saying, but one of the things that's happening right now, and I've spoken with you about it is that we're in the process, and I say we, I'm talking about from the city side, if there could be some communication between Commissioners and the Aldermen about the upcoming event, which should be a meeting between the state to discuss these issues about why they are sending prisoners to Chatham County -- people on probation, and in some cases, some who've finished their sentence who they have no control over.

Commissioner Stone said, well, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that because this is a combined police department, that we would certainly assist the City and wherever this meeting is going to take place and voice our concerns, as well as just the Aldermen because this has a huge impact on our community, and I'm extremely concerned about the safety of our citizens and the -- the fact that like I said these -- these individuals come here, they don't have a place to live necessarily, they don't have family here, they don't have employment here, and -- and what it is that we expect them to be able to do other than what they've been doing? And then they end up in our jails causing a back log in our jails, and it's just not fair to the citizens of this community, and I think that we need to partner with the City of Savannah and see what it is that we need to do to be heard on this issue. So, I -- I -- I would volunteer my services in any way, shape or form, but I think that certainly Mr. Chairman that we -- we really should be in contact with the City Council on this and work with them.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dave [Gellatly] and then James [Holmes].

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm -- I'm going to address the last concern first, as far as criminals from outside of Chatham County being released into Chatham County, there is something we can do about it, and I would recommend that when this Board meets with our state legislators, what in December, that that ought to be pretty close to our number one request because the state legislators through the Governor, they're in charge of parole and prisons and what have you and they can order them, if not make a law that it can't occur. So it's -- I -- I would think that we should request very strongly that our state legislators do something about this and change it, 'cause they can change it. They have the power to do so. The state is just making a policy, and I think that they're -- some bureaucrats are making a policy and I have a real problem with a prisoner deciding where they want to be released and go through a program. I don't think that choice should be there's.

Commissioner Gellatly said, all right. I -- I think some of the things that we all need to realize right now, we -- we've had a couple of high profile murders, and the police don't have a heck a lot of a control over that if any, and I think that we need a dose of reality. The reality would be that -- and first I want to say there's no acceptable level of crime, and I believe that, this Board believes that, and certainly the police department and Chief Lovett believe that. But after saying that, actually, just -- just as a historical fact, the highest crime rate in the City of Savannah actually occurred in the 1850s, and they had lots of murders, lots of serious crimes. They had 23 or 24 recognized houses of prostitution in this city. This city only had a population of 28,000, okay? So, I mean, we've come a long way and a lot -- a lot of it has been for the better. If you recall in the '80s, one year we had 54 murders. Fifty-four murders in one year, okay? And -- and -- and many of them very high profile murders. You know, on television we -- we get -- sometime we get anxious with the -- with the solvability of high profile murders. Only on television are -- is a murder cleared in -- in one hour. In real life, it can take weeks, months and sometimes years to go ahead and solve them. But I guarantee you -- and -- and then we have another level of frustration. Obviously the police can't tell us, well, we had this high profile murder a month ago and these are all the facts and where we're at right now on it. They can't tell you that, you know, because when they tell us, they're telling the world that, including the people that committed the crime, you know. So we need to certainly recognize that.

Commissioner Gellatly said, the Metropolitan Police Department, they're clearance rates on the part -- there's seven part one crimes that are recognized throughout this country. The Metropolitan Police Department clearance rates in almost all these categories meet or exceed the national averages. This is not a flunky police department. This is one of the most professional, squared-away law enforcement agencies in the United States, and we need to recognize that. Sometimes when we call people -- call the police department to come before us, we should also give that same opportunity to the District Attorney, the District Attorney's office. I'd like to know why it takes so long to put some of these serious crimes to get them brought -- brought before a judge for some type of justice. I think that the media has been lacking on that. They're awful quick and -- to ask the police department why is this happening? Why is that happening? And the reason for that is the police department always answers their phone call when a reporter answers -- calls. District Attorney's office may or may not. Judges are even less likely to return the media's phone calls so they are never brought up on the carpet, but we ought to have them all before us if you're going to do that. Parole officers, let's bring them before us and ask these hard questions. Why are we always bringing the police department up here, you know? I'm just -- I'm just curious about that.

Commissioner Gellatly said, what -- what's the police department doing? I tell you what, anyone that drives a mile in any direction in this county and doesn't see a police officer is blind in one eye and can't see out of the other eye, okay? What is -- what is the -- what is the -- another measurement of police activity? This city and county population wise has not grown appreciably in the last 30 years. Basically the same population. Grown a little bit, but I want to tell you in 1980, or in the '80s, the jail population was in the 300s. That's all we could put in there. There are times when our jail population reaches 1900 people. Who do you think puts them there? The Metropolitan Police Department puts them there, okay? Let's remember that every time we get up and say well, what -- what the heck's the police department doing about this? They're doing a lot about it. They got that jail cramp packed full of people that are waiting for the District Attorney and the judges to do something about them. Let's hold other people accountable besides the police all the time.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I think that we're very fortunate in this county that we have the police, the CNT unit and the Sheriff's office. I can remember times when they didn't always work in unison. They're working in a team effort now, and I would suggest the jail population would demonstrate that very clearly for all of us. So at any rate, I'm very proud of the Metropolitan Police Department. I'm very proud of the CNT unit, and I'm very proud of the Sheriff's office. They all have excellent leadership, but more importantly, they also have excellent employees dedicated, strong, employees that are proud to come to work here everyday. And I think that this Commission has traditionally, always, unanimously supported law enforcement and I'm very proud of that for the 12 years that I've been here. And, Chief, I'm very proud of you, and I'm very proud of the people, the men and women that work for you, and I will never, ever take it for granted. I'm going off this Commission in a couple of years [sic] and believe me, any time that any media or political body take issue with you, unless you got it coming, I'm going to be the first one to come forward and raise hell about it. Thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. It'll be James [Holmes], Priscilla [Thomas] and then Pat [Farrell].

Commissioner Holmes said, Chief Lovett, I don't think I have to say anything after Chief Gellatly. He practically said everything, but let me say congratulations to your department and what you're doing. I think what you're hearing here being said and it's something that we want to do and continue this talk to take the pressure off you and your department. You -- you mentioned this now that they release them into Chatham County. What's the process is when a person is incarcerated being released? How -- how -- how is that dialogue? Do you have a choice where they want to be released at?

Chief Lovett said, they -- they have a choice. They may have three choices and the State will choose whatever they can give them, and in most cases if they can it seems to be here because we do have a half-way house here.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. All right. With that said, that's -- that's what I want to get to. So there's a reason why if I'm incarcerated, because talk go around in prison, and if I'm sitting down talking to my colleague and say where you going to get released at? I'm -- I'm -- I'm going to Chatham County. There's a reason why they're choosing Chatham County. I'd like to find out why because it may be not good. It may be not good. Here go again, you -- you know going up to the state, it's hard to deal with the state, but I think we need to get our legislators. We need to sit down. I love a ton of things what Dave Gellatly say just now. We need to put together some sort of strategy whenever I'm incarcerated in jail, in prison, and I'm trying to come to my last few weeks, then I want the dialogue to say well, I don't want to go to Chatham County. I don't want to go there. Let me go somewhere else. Right now the talk is I'm going to Chatham County, and it got to be a reason why they're choosing, and it ain't the sunshine, it ain't the tourists, it is something else. And I think we need to put our hands on that pulse and see if we can cut it off so that -- that dialogue among those can kind of change and direct some of that attention some place else. Thank you, sir.

Chairman Liakakis said, Priscilla [Thomas]?

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Very quickly, just want to say thank you so very much Chief Lovett and to all of the persons that are under your care and watch. They do an exceedingly great job each and every day. I see them all over, you know, just everywhere, and they don't miss a beat, and if you call, they're there. If you do not call, they're there, and I just want to thank you for your leadership and please extend that to all of your officers and other personnel. I just also wanted to piggy back on what my colleague has said, Chief Gellatly, I think you summed it up very well, and I hope and pray that we will follow up on the one thing that he indicated, and that is to get involved with our state legislators and our Governor's office because that's where we need to get some answers not only on this, but, I mean, you know, we have been dealing with over-crowdedness in our jail and the underpayment for our prisoners and a whole lot of other things which has been put on the backs of -- of citizens of Chatham County. So we have just got to rev up and do what is needed, and -- and let's see if we can have some dialogues and move this in the right direction.

Chairman Liakakis said, Pat [Farrell]?

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. First all I want to reiterate what Commissioner Gellatly said and the suggestions are right on -- on target. As Commissioners for 265,000 people in this county that we represent, I -- I find the dialogue very healthy to have the different agencies come before us, CNT, Metro. I encourage that we go forward with Commissioner Gellatly's suggestion to have regular dialogue with the District Attorney and with the court system because as he so vividly pointed out, it's -- crime is not just connected to the police department, it is a large community of different providers that ultimately provide this community with a safe place and remedies for criminals. So, you know, who better to -- to look after the needs of the whole community than the County Commission. So, my -- my hat's off to Commissioner Gellatly for making that suggestion, and I would like to see that our staff and our Commission follow-up with that suggestion.

Commissioner Farrell said, I do have a couple of questions for Chief Lovett. How many officers do we currently have employed at the Metro?

Chief Lovett said, right at about 595, 600.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. And you mentioned that there was 6.72 beats in the -- in the unincorporated area, and a beat equals one person or a number of people or what?

Chief Lovett said, it depends. The beats were designed for one person, but since we don't change the structure of the beats every year, we also have -- we have beat units, which means you have the primary unit and the secondary and even in some cases the third unit in a beat.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. Is there a corresponding minimum number -- or number of beats in the City of Savannah?

Chief Lovett said, you mean like minimum number?

Commissioner Farrell said, yes.

Chief Lovett said, 30.

Commissioner Farrell said, 30.

Chief Lovett said, and -- and that is total, city and county. So you're talking about 23.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. Thirty total. Twenty-three. All right. You know I -- I haven't done the -- I did a little bit of quick math on the seven beats, if that were seven officers to cover 87,000 people, that would be one officer per 12,400 plus citizens. Is that an accurate --

Chief Lovett said, pretty much so.

Commissioner Farrell said, -- statement?

Chief Lovett said, what it amounts to is 22 -- 22.4 percent total patrol population.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay. All right. Well thank you, and I look forward to the continuous dialogue that we have with the CNT and Metro and hopefully in the near future with the other --

Chairman Liakakis said, let me --

Commissioner Farrell said, -- law enforcement arms in this community that collectively present the defense of all the defenseless citizens that live here from -- from the bad acts of certain people.

Chief Lovett said, in closing I'd like to point out that because crime is not a problem that's unique just to Chatham County or the City of Savannah, Pooler or any place else, we're in the process of putting together a crime summit, and we have asked for participation from all law enforcement agencies in Chatham County, to include some in South Carolina, and they've been very responsive. We've been meeting now for quite some time and the goal of that summit is to make us realize that communication is the agent that's going to keep us together. Because criminals don't have boundary lines when you talk about crime. They'll commit a crime in Pooler, go to Garden City, come to Savannah, then back out into the unincorporated area. So it's very important to us that we have some means of communication to track these efforts, and the summit is going to cure some of those ills for us. We're not saying -- at least Metro is not saying this is what it's going to be, we want the chiefs from those particular agencies to decide what they want to talk about. What is it that we can do for them and they can do for us? And if we're fortunate enough, this summit should take place some time in January.

Chairman Liakakis said, one of the things that people don't realize in our community and I'm working -- this is another thing and the crime they are working on, not too long ago, police arrested a person that committed a crime in our community that had been arrested 53 times before. Does everybody hear that? Fifty-three times that individual was arrested and this was the 54th time. I spoke to the Chief about that in there. But looking into -- I'm putting some things together for that. And then they had another one just prior to that had been arrested 25 times. Now how can somebody that's been arrested 53 times -- how do they get out of jail so soon and how is our overall system set up to address that because that is horrible when you got that because these are repeaters and repeaters cause about 80 percent of the crime in our community. Approximately 80 percent is caused by the repeaters in our community as the Chief well knows that and that situation. So, something has to be done whether it's in the court system or whatever it is and the legislators and all, and along with what you suggested, Commissioner Gellatly, for something that the legislators can look into with having that many arrests with repeaters that's still on the street that are, you know, prying [sic] on the citizens in our community. That's absolutely terrible.

Chairman Liakakis said, in fact in November last year I talked to Governor Deal and asked him if he would see about putting in the prison system that -- more of a life skill and work skill program into the state institution, the state's -- the state is spending approximately \$1,200,000,000 right now for the prison system in the State of Georgia. And if they'll do this, like they got Savannah Impact and some other programs in our area, then it's going to save the tax payers money for the State of Georgia once they get there. Because once they teach them those skills and all, get the State Labor Department to help them get jobs and put -- and help them put other programs together so that we can have these prevention programs as opposed to just loading up the jails in that situation that we've got going.

Chairman Liakakis said, but -- and Chief I'd like to thank you very much because people don't realize what a great chief that we have, and when Chief Berkow left us last year we had about 90 applicants that came for -- take the chief's place in Savannah-Chatham County, and the Human Resources for the City and the County got together, they looked at all of the particular experience and -- that the other applicants had, and it came down to about 30 and then eventually it came down to about 10, and then a number of us watched and talked to some of those that were left over. But looking at the Chief's particular experience and training and all. He had FBI training. He had many training from other law enforcement organizations, and went into a lot of detail. He was headed up the patrol

division, the detective division, the communications division and others in the police department, and with all of that training and all, he was above those other 10 applicants that we had there and that's why he was chosen as Chief of Police, and that was good for our police department also to have somebody locally to get that, and especially when we had some people, an individual with our police department that had all of this experience and training and all of those things that are necessary to have a great chief. So, Chief, thank you very much for that. Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, just real quickly, Mr. Chairman. I think the dialogue that's been brought up today has been very, very good and the comments have been very well thought out and I really appreciate and we're fortunate enough to have had a former police chief on our Commission here and his comments. But, Mr. Chairman, could we look into a joint Resolution with the City of Savannah to go to our -- members of our general assembly because this needs to stop. It just needs to stop. There is no excuse for them allowing all of these people when they are getting out of our state prisons to come to our community. The gift needs to be spread straight -- state wide.

Commissioner Farrell said, there are 159 counties, right?

Commissioner Stone said, that -- that is correct, and they do not need to focus on Chatham County, so I would like for us to have a joint Resolution with the Aldermen of the City of Savannah to go to the Governor's office and our State representatives to say that we should not be the recipients of all these folks.

Chairman Liakakis said, Dave [Gellatly]?

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I -- I just wanted to talk about staffing just -- just for a second, okay, 'cause that's a concern for all of us. You know the -- be -- before we consolidated departments, and when we -- we consolidated, prior to that, the county police and the Savannah police, they were both outstanding agencies. Both of them nationally accredited, both of them had state certification. Really good departments. As I recall the county police was something like 125 personnel, maybe 15 detectives. So if you had a high profile homicide or you had a huge traffic accident, they -- they were really challenged to meet that challenge. Now with a Metropolitan Police Department, if there's a problem on the Islands, we're talking about how many officers are there. The Chief can put 300 of them out there if he needs to for a short period of time, 300 of them. Certainly the old department couldn't have done that. If you have a high profile -- a high profile homicide, he can assign 30 or 40 detectives to it if he wants to short term because a lot of times it's that first 24 hours, 48 hours of investigation whether you're going to clear that crime or you're not going to clear that crime, and it's just so much better to have a large department with large numbers of personnel that can -- let's get past the city limits and the unincorporated area. We have a Metropolitan Police Department. He can -- he can transfer huge numbers of personnel and resources anywhere he sees fit in this county, and that's a huge advantage over to what we had before. And I -- I just want to make sure everyone recognizes that and realizes that. And again, I appreciate what Metro is doing. Appreciate what CNT's doing. Appreciate what the Sheriff's doing. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Helen [Stone], if you want to, I mean, we can get the -- just the County Manager, he can put that together for us.

Commissioner Stone said, I'd like then to make a motion for this Resolution to go to our State Representatives, our General Assembly, and to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, have a motion on the floor. Let's go on the board. Motion passes. Thank you very much Chief. Appreciate that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved for the Board to send a Joint Resolution to the State Representatives, General Assembly, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor expressing the County Commission and City of Savannah City Council's wish to direct parolees and prison releasees to other parts of Georgia. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present].

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[NOTE: Item 3, CNT Report Given Verbally by Director Ragan was heard at this time.]

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5. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A WATER BILLING REFUND OF \$6,400 AS REQUESTED BY MS. PAIGE MORRISON OF 117 SUMMIT RIDGE DRIVE. STAFF RECOMMENDS DENIAL OF THE ADJUSTMENT.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right, next. Board consideration of a water billing refund of \$6,400 as requested by Mrs. Paige Morrison of 117 Summit Ridge Drive. Staff recommends denial of the adjustment.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, as we understand. She could not be present today. Recommend you table till your next meeting.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second it.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to table the item, Board consideration of a water billing refund of \$6,400 as requested by Ms. Paige Morrison of 117 Summit Ridge Drive till the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

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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, next we have the Action Calendar we have 1 through 8 and under item 8 we have items A through E. Need a motion on the floor for these particular items unless you have some specific item that you want to hold off on.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman, I -- I would like to pull number four for discussion.

Chairman Liakakis said, which one?

Commissioner Thomas said, number four?

Commissioner Stone said, number four.

Chairman Liakakis said, four. Okay. Need a motion on the floor to approve items 1 through 8 holding off on item 4 and under item 8 A through E.

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, let's go on the board. Board passes -- motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 8 and under Item 8, Items A through E with the exception of Item 4. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]
- b. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve an increase the employee longevity payment amount. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

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

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- 1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2012, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2012, as mailed. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 THROUGH OCTOBER 10, 2012.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period September 27, 2012 through October 10, 2012, in the amount of \$7,112,954. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SAVANNAH OCEAN EXCHANGE.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved the Board for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Savannah Ocean Exchange. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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

ISSUE:
To request Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Savannah Ocean Exchange.

- FACTS & FINDINGS:**
1. The Board of Commissioners approved a \$25,000 appropriation to the Savannah Ocean Exchange at their meeting held October 5, 2012.
 2. The adopted FY2013 budget did not include funding for this purpose. A request to transfer General Fund M&O contingency funds is on the agenda for today's meeting.
 3. The County Attorney has reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Savannah Ocean Exchange which is attached and submitted for Board approval.

FUNDING:
Funds are pending approval of a \$25,000 transfer from General Fund M&O Contingency (1009927-57.90001) to Special Appropriations (1009975-57.30001).

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

POLICY ANALYSIS:
Approval is consistent with Board action requiring a contract or Memorandum of Understanding with agencies providing services.

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Board approve Alternative 1. Prepared by: Read DeHaven

STATE OF GEORGIA)
)
COUNTY OF CHATHAM)

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SAVANNAH OCEAN EXCHANGE

This Memorandum of Understanding is made and entered into this _____ day of October, 2012, by and between Savannah Ocean Exchange and the Chatham County Board of Commissioners.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Savannah Ocean Exchange is an IRS 501(3)(c) tax-exempt entity and Georgia nonprofit corporation; and

WHEREAS, Savannah Ocean Exchange’s mission is to unite worldwide organizations across multiple disciplines and boundaries to accelerate the distribution and adoption of solutions that positively impact our ocean and coast; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah Ocean Exchange fulfills this mission through programs every September inviting international solution creators and delegates to Savannah and offering cross section of educational, athletic and educational programs open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is the governing authority of Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, the County has expressed that residents benefit from the services provided by Savannah Ocean Exchange.

NOW, THEREFORE, Savannah Ocean Exchange and the County enter into this Memorandum of Understanding for Services and agree more particularly as follows:

SECTION 1. Savannah Ocean Exchange agrees that it shall provide, including, but not limited to, the following services:

- 1. Savannah Ocean Exchange will provide public programs September 14-23, 2012 in the program areas International beach party, take a child to the beach day, on the Water Experiences, Film Festivals, Coastal cleanup, Found art competition, International picnic in the park, Cultural and engineering lectures, opening reception for the Board of Governors and Solutions Award Gala.
- 2. These programs will occur throughout Chatham County in the cities of Savannah, Pooler, Thunderbolt, Tybee Island and unincorporated areas of the county.
- 3. All programs will be family-friendly and open to all members of the general public.

SECTION 2. The County, for and in consideration of the delivery of the above-described services agrees more particularly as follows:

- 1. Provide \$25,000 in funding for operating costs; and
- 2. Promote the Savannah Ocean Exchange program to key stakeholders, and the community at large.

SECTION 3. Terms of Memorandum of Understanding

Savannah Ocean Exchange agrees that the subject appropriation by the County shall be used only for the purposes outlined within this Memorandum of Understanding. Savannah Ocean Exchange agrees to maintain in accordance with generally acceptable accounting principles, records of all expenditures pertaining to funds granted under this Memorandum of Understanding and shall allow County auditors complete access for purposes of verifying the appropriate expenditure of funds within the meaning of services to be provided.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect for a period of one year from the date of execution, unless amended or terminated by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners or Savannah Ocean Exchange upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

Savannah Ocean Exchange

BY: _____
M. Cort Atkinson
CEO

Print Name: _____
Witness

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____
PETE LIAKAKIS, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Janice E. Bocook
Clerk of Commission

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

R. Jonathan Hart
Chatham County Attorney

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY PAYMENT AMOUNT.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, to introduce the subject that's been pulled off the agenda. In the staff report and in the follow-up information to y'all indicate the longevity payments which are not a raise, they are recognition of time and grade. They also reflect several years over the last 20 plus years when the county was unable to give the employee's a cost of living, but most importantly, they come at a time of the year during the holidays in which that longevity recognition can have particular benefit. We did put in the budget in the spring enough money to cover what would amount to a \$75 per bracket of these non-reoccurring longevity payments for the total price for all the work force of \$75,000. We -- we omitted it. I apologize for that. In everything we did with the budget normally we include everything that's -- that's minor and major and in between. We failed to do it. The money's in the budget, we're just bringing it to you now asking that you do approve it with the idea that it's a small payment towards those employees that do such a super job for the citizens of this county.

Chairman Liakakis said, Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, how often is -- are you recommending this? I mean is this a yearly thing?

County Manager Abolt said, how often? Yes, ma'am. You -- you -- you have this long -- well longevity's been here for a bout 20 years.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand that but I mean.

County Manager Abolt said, this would go forward. It would -- it would be -- so a year from now you'd be paying, if you approve it today, you'd been paying the same \$75 increase you're doing now and go forward.

Commissioner Stone said, well I mean it's -- it's not the money amount it's just that I'm concerned with what we're going to be faced with the jail expansion and some of the other expenses.

County Manager Abolt said, you can -- you can do it one -- this year. We -- we don't care. We would not make -- I don't mean we're making a big deal out of it, hopefully that would not be misinterpreted. We just realized in being so circumspect that it's in the budget now.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand.

County Manager Abolt said, and we didn't want to pay it without you approving it. That's all we're doing. If you want to do it just for this year, we understand.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, one thing on this Helen [Stone] is that our budget is \$660 million. The budget is 666 - - \$660 million and this is a request for only \$75,000. It's a, you know, a very small amount, and because the employees, except for that one thing that we did several months ago, but it wasn't a raise, at least it's recognizing employees on longevity. It starts out somebody has to be here from -- between four and nine years. It's written in the book there, and then it goes up to 20 years, and then there's no increase after 20 years, but the total amount is only \$75,000.

Commissioner Stone said, I guess my concern, and I'm -- this is certainly not to say that we do not appreciate employees that stay with Chatham County, that's not the issue, my concern is we did give the -- the bonus already less than a year ago and now we're looking at this, and I'm very concerned the message that it's sending the citizens that with the budget being as tight as it is, is this the time to be giving this type of award out or is -- or should we wait a year? I mean I'm -- I'm very concerned about how we spend this money.

County Manager Abolt said, you -- it's your choice. It's a policy decision. You gave that one-time bonus out of last year's budget. So that's -- this -- this is reflective of tradition. Only -- only --

Commissioner Stone said, but it was received less than a year ago I guess --

County Manager Abolt said, I can't recall.

Commissioner Stone said, -- is my concern.

County Manager Abolt said, obviously it was one time and not recurring. And I don't -- I don't -- permit me, I don't see the two as the same but it's your choice. Longevity payments have a tradition in this county and they come at the time of the year when we feel it's most appreciative even though it's a small amount of money.

Commissioner Stone said, is this something that's done in other communities? Do we know? I mean, I'm just -- I'm just trying to understand what we're --

County Manager Abolt said, I -- I know that the county, and I don't -- I'm not -- I'm not apologetic for the problems we've had because they're well known. We try to fairly compensate our employees but over the last two decades this was a very small token of appreciation during the holidays. That's all it is.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Any other comments. Priscilla [Thomas]?

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I did read the memo on this and reflecting back on the one-time bonus which was necessary, I certainly feel that we have excellent employees in this category -- in these categories that have given excellent service and leadership to this county way and beyond the call of duty, so, I don't see this as a give away. It -- it is saying to our employees that we recognize in a time where we are today when things are hard and yet when we were not able to do things that you came through for us. So for me personally, I do not have a problem with doing this for the employees at this time, and -- since the funds are there. I'm not saying that we can do it every year, but if the funds --

Commissioner Stone said, that's my concern is --

Commissioner Thomas said, -- if the funds are there at this point, these people have delivered over the years when we didn't have any funds and came through for us over the years. So that is just my feelings, and I want them to know that I appreciate them.

Chairman Liakakis said, and I -- and understand, you know, exactly what you're saying because the budget and all of that, Helen [Stone], so if we look at all of these particular things and bringing up that about how to address them and all --

Commissioner Stone said, well I would -- I would certainly not want to make this a -- a blanket thing that -- that this would have to come before the Board each year to look at where we are financially.

Commissioner Thomas said, yeah, each year.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's what I said.

County Manager Abolt said, it'll come -- I apologize. It -- it would come -- in the past it would come to you in your budget. All we're -- all we're saying is the money's there. When you look at that big old document I gave you, we just -- we just erred. We did not put in the miscellaneous stuff that -- this was in the budget.

Commissioner Stone said, well what I'm saying Russ [Abolt] is that if we're going to pass this for this year, I would want this to be certainly an item that I would have the opportunity to vote on next year.

County Manager Abolt said, it will be in your budget to do just that.

Commissioner Stone said, but I mean I want it to be an item that -- that is not just rolled in there without any notification on it.

County Manager Abolt said, I'll make a note.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, this -- never without notification.

Commissioner Stone said, that's my concern. I mean I think that we have a responsibility to -- to look at these issues and see if this is something that we think is in the best interest of the -- of the county, as well as the budget issues that we face.

Commissioner Gellatly said, Pete [Liakakis]?

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. I need a --

Commissioner Gellatly said, Pete [Liakakis]?

Chairman Liakakis said, excuse me, Dave [Gellatly]?

Commissioner Gellatly said, I -- I understand, Russ [Abolt], what happened, and that can happen in a budget our size, and -- and -- and I'm going to vote for it. What I would like to see though in the future, and -- and for -- for you all to consider is that I -- I -- I would like to see any of these increases be attached to productivity and merit, and not just longevity.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Gellatly said, because longevity, you can have some employees been here for 20 years and they're -- they're a ball of fire and producing and what have you, and unfortunately, you got a small number that just retire on the -- on the job, and - and I don't think that we should be paying longevity for just being here 20 years. I think it ought to be attached to merit and to product -- productivity.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's what I was eluding to.

Commissioner Gellatly said, that -- that's all I'm going to say.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, all right. Need a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Thomas said, I move for approval, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved for Board approval to increase the employee longevity payment amount. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-4

AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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

ISSUE:

Request Board approval to increase the employee longevity payment amount.

BACKGROUND:

It is the policy of the County to recognize and express appreciation for the long-term service of County employees. The longevity pay plan is an important part of the County's program of service appreciation. It recognizes the long-term service of regular employees working at least 20 hours per week, who have completed at least 5 years of continuous County service.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The longevity payment is made in a lump sum in the last quarter of the year in which the employee becomes eligible and annually in succeeding years. It is not considered a part of base in annual pay for classification or other pay record purposes.
2. Longevity is awarded based on the following schedule:

a.	5 to 9 years	\$350
b.	10 to 14 years	\$450
c.	15 to 19 years	\$550
d.	20 years and over	\$650

An increase to the longevity pay has been included in the adopted budget in recognition of service appreciation. The proposed schedule has been increased by \$75 per service bracket. This funding is included in the adopted FY2013 budget in the amount of \$75,000. Corresponding adjustments to other County funds will be made if this item is approved.

3. If approved the new longevity pay schedule will be changed to the following:

a.	5 to 9 years	\$425
b.	10 to 14 years	\$525
c.	15 to 19 years	\$625
d.	20 years and over	\$725

FUNDING:

Funding to increase the employee longevity payment schedule is included in the FY2013 adopted budget.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a longevity pay increase for County employees of \$75 per service level.
2. Deny request for an increase to the employee longevity pay.
3. Provide staff with other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Chatham County, like all employers, make a tremendous investment in its employees. The investment pays off ten-fold if the organization can keep the talent it has groomed. In addition to the high cost of turnover, employee morale suffers when the pay plan is not kept current. As we continue to streamline the workforce, more is expected of those employees remaining with the County.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board adopt Alternative 1.

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5. **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2012. PETITIONER: APPLE GEORGIA, LLC, d/b/a APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR AND GRILL LOCATED AT 587 AL HENDERSON BOULEVARD, 31419. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved the Board for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2012. Petitioner: Apple Georgia, LLC, d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill located at 587 Al Henderson Boulevard, 31419. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-5
AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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 transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2012, **Apple Georgia, LLC d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar** located at **587 Al Henderson Boulevard, Savannah GA 31419.**

BACKGROUND:
Apple Georgia, LLC d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, the new corporate owner and represented by Carl Jones, requests approval for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

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

RECOMMENDATION:
The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regular Services recommend approval.

District 7

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Willie Lovett

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6. **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2012. PETITIONER: APPLE GEORGIA, LLC, d/b/a APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR AND GRILL LOCATED AT 5460 AUGUSTA ROAD, GARDEN CITY, 31408. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved the Board for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2012. Petitioner: Apple Georgia, LLC, d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill located at 5460 Augusta Road, Garden City, 31408. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-6
AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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 transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2012, **Apple Georgia, LLC d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar** located at **5460 Augusta Road, Garden City, GA 31408**.

BACKGROUND:

Apple Georgia, LLC d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, the new corporate owner and represented by Carl Jones, requests approval for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

District 7

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Willie Lovett

=====

7. **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2012. PETITIONER: APPLE GEORGIA, LLC, d/b/a APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR AND GRILL LOCATED AT 4705 US HIGHWAY 80 EAST, 31410. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved the Board for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2012. Petitioner: Apple Georgia, LLC, d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill located at 4705 US Highway 80 East, 31410. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: X-7

AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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 transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license for 2012, **Apple Georgia, LLC d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar** located at **4705 US Highway 80 East, Savannah, GA 31410**.

BACKGROUND:

Apple Georgia, LLC d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar, the new corporate owner and represented by Carl Jones, requests approval for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license and Sunday Sales license in connection with an existing restaurant. The business at this location meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

District 7

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Willie Lovett

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved for approval to award bids as follows: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.) Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Board confirmation of the emergency repair and overhaul of an MD 500 helicopter main rotor transmission	Mosquito Control	Heli-Tech, Inc.	\$27,520	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
B. Replacement water storage tank at the Glen of Robin Hood water system for Public Works and Park Services	Public Works	Pinco	\$50,500	Water and Sewer Fund
C. <i>Deductive</i> and an <i>additive</i> Change Order No. 9 to the annual contract, to discontinue pest control services at the former Public Works and Park Services facilities, and an addition of pest control services at the new Public Works and Park Services facility	•Public Works •Parks and Recreation	Cox Termite & Pest Control, Inc.	•(\$600) per year •\$1625 per year	•SSD - Public Works •General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
D. Material supply annual contract for one (1) year with four (4) annual renewals to provide crushed stone, gravel and rip rap	Engineering	•Aggregates USA, LLC (primary) •Martin Marietta Materials (secondary)	Varies	•SPLOST (1985-1993) •SPLOST (1993-1998) •SPLOST (1998-2003) •SPLOST (2003-2008) •SPLOST (2008-2014)

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
E. Two (2) year contract extension for Right of Way Acquisition	Engineering	Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc.	\$5,000 per parcel	•SPLOST (1985-1993) •SPLOST (1993-1998) •SPLOST (1998-2003) •SPLOST (2003-2008) •SPLOST (2008-2014) - Various Road, Drainage and Capital Projects

AGENDA ITEM: X-8 A thru E
AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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 confirmation of the \$27,520 emergency repair and overhaul of an MD 500 helicopter main rotor transmission from Heli-Tech, Inc.

BACKGROUND: During the past several weeks, a metal chip light illuminated on several occasions in one of the County's helicopters, indicating a transmission concern. Proper protocol was followed until the frequency and number of chip light incidents definitively indicated the need for maintenance. On September 23, the helicopter was grounded and cannot be flown until the transmission repair is completed.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- Chatham County owns MD 500 Series helicopters. Following established FAA protocols, one (1) of the helicopters was grounded after a series of metal chip light illuminations.
- The main rotor transmission was removed from the helicopter and sent to Heli-Tech, Inc., an authorized service center, for inspection and evaluation. The inspection revealed that the main rotor transmission required repair and overhaul.
- Repairs to this component can only be completed by an authorized service center. Three (3) quotes were solicited and received for this repair and overhaul:

Heli-Tech, Inc.	\$ 27,520
Heli-Mart, Inc.	\$ 42,295
MD Helicopters, Inc.	\$118,757
- Heli-Tech, Inc. submitted the lowest quote. Delaying action would have likely resulted in the loss of position at the FAA approved repair station and the loss of available needed parts. Loss of parts would mean that the main rotor transmission would have to be exchanged from Heli-Mart at the increased cost of \$42,295 rather than repaired by Heli-Tech, Inc., for \$27,520.
- Staff requested emergency approval from the Chairman to have the main rotor transmission repaired and overhauled. The Chairman concurred (see attached page 7) and directed staff to seek Board confirmation at their next scheduled meeting.

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control (1005144 - 52.22001)

ALTERNATIVES:

- Request Board confirmation of the \$27,520 emergency repair and overhaul of an MD 500 helicopter main rotor transmission from Heli-Tech, Inc.
- Provide staff with other direction

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board Policy to approve emergency expenditures to ensure no interruption in a department's daily operations.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff Recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$50,500 purchase of a replacement water storage tank for the Glen of Robin Hood water system from Pinco, for Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: The Glen of Robin Hood water system has a holding tank that is in excess of twenty years old and in need of replacement.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The existing water tank that provides water to the Glen of Robin Hood area is in such a state of deterioration that it cannot be repaired. The tank must be replaced in order to provide water to the customers serviced by this water system.
2. The bid was properly advertised and four (4) bids were received and opened on September 13, 2012. Bid responses are as follows:

Pinco Garden City, GA	\$50,500
WWC Pooler, GA	\$57,450
Harbor Construction & Contracting, LLC. Savannah, GA	\$59,500
* E&D Contracting Services, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$70,359

* WBE firm

3. Staff believes the low bid provided by Pinco to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: Water and Sewer Fund
(5054400 - 52.25001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$50,500 purchase of a replacement water storage tank for the Glen of Robin Hood water system from Pinco, for Public Works and Park Services
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$600 *deductive* Change Order No. 9, per year, to discontinue pest control services at the former Public Works and Park Services facilities located on Sallie Mood Drive, and a \$1,620 *additive*, per year, to the annual contract with Cox Termite & Pest Control, Inc., to include pest control services at the new Public Works and Park Services facility located at 7226 Varnadoe Drive.

BACKGROUND: On November 21, 2008, the Board approved an annual contract for pest control services at various departments and agencies of Chatham County to Cox Termite and Pest Control, Inc.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Public Works and Park Services has relocated into a new facility which will require monthly pest control services.
2. The new pricing as quoted by Cox Termite and Pest Control, Inc., includes service to a larger area than was previously serviced under the terms of the existing contract. The areas to be serviced at the new location include the administrative building and bay area.

3. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (11-21-08)	\$18,740/Year
Change Order No. 1 (01-16-09)	\$ 300/Year
Change Order No. 2 (03-13-09)	\$ 540/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 3 (03-27-09)	\$ (180)/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 4 (09-11-09)	\$ (300)/Year
Additive Change Order No. 4 (09-11-09)	\$ 540/Year
Change Order No. 5 (05-14-10)	\$ 660/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 6 (10-22-10)	\$ (300)/Year
Additive Change Order No. 6 (10-22-10)	\$ 1,800/Year
Change Order No. 7 (04-29-11)	\$ 500/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 8 (09-21-12)	\$ (180)/Year
Deductive Change Order No. 9 (pending)	\$ (600)/Year
Additive Change Order No. 9 (pending)	\$ 1,620/Year
Revised Contract Amount	\$23,140/Year

FUNDING: •SSD - Public Works
 (2704100 - 52.39001) - \$1,215
 •General Fund/M & O - Parks and Recreation
 (1006100 - 52.39001) - \$405

ALTERNATIVES:

- Board approval of a \$600 *deductive* Change Order No. 9, per year, to discontinue pest control services at the former Public Works and Park Services facilities located on Sallie Mood Drive, and a \$1,620 *additive*, per year, to the annual contract with Cox Termite & Pest Control, Inc., to include pest control services at the new Public Works and Park Services facility located at 7226 Varnadoe Drive.
- Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
 RUSHEDA ADESHINA

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
 MELVA SHARPE

ITEM D

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a material supply annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Aggregates USA, LLC, (primary) and Martin Marietta Materials (secondary), to provide crushed stone (GABC), #57 stone, #4 gravel and Type 3 rip rap for Engineering.

BACKGROUND: During construction projects, stone is needed in a variety of capacities to improve road safety and to provide soil erosion and sedimentation control measures. Issuance of the annual primary and secondary contracts to procure stone will allow staff to procure the materials in a timely manner. This will save the County time and money, especially when stone is needed in an emergency situation.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- All stone must meet minimum requirements of the Georgia Department of Transportation
- The bid opening was October 4, 2012. Bids were received from two (2) vendors. The results are as follows:

Description	Aggregates USA, LLC	Martin Marietta Materials
Crushed Run (GABC)	\$22.00 per ton	\$22.00 per ton
#57 Stone	\$23.50 per ton	\$28.50 per ton
#4 Gravel	\$24.00 per ton	\$28.00 per ton
Type 3 Rip Rap	\$43.00 per ton	\$45.00 per ton

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

ALTERNATIVES:

- Board approval to award a material supply annual contract with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms, to Aggregates USA, LLC, (primary) and Martin Marietta Materials (secondary), to provide crushed stone (GABC), #57 stone, #4 gravel and Type 3 rip rap for Engineering.
- Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts for material and supply that is essential to ongoing projects.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
GLORIA SAUGH

ITEM E

ISSUE: Request Board approval for a two (2) year extension, at the current cost of \$5,000 per parcel, to the current contract with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., for Right of Way Acquisition.

BACKGROUND: A right of way consultant is necessary to acquire parcels of property needed to construct road and drainage projects. The current contract with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., expires October 31, 2012. The current contract was approved by the Board on October 19, 2007.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Due to their many years of professional service and their large amount of experience as the right of way consultant for the County, staff believes that it is in the best interest of the County to continue the contractual agreement with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc.
2. The current contract provides that the single fixed rate of \$5,000 per parcel can be adjusted with the increase not to exceed the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Moreland Altobelli requested no price increases to the contract since 2008.
3. Moreland Altobelli is currently involved in the acquisitions on many projects for the County. A continuation of this relationship will ensure a smooth completion to the projects currently underway. Moreland Altobelli is the only consultant prequalified in the areas of federal acquisition procedures by the Georgia Department of Transportation with a local presence. The Bay Street Widening Project is set to begin acquisitions in October 2012. Acquisitions will take two years to complete. Staff requests the two year extension to provide continuity to acquisition services.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approve a two (2) year extension, at the current cost of \$5,000 per parcel, to the current contract with Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc., for Right of Way Acquisition.
2. Provide staff other direction.

FUNDING: SPLOST (1985-1993), (1993-1998), (1998-2003),(2003-2008),(2008-2014)
Various Road, Drainage and Capital Projects

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve contract extensions.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
GLORIA SAUGH

PREPARED BY _____
PURCHASING AGENT

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

1. **AMEND THE OFFICIAL CODE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO RECOGNIZE THE CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION AS THE OFFICIAL YOUTH ARM OF CHATHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, next item, First Reading. Amend -- Item One, Amend the Official Code of Chatham County to recognize the Chatham County Youth Commission as the official youth arm of Chatham County Government. And what the -- Commissioner Thomas brought that up that they just want to have the county put that in the Official Code so that that will give it more substance to it, and it's not something like some committee that has just been set up. So we need a motion on the floor to approve.

County Manager Abolt said, no.

Commissioner Thomas said, no.

County Manager Abolt said, First Reading.

Commissioner Thomas said, this is First Reading.

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, excuse me.

Commissioner Thomas said, First Reading.

Chairman Liakakis said, First Reading and there's no action on it.

Commissioner Thomas said, today,

Chairman Liakakis said, when we have the Second Reading, there'll be action on it.

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2. ADOPT A PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK ORDINANCE WITH GRADUATED FINES, ALLOWING MOTORISTS TO BE CITED FOR FAILING TO YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS.

Chairman Liakakis said, Item Two, Adopt the Pedestrian Crosswalk Ordinance with graduated fines, allowing motorists to be cited for failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and that also will go to Second Reading, and will be discussed at the next County Commission meeting.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. IT IS PROPOSED THAT AN AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS 2-3D, 2-3C, 2-38, 4-5, 4-51.1, 4-5.2 OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE BE MADE TO REFER TO THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE FOR THE NON-COMMERCIAL KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND TO PROVIDE CLARITY AND DISTINCTION BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND PERSONAL AGRICULTURE. MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-120731-56930-1
TEXT AMENDMENT.**

Chairman Liakakis said, Item 12, Second Readings. It is proposed that an amendment to Sections 2-3d, 2-3c, 2-38, 4-5, 4-51.1, 4-5.2 of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to be made to refer to the Animal Control Ordinance for the non-commercial keeping of animals and to provide clarify [sic] and distinction between commercial and personal agriculture. The MPC recommends approval. We need a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Stone said, so moved, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved for approval of an of an Amendment to Sections 2-3d, 2-3c, 2-38, 4-5, 4-51.1, 4-5.2 of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to be made to refer to the Animal Control Ordinance for the non-commercial keeping of animals and to provide clarity and distinction between commercial and personal agriculture. Commissioners Holmes and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-1~~

AGENDA DATE: ~~October 5, 2012~~

AGENDA ITEM: XII-1

AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Thomas L. Thomson, Executive Director

LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEARING:

It is proposed that an amendment to Sections 2-3D, 2-3C, 21-38, 4-5, 4-5.1, 4-5.2 of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance be made to refer to the Animal Control Ordinance for the non-commercial keeping of animals and to provide clarity and distinction between commercial and personal agriculture. MPC recommends approval.

MPC File No.:Z-120731-56930-1

ISSUE:

It is proposed that an amendment to the definitions section and the use tables of the Zoning Ordinance be made to refer to the Animal Control Ordinance for the non-commercial keeping of animals and to provide clarity and distinction between commercial and personal agriculture.

BACKGROUND:

On July 8, 2011 the County Commission requested MPC staff to study the compatibility of the Animal Control Ordinance with the Zoning Ordinance. In order to complete this task, MPC staff partnered with Healthy Savannah and the Food Policy Council to assist in the study.

Dr. Blake Caldwell, a member of both Healthy Savannah and the Food Policy Council, led a task force of diverse interests and backgrounds to develop and recommend revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance. Task Force members include representatives from the Chatham County, City of Savannah, MPC, Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, chicken community, horse community, bee-keeping community, and other interests.

The County Commission had the First Reading on the Animal Control Ordinance revisions at their July 20th meeting and adopted the revisions on August 10th.

In order to ensure consistency between the Animal Control Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance will need to be revised to refer to the Animal Control Ordinance.

The MPC reviewed the petition on August 28, 2012 and unanimously recommended approval.

FINDINGS:

1. Section 4-5.1 of the Zoning Ordinance presents a listing of allowable uses in the C&R (Conservation and Residential) districts. Use 31 "Agriculture - general" is described as "Agriculture activities of all types, livestock and poultry farms, dairy farms, fisheries, forestry, activities including sawmills, organic blending plants, and uses of a similar nature" and is only allowed in the R-A and R-A-1 districts without use conditions or reference to the Animal Control Ordinance. It appears that this description is a definition which may be better placed in the definition section. It is also not clear whether this applies to commercial or personal agriculture.

Use 32 "Agriculture-special" has two descriptions: a. non-commercial greenhouses and b. the growing and harvesting of agricultural crops and timber. It is unclear why non-commercial greenhouses would be regulated differently than other accessory structures. It is unclear whether the growing and harvesting of agricultural crops and timber applies to commercial or personal uses or why this would be separate from "Agriculture-general."

2. Section 4-5.2 of the Zoning Ordinance presents a listing of allowable uses in the B&I (Business and Industrial) districts. In this table, Use 32 "Agriculture-special," in addition to the descriptions found in 4-5.1, has an additional standard which states, "The keeping of noncommercial livestock and poultry except swine, provided any building used for such purposes shall be set back not less than 100 feet from any property lines" but is not allowed in any of the districts.
3. These provisions are not only confusing, but have effectively prevented personal, non-commercial agricultural activities (such as backyard chicken keeping) in all zoning districts except R-A and R-A-1.
4. As proposed, the text amendment would allow non-commercial agricultural activities in all districts, subject to the restrictions established in the Animal Control Ordinance (such as minimum lot size, maximum numbers, habitat setbacks, etc.)
5. Section 2-28 of the Definitions section of the zoning ordinance defines Home Occupation as,

"An occupation carried on within a dwelling, occupying no greater than 25% of the gross livable area of the dwelling, employing only family members residing in the home, using only such equipment as is customarily found in the home, involving no display of articles or products or signs, and, except as otherwise provided, having no on-site storage of equipment, or materials used to deliver products or provide services off-site and having no on-site assembly or storage of vehicles other than the customary household vehicles. Home occupations are limited to:

- a. Selling only those articles, products, or services produced in the home or
- b. Arranging to provide or deliver products or services off-site which are produced off-site and involving no on-site employees other than those living in the home and involving no assembling or storage of materials or equipment on the premises..."

Staff is recommending that item "b." be expanded to read, "Arranging to provide or deliver products or services off-site which are produced *on-site or* off-site and involving no on-site

employees other than those living in the home and involving no assembling or storage of materials or equipment on the premises...”

Home Occupation, Use 12 in the C&R (Conservation and Residential) Schedule, is permitted in all residential zoning districts except C-M (Conservation Marsh).

Customary Home Occupation, Use 12 in the B&I (Business and Industrial) Schedule is permitted in A-T (Agriculture Tourist) and I-P (Institutional Professional) zoning districts.

Additionally, Use 33 Agricultural Produce Stands - accessory use, is permitted in the R-A (Residential Agriculture) and R-A-1 zoning districts. It is also permitted in the A-T, B, B-1, B-2, B-C, B-N, B-N-1, and T-B zoning districts.

Staff feels that these uses (Home Occupation and Agricultural Produce Stands) and their corresponding definitions are sufficient to distinguish when an activity is considered personal agriculture, a home occupation, an agricultural produce stand, or commercial agriculture.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the proposed text amendment.
2. Approve an alternative text amendment.
3. Deny the proposed text amendment.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Zoning Ordinance should be revised periodically to reflect community goals. The proposed revisions reflect growing community support for the concepts of sustainability and urban agriculture.

One of the goals of the Chatham County Roadmap to becoming the Greenest County in Georgia adopted by the County Commission is:

“Local Agriculture: Call upon the Chatham County-Savannah MPC and other local planning bodies to allow locally-oriented agriculture to be a permitted use in ALL zoning districts, not just the Industrial zones.”

The proposed revisions are consistent with this goal and make the ordinance easier to understand.

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVAL of the request to amend the definition section to include the definition of agriculture general which clarifies that it applies to commercial activities, add a definition for personal agriculture which specifically refers to the Animal Control Ordinance for the keeping of animals, and expand the definition of home occupation; remove the definition of “Agriculture general” from the use table in Sections 4-5.1; replace “Agriculture special” with “Agriculture personal” in the indices and the use tables 4-5.1 and 4-5.2, and allow in all zoning districts, of the County Zoning Ordinance:

EXISTING

Section 2 - Definitions

Section 2-28 Home Occupation.

An occupation carried on within a dwelling, occupying no greater than 25% of the gross livable area of the dwelling, employing only family members residing in the home, using only such equipment as is customarily found in the home, involving no display of articles or products or signs, and, except as otherwise provided, having no on-site storage of equipment, or materials used to deliver products or provide services off-site and having no on-site assembly or storage of vehicles other than the customary household vehicles. Home occupations are limited to:

- a. Selling only those articles, products, or services produced in the home or
- b. Arranging to provide or deliver products or services off-site which are produced off-site and involving no on-site employees other than those living in the home and involving no assembling or storage of materials or equipment on the premises...”

Section 4-5 Index for “C and R” and “B and I” Use Schedules

List of Uses	Use No.
Agriculture-special	32.

PROPOSED

Section 2 - Definitions

Section 2-3C Agriculture General.

Commercial agriculture activities of all types, livestock and poultry farms, dairy farms, fisheries, forestry, activities including sawmills, organic blending plants, agricultural crops and uses of a similar nature. This does not include personal agriculture. More than 30 poultry, 10 pigs, or 10 other livestock shall constitute commercial agriculture activity.

Section 2-3D Agriculture Personal.

Agricultural activities intended for personal use such as gardening, beekeeping, the keeping of chickens, etc. This use is permitted in all zoning districts. Personal agriculture activities involving animals are subject to additional restrictions in the Animal Control Ordinance.

Section 2-28 Home Occupation.

An occupation carried on within a dwelling, occupying no greater than 25% of the gross livable area of the dwelling, employing only family members residing in the home, using only such equipment as is customarily found in the home, involving no display of articles or products or signs, and, except as otherwise provided, having no on-site storage of equipment, or materials used to deliver products or provide services off-site and having no on-site assembly or storage of vehicles other than the customary household vehicles. Home occupations are limited to:

- a. Selling only those articles, products, or services produced in the home or
- b. Arranging to provide or deliver products or services off-site which are produced on-site or off-site and involving no on-site employees other than those living in the home and involving no assembling or storage of materials or equipment on the premises..."

Section 4-5 Index for "C and R" and "B and I" Use Schedules

List of Uses	Use No.
Agriculture - personal	32.

PREPARED BY: Ellen I. Harris, Manager
Cultural Resource and Urban Planning

AUGUST 28, 2012

Gregori Anderson, Director
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012

TO: CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION

FROM: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

PETITION REFERENCED:
Text Amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance
Sections 2-3D, 2-3C, 2-28, 4-5, 4-5.1 and 4-5.2
MPC File No. Z-120731-56930-1

MPC ACTION: Approval of the proposed amendment to Sections 2-3D, 2-3C, 2-38, 4-5.1, 4-5.2 of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance as submitted.

MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the proposed amendment to Sections 2-3D, 2-3C, 2-38, 4-5.1, 4-5.2 of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance as submitted.

MEMBERS PRESENT: 10 + Chairman

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adam Ragsdale, Chairman | John Pannell, Vice-Chairman |
| Ellis Cook, Secretary | Tanya Milton, Treasures |
| Russ Abolt | Stephen Lufburrow |
| Shedrick Coleman | Timothy Mackey |
| Murray Marshall | Susan Myers |
| Joseph Welch | |

VOTING FOR MOTION

Adam Ragsdale
Jon Pannell
Ellis Cook
Tanya Milton
Russ Abolt
Shedrick Coleman
Stephen Lufburrow
Timothy Mackey
Murray Marshall
Susan Myers

VOTING AGAINST MOTION

NONE

***ABSENT OR **FAILING TO VOTE**

* Ben Farmer
* Lacy Manigault
* Rochelle Small Toney

Joseph Welch

FOR APPROVAL: 11

FOR DENIAL: 0 ABSTAINING: 0

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XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Liakakis said, the only thing now that you have left, the Information Items, they were all given to you in your agenda packet. And of course that's information items for you to know about.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

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

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2

AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012

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>
Installation of sod to stop soil erosion at Chatham County Wetland Mitigation	Engineering	Turf Services Unlimited	\$3,500	SPLOST (2008-2014) Greenspace
Replace roof on administrative building at the recycle center	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Coastal Roofing Company, Inc.	\$9,399	Solid Waste Restricted
Annual licensing and maintenance agreement for file tracking and records management software	I.C.S.	FileTrail, Inc.	\$8,435	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Two (2) credenzas, organizers, desks and bookcases	Juvenile Court	VIP Printing & Office Supply (WBE)	\$5,347	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
One (1) credenza, organizer, desk and table	Juvenile Court	VIP Printing & Office Supply (WBE)	\$4,615	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Relocate Fuel Master computer to the temporary Fleet Operations location	Fleet Operations	Meco, Inc.	\$5,825	CIP-Fleet Relocation
Remove pump station and cut water line at former Fleet Operations location	Fleet Operations	Savannah River Utilities Company (MBE)	\$4,500	CIP-Fleet Relocation
Annual license and maintenance agreement for false alarm tracking software	I.C.S.	AOT Public Safety Corporation	\$4,741	SSD-Finance
Body repairs to unit #1940-CNT vehicle	Fleet Operations	A&L Autobody, Inc.	\$2,592	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Physical exams for narcotic canines	Sheriff	Godley Station Animal Hospital	\$2,954	K-9 Grant
Remove oil/water from wash bay separator and retention area	Fleet Operations	Meco Inc.	\$4,040	CIP-Fleet Relocation

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Furnish and install ADA compliant lift kit for handicap access into pool at Aquatic Center	Human Resources	In The Swim	\$4,499	General Fund/M&O - ADA Compliance
Abatement services at former Fleet Operations location	Fleet Operations	Savannah Abatement Services	\$2,500	CIP-Fleet Relocation
Inventory repair parts for the month of July	Fleet Operations	The Parts House	\$2,888	Inventory Account
Inventory repair parts for the month of August	Fleet Operations	The Parts House	\$4,419	Inventory Account
Furnish labor & materials to build a grill at Tom Triplett Community Park	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Glovers Masonry	\$3,835	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
One (1) used utility vehicle	Public Works and Park Services	Scott Equipment Company	\$3,050	SSD-Public Works
Modification of design and permitting requirements for Willow Lakes drainage project	Engineering	Kern-Coleman & Company, LLC.	\$9,950	SPLOST (2008-2014) Willow Lakes Drainage
Revisions and permitting for Hampton Place drainage project	Engineering	Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, Inc.	\$9,925	SPLOST (2008-2014) Hampton Place Drainage
Grading work, sod replacement and locating irrigation control wires for Hardin Canal drainage project	Engineering	Sandhill ALS Construction Inc.	\$4,500	SPLOST (2008-2014) Hardin Canal
Four (4) computers for County Assessor	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing, L.P.	\$3,058	General Fund/M&O - County Assessor
Inventory tires for the month of August	Fleet Operations	SOS Radial Tire Service	\$7,532	Inventory Account
Inventory repair parts for fiscal year 2013	Fleet Operations	Freightliner of Savannah, Inc.	\$3,539	Inventory Account
Duct work cleaning and scaling at Police Annex	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Service Experts Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC.	\$2,650	Reimbursable Expenses
One (1) multi-purpose immobilization device with camera, holster, cartridges, upload station and training kit	Sheriff	Karbon Arms, LLC.	\$6,263	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
Install conduit and fixtures to provide electrical service in two (2) sheds at Police Annex	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	All Electric & Specialty	\$2,750	Reimbursable Expenses
4000 hour service on excavator	Mosquito Control	Flint Equipment Company	\$3,407	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control

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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: October 19, 2012**

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

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

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

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway, Phase 5. Construction underway by GDOT contract. Estimated completion December 2013.
2. Diamond Causeway. Construction underway by GDOT of a high level bridge over Skidaway Narrows to replace the bascule bridge will be delayed pending GDOT decision on how to resolve problems with installing mid-span bridge beams. Estimated completion of September 2013 will be delayed.
3. Whitefield Avenue. Construction underway by GDOT contract. Estimated completion September 2013.
4. Bay Street Widening. Project put on hold in 2010 pending another Assessment of Effects (AOE) to historic properties. ROW acquisitions process expected to resume November 2012.
5. Jimmy Deloach Parkway Phase 2 and Interchange of Jimmy Deloach Parkway at U.S. 80. Design ongoing. ROW acquisitions expected to begin summer 2013.
6. SR 307 Widening from US 17 to I-16. Construction underway. Estimated completion in October 2013.
7. Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement. Design is underway on a high level bridge to replace the bascule bridge over the Intercoastal Waterway on Islands Expressway. ROW plans expected by summer 2013.
8. Local Roads.
 - a. Hunt Road and Faye Road Bridge Replacements. Expect to solicit bids for construction contracts for both bridges October 2012.
 - b. Ridgewood Avenue, Beechwood Avenue and Elmhurst Avenue. Construction underway. Estimated completion December 2012.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts All

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE**AGENDA DATE: October 19, 2012**

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

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

BACKGROUND: For awarded construction contracts, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates. For projects pending environmental permits, start dates are best estimates. Project scopes include varying degrees of canal widening, bank stabilization, bridges and culverts.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Pipemakers Canal. The project includes canal widening, bank stabilization, sluice gates and culverts. Staff anticipates construction of Phase 2A (from Daniel Street to Dean Forest Road) to be complete by November 2012. The Board approved a contract for construction of the Phase 2B (west of Dean Forest to the west end of the airport) on July 10, 2012. Construction is underway with completion scheduled for August 2014. Staff is working to identify and obtain canal rights of way west of I-95.

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 hydraulic model is complete. The design team is currently working on development of a concept plan, cost analysis and determination of permitting issues.
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 drainage improvements in the area of the recently completed culvert project at Dean Forest Road.
4. Queensbury Drainage Improvements. The project will improve drainage and provide maintenance access in the area south of Montgomery Cross Road and west of Ferguson Avenue (includes Tara Manor, Ennis Mobile Home Park-Elmhurst Court, and the Forest City Gun Club.) A project in the area of Remington Drive is complete. Design and permitting are complete on a project to improve drainage at Tara Manor.
5. Wilmington Park Canal. The project will improve drainage and maintenance access within the canal and surrounding areas. Phase I will replace four undersized culverts along the canal. Construction began in September with completion scheduled for August 2013. Phase II will improve drainage from the southern portion of Ashley Road and is under design. The existing outfall from this area is not accessible due to a lack of drainage easement.
6. Louis Mills/Redgate Canal. The project will correct inadequate drainage capacity and the lack of maintenance access to the canal. Improvements are complete between Garrard Avenue and the CSX Railroad. Projects to extend the improvements along the Marshall Branch Canal are underway and include construction of maintenance access and culvert replacements access and culvert replacements. Design of the culvert replacement is underway and a construction project along the downstream part of the canal is pending Board approval.
7. Ogeechee Farms Area. The project includes improvements to canals and culverts. Phase 1 installed about 0.2 miles of stormwater pipe south of Vidalia Road and replaced a road crossing at Waynesboro Road. This phase was completed in July 2005. Phase II replaced five undersized culverts south of and under Vidalia Road and was completed in June 2010. Phase III replaces three culverts under Ridgeland Road, a private drive, and Yemassee Road. Construction for Phase III is expected to be complete by November 2012.
8. 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 was damaged by previous storm events. It cannot be accessed for repair or maintenance because it is located on private property. Design and permitting is underway for a replacement structure in a new location that is accessible for maintenance.
9. Laberta-Cresthill Area. The project replaced a culvert under Whitefield Avenue with a double box culvert to relieve flooding within the Cresthill Subdivision. Construction is complete.
10. Norwood Drainage Outfalls. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance for two drainage outfalls from Norwood Avenue. Construction of improvements is complete at Norwood Place. Design work and permitting are underway for the outfall near Skidaway Road.
11. Henderson/Gateway. Drainage is provided by the Little Neck Canal and the Henderson Branch Canal (combined length 2 miles). Projects to replace the golf cart culvert and culvert at Henderson Oaks Drive and Little Neck Road are complete. Staff is soliciting engineering proposals to design drainage from the Gateway area.
12. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance. Phase I replaced an undersized storm drain pipe at Beaulieu Avenue was completed in January 2010. Phase II will replace three undersized storm drain pipes and reshape the existing ditch. Acquisitions of required easements are complete. Final design plans and permitting are underway.
13. Lehigh-Shipyard Lane Area. The project will relieve roadside drainage issues causing nuisance flooding in the Lehigh Avenue and Shipyard Lane area. Final design work and permitting are complete. Construction is expected to begin in December 2012.
14. LaRoche Culvert. The project will replace 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. Bids opened in April 2012 exceeded project budget and were rejected. The design is being modified to lower construction costs.
15. Wahlstrom Road. The project will address inadequate drainage capacity 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.
16. Wymberley Area. The project will address inadequate neighborhood drainage including roadside ditches, culverts and rear yard areas not accessible for maintenance of public systems. In early 2012 staff presented conceptual plans to stakeholders of the Wormsloe Historic Site and received preliminary verbal agreement for the improvements. Design work is underway.

17. Cottonvale Road Drainage. The project will relieve drainage and maintenance access issues causing nuisance flooding in the Cottonvale Road area. Acquisition of a required easement is complete. Final design plans are underway.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.
Districts: All

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Liakakis said, and we need a motion on the floor for going into executive session.

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

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to recess to executive session to discuss litigation and land acquisition. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shay and Kicklighter were not present.]

The Board recessed at approximately 11:35 a.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

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

JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION