

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2013, 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 Albert J. Scott called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. on Friday, June 28, 2013.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Scott said, good morning everyone. I will ask that you be seated during Reverend Salness' devotional service, and when he indicates it's time to pray would you please stand and remain standing through the Pledge of Allegiance. You may now be seated, please. We have with us this morning to do the devotional service the Reverend Duane Salness, who is the pastor of the Mount Zion Lutheran Church on Skidaway Island. It's a pleasure to have you with us. Thank you so much for accepting our invitation, and as I stated, whenever you get through with your devotional remarks, if you would so indicate that , so we will know that you're ready to pray, and we will all stand. Thank you so much.

Reverend Duane O. Salness said, thank you for inviting me to come and offer a devotional thought as you begin your day as civic leaders here. A reading from Psalm 33 versus 4 and 5. For the word of the Lord is upright and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice. The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. I believe God blesses every person with certain gifts and abilities. These blessings are demonstrated by the skills we develop as we employ these God-given gifts for the good of the community in which we live and for the care of all people, especially those most in need. As civic leaders you are blessed with your gifts and skills to be careful and caring for the citizens of this community. As the Psalm writer expressed it, God loves righteousness and justice. Gifts you can employ as you do your work for the good of all for whom you share responsibility within your jurisdiction. My hope and prayer for all leaders such as yourselves is that God will satisfy his righteousness and justice partly through you, and that satisfaction will demonstrate for all to see the steadfast love of the Lord. Let us pray.

Reverend Salness, gave the invocation as follows:

Gracious God, bless the work of these leaders as they carry out their responsibilities. May your righteousness and justice prevail throughout their discussions and their decisions. Amen.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Pat Farrell will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

Chairman Scott said, the Clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Albert J. Scott, Chairman
 Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
 Helen L. Stone, Chairman Pro Tem, District One
 James J. Holmes, District Two
 Tony Center, District Three
 Patrick K. Farrell, District Four
 Yusef K. Shabazz, District Five
 Lori L. Brady, 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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CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Scott said, we -- we don't have any members of the Youth Commission to introduce. They're on summer vacation.

Commissioner Thomas said, some of them are here.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

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[NOTE: The public hearing was held at this time. Upon conclusion of the public hearing, the regular meeting agenda was resumed. Tabled Item Number 2 was taken out of order and heard at this time, prior to the Proclamations and Special Presentations.]

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- 1. **RECOGNITION OF A GROUP OF STAFF AND GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS (Cammie Allen, Justin Kriske, Renate Loomis, Christine Bottomley, Andrew Neidlinger, Samuel Peabody and Kaitlin Bockneyer) WHO MARKED STORMWATER STRUCTURES IN SELECTED NEIGHBORHOODS WHICH DRAIN TO THE OGEECHEE RIVER COMPLEX. CHATHAM COUNTY PARTNERED WITH THE OGEECHEE RIVER KEEPERS TO STENCIL COUNTY OWNED AND MAINTAINED STORMWATER CONTROL STRUCTURES WITH AN ANTI-POLLUTION REMINDER. THE COUNTY PROVIDED THE MATERIALS AND THE OGEECHEE RIVER KEEPERS ORGANIZED THE WORK. (SENIOR ENGINEER SUZANNE COOLER WILL DESCRIBE THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THESE VOLUNTEERS).**

[NOTE: Prior to the action on Tabled Item 2, the following transpired with regard to this item:]

Chairman Scott said, on the -- on page 2, Item V, are -- are the students and all here now? Okay. We'll get to you in just a second. I just wanted to make sure you are here.

[NOTE: After the action on Tabled Item 2, the following transpired with regard to this Item:]

Chairman Scott said, page two, Item V on the agenda a Proclamation and Special Presentation. This is to recognize a group of staff and generous volunteers, Cammie Allen, Justin Kriske, Renate Loomis, Christine Bottomley, and Andrew Neidlinger, and Samuel Peabody and Kaitlin Bockneyer, who volunteered and marked stormwater structures in selected neighborhoods which drain into the Ogeechee River Complex, and Chatham County partnered with the Ogeechee River Keepers to stencil county-owned and maintained stormwater control structures with an anti-pollution reminder. The County provided the material and the Ogeechee River Keepers organized the work. Senior Engineer Susan [sic] Cooler with -- will describe the -- the contribution made by each of the volunteers, and at this time, Ms. Cooler.

Ms. Suzanne Cooler said, good morning. First of all, let me say thank you for pronouncing all those last names so I don't have to.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. I -- I know. I hope I didn't mess up any of them.

Ms. Cooler said, we just wanted to take a minute to recognize a hand full of the volunteers who spent many hours in the sun painting signs that say no dumping drains to the river on our storm inlets. Ms. Cammie Allen from Ogeechee River Keeper organized all those interns, and she's going to accept certificates for them because they have since gone home. They are college students.

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Ms. Cooler said, but to explain a little bit about the program is -- as you may or may not know each of our storm inlets go untreated to the rivers. The major stormwater violations that we issue each year are people dumping things that don't belong in those inlets, such as yard debris, waste, paint waste, kitchen oil waste. We get all kinds of things dumped in our storm sewers which then land up in our rivers, and the Ogeechee River Keeper agreed to go out and mark those for us on their own time as volunteers in the Quacco Road area. And this is Ms. Cammie, and she has a few things to say.

Ms. Cammie Allen said, hey. I'm Cammie Allen. I'm a student at Armstrong. I'm also an intern for the Ogeechee River Keeper office, and we've been really excited to take on this project, and we really appreciate y'all recognizing us today.

Chairman Scott said, and we really thank you for being willing to do this, and I -- I know that it's community service, but it was really a -- a -- really a big undertaking and the county really appreciates it.

Ms. Allen said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, excellent job.

Ms. Allen said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any comments or questions?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Ms. Allen said, thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS

None.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

- 1. **SECOND READING: AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION BOARD ORDINANCE TO ADD MEMBERS AND ALLOW ONLY MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL COMMUNITY TO REMAIN AS VOTING MEMBERS OF THE CRIMINAL INFORMATION BOARD. (NOTE: Awaiting written verification from the City of Savannah on financial situation. Also, the Clerk of Superior Court requests matter be tabled in order to provide additional information.)**

Chairman Scott said, if you would -- if you would on your agenda under item 8, page 4, we have a Second Reader that -- that's been on the agenda for a while. We have no further information. We have no need to take further action on that item, and after today it will come off the agenda.

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[NOTE: This item was taken out of order and heard prior to the Proclamations and Special Presentations.]

- * 2. **PURCHASING AGENDA ITEM T WAS TABLED AT THE BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2013.**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
T. Georgia Handbooks on Criminal Evidence, Criminal Trial Practice and DUI Trial Practice Manuals	District Attorney	West Publishing Corporation	\$16,947	General Fund/M&O - District Attorney

[NOTE: Prior to the public hearing, the following transpired with regard to this item:]

Chairman Scott said, the second item is the purchasing agenda item T that was tabled at the Board meeting on -- at the last Board meeting and was asked to be considered. Do we have the DA here to speak to this? Okay. She's not present.

[NOTE: After the public hearing was closed, the following transpired with regard to this Item:]

Chairman Scott said, on Item XIII, we had a purchasing item that was tabled at our last meeting, and it's my understanding the DA is here now?

District Attorney Meg Heap said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, okay. And at this time I will recognize the District Attorney, Meg Heap, for an explanation. The item was -- was really to purchase Georgia Handbooks on Criminal Evidence, Criminal Trial Practice, and DUI Trial Practices Manuals for \$16,947, and we were asked to invite you here to explain why it was necessary to purchase these books and were they not provided free.

District Attorney Heap said, yes, sir. Good afternoon -- or good morning. Thank you. Mr. Center I believe you had brought that up. We actually did some research on it. I -- I believe the question was whether we could go digital with technology. Just to give you an explanation, we actually researched to see whether Daniels could be digital, it -- it could not. I would welcome us to be able to go into the courtrooms with a laptop and access the law that way. First off, the courtrooms are not capable, the -- and I think it would cost money. We actually got in touch with ICS, sat down with them to see if it was possible for us to, you know, get with the technology, and he said at this time it is not possible. Not all courtrooms have that available, and I just wanted to let y'all know we have 37 attorneys in the District Attorney's office, and at any given time not all these courts are going at the same time, but you have, you know, three courts, State Court; six Superior Courts; three Juvenile courts; two courts in Magistrate Court; and then three courts in Recorder's Court. We looked to see if the Daniels could -- they don't have them. They are not digital. And I see those books that my prosecutors take into a courtroom, and I guess I would bring an example if I grabbed one of them, it's like - it's like what you have -- a doctor has a stethoscope or a scalpel. When you go in there on any given day, you know, Judge Abbot had court on Monday. Court started out at 9:00, you had a trial docket; 10:00 o'clock were pleas, probation calendar call; 11:00 o'clock were open-ended pleas; 1:00 o'clock, then you had more probation revocation hearings; and motion hearings at -- excuse me, at 3:00 o'clock. So at a given time, prosecutors got to be in there and they have to have access to the law, and giving them a book on evidence and trial procedure so they have them with them in the courtroom, 'cause court's not going to stop to give us time to run upstairs and research the law. That gives each prosecutor these two books. We only order one book on DUI, and that's for all the State Court prosecutors. We just feel that this is something we have as the county attorney. These are the books that we rely on. These are the tools that we have.

District Attorney Heap said, we would love to go digital. We have a fee, you know, with like Lexis Nexis which gives us access to the different law. We have not ordered any code books, criminal statues or anything since 2010, so we've tried to scale back, but I -- I -- I see these as the tools that they need when they go in the courtroom. They each have these two books for any hearings. And Mr. Center, I know you understand as well since you go into the courtrooms. We tried to see if we could find Daniels digital, but it's not. So I'd welcome any questions that you have, but these are just the tools -- these -- these books are our tools when we go into the courtroom that we are prepared to, you know, to fight any motions that there may be at any given time.

Chairman Scott said Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

District Attorney Heap said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Center said, good morning.

District Attorney Heap said, good morning.

Commissioner Center said, Madam District Attorney, and let me assure you, I'm not picking a fight or -- or trying create a -- create any problems between us.

District Attorney Heap said, sure.

Commissioner Center said, it's -- if you listen to everybody talk today, every -- everybody's telling us to go through the budget and where can we cut, and I brought it. You know, I've got where we started out if you'll bear with me. We got a little summary notebook --

District Attorney Heap said, right.

Commissioner Center said, still trying to understand. Then we got this giant notebook Commissioner Brady tried to help me go through, which we'll do again, and we, I think most of the Commissioners, as the public has done, try to find out where we can cut. Where can we cut? And it's hard to do when you go over it piece by piece, and just because I happen to practice law, when this one popped up I said, ah, I know a little something about this that I have to go further --

District Attorney Heap said, sure.

Commissioner Center said, and that's why I asked for an explanation, and I understand, you know, how you have to have certain books to go into the courtroom, I take them also, so I went into detail, and I saw that you've ordered 37 Criminal Trial Practice from Bill Daniel, that you just -- I think it was Judge Daniel in Fulton County at one time, 37 Criminal Evidence Books, and one on DUI.

District Attorney Heap said, and the 37 because I have 37 attorneys.

Commissioner Center said, right. Right. I can solve the \$264 DUI book because local attorney Doug Andrews when I talked to him said he bought five of them. He said please give one of them to the District Attorney. So we can save --

District Attorney Heap said, and -- and will he give us one each year so it's updated?

Commissioner Center said, I will ask him, but I know for this year we can save the County \$264 'cause --

District Attorney Heap said, and if we can get it in writing that Mr. Andrews will give us a book every year, we will take it.

Commissioner Center said, right.

District Attorney Heap said, we just want one book so we know what the current law is.

Commissioner Center said, right. And you're asking now for one book for this year. When you come back next year, I'll ask him again, but I'm going to give you the one for this year.

District Attorney Heap said, thank you very much, I appreciate it.

Commissioner Center said, and give -- and give -- and give Mr. Andrews the credit, but he had five still in the box.

District Attorney Heap said, very good. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Center said, so we can save the county \$264 there.

District Attorney Heap said, and I will actually welcome -- if we can get the capability in the courtroom so, you know, we met with ICS and they said they -- they could get a slate and it's \$1,000 each, which comes out, you know, that they could -- my prosecutors could share those so we could access the law. I mean, as you know --

Commissioner Center said, right.

District Attorney Heap said, that's the tool we have to have when we go in a courtroom.

Commissioner Center said, right. And you mentioned -- and I looked these up too because I buy these books also. I want to know the evidence when I go in the courtroom, and you mentioned Judge Abbot. At the last seminar I went to Judge Abbot said she always uses Georgia Handbook on Foundations and Objections as her evidentiary guide. That only costs \$92.

District Attorney Heap said, but that is different for the Judge than for us because the Judge makes the ruling. We have to be able to defend. If I go in and somebody is objecting to a statement, and we have to have a Jackson v. Denno, I need to make sure I list and look at the different criteria to make sure that the statement is valid, you know, because my job is to, you know, make sure that if someone's been victimized by a crime, that I've got prosecutors with the tools to get in there and fight.

Commissioner Center said, right.

District Attorney Heap said, and make sure that if somebody has committed a crime that they're held accountable, and the Judge sits and weighs it, but we have to be fighting while she gets to sit -- she --

Commissioner Center said, or he.

District Attorney Heap said, and no disrespect but, he gets to determine, but we've got to have those tools to fight.

Commissioner Center said, I -- I understand that, but I'm saying if the Judge uses that, I always want to use what the Judges use myself, and I also looked on -- on the internet to -- to -- to see these books, Daniels Criminal Trial Prac -- Practice, I don't think they have the 2000 -- it's either Daniels Georgia Handbook on Criminal Evidence, they only have the 2012 edition available, and the evidence rules changed on January 1, 2013. I was wondering, you know, and maybe if you and I met together, if there's a way you can cut down. I mean maybe you don't need all 37 for each one, that you can buy half, 'cause I saw a trial two weeks ago, and there are two attorneys trying the case. They both can't be using the same book, you know, they both don't need their own copy of that book if they're trying that case together just need one on the table.

District Attorney Heap said, no, but usually what we're trying to do is one is sitting there looking up the law while the other one is, you know, presenting the witnesses --

Commissioner Center said, right.

District Attorney Heap said, -- presenting the evidence. I'm -- I'd welcome sitting down with you. I mean we're trying to cut, and we understand the situation.

Commissioner Center said, right.

District Attorney Heap said, but this is the one tool that they have to have when they go in there. I mean if they go in without the law, and they stand there and the Judge asks a question, and they -- and they can't answer it, then -- then I'm failing in my duty. And -- and I'd welcome to sit down --

Commissioner Center said, okay.

District Attorney Heap said, -- and see any way. I mean I realize there is a concern, but this is the tools that we can give them. The two books.

Commissioner Center said, right. And I -- and I appreciate that, and I'm not picking on you, it just so happened because this is an area I deal in --

District Attorney Heap said, sure.

Commissioner Center said, -- I had a little more knowledge in the beginning and that's why I wanted to pull it off and go into detail. You know, I personally don't think -- I even looked on the internet, the Criminal Evidence Book, it says it's \$188 rather than the 235 requested per book. There are different prices when you go, and maybe you could buy used books.

District Attorney Heap said, well we actually went on Amazon.com, and they said they would cut off \$10, you know, for that.

Commissioner Center said, right.

District Attorney Heap said, and it would total like \$200. We -- we went -- go through West which is the company that produces the book, but if we, you know, look somewhere else, sure.

Commissioner Center said, I'm glad you looked around 'cause I -- I went to West too, and it was -- it said \$188 and then the one that's listed at 344, I printed out Daniels Georgia Criminal Trial Practice, it said 275 rather than 344. So I saw different prices. And again, I'm not picking on you, I just saw it as one I said I don't have to dig into these deep --

District Attorney Heap said, sure.

Commissioner Center said, -- notebooks and find something I'm not familiar with. Here was something I'm familiar with. And, you know, as you'll hear later when we -- when we make comments on -- on the budget, and the -- and the increases, I think every Commissioner here is committed to trying to find a way to reduce the bill to the tax payers on everything.

District Attorney Heap said, and I agree.

Commissioner Center said, and -- and over the next year, I can promise you I and I know Lori's going to help -- Commissioner Brady's going to help me, we're going to go through it page by page and painstakingly understand better and try to find ways to cut, and this one occurred too because I'm in that profession.

District Attorney Heap said, okay.

Commissioner Center said, I'm not picking on you. I think we can do it more cheaply, and that's why I brought it up.

District Attorney Heap said, and -- and I would love to do it more cheaply, I just don't want to take away the tools the prosecutors need in the courtroom. And if we can find a cheaper way, I'm all for it. I just want them to have it. I mean they can't go in there and not be ready to fight and be prepared with the law.

Commissioner Center said, right. Thank you very much.

District Attorney Heap said, thank you.

Commissioner Center said, I appreciate you coming today.

District Attorney Heap said, yes. Thank you. Any other questions?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter has a question.

District Attorney Heap said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, it's a statement. I believe that Ms. Heap is a -- an elect -- she's a constitutional officer elected by the citizens of this county to prosecute criminals, and that Ms. Heap believes that the handbooks will help the DA's office obtain convictions, so having said that, for the amount of money, I would encourage her to, which I'm sure she will, seek the lowest amounts possible to obtain the books that she needs and approve the amount requested here at the proper time when you say. And we need to move on with this.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any further questions?

District Attorney Heap said, thank you Mr. Scott, or Chairman, excuse me.

Chairman Scott said, thank you so much.

District Attorney Heap said, sorry.

Commissioner Center said, I'll give you the book.

Chairman Scott said, we will need two motions. One we will need one to take it off the table.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Scott said, and that motion would have to be moved and second and approved, and then we'll need a motion to pass. The motion on the table is that we take this off the table. The motion before us is to take this off the table. All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. All right. It's off the table.

Commissioner Farrell said, motion to approve.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Commissioner Brady said, second.

Commissioner Center said, may -- may I ask --

Commissioner Farrell said, the motion as presented.

Commissioner Center said, the motion as presented, we at least -- if you'll take the \$264 book off at least. We just gave her that one for free.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I -- I don't mind her having two.

Chairman Scott said, we have a motion and a second on the floor to approve the request for \$16,947. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- a. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to remove the Item from the table. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- b. Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the item. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried in an 7-2 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady, Kicklighter and Thomas voting yes and Commissioners Holmes and Center voting no.

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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. PUBLIC HEARING ON CHATHAM COUNTY'S 2013 MILLAGE LEVY AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW.

Chairman Scott said, so we will move on to page 5, Section IX, which brings us to the advertised public hearing that's supposed to commence at 9:30 a.m., and the public hearing is to comply with all applicable state laws, and it's in reference to the 2013 setting of the millage rate and budget, and at this time I will declare the public hearing open. Is there sheets being circulated for --

Assistant County Manager Linda Cramer said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, who has that sheet?

Member of the audience said, I have it. Right here.

Chairman Scott said, yeah, but are you circulating it though so --

Member of the audience said, yes.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, -- those who want to sign up can sign up do so, and I -- in order for me to recognize and acknowledge folk who want to speak on this, I will need that sheet once you get everybody signed up. Mr. Manager, would you assign a staff to the sheet please, to make sure it gets circulated?

County Manager Russ Abolt said, yes.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, we've got one already started.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Mr. William Wright said, she's in the audience, sir.

Chairman Scott said, oh. okay.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Mr. Wright said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, all right. We will ask or request that you try to limit your presentations to five minutes, and you may have questions from members of the Commission that -- and that's not part of your five-minute presentation, and -- and I ask that -- we're going to just go in the order in which they are listed on the sheet, and we'll start off with -- with Mr. Stanley -- with Mrs. Stanley, okay. Ms. Lyndall Stanley. Thank you.

Mrs. Lyndall Stanley said, my name is Lyndall Stanley, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak at this hearing. I am a home owner. I don't represent anyone else, but I think I would like to speak about what your budget means to home owners. We pay \$15,000 a year in taxes. I live downtown. Of that 10,000 is county taxes. If you went up 13 percent on our county taxes this year, it would equal what I pay in six months and my husband pays in six months for our Medicare premiums. At the time that you're thinking of doing this increase, my home owners' insurance, car insurance and everything else went up 17 percent, and this has been going on for quite some time, and the excuse from the insurance companies is that it has to do with being in the coastal area which affects everyone. For people who are not on Medicare, the cost of medicine has been going up. People's wages are not keeping up with inflation, so I think you need to find other avenues to either cut spending or widen the tax base. When you put money into the school system, it's well spent if it's for maintaining the buildings, but putting money into the school system does not equal outcome. What you need to be doing instead of taking the easy way out and raising taxes on home owners is to look for ways that in -- change the attitude in the schools so the kids have the incentive to stay in school, to do well in school. Looking for more partnerships with businesses of all kinds whether it's retail or manufacturing so that the kids have opportunities for internships, and we're talking about starting young. Having people from the schools come and talk to grade school kids,

middle school kids, high school kids so that they see the advantages of staying in school and applying themselves, and they learn what skills they have to obtain to get those jobs not increasing taxes on the home owners.

Mrs. Stanley said, there are 100,000 people or so in the county that pay property taxes. If you keep on increasing these the -- and insurance rates and everything else are going up, for those people that have rental properties, the cost of insurance and taxes will not -- will be exceeding what their rents are coming in or they're going to have to raise their rent quite a bit. You're going to find home owners that -- well I'll give you an example, a family down the street just bought a home. They're a new family coming in, so, you know, Stephens Day didn't protect them. So they're going to pay \$14,000 in county taxes, and when you climb that up with city that's \$23,000 they're going to pay, or I'm sorry, \$21,000 they're going to pay in the two. They have three small children, one, six, and seven. How many families do you think are going to come and be willing to pay that kind of money when there are other cities that pay one -- or require one-third that for their city and county taxes that are also charming cities. I have kids that live in the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and for the same price house that we're living in, they pay less than \$5,000 a year in all their taxes. Why would someone want to come here if you keep on raising taxes like that? It's unaffordable. People on fixed incomes don't have money going up at 13 percent, and I think you need to look at other avenues, either broadening the tax base, increasing -- try to increase long-term companies that come in so that -- tax-paying companies that come in so that you can broaden that base because that's why the other cities are able to do this at lower cost. They're not just relying on the home owners.

Mrs. Stanley said, and the third thing is when everybody else is either looking for jobs or underpaid because of the economy, when people's incomes are not keeping up with inflation, I think it's up to you to manage a budget within the money that's coming in. You need to relieve the tax burden on the property owners because you've out priced the market on that, and I think -- it doesn't go over well when you talk about increasing the money on tax payers at 13 percent because you're also talking about increasing your own salaries. I think austerity comes in to all of us, and I think we would appreciate you spending your time wisely and not taking the easy out by just increasing property taxes. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, is there any questions of Ms. Stanley?

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes, I have a question.

Mrs. Stanley said, what are your long-range solutions to keep from increasing property taxes?

Commissioner Shabazz said, I have -- I have a question.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning Ms. Stanley.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Shabazz from the 5th District.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning. You mentioned something about broaden the tax base.

Mrs. Stanley said, right.

Commissioner Shabazz said, give me some suggestions on how we could do that.

Mrs. Stanley said, by increasing industry here, technology companies, setting up commissions that will try to do that, increasing the job skills. Many job skills who might come in say there -- we don't have the job skills here. These are long-range solutions, but I think you need to look and see where you can cut. I have worked in city government before and, you know, from what I've seen working for large cities, there's a lot that is sort of -- could be cut. You see businesses cutting and becoming lean to balance things, and I think the government needs to become lean and make sure that they live within their budget. There are more things that we can spend our money on then what we have, and I think we need to look carefully at that. We can't do everything.

Commissioner Shabazz said, do you live in the city or the county?

Ms. Stanley said, I live in the city and county.

Chairman Scott said, Mrs. Stanley lives on West Gordon Street.

Mrs. Stanley said, yes.

Commissioner Shabazz said, West Gordon Street. Okay. So you enjoy the services that the city and county provide.

Mrs. Stanley said, we do.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mrs. Stanley said, to an extent.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Mrs. Stanley said, I think -- I think again you need to look at ways to reduce your costs not increasing them. It's a harder way to go, it takes more time, but you need to do something other than taxing a few people, which are the property owners. What will happen is your people aren't going to want to come here. They're not going to want to buy. You're going to have people selling and not being able to sell, which means the prices are going to come down, which means your tax base is going to come down because people can't afford this. I mean even wealthy people can't afford to pay every year, you know, \$21,000 in taxes plus all the other costs. It costs a lot of money to maintain property downtown, and if you keep on increasing taxes, there won't be money to maintain property, and you're going to find derelict buildings, rental property that's not maintained, home owners that are not maintaining, and those are the down sides of just increasing property taxes. Some things are long term, but I -- I think you need to look at being very efficient and cutting your costs wherever you can. If you have to build a new school and have bonds, and you have to pay interest on those bonds, let's find some place in the budget we already have where we can find that interest rate by decreasing something. The federal government is spending 40 percent more than what they take in, and we have -- just because you can increase taxes, doesn't mean that you should be spending all that. Thank you.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you, Ms. Stanley. I -- I really appreciate your comments. Do you have a question or a comment?

Commissioner Brady said, just a comment.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Brady said, can I make a comment?

Chairman Scott said, yes, please. Commissioner Brady's recognized for a comment in reference to Mrs. Stanley's --

Commissioner Brady said, Mrs. Stanley, you talked about the school district? That's a completely different governmental entity from the county.

Mrs. Stanley said, don't you have to approve the millage rate?

Commissioner Brady said, we ultimately will have to approve it by law, but the school district voted to raise the millage rate by 1.25 mills. They're elected officials, so with us as far as building schools and all, that's not the job of -- of the county. That is strictly to the school district.

Mrs. Stanley said, do you have to approve it?

Commissioner Brady said, yes we do by law.

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, and by law you have to approve it.

Commissioner Brady said, yes.

County Attorney Hart said, you don't have no -- you have no discretion there.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but -- may I on that?

Chairman Scott said, yes,

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we need to --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter from the 7th District.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but I will be recommending that we talk to the state -- elected state representatives and senators and everyone trying to somehow change that law because I find it pretty ridiculous that something appears in front of us, and we have a yes and a no button and that we have to push yes. So if that's the case, which it is the case, the attorney at my request pulled this up this year and researched it, and we actually by law have to approve it. So they need to change that law.

County Attorney Hart said, and the reason for that is you're the only body that can levy the millage officially.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well they need to figure out another way.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, is it in reference to Mrs. Stanley's comments?

Commissioner Stone said, it is, and -- and it's concerning -- I don't want to belabor it here, but I would like a little further discussion at a later time about us having to approve this school board millage because from what I see, I -- I -- I'm not comfortable approving their millage this year. So I just -- I would like at a later time some more discussion about the law that says that we are required to approve their millage. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we'll hear from Mr. Kramer. Mr. Leonard Kramer.

Mr. Leonard Kramer said, Mr. Scott I want to appreciate you sending a letter acknowledging that I was up here last time, but I've still seen nobody from the county assessors. I'm the fellow out here where they're redoing the road. They're spending about -- a little over \$2 million, highly unnecessary, to fix it at that rate for the amount of traffic, and they ruined the price of my property, but I have seen nobody out there yet beating my door down to reassess my property. But I want to start out telling you, all elections have repercussions, national elections right on down. That's the way I look at it all the way down. I can't do nothing about what California, Illinois and New York does, but I'm looking at it down here. I'm starting to think Chatham County, the State of Georgia is getting like the federal government. If it don't work, throw more money at it. I can't afford no more taxes. I own three parcels out there put together. I got 2.3 acres in Tennessee. If the property thing hadn't fell apart, I'd be long gone. The 2.3 acres in Tennessee, 26 miles from Loretta Lynn, cost -- my taxes went up up there this year to \$47, used to be 19, but over the years it's gradually left -- went up. But if the property hadn't of went all to pot and everything, I'd be gone. I wouldn't be bothering you.

Mr. Kramer said, but I -- I -- I just want you to look at it a different way. I drove a truck for 47 years. Quite a few of it was my own. When a rule, law, regulation was passed, I had to find a way to over come it. My wife run a restaurant until her health went bad. I've seen some of the stupidest laws I have ever seen passed. We had to pay people to come out and look at our fire extinguisher to see if it is was in the green. I think it was every three months. We finally had to shut it down too because of the way the economy was going. But I -- I -- I just can't afford to be -- pay no more. Can't afford to take the whipping on my property. I'd like my taxes to stay down, and the way it looks it's going to be handed over to my children. I hope things change in the government over time for their -- for their sake 'cause my daddy done better than my granddaddy. I done better than my daddy. I don't know if my kids are going to do better than I did or not, and my grand kids and great grand kids, I think have absolutely no chance, and I can tell you a lot of things I've seen over the years that was about as crooked as anything I've ever seen, like a gas shortage. I remember the first gas shortage. I was hauling gasoline back then. I remember what a hoax that was. And I appreciate your time. Appreciate you listening to me.

Chairman Scott said, and we appreciate you taking the time to come down here to express yourself.

Mr. Kramer said, I thank you. And I say thank you again for your letter. Thank you again for Mr. Tony Center coming to talk to me. Mr. Kicklighter, I hope I didn't embarrass you too much.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, you didn't embarrass me. I -- I'll elaborate on that one for -- for the audience out there. The road project you're talking about is the State of Georgia doing a road project for \$2.2 million.

Mr. Kramer said, yeah, and it's a waste.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and you -- you -- you have me sitting on the County Commission as your rep, not the State rep, so, you know, that part of your being upset needs to be reflected towards the State of Georgia. The other part, in 13 years as your representative, I've never once voted for a tax increase. I don't plan on doing it today -- today, so, no, sir, you didn't embarrass me.

Mr. Kramer said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm -- I'm about the best thing you've got going for everything you talked about.

Mr. Kramer said, all right. Now I did talk to Mr. Buddy Carter. He's going to let me know something Monday because where they're putting this Clovis sack up, I've -- I've done seen it, they turn around in my yard, throw the dust up and everything, and I have talked to Buddy Carter about it, and I recommended what he'd do for me, and he's going to check into doing it for me.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well that -- that's wonderful, and I just don't want you to misunderstand. I've never voted for a tax increase.

Mr. Kramer said, well I hadn't either, and the way I look at it, anybody that votes for a tax increase -- the way I look at it, if you want to pay more taxes, there's a spot where you can donate it, pay it. I don't. I have no problem with you paying more taxes.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Mr. Kramer said, and I thank you for your time.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Ms. Hester.

Ms. Courtney Hester said, good morning Chairman and Commission. I'll keep this short and sweet. My name is Courtney Hester, and I'm the government affairs manager for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. We are opposed to this millage rate increase at this time. We fear that it will hinder the option of passing SPLOST in November. So we hope that you will reconsider and not raise millage at this time. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any questions? Ms. Courtney, what was the Chambers' position on building a new correction center that we have out on Chatham Parkway?

Ms. Hester said, I cannot speak to that. That was before my time but I -- I do not know that answer.

Chairman Scott said, do you -- do you believe that they were in favor of it?

Ms. Hester said, back then were they in favor? I can't -- I can't tell you. I don't know. I can get that answer for you if you'd like it.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Ms. Hester said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further questions of Ms. Courtney? Thank you. Mr. David Gildersleeve. Did I -- did I mess that up?

Mr. David Gildersleeve said, no. It's just like it's spelled.

Chairman Scott said, Gildersleeve, yeah.

Mr. Gildersleeve said, all right. I know you guys like to do studies. You know studies on terminals for cruise ships and extended --

Commissioner Stone said, that's not us.

Commissioner Thomas said, we --

Chairman Scott said, City of Savannah.

Members of the Board collectively said, no.

Mr. Gildersleeve said, that's not you guys?

Commissioner Brady said, no. City of Savannah

Mr. Gildersleeve said, 'cause I was going to suggest a study on staying in your budget. And trips to Turkey and stuff like that.

Members of the Board collectively said, no.

Commissioner Stone said, wrong government.

Commissioner Brady said, that's the City of Savannah, that's not Chatham County.

Commissioner Stone said, that's not us.

Mr. Gildersleeve said, it's -- the taxes are just driving me crazy, and I -- I live on a very tight budget. I have not gotten a decent raise in over five years, and I have to live on a very tight budget. I can't go and ask my neighbors for some more money or anything like that like you guys can. I brought my kids in today so if this millage rate passes they'll understand exactly why daddy can't afford to go on a vacation next year, and I think you guys need to -- to do some trimming. You need to go back and look at some numbers. Whatever you need to do, but I think a -- the -- the percentage that you're trying to raise the millage rate is just crazy, and I don't think any of the studies back that kind of an increase up by the way. So, you know, I -- I really want you guys to -- to do your jobs, do some trimming, do what you need to do, but, I mean, you're -- you guys are going to be shooting yourselves in the foot as far as future revenues, as far as future home owners coming in, buying property and stuff like that. Taxes are never the right answer. So, you know, that's all I got. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any questions? If not, we really appreciate you being here, and I really appreciate you bringing the kids in. I --

Mr. Gildersleeve said, they see what the government's doing.

Chairman Scott said, yes. Some of us were outspoken. We don't want to take responsibility for things that the City has done. We haven't studied cruise lines, and we haven't been to Turkey.

Mr. Gildersleeve said, good. There's this thing called Skype.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. Yeah.

Mr. Gildersleeve said, it works great.

Chairman Scott said, anybody have any comments concerning Mr. Gildersleeve's comments? Nothing? Okay. Ray Piechocki. Ray Piechocki.

Mr. Piechocki said, thank you. My name is Ray Piechocki. If you want to mess it up it's Pie-Chock-e, and so a lot of people pronounce it that way, so feel free to do so. I wish I had a penny for every way it's been pronounced, spelled, whatever. I wouldn't be standing here. Anyhow, thank you very much for the opportunity again to come here and speak. I must really -- Mrs. Stanley hit everything right on the head even though she lives in the -- in the city. I live in the unincorporated portion of the county. The situation's still the same. There's an excessive amount of taxes and -- particularly in my area there's no services for some of those, which I'm going to protest to the tax department because we're paying for things we're not getting, and so -- but that's another issue. It really -- there's a lot of facts and figures that have been thrown out. I've attended all these meetings in an effort to educate myself as to what's going on because it's really a shell game trying to find things, and it's not clearly stated. You know, I grew up and spent 68 years in a medium-sized metropolitan area that was comprised of a city and five surrounding counties. It wasn't until that city and the five surrounding counties got together and found out that they were a region -- they were a region, and they were looked on as a region. Each one of them was not sitting there by themselves. It wasn't the City of Savannah. It wasn't the County Commissioners. It wasn't the school board pointing fingers at each other anymore. They had to come together because what they were perceived as was one, not a multiplicity of -- of government entities, you know, it -- it just -- somehow or another, you know, you just can't keep kicking this thing around. If I were sitting over there in your seat, I'd push that no button for that -- that educational budget. Just see what happens. You know, what can happen? Is the world going to blow up? Is it going to come to an end? You got a lot of legal gibberish in it, but something positive is going to come out of it by pushing the no button. Push the yes button, we're back here again next year doing the same thing over and over again. Someone once told me doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results was stupidity. I'm not calling any of you stupid, and I'm not suggesting that, but pushing the yes button is just further exacerbating the situation. That's my comment on that.

Mr. Piechocki said, the other thing is is at one of the meetings there was a lot of information that was put out with regard to what was in the budget which was a surprise to you as much as it was a surprise to everybody on this side of the rail, and one of them was the \$6 million for a pier on River Street, to which Mr. Abolt said, well that's not going to happen, but did the \$6 million come out of the budget? Did the hundreds of thousands and millions of other dollars that were referred to as fluff and unnecessary expenditures, did that come out of the budget that you're about ready to vote on? We don't see any of that as tax payers. You know there -- they -- they used the figure 265,000 people in Chatham County because that's what I understood. Out of that I understand that there's less than half of those people who are property tax payers, and yet you're asking all them to foot this bill. I was hoping that there'd be more people here. You know I wrote an article on apathy which appeared in the paper today, and I was thankful that at least two people showed up. This man and his family saw the article and came. I think more people have to come here. I was hoping for 10,000 people to show up this morning because that would have been a real signal, but, you know, I guess it's going to take more articles and more thrashing in order to get people out here to do this job. We all elected you all to do that job because we can't turn out all 265,000 of us and expect to get anything done, but we do expect you to do your job, be -- prudent use of our tax dollars, and help create a better Savannah for all of us, not only now but in the future. Us senior citizens aren't going to be around here very much longer, and at the rate my funds are being depleted, I don't know where I'm going from here. But, you know, please, please have some mercy on the tax payer and vote this thing no. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any questions of Mr. Piechocki?

Commissioner Shabazz said, I have -- I have a question. Are you insinuating that those who vote yes for raising taxes are -- that they're stupid or -- are you insinuating that?

Mr. Piechocki said, am I insinuating what? I'm sorry, Mr. --

Commissioner Shabazz said, those who -- those who vote to increase the taxes, are you saying that they're stupid?

Mr. Piechocki said, no, I didn't say that.

Commissioner Shabazz said, you made a reference to that.

Mr. Piechocki said, but I think I clarified what I said.

Commissioner Shabazz said, but why did you even say it? Because --

Mr. Piechocki said, I said that --

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- you wanted to plant a seed.

Mr. Piechocki said, I said, you know, you have to direct your attention to it. I didn't say --

Commissioner Shabazz said, listen -- listen -- listen -- listen -- when I'm talking, let me finish.

Chairman Scott said, point of order now.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, please let's be civil.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah.

Chairman Scott said, and to the point, please.

Commissioner Shabazz said, I -- I resent that though. Not saying -- not saying whether I'm going to vote -- not saying whether I'm going to vote yes or no but to mention something about stupidity, you know, and then making reference to those who vote yes or no, you know, you're connecting the dots there.

Mr. Piechocki said, well, first of all, my apologies if you took my statement the wrong way. My sincere, unadulterated apologies if you took it the same way. If you record this meeting, please play it back and -- and take the comment in the context in which it was presented. Don't pull it out and use it as an issue to beat me up, okay?

Commissioner Shabazz said, no.

Mr. Piechocki said, I appreciate that, sir. I appreciate your position.

Commissioner Shabazz said, you just -- you -- you beat this Board up by even mentioning that.

Mr. Piechocki said, I didn't beat the Board up. Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you for your time.

Chairman Scott said, Ray, we really appreciate you being here and I -- I really appreciate your article this morning.

Mr. Piechocki said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, and I thought it would generate more interest as well, which --

Mr. Piechocki said, as I say, when I look at it, 10 percent of 100,000, 10,000 people wasn't asking for too much, you know, but anyhow, maybe it will work next time. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, and I appreciate your apology.

Mr. Piechocki said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, is it Ms. Heimes? Ms. Heimes, if you are representing any organization, would you please state the organization you're representing. If not, just state your name, please.

Ms. Maryanne Heimes said, I don't really represent an organization today, but I -- good morning.

Chairman Scott said, good morning.

Ms. Heimes said, Chairman and Commissioners. Like Mr. Piechocki, I wrote a letter to the editor this week also.

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Ms. Heimes said, and I will say this, I think I represent a lot of people because they have called and written and emailed that they agreed with me. Now the letter was edited, so it didn't make quite as much sense as I had hoped it would. At the end was a plea for people to come today's meeting. However, there are people out there who will not come to meetings who feel the way all of us do, and I won't belabor the point, but I would like to say -- address something that Mrs. -- Ms. Stanley said about broadening the tax base. I moved here in 1978. Since then the tax base has really broadened, particularly on the islands where I live, but that has done nothing to protect our taxes. They have gone up and up and up and up. The appraisals on properties have gone up and up and up. I have friends who live on the Wilmington Island River who bought when property was cheap. They

just wanted to live on the river so they could do some fishing and -- and have some good fish to eat. Today many of them because of the high taxes have to sell their homes and leave. Of course they, you know, they get a lot of money for the homes, but they would much rather stay there if they could just pay reasonable taxes. I'm sure you can cut somewhere. I've had to cut my budget recently. It can be done. It's not pleasant. It's not fun, but it can be done if you really, really want to, and I think the people would really appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Ms. Heimes, thank you for -- for coming, and I -- I saw your letter. I didn't know that they had edited it, and -- and I appreciate your comments. Is there anyone who come in before the sign up sheet went around that would like to address the Commission? Hearing or seeing none, I will now declare this public hearing closed, and we will proceed with the -- with the agenda.

[NOTE: The public hearing was closed at 10:10 a.m.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

For information only as required by law.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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

ISSUE:

To hold a Public Hearing as required by State law on the County's intent to levy a millage rate that differs from the calculated "rollback" millage rate for ad valorem tax purposes.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County is required by State Law (O.C.G.A. Code Section 48-5-32.1) to compute a "rollback" millage rate, which is the previous year's millage rate minus the millage equivalent of the total net assessed value added by reassessments of existing real property. The law further provides that, if the levying authority proposes to levy a millage rate in excess of the computed "rollback" rate, certain advertisements and three public hearings must be held before the adoption of the final millage rate.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The 2013 digest has an increase in the total net assessed value. This has resulted in a calculated rollback rate that is lower than the current millage rate. The current millage rates are higher than the rollback rates computed using the formula in state law.
2. At its May 24, 2013 meeting, the Chatham County Commission received the schedule for advertisements and public hearings necessary to adopt the millage rates for the 2013 Tax Digest.
 - a) The advertised millage rates exceed the 2012 millage rates and also exceed the 2013 calculated "rollback" rate. The maximum considered rate is advertised to provide flexibility for the Board during their budget deliberations since the Board can only adopt a millage rate less than or equal to the advertised rate.
 - b) For the General Fund the advertised millage rate is 12.54 mills. This is higher than the calculated "rollback" rate of 11.049 mills, by 1.491 mills, at 13.49% increase.
 - c) For the Special Service District the advertised millage rate is 4.16 mills. This is higher than the calculated "rollback" rate of 3.55 mills, by 0.61 mills, a 17.18% increase.
 - d) For the Chatham Area Transit Authority the advertised millage rate is 1.24 mills. This is higher than the calculated "rollback" rate of 0.854 mills, by 0.386 mills, a 45.20% increase.
3. Public hearings were held at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on June 20, 2013. These hearings were advertised in the Savannah Morning News on June 13, 2013.
4. Also, as required by law, on June 13, 2013, Chatham County issued a press release to the Savannah Morning News and the television media announcing the above mentioned millage rates and the three public hearings.
5. Notification of the public hearings is being broadcast on Channel 16.

FUNDING:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Hold the third public hearing on June 28, 2013.
2. Give staff alternate direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law requires three advertised public hearings before the adoption of any millage rate that exceeds the "rollback" rate.

RECOMMENDATION:

hat the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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2. **TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS: 1) IN THE GENERAL FUND M&0 transfer \$18,600 from Accrued Benefits Expense to the Fleet Operations budget, and 2) in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund appropriate \$10,000 net assets to cover software maintenance.**

Chairman Scott said, now, if -- if you would follow me to Section IX, page 5. We're back on the regular agenda. The first was the public hearing that we just concluded. The second item is -- is a Request to approve -- Request Approval for the Following Budget Amendments and Transfers: 1) in the General Funds M&0 transfer \$18,600 from Accrued Benefit Expense to the Fleet Operations budget, and 2) in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund appropriate \$10,000 net assets to cover the software maintenance, and I would need a -- a motion for approval on this request.

Commissioner Brady said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Brady said, I make a motion we approve.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second that we approve the transfers as outlined. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Brady moved to approve following budget amendments and transfers: 1) in the General Fund M&0 transfer \$18,600 from Accrued Benefits Expense to the Fleet Operations budget, and 2) in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund appropriate \$10,000 net assets to cover software maintenance. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-2

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Assistant County Manager

ISSUE:

Request to approve following budget amendments and transfers: 1) in the General Fund M&0 transfer \$18,600 from Accrued Benefits Expense to the Fleet Operations budget, and 2) in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund appropriate \$10,000 net assets to cover software maintenance.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Fleet Operations budget requires additional funding to cover terminal pay. A transfer of \$18,600 is requested from the Accrued Benefits Expense department.

2. Building Safety and Regulatory Services share the cost of software maintenance with several other departments. A \$10,000 appropriation from net assets is needed to cover Building Safety and Regulatory Services' portion of the maintenance costs. A resolution is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

FUNDING:

Funds are available in the General Fund M&O and the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Fund.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

Transfer \$18,600 from the Accrued Benefits Expense department to the Fleet Operations budget.

BUILDING SAFETY & REGULATORY SERVICES FUND

Increase the operating budget \$10,000 net assets to cover the cost of software maintenance.

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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3. a. **TO ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL FUND M&O AND ADOPT A MILLAGE LEVY RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.**

Chairman Scott said, Item 3 under Section IX. This is to adopt the fiscal year 2014 resolution for the General Fund M&O and adopt a millage resolution pursuant to Georgia law O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1. At this time I would entertain a motion. Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, I move that -- let the public know the Chairman has submitted a -- an alternative budget, and I move that we adopt the Chairman's Alternative Budget Resolution for the General Fund M&O and millage levy resolution pursuant to the code section you read.

Chairman Scott said, is there a second?

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second. Discussion?

Commissioner Center said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to discuss it, but I know -- I think everybody would probably want to talk on this. I don't mind waiting my turn as a junior member and letting those with -- with more seniority go first if they want.

Chairman Scott said, yes. I -- I suspect there will be some discussion. The first hand I saw was Commissioner Farrell. Be -- before we get into discussion, Mr. Manager, do you think that -- that we need to outline it?

County Manager Abolt said, that would be very good, sir, particularly from the standpoint of when you finally get to a vote to have the record --

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Farrell.

County Manager Abolt said, -- the record perfected of that. There are in effect with the motion a focus on what amounts to a second alternative. The budget document that -- that Commissioner Center hold -- held up a -- a few minutes ago, is what I refer to as the ceiling. It's been the basis upon which you've had your different hearings. The second alternative which referenced -- deals with the following, that there would be a reduction from the ceiling to -- to reflect a -- a lower millage rate, there would also be a detention center budget driven by a population planned for of 1650 inmates. There would be a compensation adjustment for all employees of 2 and a half percent, and there's some conditions on what employees would be eligible for that, and then finally there would be an addition of a position in State Court reflective of testimony you've received during your budget hearing. But that is what's before you. That is the Chairman's alternative, and a motion and a second have been made on that.

Chairman Scott said, and -- and -- and for the alternative, let me also say that I requested staff and the County Attorney to make certain that members of the Commission do not receive a cost of living, and that's -- will not happen. The other item is that in the staff proposed budget, the Sheriff requested staffing the new facility at a staffing level of 1,790. We had several discussions and backwards and forth with the Sheriff's staff and the county staff. The Sheriff made an alternative proposal of staffing the new facility with 1,724 security personnel. I said to the Sheriff that we felt that that was too high, and it would require too much of an increase. The Sheriff original proposal was really driving an increase in the millage rate of 1 mill, just to fund the facility. The Sheriff was very cooperative. After I convinced him that we simply could not get the votes to pass that, the Sheriff has been working with us on a staffing level, and we came up with a staffing level of 1,650. And the Sheriff has pointed out that with a new agreement with the -- with the federal government that there is a possibility that a -- a portion of this population could become an enterprise -- what I call an enterprising population that will cover the cost of housing. However, those funds are not realized as of yet and will not be realized until we really do the budget the following year, and -- and so at that point there may be opportunities for -- for reduction, but at this point, what I'm recommending is that we staff the new detention center at a staffing level of 1,650, which has been agreed upon by myself and the Sheriff. The Sheriff is -- is not here today because he had some minor surgery, but he should be on the way home and back to work after the holidays, but we do have the Chief Deputy Sheriff. Do you care to make any comments about the staffing levels? Anything that I've said that may be incorrect or -- or correct?

Chief Deputy Sheriff Roy Harris said, just to clarify that Mr. Chairman, the -- when we refer to staffing level, we're talking about the actual number of inmates we can house, not --

Chairman Scott said, inmates.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, staff.

Chairman Scott said, not -- not -- not staff but inmate population.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, yes, sir. Inmate population of 1650.

Chairman Scott said, I'm sorry. Yeah. Yes.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, yesterday we were -- we're up about 1557 inmates, and we have -- currently have about 18 U.S. Marshal inmates. That could go up significantly which would give us a little leeway as far as -- as the people we would need to go to 1650.

Chairman Scott said, yes. Okay. And before we start the discussion, if there's -- is there any questions of Assistant Sheriff Harris? Commissioner Stone has one.

Commissioner Stone said, I have one, thank you. For the U.S. Marshal's, but now they're paying their way, correct?

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. So that would offset some of these expenses.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, yes, ma'am. The Marshal's contract actually is above what our daily inmate cost is, and as an added bonus to that contract, if they have catastrophic medical, the federal government pays for that. We don't have to bear that burden.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any -- any further?

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, sir. About the budget, there's an increase for 2.5 for the employees, am I right?

Chairman Scott said, no, I'm -- I'm talking about of the Sheriff.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. I'm through with him.

Chairman Scott said, is there any questions of the Sheriff though?

Commissioner Holmes said, I'm through with you, Mr. Harris.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, you can go back.

Chairman Scott said, thank you and send out best wishes to Sheriff St. Lawrence.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. I -- I might also add for the record that the -- the County Manager and his staff has been looking for other opportunities to save funds at our correction facility, and one of the things that we're going to do is rebid our health care service out there, and -- and we think that we could possibly save funds there, but those funds are not yet realized, nor is the funds from the Marshal contract that we hope will come in are realized but hopefully they will be reflected in the following year's budget. And hopefully we'll be able to see some reductions at that time. Now, that's -- that's an explanation and now we are -- entertain the discussion. We'll hear from Commissioner Farrell, Commissioner Holmes in that order.

Commissioner Stone said, and I -- I wanted to speak.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Brady, Commissioner Shabazz in that order.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to address the budget proposal for the M&O, but first I'd -- I'd like to make a statement about the last several years we've -- we've been in a recession. We've held the millage rate without raising it with a reduction in tax digest and that sort of thing, and we were able to, through cost savings, able to provide the services uninterrupted for the most part throughout the county with the current funding stream. One of the alternative budgets we were given early by the County Manager called for no millage increase, and today, especially after hearing unanimously from all the citizens that took their valuable time to come down here, I'm going to side with -- with their point of view that at this time we do have a modest tax digest increase this year, and all signs look very hopeful that we're out of this reduction in tax digest, and we should be on a trajectory to go up, and I would urge my fellow Commissioners to -- to -- to restrain from the temptation of the quick fix of a millage increase and go with a slower, more methodical approach of let's hold -- hold back our spending and, you know, look at the tax digest increase and use that as a -- as a -- as a more appropriate way to address the increasing costs of running the services of the M&O. So I'm not in favor of a millage increase in the M&O for this coming budget year, and if this proposal fails, then I would like to propose the alternate budget that was given us earlier in the year that -- that includes no millage increase. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make it clear for the record, we do still have the increase for 2.5 for the employees in the budget.

County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, there's a cost --

Chairman Scott said, that's correct.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to commend our Chairman for working diligently with the Sheriff's Department and for the Sheriff's Department looking at this. I do believe that a lot of time and energy has gone into this, but I concur with Commissioner Farrell that we have citizens in this community right now that are going through their own hardships, especially our elderly and the people that are on fixed -- a fixed income. I'm also a little bit disappointed in our detention center for not pursuing in a -- in a stronger manner the alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders. We have talked about this for -- since I've been on the Commission for quite some time, and there are opportunities out there through ankle monitoring and through work release. I know we're doing some of it, but I'm -- I'm not certain as to why we're not doing more of it. I'm also concerned that from a question that I asked several years ago, and I never quite got the answer in reference to the detention center, and that was who is in our detention center and why, and that goes back to a case management system that I think out there is currently broken. We don't have the people in the Sheriff's department talking to the DA, talking to the police, talking to the judges. So I'm not sure what percentage of the population that's out there really needs to be out there, and -- and that's a question that I have never gotten a solid answer for. So I'm a little bit disappointed that we aren't being more proactive in running what would consider a smart jail, a smart detention center, and looking for alternatives. We simply cannot build our way out of this problem. We cannot afford it.

Commissioner Stone said, SPLOST allowed us to build this expansion, but we knew we would have to fund it, to staff it, and maintain it, and unfortunately, SPLOST money cannot be used for that. So here we are, and I just think that we're going to have to hold our own. We're going to have to take care of the citizens of this community by not inflicting a millage increase on them at this time. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you, Mr. --

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Shabazz in that order.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question but I -- I would like to -- to also take a moment to commend the Chairman for the work that he's done on this budget and working with staff. It would have been a very easy task to just say okay, let's raise the millage rate at the recommended rate of 1.43 and so I do want to commend you, Mr. Chairman, for your hard work. I know that you -- you do think about the tax payers of this community. I do have a question on number 5 in reference to the State Court attorney in your budget. I know that they came to us, and if I recall correctly, they asked for a -- a staff attorney, which you've -- you've included, but I believe they asked for something like pay equalization for the attorneys and all. Is -- is that included in here?

County Manager Abolt said, no.

County Attorney Hart said, no.

Chairman Scott said, no, it's not.

Commissioner Brady said, okay. And then I would like to say this, I -- you know, I've listened to the citizens on three public hearings, and I want you all to know that all of us are citizens as well. We -- we have our jobs, we pay taxes. My income -- I'm in real estate, is down. Has been down since the economy crashed about six years ago. Gas is higher. Obviously I do a lot of driving in the real estate business. Groceries are higher. Everything costs more. I do not support raising the millage rate. I will vote no on each item in opposition to raising the millage rate, and I think going forward that what I would like to see, and keep in mind I've only been here for six months, is that the Commission meet together starting in like March if not sooner, and us have like a retreat to talk about what is important to us, and what we want to drive this budget when we go to the -- to that County Manager at that time and say this is what we expect to see, you need to balance this budget without a millage increase or -- or whatever it is. Whatever, you know, we decide. So I -- I do want to -- to put that on the table for consideration in the future, and -- because at this point it's difficult to go into a budget, and you've seen the budget book, and just start taking out line items, but I think if we give the County Manager an expectation of what we want as a Commission then it will be a much easier task for us next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, Thank you. Commissioner Shabazz.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good morning. I've heard the opinions and views of the citizens of Chatham County, and I respect all of them, but it's -- it's -- and I concur with Commissioner Brady that we are citizens as well, and we pay taxes too. But when you're in elected office, you have a responsibility. You have a responsibility to be good stewards of the tax payers' dollars, but also you have a responsibility to make sure that public safety and all the other services that are offered by the county, that those services are offered in the most efficient way. I want to ask the County Manager what would happen if we -- with the jail situation if we voted no on the -- on a?

County Manager Abolt said, Commissioner Shabazz, if I understand your question, the consequence would be after the voters approved by a very large majority to build the jail --

Commissioner Shabazz said, mm-hmm.

County Manager Abolt said, you would not staff the jail. That's the consequence.

Commissioner Shabazz said, all right. So there is no way that the jail could be staffed?

County Manager Abolt said, not in the -- at the level that was expected when it was designed and the need to deal with over crowding, no, sir. You put -- you -- you put a constitutional officer in a position of being unable to do his job.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Shabazz said, anything else with it?

County Manager Abolt said, no. That's -- that's pretty direct, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, thanks for the question.

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, Mr. Chairman? Can I make a response just to that?

Chairman Scott said, yeah, I'll --

Commissioner Farrell said, just to that one area of specific questions?

Chairman Scott said, yeah, but I still -- I've got other Commissioners that want to speak, and I -- but you want to respond directly?

Commissioner Farrell said, just to that.

Chairman Scott said, go ahead.

Commissioner Farrell said, well one thing that I wanted to point out to my fellow Commissioner was that although our jail was -- current jail was designed at 1250 roughly inmates, for a number of years we had a temporary facility inside the gates out there that was responsible for 300 people. So we were staffed in my mind for about 1550 to 1600 people. I heard today that we're right around that number. The difference is we don't have a temporary tent with a R value of one. We already had the staffing there. I can't wrap my mind around why we're trying to staff this thing up to its full capacity on day one that it opens rather have a soft opening, stick with what we got, move into the new operation with the staff that we have because there seems to be no accounting for the 300 inmates that were already being housed in there with the temporary structure. We -- we don't have to pay rent on it anymore. We don't have to heat and air condition a building with an R value of one.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell?

Commissioner Farrell said, yes?

Chairman Scott said, your comment has gone beyond his question.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, and what I'd like to do is get to some of these other Commissioners and get back to you.

Commissioner Farrell said, certainly. Certainly. But the ramifications, that's what he's asking about.

Chairman Scott said, because this -- this might require the Deputy Sheriff to respond to some of this.

Commissioner Farrell said, certainly.

Chairman Scott said, and -- and so --

Commissioner Farrell said, certainly, but -- but he asked about the ramifications, so I was just pointing out something historically that had been in place for over 1500 inmates.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, and we've got approximately that amount now, so, I'm not -- I've got questions.

Chairman Scott said, okay. We got Commissioner Kicklighter, then Commissioner Center in that order, please.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would like to commend you for I -- I believe, and I don't want to be held to this, but I do believe that you're the first Chairman in the 13 years that I've been here that's looked at a proposed tax increase and actually got in there and cut -- cut some of it, so I thank you for your diligent work, and for scaling it down, and, you know, I again am very appreciative of that. There are a few more items that I believe in this case because of the revenues of the citizens coming in, the reduced wages that people are bringing home, and all of the other tax increases that they're experiencing, I believe whole heartedly that we need to look at essential services versus non-essential, and during these trying times there are some non-essential services that I would prefer that we scale down and be able to balance this budget with -- without the increase. So I will be voting no, but again, I do commend you for -- for your diligent work in bringing it down to the point where you did, but I would prefer to see even more.

Chairman Scott said, thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I made some points, I'm going to try and cover them all. I hope it's not too scatter shot, and I'll try and organize them, but I think the public, both here and those watching on television, or when they read about this are entitled to know my thought my process, and why I made this motion and am going to vote in favor of the Chairman's alternative. First of all let me join my fellow Commissioners in commending the Chairman for his hard work. You've heard at several meetings my difficulty, the frustration in going through this big wood -- big book and line iteming it, and the Chairman has done a lot of that, and he's reduced from staff proposal as Commissioner Kicklighter pointed out, the amount requested.

Commissioner Center said, I also want to commend my fellow Commissioners who I reached out to, particularly those who have served longer when I've asked questions, that they've helped me get through those questions, and particularly Linda Cramer, who every time I come and I say do you mind spending time with your slowest Commissioner, of course, she said you're not my slowest Commissioner, so I pressed her at who is the slowest Commissioner, and she wouldn't answer. But I appreciate the time she has spent with me because I've heard terms all my life, rollback, and I've just read about them and moved on, now if have to understand them and --

and deal with them. I like everybody else here pay taxes. I own a home, not just within Chatham County but within the City of Savannah, so whether it's Savannah or Chatham, I pay it too. I generate my own income, and with great blessings I've -- I've had a good life and been able to pay my bills, but it's not a fixed income, and there's been years when I've had no income and had to live off savings. So taxes affect me too. The grocery prices, the gas prices, the utility prices affect me too. As you hear later today on other items too, there are particular items I would have just bit the bullet and voted more, particular -- and other items, just get out of any past problems and let's move forward, but the Chairman has worked very hard and diligently. He's -- we've got an increase for staff that have not had an increase in five years, and -- and though some of you may not be staff, I know how you feel. The gentleman with his children left, said he hadn't had a pay raise in -- in seven years. That is in there.

Commissioner Center said, he's worked with the Sheriff on -- on -- on budgeting for the jail. And let me say this, the citizens of this community before -- there are four new Commissioners here. Before we were on this Board, the citizens of this community voted overwhelmingly to build that new jail. The Sheriff in the past has taken this Commission to court and won saying you have to fund me at certain levels, and the Supreme Court of Georgia has ruled we have to do that, so I commend both the Sheriff and the Chairman on working so we don't get to that point again. But the citizens voted for that jail, and we have to do it. The previous Commission voted to add 52 more guards to that jail without funding them, and those are part of the 52, I think, that have been funding this temporary -- or -- or working the temporary housing that Commissioner Farrell talked about. This Commission is stuck with funding it or pushing it further down the road.

Commissioner Center said, I'm going to vote for this tax increase, but I'm going to promise the citizens of this community that I'm going to work diligently with the next year to dig into these figures and to find out more ways that we can cut and reduce the budget even more, and at that point, we're going to hopefully have an ability to reduce the increase, but right now we have to have it. One of my fellow Commissioners told me, said, Tony, once you vote for an increase you can never take it away. I disagree, and I spoke directly to the Chairman about that, and he shares my philosophy. We're going to try and reduce it and hopefully next year take it back, but at times we just have to bite the bullet and move forward. There's a lot of issues we're going to vote on. Commissioner Farrell in -- in the next year we're going to work on. Commissioner Brady I talked about let's get together as a group, public hearing, and let's -- let's hash these out in more detail more in advance. Commissioner Farrell at the last meeting eloquently spoke about the inequities with the SSD District, the Special Services District, and I'm committed to work on that. There's a bunch of intergovernmental agreements you've heard Commissioner Kicklighter talk particularly about those with the City of Savannah, that we're paying more than our fair share, and guys I'm going to pay whether I pay it through my City of Savannah taxes or my Chatham County taxes. I'm going to pay for those intergovernmental agreements, but the County's not getting a fair break on it, and I'm going to represent the County in this position to make sure the County gets a fair break on those agreements.

Commissioner Center said, bottom line is I got to tell you, it's an honor to work with these fellow Commissioners. I don't share the same political philosophy. I've been lobbied hard on both sides of this issue, and I appreciate Commissioners taking time to ask me to vote this way or that way. I've looked at it very hard. I think our Chairman has worked diligently, and you've heard even those Commissioners who are going to vote against this pay raise praise him for it, and I -- I think he deserves the credit, and I'm going to follow his lead on this one. I would have done more, but I think he's got the votes, and I'm going to vote for it. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Chairman, could I?

Chairman Scott said, Assistant Sheriff Harris could -- could you come forward, please? And we'll -- we'll get back to you, but I had to depart from Commissioner Farrell's line of thought because it was -- it was far beyond his response to Commissioner Shabazz, but you heard the comments about the temporary jail, and your staff, and -- and etcetera, and I wanted to give you an opportunity to respond to Commissioner Farrell's and also to entertain any additional questions they may have of you.

Deputy Sheriff Harris said, all right, sir. What Commissioner Farrell was referring to is what we called housing unit 6, which was the tent. This unit housed about 300 -- 250 to 300 inmates. They were very low security inmates, so you had minimal staff there with them. The new housing unit 6 is comprised of wings that hold anywhere from 70 to 72 inmates in a wing. It is a direct supervision facility. That means that an actual officer sits inside that wing with the inmates. This is the safest method to run a jail to keep down problems inside of that particular wing. However, outside of each wing is another hub officer, a supervisor, and what we would call a deputy sheriff runner. This is somebody that moves inmates from position to position if they have to go to medical, pill call, video visitation, anything that may require an inmate movement. There's a lot of that that goes on throughout the day. That gives us a very low ratio as far as back up goes. These new wings are what we refer to as about 1,000 yards away from the old housing facilities down I-95 corridor. We've got two corridors that run in the jail, they're about 1,000 yards long. So it is a long way for somebody to come over to one of those wings to back people up.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, a lot of what we were referring to or -- or looking at during the studies was a relief factor. The National Sheriff's Association recommended a relief factor of 2.25 for every position that you have. The Sheriff asked for 1.75, which is a lot lower factor. The reason we have to have relief factors is at any

given time, we have people out on long-term disability, military leave, we also have people out at training. They're required to have 40 hours a year certification training to work in the jail. We have people on vacation, various types of leaves so we have to have back up, certified people to take their particular place.

Chief Deputy Harris said, safety is always an issue with us in a jail. We've been -- we've been over crowded in this jail since the late 1990s. Currently we've got about 300 inmates sleeping in what we call boats. They're little fiberglass tubs that the inmates sleep in. We got a two-person cell, we have three inmates in it. A one person cell may have two-inmates in it. The only people that have a private cell are those that are so dangerous to other inmates that we have to lock them down in a disciplinary dorm, and they're the ones that really have the privacy, but there again it's the danger factor. So what we're facing here is 300 inmates that don't really have a permanent bed at this particular time. My concerns and the Sheriff's concerns are that the federal courts have not come down on us because of this because they knew that you Commissioners had funded a new jail, so at -- at some point --

Chairman Scott said, not Commissioners, the voters. The tax payers.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, the voters, yeah, but with your grace the money came down to build this particular jail, yes, sir. So, we are in effect trying to do what we can. As far as the comments about the work release program, we have several programs ongoing. We had a graduation on the 10th with 17 graduates. We have a graduation on July the 8th. I would invite any of you to come to. We've got about 18 graduates in that program coming -- to go into the work release. The problem we have with work release is that the judges nor the Sheriff's office can force an inmate to work. If they do not want to work, we can't force them to work. So we're doing the best we can with that particular program. I realize as -- as you Commissioners do that there is money set aside to build a stand alone, work-release building, and those plans are under way through -- through the county auspices, however, where that building is going, the construction trailers are currently sitting in that place. Until we finish this current construction, we cannot start on that, and we are looking at other alternatives such as ankle bracelets. I have a meeting Tuesday morning with a -- a representative, Mr. Tillman, from the NAACP that wants to order -- offer some different alternatives to us, so I'll have Mr. Sprague from our work release program meeting with us, and we'll see what these -- these ideas are and if there's some way we can adopt them.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, we're doing everything we can to keep our jail population at a manageable level. As you know at one time it was up to 1900, and -- and we've worked diligently with both the DAs and the Courts to get this down. Most of the folks in our jail now are -- are felons. We cannot OR them out. The judges won't release them out, so -- there's very few misdemeanor people in there for any long period of time. So the Sheriff has been working as hard as he can, and again, I thank you Mr. Chairman for -- and you other Commissioners that have been working with the Sheriff. He has tried very hard on this. I know he wants to be here this morning, but he'll hopefully be up and around within a -- within a few days.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell, you --

Commissioner Farrell said, so when we got rid of the tent and went to a building that was worth tens of millions of dollars, then we increased the supervision on these same low risk inmates? Is that what I'm hearing?

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, we brought the -- when we got rid of the tent because it was so -- it was costing the County so much money, not only the rent factor, but with the electricity and all, we absorbed those people temporarily back into what we had which put us in an over-crowded position, but we knew that was temporary because we had plans to open the new housing unit 6. Once we open that, yes, certainly some of that staff that was there will come to that. At the meantime, we doubled the size of booking and several other areas of the jail because of the extra amount of personnel or -- or inmates that we anticipate coming in. So we have more staff we had to slide to the arrest/booking area, which is the same area they release people. We've got seven municipalities in this county that bring us inmates, and we cannot turn away an inmate by law unless they're bleeding or obviously critically injured, and then we will do that and force that department to take them to the hospital until they're released. But once they come to us we have to take them.

Chairman Scott said, any further questions that -- that the Sheriff can answer before we -- before we move on?

Commissioner Stone said, I just -- to piggy back on what Commissioner Farrell was saying, you're basing this -- you used a word that caught my attention, that's anticipation. It is still hard to get our arms around the 300 folks that were housed in this temporary tent that are now here that we need all this additional staffing for, and when I hear the word anticipation, help me with that.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, anticipation is the actual -- the count has gradually crept up in the last few months. We were running fairly flat, but we're on a rise. That is not counting the 150 potential, anticipated federal inmates that will come in.

Commissioner Stone said, but they pay their own way.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, they do pay their own way, but we have to have the people to guard the inmates.

Commissioner Stone said, but why would that be a cost increase to us if they're going to pay -- the federal inmates they're paying their own way. That's -- that's where you've lost me.

Chairman Scott said, well, let's just say that we've got to fund the guards. We -- you can't collect a dime on anticipating somebody coming in there.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand that, but if --

Chairman Scott said, you -- you can't until after they're there and that -- and that you bill, and so that's months and months away, and you can't budget money that you don't have or --

Commissioner Stone said, but if you're --

Chairman Scott said, -- have no means of collecting.

Commissioner Stone said, but if you're getting reimbursed for that, it shouldn't be costing the citizens or the county more money. That's all I'm saying.

Chairman Scott said, that's correct, and we took into consideration a modest amount of money and the exact dollar amount escapes me, but Linda [Cramer] can you speak to that? It's in you --

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, it's about 700,000, 25 inmates per day with a -- under the contract.

Chairman Scott said, yes. Yes.

Commissioner Stone said, and what is -- and what is --

Chairman Scott said, if you have 25 inmates, it would be 700,000 -- \$700,000. Now, there's -- there's a projection that if you -- if you got 150 in there that you could -- it could ratchet up to \$4 million, is that correct?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, but -- but now I don't have any idea when you're going to get there, and I don't think anybody else does. So we -- we actually took into consideration some funds from there and incorporated it into the budget, but we can't incorporate -- you can't book \$4 million that you have no means of collecting.

Commissioner Stone said, what do you mean we don't have --

Chairman Scott said, I mean you're -- you're anticipating.

Commissioner Stone said, well either the feds are going to pay or they aren't going to pay, I mean help me with this. Is it --

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, they're -- they're going to pay.

Chairman Scott said, they don't pre-pay though.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, we have to have the inmates.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, they don't pre-pay.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. I -- I understand that. I do understand that, but what I'm saying is I'm -- I'm trying to get my arms around this additional expense if some of this is being reimbursed, and it's my understanding that actually the federal inmates are -- are paying a little more than the current per diem that we recognize.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, that's correct.

Commissioner Stone said, so -- well, I'm still wanting to know why this is not cost neutral or actually even in the plus department for -- for -- for the jail and for us and for the citizens. That's all.

Chairman Scott said, the -- the Manager would like to speak to that.

County Manager Abolt said, you -- you have to be prudent in planning. As the Chairman hit it on point, we don't want you to expect more than is possible. We need the history and the experience to take advantage of this contract. Previous Boards have made mistakes in embracing savings that were never realized, and as a result of that it created a bit of chaos during your next 12 months. I did not want to be a part of recommending a budget to you that created problems in the next 12 months.

Commissioner Farrell said, can I ask a question?

Chairman Scott said, is it for the Sheriff?

Commissioner Farrell said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell has a further question.

Commissioner Farrell said, you know, when we're talking about anticipation and the float waiting on getting paid and stuff, you know, if this were a business I wouldn't be able to take good money and staff up in anticipation of something coming. If I had a large work force, I would look at leveraging that work force with some over time when it actually was needed, and then addressing it saying okay, this is here and it's here to stay, and we've got, you know, that -- that time over and then pull them back off of over time. I think there are ways to manage your resources where you wouldn't have to stand up a lot of new employees on the anticipation that they're coming, and if they do come at some point they're going to pay us. That -- that would be my suggestion to consider some of those options rather than, you know, fully fund something. You know, all this extra staffing is, you know, all at once, like I said earlier, maybe a soft opening rather than, you know, staffing up all at once. Let's -- let's see what -- what's really -- what's really there, and if the -- if there is a -- a somewhat of a profit center if you will from -- from using our facility to -- to help mitigate some of these costs, then that would be to the benefit of the tax payers. But I hate to get the cart in front of the horse and have too much -- too much staffing. There was an example when we didn't have a lot of business in the building department, but yet we budgeted a million dollars to keep all the staffing in place, and it didn't come. So anticipation works both ways. You can be ready for something and it does come or you can get ready for something and it doesn't come, and you -- once you spend all that money on all the staffing, it -- once it's spent it's gone. You can't recover it. It's not a -- it's not a capital item that you can trade back in at the end of the year at a slightly reduced cost like an automobile or a truck or a piece of machinery. So, just -- just making suggestions. There are ways to -- to be prepared and ready but also, you know, keep a -- keep a lid on -- on large increases in the recurring expenses.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, yes, sir. I -- I understand your point, and trust me we do use a lot of over time. We have a lot of part-time officers that we use to transport. We have part-time officers in the jail. We have overtime officers working. We have diligently tried to cut that. We are at around 1.50 relief factor. All we were trying to do is give us a -- a safety zone to go to 1.75. We run a dangerous facility. I know all of you know that so I don't need to keep repeating it. Over 70 percent of our inmates in there are frequent flyers, they're multiple felons, and many of them are --are really unfortunately bad people that would attack one of our folks at -- at any given opportunity. So my concern is for the safety of our staff while they're -- they're in this facility.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, you have a question?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I -- I just -- brief -- I just want to pretty much give the people out there watching and in the audience a little bit better explanation I believe about what happens. The Chairman, as well as this whole body here, we're in a pretty tricky situation when it involves any constitutional officer that's elected, the Sheriff, Tax Commissioner, on and on and on. The right that the constitutional officers have, they actually all of them have the right to take the County Commission to court and sue if they feel as if the County Commission did not budget them enough -- enough money to run their department. Thirteen years ago, my dear friend the Sheriff actually did that when we did not budget the amount that he requested, and he won. The Chairman here has done a really good job bringing the Sheriff down. Actually, I believe he's brought him down \$4 million from the original request.

Commissioner Thomas said, right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what's pretty much being discussed here is a -- a philosophy of do we do more, and we know we go to court. Spend more tax dollars or not. I'm sure the people commenting so far believe that's probably what we should do. I for one with respect to you and the Sheriff, I would go and cut more, take the chance in court, let the public see exactly who's raising their taxes rather than just approving it and -- and us taking the hit for something that -- that the law just kind of makes us do. In fact, I'd like to see the Sheriff broke out separately with his own little line item on the tax bill where then we can elect our Sheriff based off of the performance he does and the amount of the millage rate that he's costing us. That would be a whole lot better than holding a bunch of people totally accountable that -- that are kind of accountable. We -- we get to negotiate down whatever, or we get to go to court and a judge gets to tell us and we will still raise the millage rate, take our shot there and cost more money in court. We're at a little tricky catch 22 here.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, again, I commend our Chairman for bringing it down to where it is, but -- but I -- I'll tell you, you know I respect you and the Sheriff, there's items that we could debate all day long, and yeah, I would probably much rather if I was a citizen, I'd feel much safer listening to a law enforcement officer telling me the numbers that's needed to keep a violent criminal behind bars, but in the attempt to show good faith to the tax paying citizens, if I were the Sheriff's department, I wouldn't have one wasted penny. I wouldn't have 100 police officers driving cars home that they don't even need to have a car. Y'all have many people working

at the jail that's driving cars wasting gas, wasting purchase money to and from a jail that they don't haul the criminals around. You have many people working at the courthouse, deputies with cars that they don't transport. You've got an entirely separate transport division to transport prisoners back and forth -- or inmates. You have a select group of officers that does traffic enforcement. Those guys need cars, but I'd get rid of every penny of my non-essential expenses before I ever stood in front of people going broke in our society asking for more of their tax dollars. That's the part that -- that -- that's why y'all would take me to court if I was dictating this thing because y'all got wasted monies in there. I won't say wasted because compensating an officer if you're financially stable and you can allow him or her to drive the -- a vehicle home, 'cause God knows you're not an over paid profession, police officers, that's a nice thing to do when times are better, and you can financially afford it. Times are bad. People are broke. We can't afford it. We would go to court, but again, I'm one vote. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman for your work to at least bring them down to there without us going to court, and -- thank you.

Commissioner Stone said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, do you have a question of Deputy Sheriff Harris?

Commissioner Stone said, I -- I -- well it's sort of a question for both of you -- for both of you.

Chairman Scott said, because if -- if you're going -- if you want --

Commissioner Stone said, right.

Chairman Scott said, -- to make a further question, I've got to recognize Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. I'll wait, but it's just a -- one quick question.

Chairman Scott said, is it -- is it something that Chief Harris needs to respond to?

Commissioner Stone said, I don't know whether he can answer it or whether Linda [Cramer] needs to answer it. I don't -- it's just a clarification.

Chairman Scott said, thank you, Sheriff.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Harris said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes and then Commissioner Stone in that order.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you. To my --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Shabazz withdrew his question.

Commissioner Holmes said, to my Commissioners and Chairman, thank all of us for what we've done. We -- we -- we know this year's go -- was coming. It -- it -- it -- I think we prepared ourselves diligently. We -- we talked about it from last year to now what we had to face coming into 2013 with that detention center being built. We built it for the citizen and the bad guys in our county. The last public hearing meeting that we had, that was one of the most informative and educational meeting that I ever participated in. That meeting opened up my eyes to a lot. I'm quite sure it opened the citizen eyes to a whole lot, and I walked away from here feeling good about it. In speaking to some of the citizen who came before us, they felt good about it, and I remember when I was coming on board the first year we talked about how are we going to treat the citizens. This Board have been citizen driven. We talked about the public safety of the citizen; we talked about tax; the -- we just talked about citizen period. This is my first time ever running into problem with looking at tax. Now any time you talking about tax, that is not a good word. It -- it's a word that can send up a flag in a heart beat. Nobody really wants to see tax increase. This Board doesn't want to see to see tax increase, and one of the citizen that came before us, and they made a statement that you taking the easy way out, and that statement was made twice, and I don't see anything easy about this. This decision that we're making here or that we will make, it's all about citizen driven. It ain't about us. It is not about us. The Board have never increased tax since I've been on here. We have kicked the can down the road on many issues pertaining tax and every time we kick that can down the road, it backs up on us, and I have seen that happen since I've been sitting here. I just don't intend to keep kicking the can down the road if I don't have no way of pulling that can back to me.

Commissioner Holmes said, and this budget that we have worked on, trust me citizen, we have worked on this. I -- I -- I -- I -- I must say, and you probably heard the compliment that went to our Chairman. If anybody would have asked anybody how they can get the detention center budget decreased, they would say no because that's a hard nut to crack, but we negotiated and we got it done. The wide range that we looking at to go forward in this county, we only doing this because we have to operate the county. This county is -- is -- is -- is -- can look at many other ways how we can bring things into law. My colleague right here, I've heard him talked [sic] about a lot of things, and he got a lot of ways. I work with Farrell since he came on board. Farrell is a very methodical person, and we have sit down together and talked about some things. The chemistry of this Board up here now,

I'm quite sure after this year and after this budget have gone over, I'm quite sure. Mr. Manager you might be here to see and you may not be here to see but this Board that up here now, is a very good chemistry rise Board and it will get and do some good things for the citizen of Chatham County. I have noticed some of my colleague in regards to what we're facing small tax or large tax, they don't -- they just don't like tax. All of us have our opinion how we look at each thing, and we respect each others after we get away from here. We talk with each others on the phone, when we run into each other we chat, we talk, weekend we talk. Don't think because you may hear the differences up here that we are not together. This Board is together, and since we have brought on a different ear, we are now unified more to do more and bigger things for the citizen of Chatham County. After today don't hold none of us personally against it. We will not hold anything for what you say to us, and I'm a pretty good note taker, and I hear some real good things that opened up my mind to what the citizen have said. Trust me I will take it in and I will push it and the same thing I heard my colleagues say, next year I'm almost certain the citizen will be very proud of this Board and the direction in which we have taken. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the time and my colleagues.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, just real quickly, I guess I got a sticker shock here that our Chairman was able to negotiate down \$4 million in essence for 140 inmates. That's a lot of money per inmate. Just sticker shock. That's all.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Thomas. Vice Chair Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Co-workers, fellow citizens. I -- I have been sitting here silently listening, and I just want to say that I commend everybody up here for the words of your expressions but most importantly I want to thank the citizens of Chatham County, and I want you to know, this is coming from me personally, I do not take my job lightly. I consider everything that has been said, not only today but I would go back to yesterday, last year and the year before when certain things come up, put in a lot of time. I too am a tax payer. I don't like those taxes at all myself. As a matter of fact I was on -- on the phone with someone, you know, contesting something just the other day. However, I don't want you the citizens feel -- to feel that we are not putting in the time to make sure that we are working in your favor because it's very important that we look at the entire county and not one segment of the county.

Commissioner Thomas said, as far as the jail is concerned, I think we can do even better with the number of inmates that we have in our jail by working with the judges. I think the judges and the Sheriff can do more by working together in a partnership, and this is one of the things that I'm going to be looking very closely at next time around because anytime you have taxes it certainly puts a very big dent in everyone's pocket. So as I close my comments, I want you to know that I appreciate what the Chairman has done in his rendering of the -- of the different positions, and I do plan to vote for the Chairman's proposal. So I just wanted to say that.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Is there any other comments? Hearing none, I'm going to make some closing comments and then we'll be ready to vote. The last time we increased taxes, this Commission, it was eight years ago. There have not been a tax increase in Chatham County by the Chatham County Commission in eight years. The last time we rolled back taxes in this county was seven years ago, and we've adjusted the millage rate down several times since then. And -- and I suspect that if it was not for the needed staffing at the retention center, we would not be considering a tax increase now. And so when folks say that it's been flat in the face of the recession, knowing that citizens were hurting, the Commission actually rolled back taxes. I was not part of it but for those who were I commend them. And we've known really since 2007 that this facility would have to be staffed, and the easiest thing for me would just to be vote no on everything and just allow the courts to decide, and then I could see the headlines now, Commission failed to do their job, court ordered millage increase, and then they'll start listing what we have to pay in attorney fees, because we would be responsible for the sheriff's attorney, county attorney, and -- and really anybody who joined the -- the suit. And so I decided that as -- as Chair of the Commission that that would not be the responsible thing to do.

Chairman Scott said, in a good faith effort we went to the Sheriff and asked if he would consider reducing his request. The Sheriff was reluctant. He came back with a request, and we said that we needed to reduce it further. There was resistance but he and his staff worked on a number and said that if -- if it wasn't adequate that they would have to use overtime to fill in the gaps and the voids, and that's where we left it at. Now in addition to that, and to some extent this may have been taken the wrong way but one of the things I requested staff to do was to start the process of doing an audit at the retention center, and the purpose of the audit was not to find wrongdoings at the retention center because this is a very -- this is a retention center that's considered very well ran from all -- from all experts, but the purpose of the audit that has not gotten underway but will get underway soon was to look for further opportunities to reduce costs at the retention center. So we have that that will be going on shortly.

Chairman Scott said, the other thing we asked staff to do was look at possible contracts where there were big dollar savings and look at rebidding those contracts if they had expired. The staff has undertaken some of that. We have not booked those potential savings because they have not realized -- they have not been realized, but there is a potential savings there. And the other thing that staff is -- that I've discussed with staff, and I've discussed it with some of the members of the Commission, and in future years, hopefully the 2015 budget, we're

going to go to a zero-based budget where we will zero out all departments, and they will have to rejustify all staff and all spending, etcetera. That will take some time to accomplish, but that's the direction that the staff understands we want to go, and that's the direction we will go in the future. But today what we are asking members of the Commission to do is to simply govern. Take their responsibility seriously, do what's necessary even when it's in the face of not being easy. Or you can take the easy way out and just vote no, but I can assure you that we have to staff a facility that we built, that we approved, and we cannot put our sworn officers at risk at -- with inmates' rebellion and put their lives in danger. So that's where we're at, and we have a motion on the floor, and we have a second. At this time I would ask Commissioner Center to repeat the motion just for everybody's (inaudible) -- Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, yes. The motion was to adopt the Chairman's alternative for fiscal year 2014 budget for the General fund and the millage levy resolution pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

Chairman Scott said, and the mill would actually be .79. Is that correct?

County Manager Abolt said, .7 -- yes, sir. The increase would be decimal --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, .799.

County Manager Abolt said, decimal 7 niner, niner.

Chairman Scott said, less than one mill, about three quarters of a mill. All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The yeah's have it. The motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve the Chairman's Alternative Budget and millage levy resolution. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried in a 5-4 vote. Chairman Scott and Commissioners Holmes, Center, Shabazz and Thomas voted yes; Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Brady and Kicklighter voted no.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3a

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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

ISSUE:

To adopt the Fiscal Year 2014 budget resolution for the General Fund M&O and adopt a millage levy resolution pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

In addition to authorize the Chairman to sign Form PT-35 County Millage Rate Certification and Form PT 32.1 Computation of Millage Rate Rollback and Percentage Increase in Property Taxes for Tax Year 2013. The Forms are required to be certified and submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue for digest approval for tax year 2013.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County is required by law to adopt balanced annual budgets for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project length budgets can be adopted for Capital Improvements Funds. A tax levy resolution must be submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue. The Tax Assessor has scheduled delivery of the resolution during the week of July 22, 2013.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Fiscal Year 2014 Recommended Budget was distributed to the Board on May 10, 2013. The total General Fund Recommended budget was \$169,393,031.
2. A budget public hearing was held during the Chatham County Commission meeting on May 24, 2013. Copies of the proposed budget were made available in the Finance Department and at Chatham County branches of the Live Oak Public Library.
3. By law, Chatham County is required to wait one week after the budget public hearing before adopting budget resolutions. Budget adoption was advertised on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 in the *Savannah Morning News* for adoption on Friday, June 28, 2013.
4. If the proposed budget and millage rate are not adopted on June 28, 2013, the Board must revise the budget calendar and re-advertise at least fourteen days prior to millage adoption in accordance with state law. Adoption of continuing resolutions would be required in order

to have a budget in place after the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2013. The continuing resolution would be based on the Fiscal Year 2013 amended budget.

5. Information on the tax year 2013 tax digest was conveyed to the Board on June 14, 2013. Since the actual growth rate in the property tax digest is greater than the amount assumed in the recommended budget, a downward adjustment in the recommended millage rate is possible. The recommended 2013 millage has been reduced from 12.540 to 12.435 mills, a reduction of .105 mills due to digest growth. This amendment is included in the attached millage adoption resolution.
6. The 2012 General Fund millage rate is 11.109. The recommended millage rate of 12.435 exceeds the 2012 rate by 1.326 mills.
7. The current year tax digest and five year levy history advertisement was published on June 13, 2013 in the *Savannah Morning News* as required by State law. The published net General Fund millage rate of 12.540 is greater than the rollback rate of 11.049 calculated by the Tax Assessor's office on Form Pt 32.1. The rollback rate recaptures values lost from the reassessment of existing real property.
8. The current year tax digest and five year levy history advertisement also includes a computation for a rollback millage rate associated with the collection of local option sales tax as required by O.C.G.A. 48-8-91. Note that this rollback rate is different from the millage rollback rate calculated by the Tax Assessor's office. It is computed to be 1.045 mills and is included in the millage levy resolution as required by State law.
9. Budget and millage levy resolutions for the Special Service District and other funds are attached to separate staff reports.

FUNDING:

Funding sources are identified in the budget resolution. Further detail is on file in the Chatham County Finance Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adoption of the Fiscal 2014 General Fund M&O budget resolution of \$169,393,031 and adoption of the year 2013 millage levy resolutions for a millage rate of 12.435 mills (net of sales tax rollback of 1.045 mills). The related millage levy and budget resolutions are shown as Attachment I (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
2. That the Board provides other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law requires that annual budgets be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project-length budgets should be adopted for Capital Projects Funds. State law requires that the Board adopt a tax levy resolution annually for submission of the digest to the State of Georgia, Department of Revenue (O.C.G.A. 48-5-302). Georgia law further specifies methods of publication of the County ad valorem tax rate (O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by Read DeHaven

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b. TO ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT AND ADOPT A MILLAGE LEVY RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

Chairman Scott said, item 4 under section IX --

County Manager Abolt said, no. 3 b, sir.

Chairman Scott said, 3 b. Okay.

County Manager Abolt said, 3 b. Yes, the Special Service District.

Chairman Scott said, Special Service District. And this is to adopt a fiscal 2014 budget resolution for the Special Service District and to adopt a millage levy resolution pursuant to Georgia law 48-5-32.1.

Commissioner Center said, that's also part of your alternative, correct?

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, I move that we adopt the Chairman's alternative also as to Item 3 b. Is that correct?

County Manager Abolt said, to perfect the record, there is no alternative from the Chairman. What you're voting on now, given the way the agenda is written is the recommendation from staff modified downward to reflect a little more digest growth than expected and it would include the 2.5 percent cost of living increase.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. Okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Commissioner Center said, so moved.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, what's the -- is it now with the reflection of that include a millage increase still?

County Manager Abolt said, decimal 5-4 millage increase.

Commissioner Stone said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, a half mill. That's in the Special Service District. It's been properly moved and second. Any discussion? Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner Farrell, in that order.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, just want to point out the probably most wronged portion of the society in Chatham County when it comes to taxes is this area, the unincorporated area. Back ten years ago their police budget was \$4 million. Right now it's \$14,884,000. It's almost quadrupled, and here we sit. I -- I -- I'll state that I can tell, and I'm appreciative of the Chairman's courage, and I know that he's not afraid to look at anything. He can't come in and overnight change the world because he's a smart enough man to study something before he makes a decision, but I anticipate in the future -- or I -- it's my great wish that we definitely take a look at -- this item alone can prevent several future tax increases for the unincorporated area of Chatham County. I know, well I'm -- I'm not going to speak for anyone. I'm anticipating in the future to take another look at Recorder's Court because I believe we're paying probably a million dollars too much a year out of this budget. We're splitting the cost supposedly with Savannah, but we're coming out on the wrong end of the split because it's my understanding that we're funding five deputies while Savannah's funding one. Wow. They've got 67 percent of the -- the criminal cases coming through that court, yet we're funding 5 to 1 as far as officers goes. There's things we can do right now. We can cut ours down to one if they're funding one, and how -- how much money will that raise in the unincorporated? This millage rate proposal? The millage rate increase, how much money is that?

County Manager Abolt said, the -- the millage rate is decimal 5-4. I'll defer to Ms. Cramer for the actual dollar increase.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, it's about 3 million.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's 3 million?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, in the SSD portion of the budget?

Chairman Scott said, that's correct.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, any how, there's areas we can cut in this area, so again, respect that nothing can as far as the new people on board. I -- I -- you know, I was ready five years ago to -- to do some of the things I just said. I understand that you can't do it over night, but it is my hope that we will all come together and just do what is right for the people in the unincorporated area. So, for that I -- I won't be supporting an increase in this area.

Chairman Scott said, thank you Commissioner Kicklighter. I think we share your views on that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, where to start? Wow. I -- I recommend that we at the very least we leave the millage rate at its current level as we work towards a resolution of the tax inequity that -- that's going on in the unincorporated area. Briefly what I'm talking about is the roughly \$3.5 million in franchise fees that are taxed to our citizens, the 87,000 that go directly to the benefit of the municipalities. I'm also speaking to the fact that they are categorically denied any share of LOST funding for any of their expenses, and if they were just an

absent municipality with no negotiation whatsoever, they would be, due to their population alone, they'd be entitled to \$15 million, and they're denied that categorically by state law, and it's all because at some point in the '70s this Commission established a Special Service District in -- in the first place that we even have this millage to talk about because the vast majority of counties, well over 95 percent of them in this state do not have special districts to tax the unincorporated people. They just pay into the M&O and their expenses are covered, and it's kind of a wash that they don't get LOST help and they don't get franchise fee help. It kind of washes out if you do the math. To ask for another \$3 million out of this group of 87,000 people, it's not the -- it's not the easy thing to say no, it's the right thing to say. Saying -- you know, voting no today is not the easy thing because then it forces everyone on the staff level to have to look much closer at how they're spending their money and how they're leverage their funding. So that's the -- the difficult vote is a -- is a -- is a no vote because it makes it more difficult for staff to -- to -- to provide the services that we ask them to and -- and -- and provide some tax relief to the very folks that are having to pull up the bill. So I -- I will not entertain a -- a millage increase on the Special Service District today. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, our Commission Pro Tem.

Commissioner Stone said, this \$3 million I really want to think that it -- want to weigh out what the consequences of approving this will be in the face of losing the votes for SPLOST which would probably more than make up for \$3 million in services, roads, what have you for the unincorporated area. Also, to ask the people for this millage increase, the citizens of that District, this \$3 million on top of the \$3.5 million in franchise fees that they're currently playing -- paying that they get no benefit from. So I agree with Commissioner Farrell. This is the wrong thing to do. It really isn't. It's going to jeopardize the passage of SPLOST which would affect this whole county, and they're already paying 3.5 million in franchise fees that they see absolutely no benefit from, so now you want to tack on a millage increase for another \$3 million. It's just the wrong thing to do. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion and second. All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve staff's recommended budget resolution and millage levy resolution. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried in a 5-4 vote. Chairman Scott and Commissioners Holmes, Center, Shabazz and Thomas voted yes; Commissioners Stone, Farrell, Brady and Kicklighter voted no.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3b
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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

ISSUE:

To adopt the Fiscal Year 2014 budget resolution for the Special Service District and adopt a millage levy resolution pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

In addition to authorize the Chairman to sign Form PT-35 County Millage Rate Certification and Form PT 32.1 Computation of Millage Rate Rollback and Percentage Increase in Property Taxes for Tax Year 2013. The Forms are required to be certified and submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue for digest approval for tax year 2013.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County is required by law to adopt balanced annual budgets for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project length budgets can be adopted for Capital Improvements Funds. A tax levy resolution must be submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue. The Tax Assessor has scheduled delivery of the resolution during the week of July 22, 2013.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Fiscal Year 2014 Recommended Budget was distributed to the Board on May 10, 2013. The total Special Service District Recommended budget was \$29,303,236.
2. A budget public hearing was held during the Chatham County Commission meeting on May 24, 2013. Copies of the proposed budget were made available in the Finance Department and at Chatham County branches of the Live Oak Public Library.

3. By law, Chatham County is required to wait one week after the budget public hearing before adopting budget resolutions. Budget adoption was advertised on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 in the *Savannah Morning News* for adoption on Friday, June 28, 2013.
4. If the proposed budget and millage rate are not adopted on June 28, 2013, the Board must revise the budget calendar and re-advertise at least fourteen days prior to millage adoption in accordance with state law. Adoption of continuing resolutions would be required in order to have a budget in place after the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2013. The continuing resolution would be based on the Fiscal Year 2013 amended budget.
5. Information on the tax year 2013 tax digest was conveyed to the Board at its meeting on June 14, 2013. Since the actual growth rate in the property tax digest is greater than the amount assumed in the recommended budget, a downward adjustment in the recommended millage rate is possible. The recommended 2013 millage has been reduced from 4.160 to 4.13 mills, a reduction of .03 mills due to digest growth. This amendment is included in the attached millage adoption resolution.
6. The 2012 General Fund millage rate is 3.599. The recommended millage rate of 4.13 mills exceeds the 2012 rate by .54 mills.
7. The current year tax digest and five year levy history advertisement was published on June 13, 2013 in the *Savannah Morning News* as required by State law. The published net General Fund millage rate of 4.16 is greater than the rollback rate of 3.550 calculated by the Tax Assessor's office on Form Pt 32.1. The rollback rate recaptures values lost from the reassessment of existing real property.
8. The current year tax digest and five year levy history advertisement also includes a computation for a rollback millage rate associated with the collection of local option sales tax as required by O.C.G.A. 38-8-8.3. Note that this rollback rate is different from the millage rollback rate calculated by the Tax Assessor's office. It is computed to be 0.883 mills and is included in the millage levy resolution as required by State law.
9. Budget and millage levy resolutions for the Special Service District and other funds are attached to separate staff reports.

FUNDING:

Funding sources are identified in the budget resolution. Detail is on file in the Chatham County Finance Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adoption of the Fiscal 2014 Special Service District Fund budget resolution of \$29,303,236 and adoption of the year 2013 millage levy resolutions for a millage rate of 4.13 mills (net of insurance premium tax rollback of 8.883 mills). The related millage levy and budget resolutions are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
2. That the Board provides other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law requires that annual budgets be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project-length budgets should be adopted for Capital Projects Funds. State law requires that the Board adopt a tax levy resolution annually for submission of the digest to the State of Georgia, Department of Revenue (O.C.G.A. 48-5-302). Georgia law further specifies methods of publication of the County ad valorem tax rate (O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by Read DeHaven

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c. TO ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNTY'S PROPRIETARY FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUND, NON-MAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS.

Chairman Scott said, Item b -- I'm sorry, Item c.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, Mr. Chairman, this is the wrap up on everything else that's in the big old book. These are the funds that remain, and we would ask for a motion based on the recommendations in the book for you to approve the balance of the submitted document for 2014.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Is there a motion?

Commissioner Center said, I move that we accept the balance --

Chairman Scott said, this is adopting the budget.

Commissioner Center said, adopt -- adopting the budget.

Chairman Scott said, is there a second?

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second. All in favor indicate by voting yes. Well any discussion?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I have a question, please.

Chairman Scott said, go ahead.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to make sure for -- in 13 years, the Board of Education appeared somewhere on this -- this day. They're two weeks from now, right?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, four.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, this portion here --

County Manager Abolt said, oh, it's four. Ms. -- Ms. Cramer corrects me. We just heard from their staff, based on what they have to do, it will not be on the 12th, it will be on the 24th, I guess it will be.

Chairman Scott said, the 24th of July.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. I just want to make sure the Board of Education wasn't tucked away.

County Manager Abolt said, no, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, somewhere in here.

County Manager Abolt said, we would never do that, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. This portion, Item c, does this include any type of separate millage increase or anything like that?

Chairman Scott said, no.

Assistant County Attorney Cramer said, no.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, explain it please, just briefly, what this portion does.

County Manger Abolt said, go ahead. It's all your other funds.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yeah. This sets the budgets for all your other funds which are your other special revenue funds, like your grant funds, your E911 fund. It sets the project budgets for your SPLOST funds, your CIP fund. You are approving \$2 million in CIP projects that were presented to the Board and ranked in January. So we -- we have \$2 million in projects in there. And it also includes your water and sewer fund. Your health fund. All your other funds. The CAT -- the CAT fund is in this motion, however, your millage for CAT is in a separate motion. That, you know, that's your next agenda item. So it does not include the CAT millage levy.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so this is not confirmation of either or the previous two?

Chairman Scott said, no. Those -- no --

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, no. That is separately voted.

Chairman Scott said, separate.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, okay. This is adopting everything else in the budget besides what we've already voted on.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm just making sure, Chairman. I hate to technically vote for some kind of increase.

Chairman Scott said, technically you're not voting for --.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, as long as that's in the record. Technically this is not --

Chairman Scott said, all right. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve the 2014 budget resolution for the County's proprietary funds, debt service fund, non-major special revenue funds, and capital project funds. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-3c
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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

ISSUE:

To adopt the Fiscal Year Budget resolution for the County's proprietary funds, debt service fund, non-major special revenue funds, and capital project funds.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County is required by law to adopt balanced annual budgets for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project length budgets can be adopted for Capital Improvement Funds.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Fiscal Year 2014 Recommended Budget was distributed to the Board on May 10, 2013. The total for all funds combined was \$519,009,656.
2. A budget public hearing was held during the Chatham County Commission meeting on May 24, 2013. Copies of the proposed budget were made available in the Finance Department and at Chatham County branches of the Live Oak Public Library.
3. By law, Chatham County is required to wait one week after the budget public hearing before adoption budget resolutions. Budget adoption was advertised on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 in the *Savannah Morning News* for adoption on Friday, June 28, 2013.
4. If the proposed budgets are not adopted on June 28, 2013, adoption of a continuing resolution will be required in order to have a budget in place after the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2013. The continuing resolution would be based on the Fiscal Year 2013 amended budget.
5. The Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to the FY2013 CIP budget at its meeting held May 24, 2013. The amendment included \$30,000 funding for the McQueen's Island Trail project. The FY2014 funding for this project has been reduced accordingly. The revised CIP budget totals \$2,025,858. A revised project listing is attached to the budget resolution.
6. Staffing for the Victim Witness Program in the Restricted Court Fee Fund includes a Community Intervention Specialist position that is dependent on availability of funding. The revenue projections for FY2014 will support a part time position. The proposed budget is increased \$21,530 to fund the position part time. The revised budget totals \$281,272.
7. The Board of Commissioners accepted one grant for Juvenile Court and four grants for the Superior Court speciality courts at their meeting held June 14, 2013. These grants begin July 1, 2013. The Multiple Grant Fund has been increased to a total of \$706,177 for these grants.
8. Subsequent to the presentation of the proposed budget, a need to fund additional software maintenance has been identified in the Building Safety and Regulatory Services Enterprise Fund. The budget for the fund has been increased \$10,000 to a total of \$1,117,875.

9. Budget resolutions for the General Fund M&O Fund and Special Service District Fund are attached to separate staff reports. A separate staff report has also been provided for the Transit District millage levy.
10. Project budgets for the capital funds as attached to the budget resolution will be adopted upon the Board's approval of the Fiscal Year 2014 budget resolution. The project budgets mirror those found in the Recommended Budget Workbook.

FUNDING:

Funding sources are identified in the budget resolution. Further detail is on file in the Chatham County Finance Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That the Board adopt the Fiscal 2014 budget resolution for the County's proprietary funds, debt service fund, non-major special revenue funds, and capital project funds.
2. That the Board provide other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law requires that annual budgets be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project-length budgets should be adopted for Capital Projects Funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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AGENDA ITEM: IX-3 & 4

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 26, 2013
TO: Chairman and Members of the Board
FROM: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
SUBJECT: An Alternative Budget Proposal

Ladies and gentlemen, Chairman Scott and I have been working on an alternative to the budget plan given you in May. The attached from Linda Cramer provides specifics. On Friday, staff will take you through each motion that will end in your adopting a spending plan for next fiscal year. The enclosed would be another choice.

Staff will help you through an explanation.

REA:dbh

Attachment

cc: Michael A. Kaigler, Assistant County Manager
 Linda B. Cramer, Assistant County Manager/Finance Director



INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: June 26, 2013
TO: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Linda B. Cramer, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Chairman’s Budget Proposal & Related Budget Adoption Procedures

As you are aware, the Chairman has been working with staff to develop an alternative to the County Manager’s Recommended Budget for the General M&O Fund that was presented on May 10, 2013. The Chairman has also developed an alternative to the millage rate increase sought by the Chatham Area Transit Authority. The Chairman’s budget proposal is described herein.

General Fund -- The Chairman’s Budget includes the following elements:

1. Total General Fund budget is \$163,272,718. This is \$6,120,313 lower than the Recommended Budget.
2. The proposed millage rate for the Chairman’s budget is 11.908. In comparison to the current millage rate of 11.109, this is an increase of .799 mills.
3. Detention Center reductions are \$4,083,989 from the Recommended Budget. The Sheriff’s budget requested had asked for 94 new positions and a budget increase of over \$7.1 million. Under the Chairman’s proposal, 52 positions would be added to staff the expanded facility for a projected inmate count of 1,650.
4. Compensation adjustment -- The Chairman’s budget allows for a compensation adjustment of 2.5% of salaries for full-time County employees hired before June 29, 2013 and covered by the County’s pay plan.
5. State Court Attorney -- The Chairman’s budget adds a staff attorney at State Court with an annual salary and benefit cost of \$98,010.

The attached documents (attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission’s meeting file) relating to the Chairman’s budget proposal are:

- a. A summary sheet by category which compares the Recommended Budget and the Chairman’s budget (page 3).
- b. A schedule showing the impact of the Chairman’s budget on a home owner with a residential value of \$100,000, \$200,000 and \$300,000 (page 4). This schedule also shows the impact of a millage levy change in the SSD and the Transit District.
- c. A schedule of New Positions that reflects the positions authorized through budget adoption for fiscal year 2014 (page 5).
- d. A Board Resolution to adopt the “Chairman’s budget” for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2013 (page 6). If the Board agrees with the Chairman’s proposal, this resolution would need to be adopted on Friday in the place of the resolution located in Agenda Item IX-3a, page 3, Agenda Date June 28, 2013.
- e. A Board Resolution to adopt a millage rate of 11.908 as outlined in the “Chairman’s budget” (page 7). If the Board agrees with the Chairman’s proposal, this resolution would need to be adopted in the place of the resolution located in Agenda Item IX-3a, page 4, Agenda Date June 28, 2013.



STATE OF GEORGIA)
 COUNTY OF CHATHAM)

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 IN RE: TAX LEVY YEAR 2013

IT IS ORDERED that a net tax of Eleven Dollars and Ninety and Eight Tenths cents per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) (rate of 11.908 millage) is hereby levied and assessed on all taxable property in Chatham County, Georgia, in the year 2013 to pay the cost of the following General Maintenance and Operation Services to be provided by the Chatham County Government during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013: General Government, Judiciary, Health and Welfare, Public Safety, Public Works, Culture and Recreation, Housing and Development, Debt Service and Other Financing Uses. The Sales Tax Rollback as required by State Law, is One Dollar and Four and Five Tenths Cents per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) (rate of 1.045 millage).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the gross tax rate for General Maintenance and Operations taxes for Chatham County and the sales tax rollback be calculated based upon applicable sales tax collections during 2012 and the final 2013 Chatham County digest. The resulting gross tax rate as reduced by the sales tax rollback for General Maintenance and Operations shall result in a net tax rate of Eleven Dollars and Ninety and Eight Tenths Cents per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) (rate of 11.908 millage).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Chairman be authorized to execute the documentation for submission of the 2013 Tax Digest to the State of Georgia Department of Revenue in accordance with this resolution.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the said taxes be collected by the Tax Commissioner of the County or his successor in office.

APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE 2013 IN OPEN COURT.

Albert J. Scott, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Janice E. Bocook, County Clerk

Chatham Area Transit

The Chairman’s budget proposes a millage rate for the Transit District of 1.00 mills. This is a reduction from the 1.24 mills requested by the CAT Board. A Board Resolution to adopt a millage rate of 1.00 is attached (page 8). If the Board agrees with the Chairman’s proposal, this resolution would need to be adopted in the place of the resolution located in Agenda Item IX-4, page 4, Agenda Date June 28, 2013.

The FY2014 CAT Operating Fund budget currently shows tax revenues of \$10,467,721 with an assumed millage rate of 1.24 mills. An adopted millage rate of 1.00 would generate tax revenue of \$8,567,759, a change of \$1,858,962.

However, the 1.00 mill rate is higher than the 2012 mill rate of .859. Coupled with digest growth, it should generate \$1.2 million more than fiscal year 2013 tax revenue.

Note that the June 28, 2013 agenda separates adoption of the County’s CAT Enterprise Fund budget from adoption of the Transit District milage levy. The Board should not confuse or try to combine the two actions. Any budget adopted for the CAT Enterprise Fund can be amended at a later date. Therefore, adoption of the budget in Agenda Item IX-3c should not be impeded by concerns about the Transit District millage levy which is listed Agenda Item IX-4. If the Board authorizes a millage rate different from that requested by the Chatham Area Transit Authority Board, the CAT Board would subsequently need to adopt a revised Operating Fund budget and forward it to the County. The County can then amend the adopted budget for the CAT Enterprise Fund to mirror the CAT Operating Fund budget.



STATE OF GEORGIA)
)
COUNTY OF CHATHAM)

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
IN RE: TAX LEVY YEAR 2013

IT IS ORDERED that a Special Service District tax of One Dollar per One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) (rate of 1.00 millage) be levied and assessed on all taxable property in Chatham County located within the Chatham Area Transit District for the year 2013 to pay for the support and maintenance of the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Chairman be authorized to execute the documentation for submission of the 2013 Tax Digest to the State of Georgia Department of Revenue in accordance with this resolution.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the said taxes be collected by the Tax Commissioner of the County or his successor in office.

APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE 2013 IN OPEN COURT.

Albert J. Scott, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Janice E. Bocook, County Clerk

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4. TO ADOPT THE MILLAGE LEVY RESOLUTION FOR TAX YEAR 2013 FOR THE CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

Chairman Scott said, Item 4. Now here's -- this is to adopt the millage rate levy resolution for Tax Fiscal Year 2013 for the Chatham Area Transit Authority. And again I have an alternative to -- to the original proposal, and the alternative is that we increase the tax levy -- taxes -- the -- the millage rate from .859 to 1 mill. The CAT Board requested that we increase it from .859 to 1.21?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, 24.

Chairman Scott said, 24? 24. So this is a reduction from the Chatham Area Transit Authority Board's request.

Commissioner Center said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, yeah?

Commissioner Center said, I'd like to move that we adopt again the Chairman's alternative and increase the CAT millage rate to 1.0.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Commissioner Holmes said, no discussion on this?

Chairman Scott said, seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Shabazz said, no discussion?

Chairman Scott said, yeah, we're going to have discussion. And now discussion. I see Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Vice Chair Thomas, Commissioner Farrell and Commissioner Center in that order, please.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. This question will be -- thank you Mr. Chairman, for Ms. Cramer. What portion of this or how much is needed to pay down this line of credit that -- that Chatham Area Transit has with Chatham County?

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, Chatham Area Transit just increased their line of credit. We had a \$1.7 million county-backed line of credit. It was increased to \$7.7 million. They're looking at in their budget proposal paying that credit line over a two-year period, and I believe -- let me look at the debt service, Chad [Reese] could probably speak to the debt service they have included in the 2014 budget for paying down the credit line. I believe their first priority to use the credit line money was to pay back Veolia for some --some past-due bills for operational purposes, and then in the 2014 budget start paying that credit line down. So I would probably defer to the CAT Executive Board Chair.

Commissioner Stone said, I guess what my question is is how much of this millage will be dedicated to paying down this line of credit because I -- I want everyone to understand that this line of credit has got to be paid, and if -- and if it doesn't come from -- if -- if Chatham Area Transit cannot pay it, then Chatham County's going to pay it.

Assistant County Manager Cramer said, yes. CAT would need to come back and amend their budget and -- and tell you how they are going to deal with the reduced millage. I don't know if they have that information today or not.

Commissioner Stone said, to --

Commissioner Holmes said, do you have it, Mr. Chad [Reese]?

Commissioner Stone said, can -- can Chad [Reese] speak to this? This question that I have of how much of this millage increase would be dedicated to paying down this line of credit, 'cause my fear is if we don't support a certain amount to pay down this line of credit, then it's going to fall on Chatham County's shoulders.

Chairman Scott said, well, I will recognize Chairman Liakakis, and he will probably get Mr. Reese to respond to the numbers.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. I just -- that's my concern is what is it going to take towards this millage -- what portion of this millage increase is going to be dedicated to paying down that line of credit.

CAT Board Chairman Pete Liakakis said, well, I want -- he was going over some figures that was just given to him basically that came from the finance department, and he worked on this, and I just got this yesterday afternoon, but Chad [Reese] here can tell you how it's set up to pay back the -- pay the bank back, and then --

Commissioner Stone said, it's -- it's Chatham County. We're the bank.

Chairman Scott said, no. It's --

County Attorney Hart said, no, we guarantee it.

Commissioner Stone said, we guarantee it, but I mean -- in other words, if -- if CAT defaults, they're going to come to us.

CAT Board Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, but you were asking about the point 11 amount, how much of that was dedicated to pay the debt that we had otherwise the \$7.7 million that the Board approved would have to be paid by the county. So he has that figures on here.

CAT Executive Director Chadwick Reese said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Stone, if I may. In our proposed budget, we recommended -- just as a point of clarification, what we committed to doing is paying back the increase in the line of credit over two years, and the proposal was to eliminate the line of credit over a three-year period. We have programmed about \$2.5 million in our recommended budget for the repayment of the line of credit.

Commissioner Stone said, so what portion of this millage increase equates to that amount. Do we have that broken down?

Dr. Reese said, of the millage increase, well, I'll present it like this to you, the -- the budget that was recommended by the Board called for \$3 million increase in revenues and \$2 million increase in expense -- reduction in expenses so it was a \$5 million swing that also represented a reduction in funds that we were receiving from the City of Savannah, a reduction of funds that we were receiving from FTA, so we cut services -- or we cut expenses without cutting service by approximately \$2 million, and we're proposing to use roughly a half a million of the new millage increase to pay for existing operations and the rest would be geared towards the line of credit. It's important to note in that that we took a very conservative approach because we weighed a number of options, and the approach we came up with was one because the secondary issue CAT has is we have not funded depreciation since 2005. So not only do we have a line of credit but we also have a great deal of depreciation debt which has placed us in the financial situation we're in.

Commissioner Stone said, I mean I sincerely understand that we need to keep Chatham Area Transit running because if we don't people won't be able to get to work and our paratransit system, people that are handicapped, elderly depend on that. I understand that and I know how critical that is to the community. I get that. What I was trying to -- to rationalize is to in order to pay off this -- pay down this line of credit what millage increase would be needed, and -- and that's all I'm interested in at this point. So --

Dr. Reese said, that -- that would be the millage -- the delta is .381 as we recommended in the budget to pay it off and sustain current operations.

Commissioner Stone said, .3 --

Dr. Reese said, .381.

CAT Board Chairman Liakakis said, and that's about just a little over a third of a mill because we had our finance people go over this and over it, and the .381 is about a third of a mill, just a little over a third of a mill, and that would have been able to pay the \$1.3 I think is left with Veolia that we are required to pay, and then, of course, pay down the line of credit if we were able to get that money so that it would work out and wouldn't put us in a bind. Because we're looking at the budget and our books are open to anybody that can come there and look at them and see the operations and what has been reduced over at the CAT -- the bus system, plus about -- of monies that we're having to put into the transit center that -- that we had to, you know, put 20 percent of the

80 percent that the federal government had allotted to us on a grant, and then we had the same thing over at the operation center. So I mean there's a number of things that we want to be able to get in a financial situation. Some 12, 13 years ago, when it came out about the -- the bus system had a small reserve and it was voted to reduce that millage at the time, and that millage that was reduced put -- started we were able to pay at that time, and since that time pay down some of the particular monies, but it has put us in a tight position because the reduc -- reduction in that reserve which used up and then we saw the negative situation, how it affected the budget, on the, you know, on the bus system. And what we're looking at because our bus system is getting better and better, but we needed the money to make sure that we pay all of our debts and to be able to even expand the bus system because as I mentioned to you before that many people in this community, some 22,000, have no -- they do not have any transportation, they show that no -- they have no -- the 2010 census showed that we had 22,000 people in Chatham County that did not have transportation, and what that was -- in that kind of situation it put us in more of a bind because a huge amount of those people that are riding the buses, they need that to go as was said before, that they need to go to get food, they need it to get medical help, and they need it to go back and forth to work. And -- and --

Commissioner Stone said, I understand, and I appreciate all that, but I guess my question was -- just to get to the point was what -- and out of this millage increase, what is it going to take to pay down the line of credit. What you gave me was the full amount that you're asking. I'm trying to get to what is necessary just to pay down the line of credit. That's all. Maybe you can't do that. I understand. I'm just trying to figure out what the bare minimum would be in order to do what we need to do.

Dr. Reese said, right. And -- and the budget as we recommended was what we took as a bare minimum approach in order to pay back the line of credit and not reduce service.

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, we got --

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, -- Commissioner Thomas and then Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very much interested in understanding the procedures myself because as has been said, we have so many citizens in our county that do not have cars. They hardly can make it to work, and there's a whole lot of factors in there, and I'm -- I'm concerned about the funds that we also owe Veolia and have you taken into account that, and I think my fellow Commissioner Stone, I think that was the question that you were asking.

Commissioner Stone said, right.

Commissioner Thomas said, will you be able to do that if we take this cut?

Dr. Reese said, may I?

Commissioner Stone said, well, my question just for clarification was out of this millage increase, what percentage of that millage increase would it take to pay down the line of credit. That's it. That's all I wanted to know.

CAT Board Chairman Liakakis said, well, let's see, we have our finance officer here and see if she can give you the amount because we weren't looking at that, and only two days ago did we get a copy what was proposed about this point 11, which was about a tenth of a mill.

Chairman Scott said, let me -- let me just say for the members of the Commission, what we're doing really, their request is if you look at the adjustment of the digest and what I'm proposing is about 50 percent of what CAT's requested. So you're going to generate about half the revenue that they were projecting in their budget, and -- and it simply means that they'll have to go find one point some million dollars in additional savings -- or -- or if they're able to expand services, generate additional revenue some of it will be off set by that.

Commissioner Stone said, mm-hmm.

Chairman Scott said, okay? So it -- I recognize it's a challenging budget, but I also recognize we have to take into consideration the citizens are not interested in paying more taxes. We recognize that. And -- and when we made this recommendation, we knew it was not going to fully fund everything that CAT would do, and that they would need to go find one point some odd million dollars in additional savings. And so that's -- that's really where we're at. And -- and so until CAT's Board gets together, and they actually go out and work the numbers I think before they can give you a --

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, -- a definite answer. But I'm sure they can talk ballpark figures.

Commissioner Stone said, what I was trying to do was avoid putting the burden back on Chatham County by simply allotting enough money in a millage increase to pay this line of credit down so that it doesn't ultimately fall on Chatham County. That was my concern.

Dr. Reese said, that -- that number you're looking for was 1.21, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center. Do you have anything else, Commissioner Thomas?

Commissioner Thomas said, no.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Center said, thank you very much.

Chairman Scott said, then Commissioner Holmes, I'm sorry. Commissioner Center, Commissioner Holmes, then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Center said, thank you very much Mr. Chairman and my fellow Commissioners, and let me also say in public that I'm very appreciative that CAT's CFO took time this week to visit me because I again wanted to dive -- delve into your figures and learn more about it. As I told you earlier when I voted for -- for the increase in -- in approving the line -- in the line of credit guarantee, I'm a supporter of public transit. I did my math in -- in answer to Commissioner Stone's question, and y'all, according to Mr. Reese, your proposed budget several weeks ago asked for \$3 million more basically from the County, and based on the motion I just made instead of .381, .141, it's about 41 percent, so I got 1.2 million, and basically, if I heard correctly, out of the 3 million, y'all are planning to pay 2.5 million a year toward the line of credit. You're only going to get the 1.2, so it would consume the whole line of credit plus you'd have to make some more savings to stay on the plan you had.

Dr. Reese said, that is correct, and given the fact that our budget is all relational, so a reduction in -- in the requested amount, also means there will be a reduction in passenger fairs, contract service, FTA contributions, so on and so forth. So it becomes a cumulative affect.

Commissioner Center said, I understand that, and I think that's the direction that you're getting from this Board that, you know, we're forcing you to look at those cuts. Let me say I personally would have just bitten the bullet, raised the millage rate, to pay that entire line of credit off and get it over with --

Commissioner Stone said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Center said, -- come back to you and say that's all you're getting now we're going to start with this new millage rate, and you're going to have to wait to cut it. Those votes don't exist, and that's why I'm supporting this motion today, but I -- I think you're getting the direction from this Board that you're going to have to seriously look at those cuts, and I appreciate what you're doing. I know it's hard, but I -- I just wanted you to know how I felt about it.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, I just want to make it clear --

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Kicklighter and Commissioner Farrell in that order.

Commissioner Holmes said, and for the record that the cut that you're asking the Board to take, I don't think nobody has the impact it's going to have on CAT operations, and -- and -- and what I mean by that is we're going to have to cut service, and the service that we look at if that happen, is on weekends. Now I -- I -- I -- we -- we -- we met and we talked about this, and something was mentioned about transportation on the weekend, how it provided to go back and forth from the house to the church. We -- we have a charge as CAT to provide transportation. It -- it's not up to us to look at the other entity to provide transportation. We are sworn in, and we was appointed to provide transportation for Chatham County. Now that's putting Chatham County where it's supposed to be. If you start slicing, decreasing, and if you looking at the people who use CAT on the weekends, if this does not go and we do not get that increase, it's going to cause - you know I hate to -- I've been in this city a long time, and I can hear church goers asking us why they can't get to church, and then I can hear the pastors of these churches asking why you not here? Why we have to provide? And then I can see the pastors coming down here and asking us what happened? Well, we may can find some answers, but I'm trying to avoid all that and back to my -- my colleague to my right, the question that you asked about how much money would it take, you know, we went through three options in our CAT Board meeting, and the option that we came up with was the option not to cut service but to maintain service and increase service, and the way -- what's being asked now for us to cut this, that mean the weekend service have to be cut. And if that weekend service is cut, I just don't understand how we're going to pick up the differences when you can easily pass what was asked of it. And I know it's a tough budget, but we're passing some other things with some tough -- tough -- tough issues. Yeah, I'm a team player, and I love being a team player, but I ain't no LeBron James. I ain't

making no last shot. I'm trying to make the free throw so we can move on in life and not trying to call a time out and explain it to someone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I love Coach, but there ain't nothing free.

Commissioner Holmes said, I understand. You don't have to tell me.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm kidding. I couldn't resist. I just want to put this in perspective a little bit. Doom, gloom every time budget increases are requested. I believe I overheard the former Chairman say there's 22,000 people in the area without transportation earlier.

Commissioner Thomas said, it's more than that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, CAT's request for \$19,871,722 budget, to put that in perspective, if the 20 -- if you divide the 22,000 people into \$19.8 million, we could buy each person, all 22,000 of them a \$903 moped, or we could pay for each one of the 22,000 people to take \$15 taxi rides 60.2 different times. Folks, we're talking a lot of money. Don't -- you know. That's it. Just put it in perspective. No -- nobody's going to go transportationless. There's -- there's a lot of money right there.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. Well that's a good sedge way Commissioner Kicklighter.

Chairman Scott said, mopeds to segways.

Commissioner Farrell said, that's right.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that was good.

Commissioner Farrell said, currently we're at a, you know, just for the fixed route transportation, we're at a \$15.3 million budget for Chatham Area Transit. A number of years ago, you know, I wanted, you know, I made the assumption that Chatham Area Transit was in the business of giving citizens a ride from point A to point B, and I would think that everybody would agree with me on that. So as a funding source, the -- the Commissioners sit here and -- and have to judiciously look after the best interest of the -- of the tax payers that we represent and of the citizens that we represent that are in need of a ride, and there's no doubt in my mind that there are many citizens in our county that -- that rely on this transportation, and it's a -- it's a -- something that they would find it difficult to live without. However, as a business person, I have to look at how efficiently money is being used to accomplish a particular task.

Commissioner Farrell said, so a number of years ago I had asked to get the passenger miles which is every passenger that rides on CAT goes a certain distance and they keep track of that, it's a passenger mile. It's a pretty easy concept, unit of measurement, and then the budget, and we divided the total budget which was fair box, roughly millage rate and federal grant money that was used towards the maintenance and operation and back then we came up with a figure of -- and I'll share that with you in just a moment, but for instance, the -- the federal government, the IRS right now if you use your car for transportation, they'll give you \$.55 a mile to pay for gasoline, your wear and tear, your insurance and that sort of thing. A number of years ago when we did the study, you would think that the bus system would be as efficient as that or maybe more efficient because you have a large bus with one operator carrying lots of people, that the passenger miles would probably be less than -- than what you would get reimbursed for using your own personal automobile. I was -- I was shocked that back then it was -- it turned out to be \$5.50 per passenger mile when you pay all the bills at Chatham Area Transit for fixed bus route. So every passenger that travels a mile was paying \$5.50. So recently I asked our financial staff to -- to look into it to see well where are we now? Are we getting -- is that number coming down because we're doing a better job or is it going up because of fuel costs or -- or whatever? So anyway the -- the numbers were crunched and we're currently right at \$6.00 a passenger mile, and if we pass the -- the proposed millage increase with -- and assuming there's not a whole lot of difference in how many people we carry, that goes up to \$6.52 a mile. And to put that into perspective, let's just go with the \$6.00 a mile is what it actually costs this organization to move a passenger one mile. So if you -- if you were at the beach and had to go to the airport, let's say that's 30 miles, and let's theoretically say the -- the bus actually ran from -- from -- a 30-mile route, it would actually cost Chatham Area Transit \$180 to move that passenger. Now they would pay \$1.50 for a one way ticket, which is a great deal for the passenger, but I have to scratch my said -- head and say wow, that's -- that's a lot of money to move a passenger a mile when you've got these big diesel buses and a whole fleet. So I thought to myself well what would it cost -- what's the most expensive way to get around, and it's probably an airline. So let's say you, you know, if you compared this to an organization that moves a lot of people around like a airline, say well what would it cost to get a first-class ticket to Atlanta that's 500 miles round trip. You know, let's just say \$1,000, well that would be \$2.00 a passenger mile, and that's -- that's a pretty high ticket.

It's probably more like \$500 to fly to Atlanta and back, you know, so that's probably \$1.00 a mile, and they're making a profit.

Commissioner Farrell said, my point being that it -- it's a -- we -- we've got a ton -- a lot of money invested in this organization and what -- what's getting down to the passenger at \$6.00 a mile is awfully expensive, so I find it very difficult to entertain a millage increase to throw more money at something that in my way of thinking as a business person is an awful lot of money. You know, Commissioner Kicklighter made a couple of examples of how expensive it is. We're just putting a lot of money towards a -- toward a community need and I just -- I can't see putting more money towards this situation. You know, for whatever reason the buses aren't run -- if they were, you know, teaming with people, that number would come down. So it appears to me that we have a great organization that's built up. I heard the word anticipation of lots of customers, so here's a great example of an organization that's anticipating a lot of people riding the buses and -- and apparently from these figures, we're -- we got all the money on the front end, but we're not packing the buses so the -- the passenger mile cost is through the roof at \$6.00 a mile. So I just wanted to point that out for the general public to have some perspective on how expensive this operation is to run and that I would at this time not entertain raising the millage subsidy for this particular service. Thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman?

Dr. Reese said, if -- if -- if I may address that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, I don't think it was a question.

Dr. Reese said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman? May I just make one more --

Chairman Scott said, Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, -- one more comment?

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Thomas said, just to reflect back. If you were listening earlier and -- and times before, when the Chatham Area Transit was at a point where they could maintain stability this Commission, not this particular sitting Commission, the Commissioners did not see a need to keep the line -- the millage rate as it was supposed to have been. When you no longer receive the same amount of money -- funding that you have had before and you have been cut, I mean to the dry bone, it's hard to pick up and do what you need to do. I commend this executive director. He's only been here for two -- two years?

Dr. Reese said, two and a half.

Commissioner Thomas said, two and a half years. The things that he has done to turn the transit system around in Chatham County has been enormous. Transit is for everybody. It's not just for the poor as I have been hearing. I'm going to tell it like it is. It's not just for those persons who cannot purchase a car or otherwise. I hear this every day. I even had a business person to say on yesterday we don't want the buses to stop here. I said, but you have the citizens who go into your stores and they buy your merchandise. So if we don't have the citizens to come to your stores and -- and make the purchases that they make, you can't survive either. So the point I'm trying to make is that -- let's not look at it from the standpoint that it is for those who could least afford anything. Transit is for everybody. And, again, the two years that you have been here, we are now moving in the direction that we need to move, and I hope that we will try to help get there by whatever means we need to do.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes.

Commissioner Holmes said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Holmes said, Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, yes.

Commissioner Holmes said, you mentioned that you went to the finance department and you crunched some numbers.

Commissioner Farrell said, you should have had a set of that in your mail last night.

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Farrell said, if -- if you didn't I can share it with you.

Commissioner Holmes said, and -- yeah, I've got that.

Commissioner Farrell said, okay.

Commissioner Holmes said, you went to Ms. Cramer?

Commissioner Farrell said, I went through the County Manager who went through the -- through the channels and got the information from the Chatham Area Transit.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. And I'm -- I'm just trying to -- because, you know, we have a finance department at CAT, and I'm wondering why it didn't go through her, but you went through another channel to get to --

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah, I'm not on the CAT Board anymore --

Commissioner Holmes said, yeah.

Commissioner Farrell said, so I felt it was more appropriate to ask my County Manager this question --

Commissioner Holmes said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Farrell said, since it directly affected the millage, and he can explain how they came up with the number, but that was my understanding.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay. Okay. And then you also mentioned that transportation is -- is -- you throwing money at it where it's not need, but I remember when we came on board, at the Trade Center we sat down and put our priorities in perspective. Recreation been our second bullet, and recreation became to be the second bullet because we take an assessment of the recreation facilities and it need --

Commissioner Farrell said, I agree.

Commissioner Holmes said, and from that need we put money into it. And when we put money into it, it's now one of our top priorities and our top facility. So I would like to see -- see us look at things in the same perspective. If it's need then if it's take finance to do it, the same thing we did with recreation, we should do it with transportation. I'm not going to get confrontational with that, but that's the way I look at things because ain't what I want, it's what this county need.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I -- I asked for time because Vice Chair Thomas brought up a good point and it -- it reminded me. I did not bring my figures with me, but I want everybody to know I asked for some history, and I was given a 20-year history of our millage rates, and in it was our -- our CAT rate was one of the columns. I'm sorry I didn't bring the paper, but I noticed this thing was 15 years the millage rate for CAT was 1.3 and since that time, this County Commission, different Boards have reduced that rate by 34 percent over the last 15 years, and the amount that CAT asked for in the original budget did not even bring it back up to that original 1.3. That amount I don't think was going to pass, but I am saying, I have seen this Commission, you know, Commission -- this County and the leaders of this County continuing to reduce the CAT rate and reduce the CAT rate and reduce the CAT rate. As it was pointed out earlier, gas prices go up, you got to buy gas. Maintenance rates go up, you got to have maintenance. We understand, and Mr. Reese, you're going to be on the spot because you asked for a certain amount, and you're not going to get the amount you asked for, and I'm hoping you will get the amount that -- that I moved for and we recommended. And -- and when I hear my good friend Commissioner Holmes talk about recreation versus transportation, and -- and not getting confrontational, in my mind, you know, it's one group of citizens who may use the recreation more and the one group of citizens who need the transportation, and we have to balance that and be sensitive to that, and it may be we just have to be a lot more efficient on how the 22,000 who absolutely need CAT can use it, and that's what we -- I think our vote's going to direct. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further discussion? I'm going to give CAT Chairman Pete Liakakis an opportunity to make some closing comments.

CAT Board Chairman Liakakis said, well -- well we've got a lot of citizens as was just mentioned, there are 22,000 people without transportation. If we have to reduce our budget, if we have to reduce that, and hundreds and hundreds, maybe thousand -- a few thousand people that we cut out the routes, they're going to be in a bad situation that they will not, you know, we can't expect people that are up in age or others to go to buy food, you know. They don't have the transportation to go get that. You've heard me say about the medical, they need to get medical assistance, and they have to have the bus system. They can't get there any other way unless they want to walk for hours. And then we've got people that go back and forth to work that need that, and that's the situation that we've got in the community, and it's not fair to them. As was mentioned, and I understand how people are looking at things and all, but all you got to do is look at the budget before. Our expenses have gone up tremendously since 15 years ago to begin with, and then, the budget has been reduced, because you can look at the fuel costs more. We've got a lot of buses still that need to be replaced. Some of them have over

200,000 miles. We've had to buy some new buses and all, and what our director has done, gone and worked with the federal transportation people to see about getting additional buses, but we're going to have to pay 20 percent for that. And I'm just looking to see if we can't be reasonable to help people in the community that are -- need this transportation because it places us in a compromising position, and we don't want to hurt people that are -- need this bus system. And -- and we've got a lot of other people that ride the buses too, as Commissioner Thomas mentioned that ride the bus system for many reasons now, and our ridership has increased. But I just want y'all to think about that because we have an obligation and the things that we need to do to help the people in the community that don't have transportation.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further discussion? The motion before us is to approve the recommendation -- the alternative recommendation that was recommended by the Chair. That's the motion before us.

Commissioner Holmes said, I -- I -- I have a motion, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Stone said, no, you can't.

Chairman Scott said, we got a motion and a second on the floor right now --

Commissioner Holmes said, okay, sir.

Chairman Scott said, that we're discussing, and we haven't dispensed of it.

Commissioner Stone said, I just have a comment real quickly. My concern is that -- and I'm not one to vote for tax increases, but if we don't do what the -- the -- raise it to the 1.0 mill, this line of credit will not get paid down, and ultimately the County will be holding the bag, and that's what concerns me. And so I feel like my hands are tied in this situation. We're going to have to -- this line of credit is going to have to be paid down. So I'm very concerned about that, and I know that we've got to keep this transportation system going. So, I feel between like a rock and a hard place, but I -- I -- I feel like I've got to support enough to pay down this line of credit. So I'll just say that.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes, you -- you said you wanted to make a motion, the parlimen -- really the procedure would be that you could make a substitute motion, but there's a motion on the floor already.

County Attorney Hart said, you need to dispose of the motion and then --

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make amend -- a substitute motion that our increase be the 1.5 instead of the one.

Chairman Scott said, is there a second for that?

County Attorney Hart said, 1.24.

Commissioner Holmes said, 1.24? The 1.24.

Chairman Scott said, is there a second? Hearing none, the substitute dies for the lack of a second. Now we have before us to raise the millage rate from .859 to one mill even which would generate roughly \$1.3 million. Hearing the motion, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes. The motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to adopt the Chairman's alternative millage levy resolution for tax year 2013 for the Chatham Area Transit Authority pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried in a 5-4 vote. Chairman Scott, Commissioners Stone, Center, Shabazz and Thomas voted yes. Commissioners Holmes, Farrell, Brady and Kicklighter voted no.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-4
AGENDA DATE: June 28 2013

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

ISSUE:

To adopt the millage levy resolution for Tax Year 2013 for the Chatham Area Transit Authority pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.

In addition, authorize the Chairman to sign Form PT-35 County Millage Rate Certification and Form PT 32.1 Computation of Millage Rate Rollback and Percentage Increase in Property Taxes for Tax Year 2013. The Forms are required to be certified and submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue for digest approval for tax year 2013.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County is required by law to adopt balanced annual budgets for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project length budgets can be adopted for Capital Improvements. A tax levy resolution must be submitted to the Georgia Department of Revenue. The Tax Assessor has scheduled delivery of the resolution during the week of July 22, 2013.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) Fund is shown as a proprietary fund within the County's financial reports. The CAT Board approved a budget of \$19,871,722 at its meeting held May 21, 2013. The County's budget resolution includes a budget for the CAT Fund of \$19,871,722.
2. Although the CAT Board separately approves the millage rate for the Transit District, the County Board of Commissioners must authorize the related millage levy resolution. The CAT Board recommended a millage rate of 1.24 mills at its meeting held May 21, 2013. The millage levy resolution herein reflects adoption of a millage levy of 1.24 mills.
3. If the millage rate is not adopted on June 28, 2013, the Board must revise the calendar and re-advertise at least fourteen days prior to millage adoption in accordance with state law.
4. The current year tax digest and five year levy history advertisement was published on June 13, 2013, in the *Savannah Morning News* as required by State law. The published net Chatham Area Transit Authority millage rate of 1.24 is greater than the rollback rate of .854 calculated by the Tax Assessor's office on Form PT 32.1. The rollback rate recaptures values lost from the reassessment of existing real property. The current millage is .859. The requested increase is .386 mills.
5. Budget and millage levy resolutions for the General Fund M&O and other funds are attached to separate staff reports.

FUNDING:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adoption of the millage levy resolution for the Chatham Area Transit Authority of 1.24 mills for Tax Year 2013. The related millage levy resolution is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law requires that annual budgets be adopted by the Board of Commissioners for its General Fund, Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds. Project-length budgets should be adopted for Capital Projects Funds. State law also requires that the Board adopt a tax levy resolution annually for submission of the digest to the State of Georgia, Department of Revenue (O.C.G.A. 48-5-302). Georgia law further specifies methods of publication of the County ad valorem tax rate (O.C.G.A. 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1).

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by Read DeHaven

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5. TO REQUEST THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING THE MILLAGE LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014.

Chairman Scott said, we have one item we want to dispose of and then we're going to take a 5-minute break. Item 5, and this will complete the -- the budget adoption. Item 5 is to request the Board approve a Resolution clarifying the millage levy for fiscal year July 1, 2013 through July [sic] 30, 2014.

County Manager Abolt said, keeps the auditor happy. Keeps the auditor happy.

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, there's no increase, we just --

County Manager Abolt said, just keep the auditor happy.

Commissioner Center said, so moved.

Commissioner Holmes said, second.

Commissioner Farrell said, is this something Commissioner Kicklighter would be in favor of?

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries. Let's take a five-minute recess and then we'll hear from Director Ragan.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Center moved to approve a resolution clarifying the millage levy for fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion and it carried in an 8-1 vote with Chairman Scott and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Center, Farrell, Shabazz, Brady and Thomas voting yes and Commissioner Kicklighter voting no.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-5
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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

ISSUE:

To request that the Board approve a Resolution clarifying the millage levy for fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

BACKGROUND:

On July 28, 2000, the County Commission approved the year 2000 Tax Levy. Prior to January 1, 2000, the adoption of the annual millage levy for the Chatham County government was for generating taxes for the County's fiscal year budget which was January 1 through December 31. With the change of the fiscal year effective in year 2000, it is necessary to clarify the tax year 2013 Millage Levy.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. A meeting was held on September 25, 2000, with the County Attorney, Richard Tindol with the audit firm Karp, Ronning & Tindol, P.C., and the Finance Director of the County to discuss the year 2000 Millage Levy and the funding for the short fiscal year.
2. The County Auditor, Richard Tindol, with the audit firm Karp, Ronning & Tindol, P.C., requested that the County Commission clarify the application of the taxes from year 2000 Millage Levy for the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000.
3. The attached Resolution is intended to clarify the Tax Levy for the tax year 2013.
4. The millage levy applies to all three taxing districts: the General Fund M&O, Special Service District Fund and Chatham Area Transit Fund.

FUNDING:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

POLICY ANALYSIS:

State law requires that the Board adopt a tax levy resolution annually for submission of the digest to the State of Georgia, Department of Revenue (Ga. Code 48-5-302).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board approve the attached Resolution.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

ISSUE:

To present a Continuing Resolution for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 for Board approval to enable the county government to operate until the Fiscal Year 2014 budget is adopted. This action is only required if the Board fails to adopt Fiscal Year 2014 budget resolutions.

BACKGROUND:

The County is required by O.C.G.A. 36-81-3 to adopt a balanced budget for each fiscal year. In the event that a budget is not adopted prior to July 1, 2013, the County will need a Continuing Resolution to legally operate in the beginning months of Fiscal Year 2014.

FACTS & FINDINGS:

1. The adoption of the Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 budget is currently scheduled for June 28, 2013.
2. A Continuing Resolution is legally required to enable the County to continue to fiscally operate if budget resolutions are not adopted by June 30, 2013.
3. The attached Continuing Resolution (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file) is provided for continuation in fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Operational line items would continue at fiscal 2013 levels.
4. Georgia law O.C.G.A. 36-81-3(b)(1) requires each unit of local government to adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the general fund, each special revenue fund and each debt service fund in use by the local government.

FUNDING:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file) Continuing Resolution. The motion to approve should state the fund(s) to be included in the Continuing Resolution.
2. Provide other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

O.C.G.A. 36-81-3(b)(1) provides for "Each unit of local government shall adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the General Fund, each Special Revenue Fund, and each debt service fund in use by the local government. The annual balanced budget shall be adopted by ordinance or resolution and administered in accordance with this article.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Read DeHaven

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[NOTE: At 12:15 the Board took a 5-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 12:20 and the following transpired:]

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7. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.

Chairman Scott said, Director Ragan.

Commissioner Holmes said, we got people missing.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah. We got a quorum.

Director D. Everett Ragan said, do we got a quorum?

Commissioner Holmes said, yeah. We got five.

Commissioner Thomas said, yeah.

Director Ragan said, good morning, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, good morning.

Director Ragan said, Commissioners, empty seats. It's always good to be here on the -- on budget Friday. It's -- I even packed a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, but it looks like now I'll be able to go have regular lunch instead.

Chairman Scott said, I think we're going to have to cut that sandwich in half.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Center said, 1.1.

Director Ragan said, just -- just -- just -- 1.1. Everything else been cut around here today, so -- but anyway, just a quick -- some quick numbers for you. We have initiated 125 investigations during the month of May. We closed out 49 of them. Looking at some of our numbers so far for the year, we're at -- right at \$964,000 of illegal narcotics that we have already -- we have already recovered. Our arrest dates so far is 201. Statistics, we had 42 total arrests for this -- month of May, recovered one firearm. Again, the highlighted statistics for each of the Commission Districts that we present at our weekly meetings and listing of the drug complaints. Again, you can see the extended hours that we -- we spend in the City of Savannah on the graph and the time that we spend in the precincts and the hours in the other municipalities. Just a couple of things I wanted to -- want to touch base on. One is a couple of the highlights, you can see in the significant events, the marijuana that was seized through the mail, and May 29th we did the -- we had special Indictments returned on like 14 individuals. These individuals were Chatham County, Bryan County, and Bulloch County. Based upon our past history with our methamphetamine one pot cooks investigations. The pill smurfing that -- that they have to do to -- to get the pills to make the -- the methamphetamine, we found that going to court with one or two Defendants was really -- would take up the time in court, some of the judges was well, it's just a pill case, and so what we have changed our strategy in doing is doing a more -- longer term investigation, rounding up all the pill smurfs, tying them into the local cook, and going and giving them all at one time on conspiracy to commit -- to manufacture methamphetamine.

Director Ragan said, in that group that we arrested were a couple out of Ellabell that were on bond from Bryan County on a -- on a prior CNT case. We got them again doing the methamphetamine in the house, three small children. And if you -- Mr. Abolt sent it out last night, my agent was extremely upset about the children being in the house with the methamphetamine being cooked that he took it a step farther working with DFACS in Bryan County and had the baby blankets, the car seats, the pacifier, and even the children tested, and they all came back positive for methamphetamine. Now you're talking about a five-year-old, a three-year-old, and a three-month-old. The rubber nipple on the pacifier was positive for methamphetamine, on the nipple. So, fortunately, since they were part of the conspiracy in distributing in Chatham County even though they lived in Ellabell, we're able to indict them here in Chatham County on these charges. They'll be picked up -- if they're not still in jail, I'm not sure, they'll be picked up, and we'll fight very hard for them to -- to get out on bond on this one. DFACS has already taken custody of the children, so they are -- have been removed from the home, so -- but that is -- that's one of the things that we're seeing.

Director Ragan said, one other comment I'd like to make and I'm not beating a dead horse in reference to the jail population is particularly with the federal prisoners, the -- the event that was done a couple weeks ago that we worked with ATF on, that was 32 federal prisoners indicted from Chatham County that they wound up having to put in Bulloch County. Out of the 23 that we indicted in November federally for drug charges, most of them had to be placed outside of Chatham County. However, now that we have the -- we have the contract here, we will be able to keep a pretty constant supply of federal inmates in -- into the county jail. They won't have to be going to Bulloch County, Liberty County, McIntosh County, and so there will be -- I think there will be more of an increased number of federal inmates -- federal prisoners in our jail than what we've seen in the last. And that's all I have. Thank you very much for your patience.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, may I?

Chairman Scott said, questions? Our Vice Chair --

Commissioner Thomas said, I don't have a question --

Chairman Scott said, -- Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, -- I'd just like to make several comments. First of all, I wanted to thank you --

Chairman Scott said, and then Commissioner Shabazz.

Commissioner Thomas said, -- and your staff for doing what you have done. This is outrageous, especially when it comes to children being exposed to this type of thing. My work with young people, the groups that I work with and other groups, we get a lot of this kind of information about what's going on here and there. Our children do not need to be exposed to those kinds of things. Several years ago I -- maybe not have been that long, but I served on a panel with NACo, National Association of Counties.

Director Ragan said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Thomas said, and we dealt with this same topic and other topics, and that's why it's very important that we prepare our children very early so that they will know how to protect themselves, and we need to work a little harder, especially with our younger people because it's something that is a continuation. It goes from one step to the next step, and until we can get people to understand what they're doing to these young people lives, we're going to be, you know, infiltrated with much, much more. So I commend you and staff and we need to do more of this, because there's a lot more out there, and our children just -- they just do not need to be exposed to that.

Director Ragan said, we have in the passed and -- and -- and will continue to do so, see that on several under cover operations, that individuals have brought children in car seats to buy drugs, sell drugs. When that happens, we always add on the child endangerment charges to those individuals. Bring them before the Court to let the Court know that these individuals have toddlers in car seats and everything else when they come to buy drugs or either to sell drugs.

Commissioner Thomas said, right. Usually when I go to my community meetings and so forth I try to also make them aware.

Director Ragan said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Thomas said, of things that are, you know, happening in the community so that they can be better prepared, not only for themselves, but for their neighbor, and, you know, stuff like that. And we have a lot of brochures that they can educate themselves on, so I would suggest that the other Commissioners, if you do not have access to that kind of information, we do have that information available, and when you go to your community meetings, just, you know, take them and let them just pick them up, and then maybe do a little talking about it a little bit. It would be very helpful if we all do it.

Commissioner Brady said, good idea.

Commissioner Thomas said, uh-huh.

Chairman Scott said, any further questions or comments? Commissioner Shabazz.

Commissioner Shabazz said, good afternoon.

Director Ragan said, good afternoon, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, Mr. Ragan, how are you doing? I wanted to ask you -- I commend you for the work that you're doing in alleviating our community of -- of vice and drugs, narcotics, because it -- it - it serves to -- as a regenerative source for our community.

Director Ragan said, yes.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and -- what I wanted to ask you is there -- is there any types of rules of engagement when you're going -- say for instance you're going on a raid, drug raid?

Director Ragan said, yes, sir. We have -- I guess the primary rule of engagement you're talking about is a search warrant at a particular house or something of that nature? Our rules of engagement?

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Director Ragan said, the number one rule is everything that we do to apply for that search warrant and execute that search warrant is under the constitution of the United States and State of Georgia. We have to satisfy all the -- all the necessary requirements to enter somebody's house --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Director Ragan said, -- seize that individual or seize drugs. We have certain policies in -- in place as to how we execute the warrant as far as the -- the -- the manner and the stacking or -- or what type of environment we have. We have -- we have briefings that are before every warrant that we execute with photographs of the residence, intelligence about the residence, who may be inside, if children may be inside. Each agent who is on an entry team is given a specific task as far as which room they go to, which -- how to secure the persons in that room. So yes, we are -- we are guided by not only these constitutions and -- of the United States and the State; however, policies and procedures that are -- we have in place. And being a certified -- being the only certified multi-jurisdictional task force -- narcotic agency in the State of Georgia, we have certain criteria to meet --

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Director Ragan said, -- with these policies.

Commissioner Shabazz said, say for instance, you know, there are a lot of rooming houses in -- in -- especially in my District, there's a lot of rooming houses.

Director Ragan said, yes.

Commissioner Shabazz said, whether they're legal or illegal, it's a lot of them there.

Director Ragan said, yes. It's also a lot of work for us. Generally if it's a one person household or -- or an identified apartment complex and apartment, once we have our probable cause, then we know exactly which one we're going to, okay?

Commissioner Shabazz said, right.

Director Ragan said, if we have an individual who is selling out of a rooming house and says -- meets my agent or meets an informant outside on the porch, then it makes it more difficult for us to get inside the room that he is in unless we see him come out his room or whatever. So it makes it more difficult for us, and they -- they are a pain in the foot, yes, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, so when you go in -- when you go inside -- when your agents go inside to seize whatever, they -- they take precaution in who's in there?

Director Ragan said, yes, sir. If we have --

Commissioner Shabazz said, okay.

Director Ragan said, -- we try to have the intelligence of who's in there, if there's small children in there, if there -- if there's -- what type of door they have, whether we have to use -- we can use a knock and talk and get in or whether we have to use a ram to get in, or we have to use a halogen tool to -- to pry off steel bars. Those are things that we have to take in -- in our pre-operation planning, and we'll -- we go prepared for all that, sir.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yeah, I know it's very dangerous work.

Director Ragan said, yes. It is, and we're a very dedicated group of young men and women who -- who conduct that.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. I think you answered all the questions.

Director Ragan said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

For information only.

AGENDA ITEM: IX-7

AGENDA DATE: June 28 2013

Chatham~Savannah
Counter Narcotics Team
May, 2013

NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations Initiated During the month	125
Total Number of Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	49

AGENCY ASSISTS

Date	Agency	Hours
5/7/13	U. S. Customs & Border—Training for Customs agents	2
5/8/13	Georgia Port Police—found meth on subject at the ports	4
5/9/13	Board of Education—Training for Campus Police	2
5/9/13	Pooler Police—subject in possession of Heroin	4
5/19/13	SCMPD—subject in possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute	4

DRUGS SEIZED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	7.10 Grams	\$710.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	1.70 Grams	\$170.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	6 Grams	\$600.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	178 Ounces	\$24,920.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	1 Grams	\$250.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	7 D/U	\$175.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	46 D/U	\$1,470.00
Hallucinogens	\$10.00 per gram *	0 Grams	\$0.00
Synthetic (Steroids)	\$10.00 per ml *	0 ml	\$0.00
Synthetic Marijuana	\$25.00 per gram*	0 Grams	\$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	1,201.6 Grams	\$120,160.00
Crack Cocaine	1,249.2 Grams	\$124,920.00
Methamphetamine	857.3 Grams	\$85,730.00
Marijuana	2,430.19 Ounces	\$340,227.00
Heroin	1,036 Grams	\$259,000.00
Ecstasy	114 D/U	\$2,850.00
Misc. Pills	1027 D/U	\$30,810.00
Hallucinogens	0 Grams	\$0.00
Synthetic Marijuana	15 Grams	\$375.00
Total Value		\$964,072.00

DRUGS PURCHASED			
Drug Type	Value	Approx. Weight	Approx. Total Value
Powder Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	5.40 Grams	\$540.00
Crack Cocaine	\$100 per gram*	1.50 Grams	\$150.00
Methamphetamine	\$100 per gram**	56.6 Grams	\$5,660.00
Marijuana	\$140 per ounce*	1.5 Ounces	\$210.00
Heroin	\$250 per gram*	.5 Grams	\$125.00
Ecstasy	\$25 Dosage Unit	2 D/U	\$50.00
Misc. Pills	\$30 Dosage Unit	12 D/U	\$360.00
Synthetic Marijuana	\$25 per gram	0 Grams	\$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	28

PERSONS ARRESTED	
Felony*	17
Felony Sales/Trafficking	20
Misdemeanor	1
Felony Non-Drug**	4
Total Arrests	42
Year To Date Totals	201

*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
5/7/13	SCMPD	POSS OF MARIJUANA W/INTENT TO DIST

DRUG COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED		
Drug Complaints	Received	Assigned
Project Log/Official Complaints	2	2
Hot Line / Call-In Complaints	11	11
Police Intel/ Outside Agencies	13	13
Crime Stopper Complaints	23	21
DRUG COMPLAINTS—YEAR TO DATE	192	186

Weekly Activity of Search Warrants, Arrests, Drug Complaint Noted by City and County Districts

CNT COMPSTAT REPORT APRIL 28 - MAY 04 2013						
Search Warrant / Consented Search						County District
Type	Date	Area	Location	Type/Quantity Drugs	# Arrest/Type	
S.W.	5/3/2013	PCT 3	661 EAST 32ND ST	(6) MDMA/ 2.0G CRACK	1 ADULT	2
Arrest						
Area	Date		Location	Name	Charge	
PCT 5	29-Apr-13		1935 E VICTORY DR	SNYDER, JIMMY	SALE OF C/S (OXYCODONE)	2
PCT 4	2-May-13		11900 WHITEBLUFF RD #1701	BIRD, GEORGE	SALE OF C/S (HEROIN)	1
PCT 4	2-May-13		11900 WHITEBLUFF RD #1701	POOLE, MELINDA	SALE OF C/S (HEROIN)	1
PCT 5	3-May-13		1944 CAUSTON BLUFF	FORDHAM, TONYA M.	POSS OC C/S (CRACK)	3
PCT 3	3-May-13		661 EAST 32ND ST	DUNBAR, SHAMIKA LATAY	OBSTRUCTION BY HINDERING	2
PCT 3	3-May-13		661 EAST 32ND ST	DUNBAR, SHANIKA LATOYA	OBSTRUCTION BY HINDERING	2
Drug Complaints						
Rec	Assigned		Location	Assigned To	Type	
28-Apr-13	30-Apr-13		E 35TH ST	SMITH, R	CRIMESTOPPERS	2
28-Apr-13	30-Apr-13		W 33RD	WRIGHT	CRIMESTOPPERS	2
28-Apr-13	30-Apr-13		E WALDBURG ST	TYLER	POLICE INTEL	2
29-Apr-13	30-Apr-13		RADICK DR	PHARMACEUTICAL	POLICE INTEL	1
30-Apr-13	30-Apr-13		WHITFIELD AVE #4	TYLER	CRIMESTOPPERS	1
30-Apr-13	20-Apr-13		NORTHGATE	BURNS	CRIMESTOPPERS	2
1-May-13	1-May-13		ROCKDALE ST	WILSON, T	CALL-IN	5
2-May-13	2-May-13		ABERCORN ST #2B & 9A	ABLE	CALL-IN	2
2-May-13	2-May-13		HUGHES AVE	BERGER	CALL-IN	3
2-May-13	2-May-13		NORTHGATE DR	BURNS	CRIMESTOPPERS	2
1-May-13	3-May-13		BURNSIDE ISLAND	BLASHFORD	PROJECT LOG	1
3-May-13	6-May-13		OGEECHEE RD #32	HALE	CRIMESTOPPERS	5
3-May-13	6-May-13		MAGNOLIA AVE #C	JOHNSON	CRIMESTOPPERS	5

2012 YTD	2012 YTD		Weekly Total	Year to Date
117	434	TOTAL DRUG ARREST	4	151
17	32	TOTAL NON-DRUG ARREST	2	12
164 / 129	487/432	DRUG COMPLAINT/ASSIGN	13 / 13	142 / 118
136	361	PHARMACY COMPLAINTS	2	107
18	46	FIREARMS RECOVERED	0	27
13	50	SEARCH WARRANTS	1	10

CNT COMPSTAT REPORT MAY 5 - MAY 11 2013						
Adoption(A) / Agency Assist(AA)						County District
Type	Date	Area	Location	Drugs Involved	# Arrest/Type	
A	7-May-13	PCT 5	1900 E. VICTORY DR	MARIJUANA / 2.2 LBS	1 ADULT	2
A	8-May-13	GPPD	GA PORTS	Meth / 1g	1 ADULT	3
A	9-May-13	PPD	160 POOLER PKWY	Heroin / .2g	Pending	7
Arrest						
Area	Date		Location	Name	Charge	
PCT 5	7-May-13	1900	E VICTORY DR	NIGHTINGALE, CARMELON	POSS W/ INTENT MARIJUANA	2
PCT 5	7-May-13	2022	DELESSEPS AVE	HIGHTOWER, REGINALD	SALE OF MARIJUANA	2
PCT 3	7-May-13	3518	ROSS RD	BROWN, ERIC N.	MANUFACTURING MARIJUANA	8
PCT 3	7-May-13	3518	ROSS RD	MUCKLOW, SAMANTHA	MANUFACTURING MARIJUANA	8
PCT 5	9-May-13		LAROCHE AVE/ BISMARCK ST	REYNOLDS, HASSAN J.	POSS COCAINE W/INTENT	3
Drug Complaints						
Rec	Assigned		Location	Assigned To	Type	
7-May-13	8-May-13		E PARK AVE	SLATE	POLICE INTEL	2
10-May-13	13-May-13		TURNBUCKLE CT	SCMPD	CRIMESTOPPERS	4
10-May-13	13-May-13		LOVE ST	PETROU	CRIMESTOPPERS	8
10-May-13	13-May-13		LOVE ST	PETROU	CRIMESTOPPERS	8
10-May-13	13-May-13		LOVE ST	PETROU	CRIMESTOPPERS	8
10-May-13	13-May-13		E 38TH ST	SMITH, R	CRIMESTOPPERS	2
10-May-13	13-May-13		CHEVIS RD	ABLE	CRIMESTOPPERS	6
10-May-13	13-May-13			NOT ASSIGNED	CRIMESTOPPERS	
10-May-13	13-May-13		CAROLAN #8	TYLER	CRIMESTOPPERS	1

2012		Weekly Total	Year to Date
434	TOTAL DRUG ARREST	5	156
32	TOTAL NON-DRUG ARREST	0	12
487/432	DRUG COMPLAINT/ASSIGN	9 / 8	151 / 126
361	PHARMACY COMPLAINTS	5	112

46	FIREARMS RECOVERED	0	27
50	SEARCH WARRANTS	0	10

CNT COMPSTAT REPORT MAY 12 - MAY 18 2013

Adoption(A) / Agency Assist(AA)						County District
Type	Date	Area	Location	Drugs Involved	# Arrest/Type	
A	18-May-13	PCT 2	1206 B W. BROAD CT	8.8LBS MARIJ / 21 BOT COUGH MED	1 ADULT	8
Arrest						
Area	Date	Fel /Misd	Location	Name	Charge	
PCT 3	14-May-13	FEL	W 44TH LN / MONTGOMERY ST	REEDER, ROBERT	POSS CRACK W/ INTENT	5
PCT 5	15-May-13	FEL	2820 SKIDAWAY RD	MACK, MAEGAN V.	POSS OF C/S (XANEX)	3
PCT 5	15-May-13	FEL	2820 SKIDWAY RD	RAY, ANTHONY J.	POSS OF C/S (OXYCODONE)	3
PCT 5	15-May-13	FEL	2820 SKIDWAY RD	PORTER, SCARLETT	CONTEMPT COURT	3
PCT 2	18-May-13	FEL	ALAMO PLAZA	FLOURNOY, JOHN	SALE OF C/S (CRACK)	8
PCT 3	18-May-13	FEL	1816 MONTGOMERY ST	LLOYDE, BRUCE	SALE OF MARIJUANA	2
Drug Complaints						
Date Rec	Assigned		Location	Assigned To	Type	
13-May-13	14-May-13		HABITAT DR	T. WILSON/WRIGHT	POLICE INTEL	6
13-May-13	14-May-13		WAYCROSS RD	T. WILSON/WRIGHT	POLICE INTEL	6
13-May-13	14-May-13		HABITAT DR	T. WILSON/WRIGHT	POLICE INTEL	6
13-May-13	14-May-13		ROCKINGHORSE LN	BLASHFORD	POLICE INTEL	7
15-May-13	16-May-13		TUTEN ST	BERGER	POLICE INTEL	3
17-May-13	17-May-13		HARDEN ST(Between 41st & 42nd)	SCMPD	CRIMESTOPPERS	5
17-May-13	17-May-13		E BOLTON ST	JARRIEL	CALL-IN	2
16-May-13	17-May-13		SCARBOROUGH	HALE	CRIMESTOPPERS	8

2012		Weekly Total	Year to Date
434	TOTAL DRUG ARREST	5	161
32	TOTAL NON-DRUG ARREST	1	13
487/432	DRUG COMPLAINT/ASSIGN	8 / 8	159 / 135
361	PHARMACY COMPLAINTS	4	116
46	FIREARMS RECOVERED	1	28
50	SEARCH WARRANTS	0	10

CNT COMPSTAT REPORT MAY 19 - MAY 25 2013

Search Warrant / Consented Search						County District
Type	Date	Area	Location	Drugs Involved	# Arrest/Type	
4 AMEND	25-May-13	P 3	602 B W. 36TH ST	COCAINE .5 / MARIJUANA 4.6	1 ADULT	3
Arrest						
Area	Date		Location	Name	Charge	
PCT 4	21-May-13	FEL	WHITEBLUFF RD / ABERCORN ST	DAVIS, ERIC	SALE OF C/S (ECSTASY)	1
PCT 4	22-May-13	FEL	30 CHATHAM ST	GREEN, PRINTIST	SALE OF C/S (ROXY)	1
PCT 3	22-May-13	FEL	411 W CONGRESS	MAXIM, RODNEY	SALE OF NON-CONTROLLED	3
PCT 1	22-May-13	FEL	5996 OGEECHEE RD	CLARK, KELLI	SALE OF NON-CONTROLLED	6
PCT 1	22-May-13	FEL	5996 OGEECHEE RD	MCDONALD, SANDRA	SALE OF NON-CONTROLLED	6
PCT 1	23-May-13	FEL	OGEECHEE FARMS	LANIGAN, TIMOTHY	SALE OF C/S (HEROIN)	6
PCT 3	24-May-13	MISD	VICTORY DR	BUTLER, COREY	POSS MARIJ LESS 1	2
PCT 3	24-May-13	FEL	317 W CONGRESS	MUSTAFA, NIDAL	DISTRIB COCAINE	3
PCT 4	25-May-13	FEL	HODGSON MEM	HILL, AQUEAL	POSS OF C/S (1
Drug Complaints						
Rec	Assigned		Location	Assigned To	Type	
21-May-13	21-May-13		MONTGOMERY ST	SCMPD R SMITH	CALL-IN	5
21-May-13	21-May-13		ARMSTRONG DR	JOHNSON	CALL-IN	2
21-May-13	21-May-13		AUGUSTA AVE #95D	BURNS	POLICE INTEL	8
20-May-13	22-May-13		COFFEE BLUFF RD	PETROU	PROJECT LOG	6
21-May-13	23-May-13		ST MORITZ CT	KROUSE	CRIMESTOPPERS	6
22-May-13	23-May-13		FERGUSON AVE	MERCER	CRIMESTOPPERS	1
22-May-13	24-May-13		STALEY AVE	SMITH, R	CRIMESTOPPERS	5
23-May-13	24-May-13		BRADLEY BLVD	SLATE	CRIMESTOPPERS	6
23-May-13	24-May-13		LEGRAND	TYLER	POLICE INTEL	2
23-May-13	24-May-13		QUACCO RD (Circle K)	NOT ASSIGNED	CRIMESTOPPERS	7
24-May-13	24-May-13		NORTHGATE DR	WILSON, T	CALL-IN	2
24-May-13	24-May-13		GARDEN CITY TRLR PK	NOT ASSIGNED	CRIMESTOPPERS	8
24-May-13	24-May-13		BUCKHALTER RD #19	WRIGHT	CRIMESTOPPERS	5
24-May-13	24-May-13		BUCKHALTER RD #19	WRIGHT	CRIMESTOPPERS	5
24-May-13	24-May-13		BUCKHALTER RD #19	WRIGHT	CRIMESTOPPERS	5
27-May-13	27-May-13		LIBERTY COUNTY	LIBERTY CO SO	CRIMESTOPPERS	

2012		Weekly Total	Year to Date
434	TOTAL DRUG ARREST	9	170
32	TOTAL NON-DRUG ARREST	0	13

487/432	DRUG COMPLAINT/ASSIGN	16 / 14	175 / 149
361	PHARMACY COMPLAINTS	3	119
46	FIREARMS RECOVERED	0	28
50	SEARCH WARRANTS	0	10

CNT COMPSTAT REPORT MAY 26 - JUNE 01 2013

Search Warrant / Consented Search						County District
Type	Date	Area	Location	Type/Quantity Drugs Involved	# Arrest/Type	
S.W.	29-May-13		4188 BRANTON RD (PEMBROKE)	METH/ Residue from Manufacture	4 / Adult	
S.W.	29-May-13		18 COUGAR LANE (BRYAN CO)	METH/ Residue from Manufacture	6 / Adult	
Arrest						
Area	Date	Fel /Misd	Location	Name	Charge	
PCT 3	28-May-13	FEL	MEDICAL ART CVS	HOSTI, HEATHER	OBT C/S BY FRAUD (HYDROCODONE)	1
Pembroke	28-May-13	FEL	4188 BRANTON RD (Pembroke)	BASHAM, SHARON	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Pembroke	28-May-13	FEL	4188 BRANTON RD (Pembroke)	BASHAM, THOMAS	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Pembroke	28-May-13	FEL	4188 BRANTON RD (Pembroke)	BASHAM, MELODIE	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Pembroke	28-May-13	FEL	4188 BRANTON RD (Pembroke)	BARNARD, DAVID	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Bulloch Co	28-May-13	FEL	BULLOCH COUNTY	DECKARD, BETTY	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Bryan Co	28-May-13	FEL	18 COUGAR LN (Bryan County)	WILLIAMS, LISA	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Bryan Co	28-May-13	FEL	18 COUGAR LN (Bryan County)	CARNEY, KIMBERLY	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Bryan Co	28-May-13	FEL	BRYAN COUNTY SO	DAVIS, CHRISTOPHER	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Bryan Co	28-May-13	FEL	BRYAN COUNTY SO	DUNN, HEATHER	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Bryan Co	28-May-13	FEL	BRYAN COUNTY SO	MITCHELL, HOPE	CONSPIRACY TO MANUF METH	
Pct 2	29-May-13	MISD	2 W. BAY ST	WILLIAMS, SHEAN	POSS MARIJUANA LESS 1 OZ	3
Pct 2	29-May-13	MISD	1123 LOUISVILLE RD	JONES, DONNA	POSS MARIJUANA LESS 1 OZ	8
Pct 3	29-May-13	FEL	32ND ST / JEFFERSON ST	CHANCE, CHAI	SALE OF C/S (CRACK)	2
Pct 3	30-May-13	FEL	MONTGOMERY ST/DERENNE AVE	BRAZIEL, DARTARIAN	TRAFFICKING MDMA	5
Pct 3	30-May-13	FEL	MONTGOMERY ST/DERENNE AVE	WELCH, GARY	TRAFFICKING MDMA	5
Pct 3	30-May-13	MISD	5106 OLD LOUISVILLE	WHITE, JESSICA	WARRANT SERVICE	8
Pct 4	31-May-13	FEL	8505 WATERS AVE	WALLACE, DELMONTE	SALE OF C/S (COCAINE)	1

Drug Complaints						County District
Date Rec	Assigned		Location	Assigned To	Type	
27-May-13	27-May-13		LIBERTY COUNTY	LIBERTY CO SO	CRIMESTOPPERS	
26-May-13	28-May-13		BORDEAUX LN	PETROU	POLICE INTEL	6
28-May-13	28-May-13		SEILER AVE	BLASHFORD	POLICE INTEL	2
28-May-13	28-May-13		JOHNNY MERCER BLVD/HWY 80	JOHNSON	POLICE INTEL	4
31-May-13	31-May-13		NORTH CIRCLE DR	BERGER	CALL-IN	7
31-May-13	31-May-13		NORTH CIRCLE DR	BERGER	CALL-IN	7
31-May-13	31-May-13		NORTH CIRCLE DR	BERGER	CALL-IN	7
31-May-13	31-May-13		KELLY DR	BERGER	CALL-IN	7
31-May-13	3-Jun-13		WATERS AVE "FLAJAE'S"	ABLE	POLICE INTEL	2
31-May-13	31-May-13		FORT ARGYLE RD	PENTECOST	CRIMESTOPPERS	7
31-May-13	31-May-13		W 32ND ST	SCMPD	CALL-IN	2
31-May-13	31-May-13		S MILLWARD RD	HALE	CRIMESTOPPERS	4
31-May-13	31-May-13		WHITE BLUFF #1106	NOT ASSIGNED	CRIMESTOPPERS	1
31-May-13	31-May-13		CAUSTON BLUFF RD	BURNS	CRIMESTOPPERS	3

YTD 2012	2012		Weekly Total	Year to Date
147	434	TOTAL DRUG ARREST	17	187
19	32	TOTAL NON-DRUG ARREST	1	14
208 / 136	487/432	DRUG COMPLAINT/ASSIGN	14 / 13	189 / 162
148	361	PHARMACY COMPLAINTS	5	124
20	46	FIREARMS RECOVERED	0	28
15	50	SEARCH WARRANTS	2	12

**DRUG INVESTIGATIONS
HOURS WORKED BY ZONE**

SCMPD – All Precincts	1,869
Municipalities (Unincorporated Chatham County—168 hours)	893
TOTAL	2,762

Administrative Hours	640
Case Administration	700
Pharmaceutical Diversions	480
Central Intelligence	480

Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)	212
Training	181
Agency Assist	16
Court Hours	73
	<hr/>
TOTAL	2,782
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Total Hours Worked	5,544

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. On May 7, 2013, SCMPD and CNT agents concluded an investigation involving a suspect having more than 2 pounds of marijuana mailed to him from California. The suspect attempted to pick the package up from the Post Office at McAlpin Square but did not have proper identification to match the name on the package. The suspect grabbed the package and fled from the scene. The SCMPD detectives made contact with the suspect in Thunderbolt and he was arrested.

2. On May 29, 2013, CNT agents concluded a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine investigation involving a family based in Pembroke, GA. Other members of this organization lived in Bulloch and Chatham Counties and had prior arrests for manufacturing methamphetamine. The suspects had purchased or attempted to purchase pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient to make methamphetamine, on more than 236 occasions within 17 months. These purchases were made in 12 counties in Georgia and 2 counties in South Carolina. On this date, CNT agents, assisted by the Bryan County Sheriff's office, Chatham County Sheriff's office, Bulloch County Sheriff's office, and the Tri-Circuit Task Force arrested 10 members of this organization for Conspiracy to Manufacture Methamphetamine.

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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 Scott said, the next we're on section X, which is on page 6, the Action Calendar, and I would like to entertain a motion 'cause we talked about it in the green room. No one signaled that they wanted to pull anything off. If -- is there anything --

Commissioner Stone said, I make a motion to approve --

Commissioner Center said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, -- the action calendar.

Chairman Scott said, so we'll approve it in its entirety. There's a motion. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The action -- all items on the Action Calendar are approved.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 6 and under Item 6, Items A through K. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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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 JUNE 14, 2013, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 14, 2013, as mailed. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 19, 2013.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period June 1, 2013 through June 19, 2013, in the amount of \$4,907,571. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A RIGHT OF WAY DEED AND EASEMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA TO CONSTRUCT ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE COASTAL GEORGIA BOTANICAL GARDEN.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved the Board to approve a request to execute a right of way deed and easements with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to construct entrance improvements at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Leon Davenport, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

ISSUE:

To approve and execute a Right of Way Deed and Easements with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to construct entrance improvements at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden.

BACKGROUND:

Staff developed construction plans to improve the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden's entrance on Canebrake Road. The Board of Regents must dedicate additional right of way and temporary construction easements to complete the improvements. Execution of the Right of Way Deed and Easements agreement complete the dedication.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The proposed improvements include adding a dedicated right turn lane on Canebrake Road, increasing the entrance width to accommodate buses, improving sight distance, drainage improvements and additional sidewalk to tie into the Basin Road bike path.
2. The required right of way area is 0.345 acres and the required temporary construction easement area is 0.415 acres.
3. When the project is completed, the temporary construction easement shall expire and maintenance responsibility will revert to the Board of Regents.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To approve and execute a Right of Way Deed and Easements with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to construct entrance improvements at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden.
2. To not approve execution of the Right of Way Deed and Easements.

FUNDING:

No funding is required.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The Board must approve intergovernmental agreements.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve Alternative 1.

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- 4. **REQUEST FROM THE TAX COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE TO WRITE OFF UNCOLLECTIBLE PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE PERIOD 2005 THROUGH 2012, WITH AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR THE BOARD TO INSTRUCT THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS NOT TO CREATE A 2013 ASSESSMENT AND/OR ANY SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SAME PROPERTIES.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved the Board to approve a request from the Tax Commissioner’s Office to write off uncollectible property taxes for the period 2005 through 2012, with an additional request for the Board to instruct the Board of Assessors not to create a 2013 assessment and/or any subsequent assessment of the same properties. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
THRU: Daniel T. Powers, Tax Commissioner
FROM: Theresa C. Harrelson, Special Projects Accountant

ISSUE:

To present a request to the Board of the Tax Commissioner’s Office to write off uncollectible Property Taxes for the period 2005 through 2012. With an additional request for them to instruct the Board of Assessors’ not to create a 2013 assessment and/or any subsequent assessment of the same properties.

BACKGROUND:

During the period 2005 through 2012 numerous personal property and mobile home tax accounts on the county’s Tax Digest remain uncollected. These accounts are uncollectible for many reasons such as the owner(s) cannot be located; the owner(s) have moved; the owner(s) are deceased; the business is no longer in operation or has no assets or a bankruptcy judgment has been paid less than 100 cents on the dollar. Therefore, the balance outstanding in these accounts cannot be collected.

The amount of uncollectible personal property and mobile home taxes determined thus far for the period of 2005 through 2012 total \$75,919.92 that consists of 89 receipts years as summarized:

Tax Year	No. Receipts	Total Tax Due	County Portion
2005	2	\$ 89.80	\$ 31.10
2006	3	\$ 8,880.11	\$ 2,839.29
2007	3	\$ 2,474.18	\$ 915.63
2008	4	\$ 5,467.47	\$ 2,534.94
2009	10	\$ 4,093.92	\$ 1,842.82
2010	21	\$ 20,116.48	\$ 9,961.12
2011	32	\$ 22,145.39	\$ 9,262.50
2012	14	\$ 12,652.57	\$ 4,996.42
	<u>89</u>	<u>\$ 75,919.92</u>	<u>\$ 32,383.82</u>

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. When yearly audits are performed by both External and State Auditors, as well as periodical audits by Internal Auditors, it has been their recommendation to write off these uncollectible accounts.
2. A copy of the schedule listing all the accounts is attached.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Tax Commissioner’s request to write off these uncollectible accounts.
2. Do not approve the Tax Commissioner’s request.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

By writing off these uncollectible personal property accounts the County will be working with an accurate Tax Digest and valid delinquent accounts receivable records.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

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- 5. **REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER AND WINE RETAIL LICENSE FOR 2013. PETITIONER: BIJAL VRAJESH PATEL, D/B/A OGEECHEE B.P., LLC, LOCATED AT 3717 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 5.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone moved for transfer of beer and wine retail license for 2013. Petitioner: Bijal Vrajesh Patel, d/b/a Ogeechee B.P., LLC, located at 3717 Ogeechee Road. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-5
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Gregori S. Anderson, Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services
Willie Lovett, Chief of Police

ISSUE:

Request for transfer of beer and wine retail license for 2013. Petitioner: **Bijal Vrajesh Patel d/b/a Ogeechee Road B.P., LLC** located at **3717 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, GA 31405.**

BACKGROUND:

Bijal Vrajesh Patel requests approval for transfer of beer and wine retail license in connection with the existing convenience store. 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 Inspector inspected the site for compliance and approved the facility.
- 3. The applicant and business meet the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.
- 4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

District 5

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

Gregori S. Anderson, CBO

Chief Willie Lovett

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Stone 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 Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Four (4) scanners for the Clerk of Superior Court	I.C.S.	CDW Government, Inc.	\$16,118	General Fund/M&O - Clerk of Superior Court
B. Tactical ballistic vest, helmets and rifle plates for C.N.T.	C.N.T.	GT Distributors of GA, Inc.	\$94,306	Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.
C. Change Order No. 1 to the professional service contract for the "as required instruction and supervision of youth under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	Mitchell Burley	\$14.00 per hour	Supervision Fees collected by Juvenile Court
D. Annual price agreements for the purchase of various chemicals, in the forms of liquid, pellets and granules for Chatham County Mosquito Control	Mosquito Control	•Adapco, Inc. •Clarke Mosquito Control Products •Univar USA •Target Specialty •AllPro Vector Group	Various	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
E. Contract for the installation of a coated foamed roof at the Chatham County Resource Education Center	Facilities Maintenance	Coating Application & Waterproofing Company	\$16,586	Solid Waste Restrict. Exp./Land Improvements - Others
F. Amend the annual revenue generating contract for concessions to include AMBUC Park and to void the lease agreement with the Savannah Chapter of the American Business Club	Parks and Recreation	Sweet Dreams Pavilion	(\$100) per month	Revenue generating
G. Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract for inmate supplies for the Chatham County Detention Center	Detention Center	Uniforms Manufacturing, Inc.	Various	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
H. Professional services contract for the design and engineering services for the Carver Heights Community Center Addition	Building and Safety	Lominack Kolman Smith Architects	\$48,620	SPLOST (2008-2014) - Carver Heights Community Center
I. Purchase and installation of law enforcement warning devices, prisoner transport barriers and vehicle markings to outfit new vehicles for the Detention Center and Sheriff's Office	•Detention Center •Sheriff's Office	West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc.	\$166,692	•General Fund/M&O - Sheriff •General Fund/M&O - Detention Center

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
J. Reimbursement for Emergency Notification System	Finance	City of Savannah	\$34,248	General Fund/M&O - Utilities
K. Engineering design services for repairs to McQueen's Island Trail	Public Works and Park Services	Thomas and Hutton Engineering	\$26,000	CIP - Parks and Recreation

AGENDA ITEM: X-6 A thru K
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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

ITEM A

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$16,118 purchase of four (4) Canon Scanners from CDW Government, Inc., for the Clerk of Superior Court.

BACKGROUND: The purchase of the Canon DR-G1100 scanner for Clerk of Superior Court is to work in conjunction with the document imaging system. The current scanners are at the end of life and it is best practice to have adequate equipment for the staff to function efficiently.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- These Canon DR-G1100 scanners are needed in order to scan documents more quickly. This model scanner scans at 100 pages per minute and are faster than the current scanners in use.
- Quotes were solicited and received from the following vendors:

CDW Government, Inc. Chicago, IL	\$16,118
GHA Technology, Inc. Phoenix, AZ	\$16,256
Staples Savannah, GA	\$17,644
- Staff believes that the total cost of \$16,118 for the purchase of scanners to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - Clerk of Superior Court
 (1002180 - 54.25001)

ALTERNATIVES:

- Board approval of a \$16,118 purchase of four (4) Canon Scanners from CDW Government, Inc., for the Clerk of Superior Court.
- Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary equipment for the using departments.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

I.C.S. APPROVAL _____
 NICK BATEY

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
 READ DEHAVEN

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$94,306 purchase of tactical ballistic vests, helmets and rifle plates from GT Distributors for C.N.T.

BACKGROUND: The Board approved at their meeting on February 8, 2013, the use of confiscated funds for the purchase of new tactical equipment.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Staff has conducted a year long training and evaluation of numerous tactical ballistic vest, helmets, and rifle plates and concluded that Pro Tech ballistic system met or exceeded the performance and quality of all other systems.

2. Bids were properly advertised and opened May 23, 2013. The bid response is as follows:

GT Distributors of GA, Inc. Rossville, GA	\$94,306
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Body Armor Outlet, LLC Windham, NH	\$97,688
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3. Staff believes the total cost of \$94,306 to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: Confiscated Funds - C.N.T.
(2103222 - 54.25001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$94,306 purchase of tactical ballistic vest, helmets and rifle plates from GT Distributors for C.N.T.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to provide the necessary equipment for law enforcement activities.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No.1, to the professional service contracts (PSC's), with the addition of Mitchell Burley at \$14.00 per hour for the "as required" instruction and supervision of youth under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court.

BACKGROUND: The work squad program, which has operated for 17 years, provides community service opportunities to children who have been ordered by Juvenile Court to perform community service as symbolic restitution or as a consequence or sanction for a violation. The Board approved the original contracts at their meeting on April 12, 2013.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The community service work program operates on Saturdays. There are nine (9) personnel currently providing professional services for the Juvenile Court under this contract PSC's. Work Squad supervision duties include: taking reasonable actions to assure the safety of the children and other persons with whom they come in contact, teaching the children the rules of the Work Squad, instructing them in the performance of the respective job assignments, overseeing the performance of their job assignments and duties, and performing light maintenance on Work Squad maintenance equipment on a periodic basis.

2. These contract services are provided by off-duty County employees serving in the capacity of "Independent Contractors" and as such will be provided IRS Form 1099-MISC from County Finance. The contracts with the service providers establish accountability for their performance and direction regarding avoidance of conflict of interest. The contracts make it clear that the only professional services for which payment can be made under the contract are those which are clearly beyond the duties performed as employees of the County.

3. Hourly Fees are based on years of experience at the following rates:

<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Less than 2 years	\$14.00
2 to 4 years	\$15.00
4 to 6 years	\$16.00
6 to 8 years	\$17.00
8 or more years	\$18.00
Work Squad Supervisor	\$23.00

FUNDING: Supervision Fees collected by Juvenile Court
(2179934 - 57.30101)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No.1, to the professional service contracts (PSC's), with the addition of Mitchell Burley at \$14.00 per hour for the "as required instruction and supervision of youth under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve Professional Services Contracts for "Independent Contractors" for Juvenile Community Service Work Program that serves the best of interest of County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM D

ISSUE: Request Board approval of annual price agreements for the purchase of various chemicals, in the forms of liquid, pellets and granules from Adapco, Inc., Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Univar USA, Target Specialty, and AllPro Vector Group for Chatham County Mosquito Control.

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

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Pricing quotations required the vendors to commit to holding firm the price for the purchase of the chemicals for a period of one (1) year.
2. The following vendors submitted quotes (see matrix for pricing on pages 13-16):
 - Adapco, Inc.
Sanford, FL
 - Clarke Mosquito Control Products
Roselle, IL
 - Univar USA, Inc.
Orlando, FL
 - Target Speciality
Houston, TX
 - All Pro Vector
Northville, MI
3. Staff recommends the five (5) vendors for the purchase of the various types of Altosid. The pricing offered by the five (5) vendors is the manufacturer fixed cost. Awarding to the five (5) vendors will enable staff to purchase from the vendor that would have the quickest delivery and would give staff several backup vendors for purchase.

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

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approve an annual price agreements for the purchase of various chemicals, in the forms of liquid, pellets and granules from Adapco, Inc., Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Univar USA, Target Specialty, and AllPro Vector Group for Chatham County Mosquito Control.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM E

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a \$16,586 contract with Coating Application & Waterproofing Company of St. Louis, MO, for the installation of a coated foamed roof at the Chatham County Resource Education Center.

BACKGROUND: The Resource Conservation Education Center roof has multiple leaks. On November 20, 2012, County requested bids to install a Thermoplastic Polyefin (TPO) roofing membrane. During the pre-bid process, the contractor noted that there were past structural issues. The project was postponed until staff further investigated structural issues that needed to be addressed before this roof project could continue. Staff later contacted Barnard Architect for design and service assistance. After further investigation of the roof structure, Barnard Architect recommended a coated formed roof. Staff feels the installation of the coated formed roof is a better and safer product for this roofing application and the County will also receive a 10 year weather tight warranty.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The new formed coating roof is to be installed at the Resources Conservation Education Center, 1321 Eisenhower Drive.
2. The total square footage for the roof coating is approximately 1,700.
3. The work is to include a 10 year warranty.
4. The solar panels on the existing roof will be removed and replaced by Southeastern AC Company.
5. The project was properly advertised and two (2) bids were received and opened on May 13, 2013. Bid responses as follows:

Coating Application & Waterproofing Co.	\$16,586
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St. Louis, MO

West Roofing Systems, Inc.	\$17,500
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La Grange, Ohio

6. Staff believes the low bid for the installation of the coated foamed roof to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: Solid Waste Restrict. Exp./Land Improvements - Others
(5405410 - 54.12009)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board's approval of \$16,586 to Coating Application & Waterproofing Company for installing a coated formed roof at the Chatham County Resource Conservation Education Center.
2. Provide staff other directions.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board's policy to approve purchases necessary for the operations of county departments.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM F

ISSUE: Request Board approval to amend the annual revenue generating contract with Sweet Dreams Pavilion for concessions to include AMBUC Park at a monthly revenue of \$100 per month and to void the lease agreement with the Savannah Chapter of the American Business Club (AMBUC).

BACKGROUND: Chatham County executed an agreement with the Ambuc Club during the early 1970s to develop a recreation area on Meridian Road now known as AMBUC Park which included the construction of a concession building. A portion of the proceeds generated from the concession sales were to be used to assist the County in maintaining the facility. Over recent years, the Club has been unable to provide the assistance that was required by the agreement because of the age and the decline of its members. Sweet Dreams Pavilion has agreed to add this to the list of locations that they provide concessions.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Ambuc Club is no longer able to live up to the terms of the agreement.
2. Sweet Dreams Pavilion operates under contract for concession services at several County facilities and will make available certain items for consumption to the public for a fee. Under the management by Sweet Dreams, the County will receive a portion of the revenues generated from the sales of concessions. Sweet Dreams, Inc., will be responsible for all cost pertaining to the concession equipment.
3. AMBUC Park is vital to the County's sports program.
4. Sweet Dreams has provided concessions at AMBUC for the past six (6) months.

FUNDING: Revenue generating

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to amend the annual revenue generating contract with Sweet Dreams Pavilion for concessions to include AMBUC Park at a monthly revenue of \$100 per month and to void the lease agreement with the Savannah Chapter of the American Business Club (AMBUC).
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve agreements that will provide a service to the Citizens of Chatham County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
MELVA SHARPE

ITEM G

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order No. 1, to the annual contract with Uniforms Manufacturing, Inc., for inmate supplies for the Chatham County Detention Center, due to a manufacturer's price increase.

BACKGROUND: At their meeting of July 6, 2012, the Board approved an annual contract to provide inmate supplies with Uniforms Manufacturing, Inc.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. New prices for items to be purchased from Uniform Manufacturing, Inc., for the Detention Center are as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Old Price</u>	<u>New Price</u>
Laundry Bags - UMI #LB2436WT	24 x 36	\$24.00/dz	\$25.00/dz
Inmate Jumpsuits, Orange - UMI #10-905	S-XL	\$130.68/dz	\$134.25/dz
	2X-3XL	\$137.16/dz	\$140.89/dz
	4X-6XL	\$144.12/dz	\$147.95/dz
	7X-8XL	\$151.00/dz	\$155.35/dz
	9X-10XL	\$159.00/dz	\$163.10/dz
Inmate Jumpsuits, (Navy, Dk Green, Tan) UMI #10-9	S-2XL	\$8.64/ea	\$10.30/ea

3X-4XL	\$10.60/ea	\$11.10/ea
5X-6XL	\$11.25/ea	\$11.80/ea
7X-10XL	\$12.00/ea	\$12.60/ea

2. The supplier has provided documentation of the manufacturer’s price increase. Staff believes the price increases to be fair and reasonable.

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
(1003326 - 53.17009)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order No. 1, to the annual contract with Uniforms Manufacturing, Inc., for inmate supplies for the Chatham County Detention Center, due to a manufacturer’s price increase.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve Change Orders to essential service contracts to recognize manufacturer’s price increase.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM H

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award a \$48,620 professional services contract to Lominack Kolman Smith Architects for the design and engineering services for the Carver Heights Community Center Addition.

BACKGROUND: This project is for the design and engineering for the Carver Heights Community Center Addition which is located at 921 Collat Avenue, Savannah, Georgia. The center addition will be an approximately 4,000 square foot area. The addition shall contain multi-purpose room to seat approximately 150-175 people, reading/game room, kitchen expansion, fitness/exercise room and toilets. Additional on-site parking shall be included to accommodate the occupants of the multi purpose addition.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Proposals were solicited for Design/Engineering Services for the Carver Heights Community Center Addition. Two (2) proposals were received. The proposals were scored by the evaluation committee and due to the closeness of the proposal scores, both firms were interviewed. After the interviews were scored, the fee proposals that were submitted by the two firms were opened and scored. After adding the scores from the proposal, interview and fee proposal, Lominack Kolman Smith Architects is the high scoring firm. (See attached matrix on page 17 for detailed scoring).
2. Staff finds the fee proposal submitted by Lominack Kolman Smith Architects to be fair and reasonable for the size and complexity of this project.

FUNDING: SPLOST (2008-2014) - Carver Heights Community Center
(32470357 - 52.12002 - 3244980)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award a \$48,620 professional services contract to Lominack Kolman Smith Architects for the design and engineering services for the Carver Heights Community Center Addition.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to award design contracts to the highest scoring firm.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM I

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$166,692 purchase and installation of law enforcement warning devices, prisoner transport barriers and vehicle markings from West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc., to outfit new vehicles for the Detention Center and Sheriff's Office.

BACKGROUND: On December 21, 2012, and May 24, 2013, the Board approved the purchase of vehicles for the Detention Center and Sheriff's Office.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The new vehicles will be outfitted with the appropriate lights, sirens, vehicle markings and various interior equipment necessary to make them ready for use.
2. Staff composed a list of the necessary components required for law enforcement activities. Request for Quotations were solicited and received on June 18, 2013. Response is as follows:

West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc. Savannah, GA	\$166,692
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3. The bid from West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc., includes \$143,892 for parts/supplies and \$22,800 for labor/installation. Funds are available in the current fiscal year budget to cover the parts and supplies. The additional funds necessary for installation will be taken from the FY2013/2014 budget as the installations occur.

FUNDING:

- General Fund/M&O - Sheriff
(1003300 - 54.22001) - \$15,000
- General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
(1003326 - 54.22001) - \$128,892

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$166,692 purchase and installation of law enforcement warning devices, prisoner transport barriers and vehicle markings from West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc., to outfit new vehicles for the Detention Center and Sheriff's Office.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of safety and warning devices for law enforcement vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM J

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$34,248 purchase order to reimburse the City of Savannah for one-half of the cost of the Emergency Notification System.

BACKGROUND: The County agreed to fund half the cost of a county-wide emergency notification system in coordination with the City of Savannah. The system is primarily used by CEMA and the Metro Police but available for use by other County departments with a need to notify the public directly of emergency situations and other events requiring notification. The system notifies citizens via phone and citizens may opt to receive cell phone notifications.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The system can selectively notify certain neighborhoods and areas without notifying unaffected citizens but can also be used to notify the entire County.
2. The City solicited proposals for the system and County staff participated in the selection process. The award was made to Global Connect at an annual cost of \$34,248.
3. The City pays Global Connect and invoices the County. The County has not yet paid for 2011 and 2012. The County's half of the cost amounts to \$34,248 for the two year period.

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - Utilities
(1001569 – 53.12901)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$34,248 purchase order to reimburse the City of Savannah for one-half of the cost of the Emergency Notification System.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to share the cost of systems when it is more cost effective to do so.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM K

ISSUE: Request Board approval of a \$26,000 contract for engineering design services for repairs to McQueen's Island Trail with Thomas & Hutton Engineering for Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: The McQueen's Island Trail is a 5.8 mile Rails to Trails project initially constructed in 1996. Beginning in 2007 a series of spring tides caused severe erosion. The trail continues to be subjected to significant erosion from both wave and tidal actions. Staff has on multiple occasions replaced eroded stone in the washouts only to have it erode at the next higher than average tide. Once the trail is breached, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) has advised that they will not permit re-establishment and the trail would then require a bridge. The extreme western portion from its original termini back to the bridge has been breached and is closed for the safety of the public.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Thomas & Hutton provided engineering services for the design, permitting and installation of the oyster shell bag rip-rap project in 2009 to stabilize the erosion along the north slope of the McQueen's Island Trail. The oyster bag stabilization project was an environmentally-sensitive approach to return local oyster shells into the environment supported by both the GA DNR and the University of Georgia. The project in 2009 cost approximately \$350,000 utilizing the extent of the funds available. In addition, from time to time Thomas & Hutton provides staff engineering consultations for maintenance activities along the McQueen's Island Trail at no cost to the County.
2. Any project along the trail must be reviewed and approved by the GA DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because of the pristine salt marsh location.
3. Staff recommends the County continue to use Thomas & Hutton for engineering services on the McQueen's Island Trail because of their historical knowledge of previous trail repairs and maintenance and because of their working history with the GA DNR specifically on this trail.
4. In anticipation of capital funds in the amount of \$295,000 for FY 2014, staff requested Thomas and Hutton to provide a recommendation to optimize this funding at the most critical area. Thomas and Hutton recommends concentrating on the trail east of the entrance. This area is the most exposed, has the steepest slope to the river and has lost most of the vegetative protection from the high tide. They recommend construction of an elevated timber bridge with some slope stabilization over the eroded length and allow the erosion to continue on the trail underneath eventually breaching the trail causeway. The bridge structure would need to be permitted with GA DNR and be capable of supporting heavy maintenance equipment. Their proposal is in three (3) phases; design, permitting and construction monitoring for a total fee of \$26,000. Staff recommends approval of the proposal.
5. This project will address the immediate need to keep the trail open to the public from inevitable breaching. Additional funding will be needed to address continued erosion along other portions of the trail.

FUNDING: CIP - Parks and Recreation
(3506100 - 52.22001 - 35070500)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$26,000 contract for engineering design services for repairs to McQueen's Island Trail with Thomas & Hutton Engineering for Public Works and Park Services.
2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of services necessary for ensuring the safety of the public.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL _____
CHRIS MORRIS

PREPARED BY _____
PURCHASING AGENT

=====

XI. FIRST READINGS

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

Chairman Scott said, okay. We have no First Readers.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

See Additional Second Readings Under Tabled Items

1. **TO AMEND THE CHATHAM COUNTY RETIREMENT ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE RETIREMENT AGE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND CHANGE THE VESTING REQUIREMENT FROM 5 YEARS TO 10 YEARS FOR EMPLOYEES HIRED AFTER JULY 1, 2013.**

Chairman Scott said, Section XII, page 10, we do have some Second Readers. To Amend the Chatham County Retirement Ordinance to change the retirement age for law enforcement personnel and to change vesting requirement from five to ten years for employees hired after July 1st, 2013. This is an attempt to get a handle on some of our retirement fund cost. This is a Second Reader. At this time --

Commissioner Center said, does it need a motion?

Chairman Scott said, it's eligible for a motion for adoption.

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved.

Commissioner Brady said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second to -- that we adopt Item 1 that's just been read for the second time. All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to amend the Chatham County Retirement Ordinance to change the retirement age for law enforcement personnel and to change vesting requirement from five to ten years for employees hired after July 1, 2013. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-1~~
AGENDA DATE: ~~June 14, 2013~~
AGENDA ITEM: **XII-1**
AGENDA DATE: **June 28, 2013**

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

ISSUE:

To request Board approval to amend the Chatham County Retirement Plan Ordinance to change retirement age for law enforcement personnel and change the vesting schedule from five (5) years to ten (10) years for employees hired after July 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND:

Chatham County provides a benefit for individuals who meet certain criteria as defined by the County's Pension Plan Ordinance, which was established in 1972. The current ordinance requires an individual to be employed and make required contributions for five (5) consecutive years to be vested in the Plan. Several members of the County Commission have suggested that the vesting schedule be increased to ten (10) years, similar to the requirement for employees of the State of Georgia covered by the State's Pension Plan. The Sheriff has also requested that a change be made to the Plan that affects law enforcement personnel.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. On May 21, the Pension Board voted to amend the Pension Plan Ordinance to require that all employees hired after July 1, 2013 have at least ten (10) years of credited service to be fully vested in the County's Retirement Plan. The Pension Board also voted to change the early and regular retirement age for law enforcement personnel to mirror the requirement in the Plan for general employees. County staff is in the process of recommending to the Board of Commissioners that the Health Plan be amended to include a requirement that an employee must work a minimum of ten (10) years to be covered by the County's Retiree Health Plan.
2. Besides the Pension, the County provides Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) to retired employees and their dependents. These benefits include health and life insurance. Prior to 2008, the County paid these benefits as claims and expenses during the budget year. Changes in accounting standards required the County to establish a fund where money is set aside for future payments for OPEB.
3. The County is required to make annual contributions to this fund. In this current budget, there is approximately \$2,800 allocated per employee. The County is currently funding approximately 60% of its annual actuarially calculated contribution. An analysis from Hay Group, our Pension Actuary, estimates that changing the vesting threshold from five (5) years to ten (10) year for post retirement benefits, would reduce the County's OPEB liability by approximately \$1.6 million in Fiscal 2014.
4. Currently, law enforcement personnel can take an early retirement with reduced benefits at age fifty (50) with fifteen (15) years of credited service. Law enforcement personnel can take a normal retirement once they reach the age of fifty-five (55) with at least five (5) years of credited service. This amendment, if approved, would require law enforcement employees who are hired after July 1, 2013, to reach the age of fifty-five (55) with ten (10) years of credited service for early retirement and age sixty-two (62) with at least ten (10) years of credited service for normal retirement. On the Pension side, the savings from changing the threshold will be relatively small in the short term; however, they are expected to be greater in future years.
5. The Pension Plan was amended in 1989 to change the vesting requirements from ten (10) years to five (5) years. Staff surveyed several jurisdictions around the State to gauge what their vesting requirements were under their Pension Plan. Attachment I contains the results of that survey. Staff is recommending that this change be effective for individuals hired after July 1, 2013.
6. Attachment II contains a copy of the proposed amendment to the Pension Plan Ordinance that changes the retirement age for law enforcement personnel and the vesting schedule.

FUNDING:

No additional funding is required. The Chatham County Retirement Plan is currently funded at the level required by the State of Georgia. This change will result in a savings to the Plan in future years.

ALTERNATIVE:

1. Approve amendment the Chatham County Retirement Plan Ordinance to change retirement age for law enforcement personnel and change the vesting schedule from five (5) years to ten (10) years for employees hired after July 1, 2013.
2. Do not amend the Chatham County Pension Plan Ordinance.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The County has the authority to adopt a new Ordinance and/or revise the Chatham County Employees' Retirement Plan. The Chatham County Pension Board has such powers as are necessary for the proper administration of the Plan.

Attachment I

Vesting Schedule Poll

County	Vesting Period
Chatham	5
Athens-Clarke	10
Bibb	10
DeKalb	10
Fayette	5
Fulton	10
Gwinnett	5

City	Vesting Period
Macon	5
Brunswick	5
Columbus	10
Savannah	5
Valdosta	10
State	Vesting Period
Georgia	10

Attachment II

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM

AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CHATHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN TO MODIFY THE EARLY RETIREMENT DATE AND NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT HIRED ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2013, AND VESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS HIRED ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2013.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners in regular session that the Chatham County Employees' Retirement Plan is hereby amended as follows:

1. Section 1.14, "Early Retirement Date", is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and substituting therefor the following:

"(a) for any Participant who is a Law Enforcement Officer, the first day of the calendar month coinciding with or next following the day on which the Participant (1) attains age 55 (age 50 for a Law Enforcement Officer hired prior to July 1, 2013), (2) is credited with at least 10 Years of Credited Service (15 Years of Credited Service for a Law Enforcement Officer hired prior to July 1, 2013), and (3) ceases to be employed by the County on or after his or her attainment of such age and Years of Credited Service, but before attainment of Normal Retirement Age;"

2. Section 1.16, "Normal Retirement Age", is amended by deleting subsection (a) in its entirety and substituting therefor the following:

"(a) for any Participant who is a Law Enforcement Officer, the date upon which he or she attains age 62 (age 55 for a Law Enforcement Officer hired prior to July 1, 2013);"

3. Section 5.1, "Nonforfeitable Amounts", is amended by adding the following new subsection (c), which shall read as follows:

"(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Participant who is hired on or after July 1, 2013, shall have a 100% vested or nonforfeitable interest in his or her Accrued Benefit when he or she has ten (10) Years of Credited Service. A Participant who is hired on or after July 1, 2013, and has fewer than ten (10) Years of Credited Service shall have no nonforfeitable interest in his or her Accrued Benefit. However, if such a Participant terminates employment with

fewer than ten (10) Years of Credited Service, he or she shall be entitled to receive a distribution equal to his or her Required Contributions, plus Credited Interest in accordance with section 13.4.”

4. This Amendment shall be effective as of July 1, 2013.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, this _____ day of June 2013.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

Albert J. Scott, Chairman

Clerk of Commission

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- 2. CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE HAS AN EXISTING USE ENTITLED CULTURAL FACILITY (Use 26), WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A DEFINITION IN THE DEFINITION SECTION AND DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE WHETHER ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED. THE PROPOSED STAFF-INITIATED TEXT AMENDMENT SEEKS TO ADD THE DEFINITION FOR CULTURAL FACILITIES TO ALLOW THE FACILITY RENTALS AND TO CLARIFY WHERE THESE FACILITIES MAY SERVE ALCOHOL SUBJECT TO ALCOHOL LICENSING AND OTHER REGULATIONS. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL. TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE RE: SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 4-5.2 AND B&I USE SCHEDULE USE 26 CULTURAL FACILITIES. FILE NO: Z-13042900029-1.**

Chairman Scott said, the second item under Second Readers is the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance has an existing use entitled Cultural Facility, which does not have a definition in the definition section and does not specify [sic] state whether alcohol is permitted. The proposed staff-initiated text amendment seeks to add an additional cultural facilities to allow the facility rentals and to clarify where those facilities may serve alcohol subject to alcohol license and other regulations. The staff recommended approve it -- the text amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, reference Section 2, Definition and Section 4-5.2 and B&I Use Schedule Use 26. File Number Z-130429-00029-1.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve.

Commissioner Stone said, wait a minute. Wait a minute. Well, I just had comments I wanted to make before the motion because it might affect the motion.

Chairman Scott said, there's some comments, so before we --

Commissioner Stone said, okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I attended the --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, -- MPC meeting where this was being discussed because it was brought up in reference to the Pin Point Museum which is in my District, and much to I guess my surprise at the MPC meeting, I -- I have no problem with this being approved with some time restrictions because this is in a residential neighborhood. For whatever reason the MPC chose not to put any time restrictions on this whatsoever which is a little bit concerning to me that if you're going to be serving alcohol and live music and what have you in a residential area, that there maybe should be some time restrictions. So I -- I -- I'm a little bit concerned about -- I'm fine with the approval because residents seem fine with it, but the hours of operation scare me, that at 3:00 or 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning I don't know that the residents really should be subjected to that. So, I just feel like I needed to bring that up.

Chairman Scott said, I will say that although you're making it possible, they will still have to come get a license to serve the alcohol for -- for each event whenever they're going to do so.

County Attorney Hart said, it would be a temporary permit.

Commissioner Stone said, I understand that but there would be no time restrictions on this, and I -- I -- I feel like especially because there's one resident directly behind the Pin Point Museum that -- and I think what they're

looking to do or -- and -- and I know they'll speak on this is wedding receptions and those kind of things, but I just -- I don't feel comfortable saying you can do this all night. So.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Legal question.

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, with the way this is worded -- with the way this is actually worded, would the governing body have the opportunity once the applicant appeared in front of us for the permit to implement time restrictions if we should so choose?

County Attorney Hart said, absolutely.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. With --

County Attorney Hart said, it could be Board policy, you know, we don't do anything after 10:00 or 11:00 or whatever it is.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but each -- this allows individual action per applicant on time matters also, right?

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, with that -- with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will call for approval.

Commissioner Stone said, can -- can -- okay. I -- I just wanted to hear from the gentleman that sat through the whole meeting.

Chairman Scott said, we'll -- we'll get to the discussion phase of it. We got a motion, but we haven't gotten a second.

Commissioner Stone said, so --

Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Commissioner Stone said, so, wait a minute, now that I understand this, they're going to come before us each time --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, don't wait a minute my motion.

Chairman Scott said, wait a minute. We've got a motion and a second. Now discussion. Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, okay. I'm sorry. I'm -- I just want to make sure I understand this. So for this particular amendment, will require them each time they need a liquor license to come before the Commission? Is that correct?

County Attorney Hart said, if they -- unless they get a catering license. With a catering license you don't have to do that.

Commissioner Stone said, see, I -- I -- I just want to make sure we're not --

Chairman Scott said, even a catering license, that has to be approved.

County Attorney Hart said, yeah, but you go through the same process. They --

Commissioner Stone said, so every time they have an event they have to come before us?

County Attorney Hart said, if they're going to serve liquor, yes. Unless they get a license under the, you know, become a caterer, which I would assume they're probably going to do.

Commissioner Stone said, so that -- then they wouldn't have to come before us and -- and there could be no time restrictions as far as --

County Attorney Hart said, the simplest way to handle this is to have the Board adopt the ordinance and request the governing authority to set a time limit. By that I mean their board as to how late the facility will stay open.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

County Attorney Hart said, and, you know, I don't know if they're prepared to speak to that or not.

Commissioner Stone said, I mean because --

County Attorney Hart said, I'm -- I'm somewhat hesitant to set a time limit within this ordinance because you're digging yourself into saying everybody in the whole wide world has to live by that -- that number, and there -- there probably are facilities and situations where it really wouldn't matter.

Commissioner Stone said, but wait a minute. This is residential.

Chairman Scott said, as a council though, we could set a time when they came for the catering license if they came for it.

County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Stone said, so this -- but this text amendment is county-wide, so this would apply to any residential area.

County Attorney Hart said, that's correct.

Mr. Marcus Lotson said, if -- if I may, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Stone said, so I want y'all to realize that.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Mr. Lotson said, this would not apply to residential zoning districts.

Commissioner Stone said, then -- I thought that's what this was for.

Mr. Lotson said, there are a number of zoning districts in which the cultural facilities uses currently are allowed, none of those are residential zoning districts.

Commissioner Stone said, but this one is.

Mr. Lotson said, no. We're not requesting or recommending that any additional zoning districts be added to where cultural facilities are currently allowed. The currently allowed zoning districts are not residential.

Commissioner Stone said, the Pin Point Museum is located in a residential area.

Mr. Lotson said, it is in a residential area, however, the zoning district in which that -- the particular property that the museum is on is not a residential zoning classification.

Commissioner Center said, it's going to affect that.

Chairman Scott said, you go through a residential area to get to it.

Mr. Lotson said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Stone said, I'm -- I'm just trying to get information, this is a little bit --

Mr. Lotson said, and there are adjacent residences.

Commissioner Stone said, I mean this is a strictly residential area where this museum is.

Mr. Lotson said, right.

Commissioner Stone said, strictly residential.

Mr. Lotson said, yes.

Commissioner Stone said, and so I -- I just want to make sure that this text amendment does not affect other areas of the county in the same way because if you're saying you're not going to put any time restrictions on it, I'm just -- I just want to make sure I know what we're doing here.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

Commissioner Stone said, what is the zoning for that area?

Mr. Lotson said, the zoning for that particular piece of property is W-I, which is water front. The other zoning districts that cultural facilities are currently allowed in are all commercial zoning districts.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I -- may I, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, yes, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to assure Commissioner Stone that should a problem come out of this that I'll support you whole heartedly at --

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, -- at looking at each individual place and establishing a time frame should anyone abuse it. And -- and I believe we could address it if it's abused.

Commissioner Stone said, that's all. I -- I don't want a problem -- to create a problem in a residential area. That's all I'm worried about.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Smith, who represents the facility has -- has indicated that he's willing to clarify their position on that. That may relieve this issue entirely.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Mr. Scott Smith said, thank you for --

Chairman Scott said, please identify yourself.

Mr. Smith said, oh, I'm sorry. Scott W. Smith. I'm the CEO and President of the Coastal Heritage Society, and we manage the Pin Point Heritage Museum, and the Savannah History Museum and Fort Jackson, and the Georgia State Railroad Museum, and the Savannah Children's Museum. I can't remember if I mentioned that. But one of the keys to success for this type of site is to be able to make it available after hours for social group use with an education content, but also a social content. We've probably done 3,000 events like this in the last 30 years. The time restriction for an adult type of event of 8:00 a.m. to midnight is not limiting us in any way. I don't have a problem with that, but if the County Attorney suggests that we bind this site with a rule by the Board of Directors, I can assure you they would support that.

Commissioner Stone said, okay.

Mr. Smith said, I can only think of only one only type of program that's done after midnight at any of our cultural facilities, and that's student over night camps, and they're an entirely different sort of event then a wedding reception, where you're having trouble to get them out the door kind of thing. But we would very much like to move ahead with this, and to secure the proper licensing. We currently hold three alcohol licenses and the ones we get are the same type as a restaurant would have, and there's the county level and the state level for that, and there's federal compliance too, and we -- that process cannot begin until something like -- till we come up with a resolution in this issue.

Commissioner Stone said, well if you're -- I mean certainly I want to do what's in the best interest and what you all are doing is wonderful, and I applaud you, and I really appreciate the fact that you're mindful of this and are willing to -- to keep the hours till midnight, but I will yield to whatever the rest of the Board wants to do. I just -- I just did not want to create a problem within the neighborhood.

Mr. Smith said, and we certainly don't wish to either.

Commissioner Stone said, I know you don't, and I'll --

Commissioner Kicklighter said, now I'm a little leery 'cause I can tell this gentleman's a partier. No, I'm just kidding.

Mr. Smith said, I party at home.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, oh yeah. Yeah.

Chairman Scott said, any further discussion? Hearing none, the motion before us is that we approve the changes in the ordinance that's been read the second time. All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries. The changes are approved.

Mr. Smith said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the text amendment seeking to add the definition for cultural facilities to allow the facility rentals and to clarify where these facilities may serve alcohol subject to alcohol licensing and other regulations. Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: ~~XI-2~~

AGENDA DATE: ~~June 14, 2013~~

AGENDA ITEM: **XII-2**

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

"Planning the Future – Respecting the Past"

----- **MEMORANDUM** -----

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THRU: R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:

Text Amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance
Re: Section 2 Definitions and Section 4-5.2 B&I Use Schedule Use 26 Cultural Facilities
The MPC recommends approval. File No. Z-130429-00029-1

ISSUE:

The Chatham County Zoning Ordinance has an existing use entitled Cultural Facility (Use 26) which does not have a definition in the Definition Section and does not specifically state whether alcohol is permitted. The proposed staff initiated text amendment seeks to add a definition for cultural facilities to allow for facility rentals, and to clarify where these facilities may serve alcohol, subject to alcohol licensing and other regulations.

BACKGROUND:

The Pin Point Heritage Museum initially brought the lack of clarity in the zoning ordinance to staff's attention when they sought to serve alcohol at the facility and it was determined that alcohol was not permitted at cultural facilities. Staff further recognized a deficiency in the existing ordinance as it does not currently have a definition for cultural facilities and has no provision to allow for facility rentals.

FINDINGS:

1. Cultural facilities are permitted in the following districts: A-T (Agriculture Tourist), B (Business), B-C (Community Business), B-N (Neighborhood Business), B-N-1 (Neighborhood Business Limited), I-P (Institutional Professional), PSC (Planned Shopping Center), T-B (Tourist Business), W-I (Waterfront Industry).

2. While there is no definition of "cultural facilities" in the definition section, in the Use Schedule, Use 26 cultural facilities are further explained as, "including art galleries, legitimate theater, libraries, and similar facilities."

The Planning Commission recommends adding a definition of 2-14E Cultural Facilities to read, "Facilities which serve as art galleries, museums, legitimate theater, libraries, and similar facilities. These facilities may also have an accessory use as a rental facility."

3. Because it has been determined that the serving of alcohol is not specifically mentioned and is therefore not permitted, the following use condition is proposed, "The serving of alcohol may be permitted except in the B-N and B-N-1 zoning districts." This will allow alcohol to be served in the same districts that restaurants which serve alcoholic beverages are permitted.
4. The Planning Commission recommends the following conditions be added to the use schedule:

- a. The serving of alcohol may be permitted except in the B-N and B-N-1 zoning districts.
- b. No display or advertisement for the sale of alcoholic beverages shall be visible from the exterior of the structure.

ALTERNATIVE:

1. Approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation to amend Section 2 Definitions and Section 4-56.2 B&I Use Schedule.
2. Deny the Planning Commission’s recommendation to amend Section 2 Definitions and Section 4-5.2 B&I Use Schedule.
3. Approve an alternative amendment.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Currently there is no definition of “cultural facility” in the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance and it is unclear where alcohol may be permitted. Staff finds it appropriate to amend the Definitions Section to add a definition for cultural facility which includes a provision for rental of the facility. Additionally, staff finds it appropriate to allow alcohol subject to all licensing and other regulations, in the same districts as restaurants which serve alcohol, and add additional conditions.

RECOMMENDATION:

The MPC recommends that Section 2 Definitions and Section 4-5.2 B&I Use Schedule of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance be amended as follows (proposed new language is shown in **bold**, removed language is shown in ~~strikethrough~~):

ENACT

Section 2 Definitions

Sec. 2-14E Cultural Facilities. Facilities which serve as art galleries, museums, legitimate theater, libraries, and similar facilities. These facilities may also have an accessory use as a rental facility.

Section 4-5.2 B&I Use Schedule

List of Uses	A-T	B	B-1	B-2	B-C	B-N	B-N-1	I-H	I-L	PILT	I-P	M	PSC	RB-I	T-B	W-I
26. Cultural Facilities	X	X			X	X	X				X		X		X	X
Including art galleries, legitimate theater, libraries, and similar facilities.																
a. The serving of alcohol may be permitted except in the B-N and B-N-1 zoning districts.																
b. No display or advertisement for the sale of alcoholic beverages shall be visible from the exterior of the structure.																

PREPARED BY: Gary Plumbley, Director
Development Services

MAY 14, 2013

Gregori Anderson, Director



**CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION**

“Planning the Future – Respecting the Past”

----- MEMORANDUM -----

DATE: MAY 14, 2013

TO: CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION
 FROM: THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 SUBJECT: MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

PETITION REFERENCED:

Text Amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance
 Section 2 and Section 4-5.2
 MPC File No. Z-130429-00029-1

MPC ACTION:

Approval of a proposed amendment to Section 2 Definitions as submitted. Approval of the proposed amendment to Section 4-5.2 B&I Use Schedule, Use 26 Cultural Facilities of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance as shown in the report.

MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of a proposed amendment to Section 2 Definitions and to Section 4-5.2 B&I Use Schedule Use 26 Cultural Facilities Of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance As submitted.

MEMBERS PRESENT: 8 + Chairman

Adam Ragsdale, Chairman
 Ellis Cook, Secretary
 James Blackburn
 Lacy Manigault
 Joseph Welch

Shedrick Coleman, Vice-Chairman
 Tanya Milton, Treasurer
 Stephen Lufburrow
 Murray Marshall

VOTING FOR MOTION

VOTING AGAINST MOTION

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

Adam Ragsdale
 Shedrick Coleman
 James Blackburn
 Tanya Milton
 Murray Marshall
 Joseph Welch
 Lacy Manigault
 Stephen Lufburrow

Ellis Cook

*Timothy Mackey
 *Susan Myers
 *Ben Farmer
 *Stephanie Cutter
 *Russ Abolt

FOR APPROVAL: 8

FOR DENIAL: 1

ABSTAINING: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson
 Executive Director

=====

XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Scott said, on Section XIII, which is informational items, you have them there for your consideration.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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>
Tax sale advertisements for month of May	Tax Commissioner	Morris Publishing Group	\$7,310	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Commercial mower repairs	Public Works and Park Services	Andy's Lawn Machinery, Inc.	\$2,770	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
Pneumatic tube repair and replacement for Detention Center expansion project	Detention Center	Aercom Systems, Inc.	\$2,728	CIP-Detention Center Expansion SPLOST project
Surplus wireless networking equipment	I.C.S.	Armstrong Atlantic State University	\$3,000	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Four (4) ethernet switches, four (4) network modules, eight (8) network upgrades for 123 Abercorn Street project	I.C.S.	CXTEC	\$8,161	SPLOST (2008-2014) County Administration Building
One (1) server for Tax Commissioner	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing L.P.	\$6,569	CIP-Tax Commissioner
Six (6) recycled plastic tables for Detention Center expansion project	Detention Center	Barco Products	\$4,947	CIP-Detention Center Expansion SPLOST project
Office furniture	Magistrate Court	VIP Printing & Office Supply	\$4,336	General Fund/M&O - Magistrate Court
Revised master plan for Mother Mathilda Beasley Park	Building Safety and Regulatory Services	Mandel Design, LLC.	\$8,500	SPLOST (2003-2008) Mother Mathilda Beasley Park
25 handheld scanners for Voter Registration	I.C.S.	GHA Technologies Inc.	\$6,875	General Fund/M&O - Voter Registration
50 folding cots for Critical Workforce	Public Works and Park Services	Grainger Industrial Supply	\$4,477	SSD-Public Works
Chemical cleaning of chiller #3	Detention Center	Boaen Mechanical Contractors, Inc.	\$6,150	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
One (1) cell phone data extraction device	Detention Center	Paraben Corporation	\$6,840	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Chemical cleaning of chiller #2	Detention Center	Boaen Mechanical Contractors, Inc.	\$3,694	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
One (1) laptop computer for Detention Center	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing L.P.	\$2,834	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Outfitting three (3) new vehicles	Sheriff's	West Chatham Warning Devices, Inc.	\$8,716	General Fund/M&O - Sheriff's
One (1) cargo trailer to transport median mowers	Public Works and Park Services	Dorsey Trailer Sales	\$5,512	SSD-Public Works
Office furniture	District Attorney	VIP Printing & Office Supply	\$3,735	General Fund/M&O - District Attorney
Rubber coated training weight plates	Weightlifting Center	Quaker Barbell	\$4,195	General Fund/M&O - Weightlifting Center

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
15 barcode scanners	Elections Board	Morpho Trust USA, Inc.	\$7,785	General Fund/M&O - Elections Board
Tables and Chairs for Conference room	Purchasing and Contracting	Mason's Inc.	\$9,673	General Fund/M&O - Purchasing and Contracting
Eight (8) scanners for Tax Commissioner	I.C.S.	GHA Technologies, Inc.	\$3,232	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
Transmission repair on unit #229-Public Works tractor trailer	Fleet Operations	Roberts Trading Company	\$6,448	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations
Guardrail repair at President/Truman ramp	Public Works and Park Services	Savannah River Utilities Company	\$2,500	CIP-Public Works
Replacement sewage pump at Salcedo Lift Station	Public Works and Park Services	Templeton & Associates, Inc.	\$6,876	Water and Sewer
Emergency repair to bypass pump	Public Works and Park Services	Thompson Pump & Manufacturing, Inc.	\$6,294	Water and Sewer
Three (3) laptops for Juvenile Court	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing, L.P.	\$5,060	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Software maintenance on telephone switch equipment	I.C.S.	Mitel Business Systems, Inc.	\$4,059	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Street sweeper brush replacements	Fleet Operations	Consolidated Disposal Systems, Inc.	\$2,699	Inventory Account
Mobile printer	I.C.S.	CDW Government, Inc.	\$2,957	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
Room monitoring devices for Data Center	I.C.S.	Entre Solutions	\$2,545	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Ten (10) VoIP telephones and headsets for 123 Abercorn project	I.C.S.	Mitel Business Systems, Inc.	\$3,886	SPLOST (2008-2014) County Administration Building
Quest reporter software maintenance agreement	I.C.S.	DLT Solutions, Inc.	\$4,312	General Fund/M&O - Communications
Geospatial data production software for Engineering	I.C.S.	Intergraph Corporation	\$9,231	SSD-Engineering
Web site/web application developer software	I.C.S.	CDW Government, Inc.	\$3,863	General Fund/M&O - Communications
One (1) desktop computer for Engineering	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing, L.P.	\$6,133	SSD-Engineering

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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: June 28, 2013

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 March 2014.
2. Diamond Causeway. Construction ongoing. Estimated open to traffic date is June 2013.
3. Whitefield Avenue. Construction underway by GDOT contract. Estimated completion September 2013.
4. Bay Street Widening. Environmental re-evaluation approved February 28, 2013. Notice to Proceed issued by GDOT for right of way acquisition on May 9, 2013.
5. Jimmy Deloach Parkway Phase 2 and Interchange of Jimmy Deloach Parkway at U.S. 80. Design ongoing. PFPR (Preliminary Field Plan Review) for Phase 2 held on February 5, 2013. ROW authorization expected fiscal year 2014.
6. SR 307 Widening from US 17 to I-16. Construction underway. Estimated completion in December 2013. New signal at US 17/SR 307 commenced operations April 16, 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 fiscal year 2014.
8. Local Roads.
 - a. Hunt Drive and Faye Road Bridge Replacements. Notice to Proceed with construction issued May 1, 2013. Construction underway.
 - b. Ridgewood Avenue, Beechwood Avenue and Elmhurst Avenue. Construction underway. Estimated completion July 2013.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts All

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE
AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2013

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. Construction of improvements upstream of Dean Forest Road to the west side of the airport is underway with completion scheduled for August 2014.
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. Preliminary design work on the pump station determined that a master pump station for the Pipemakers Canal is not warranted. According to the consultant, smaller pump stations can address localized problems. Staff is soliciting feedback from the municipalities of Garden City, Pooler and Bloomingdale.
3. Wilmington Park Canal. The Wilmington Park Canal extends from North Cromwell Road to the Wilmington River (about 1.4 miles). The project includes bank stabilization, culvert replacements and storm sewer upgrades. Construction work to replace four undersized culverts along the canal is

underway with completion scheduled for August 2013. Paving of the crossings on Clarendon Road and Winchester Road is scheduled for July 2013.

4. Ashley Road Outfall Drainage Improvements. The project will improve a drainage system from the Ashley Road cul-de-sac along Wilmington Island Road to the Wilmington River. Design work is underway.

5. 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. Construction of improvements is substantially complete.

6. Louis Mills/Redgate Canal. The project will correct inadequate drainage capacity and the lack of maintenance access to the canal. Design of improvements along the Marshall Branch Canal is underway and includes construction of maintenance access and culvert replacements.

7. 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, permitting, and acquisitions are underway for the outfall near Skidaway Road.

8. 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. Bids opened in April 2012 exceeded project budget and all bids were rejected. The design is being modified to lower construction costs.

9. 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 (including Tara Manor, Ennis Mobile home Park-Elmhurst Court and the Forest City Gun Club). Construction work for drainage improvements from Tara Manor to Lakeview Subdivision was substantially completed this month.

10. Ferguson-Winterberry Outfall Drainage Improvements. The project will improve drainage and provide access for maintenance for the Remington Canal from Ferguson Road to the outfall at Moon River. The outfall passes through the Winterberry private development. Design work is underway.

11. Wymberley Area. The project will address inadequate neighborhood drainage including roadside ditches, culverts and rear yard areas not accessible for maintenance of public systems. Conceptual plans developed in 2012 were determined to be infeasible. Other improvements are under consideration.

12. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance. A project to replace three undersized storm drain pipes and reshape the existing ditch is underway. Acquisitions of required easements are complete. Final design work and permitting are underway 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. Shipyard Road is now open to traffic. A portion of Lehigh Avenue remains closed. Staff anticipates the construction to be completed by August 2013.

14. Little Hurst Canal. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance along the canal. A design scope of work is under development.

15. 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 is underway.

16. Hampton Place Drainage Improvements. The project will improve the drainage system within Hampton Place Subdivision on Quacco Road by routing a portion of the stormwater into an existing canal located on the west side of Quacco Road. Acquisition of a required easement and design work is underway.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Scott said, and right now we'll entertain a motion to recess into executive session.

Commissioner Brady said, so moved.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, personnel and litigation.

Commissioner Center said, I move that we recess for the purpose of litigation and personnel.

Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Scott said, it's been properly moved and second. All in favor indicate by voting yes, opposed no. We're in executive session, heading that way.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Brady moved to recess to executive session to discuss personnel and litigation. Commissioner Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz did not vote.]

The Board recessed at approximately 12:47 p.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 Center moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

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2. APPOINTMENTS

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT BOARD

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Brady moved to approve the reappointment of Helen Stone, James Holmes and Priscilla Thomas and the appointment of Howard French to serve on the Chatham Area Transit Board with their terms to expire June 30, 2014. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF JULY, 2013.

ALBERT J. SCOTT, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

JANICE E. BOCOOK, CLERK OF COMMISSION