

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016, 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 9:31 a.m. on Friday, July 29, 2016.

Chairman Scott said, have them stand.

Sheriff's Deputy said, please stand.

Chairman Scott said, good morning and welcome. I ask that you now be seated and remain seated until such time that our worship leader has completed his remarks and indicate it's time for prayer. At that time if you would re-stand and remain standing through the Pledge of Allegiance. We will be led in the Pledge of Allegiance this morning by our Commissioner from the 1<sup>st</sup> District, , Pro Tem, Commissioner Stone.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Scott said, our worship leader today is -- is pastor David Hodge. He is the First United Pentecostal Church of Savannah pastor, and he's served that congregation for 41 years. So, he's someone who's approaching almost 50 years of service and -- and leadership in -- in the Pentecostal movement. And what I was impressed by when I looked at some of the things that the church is involved in and that is the -- the variety of ministries that the First United Pentecostal Church supports. They have a children's ministry, an outreach program. They have a youth ministry. They also have a ministry for newlyweds and young and married couples, who perhaps are in need of guidance and counseling in the early stages of their marriages. But he also have a music ministry, and also, a Spanish ministry. So, it's -- it's a holistic approach to trying to make certain that they provide an opportunity for enrichment for all aspects of the community, and that's one of the things I wanted to commend the pastor on and the First United Pentecostal Church, and at this time, it's with great pleasure that I present to you Pastor David Hodge, of the First United Pentecostal Church of Savannah. Pastor.

Pastor David A. Hodge said, it is an honor to be with you this morning. I'll share just a few words with you in this devotion time, and so I do thank you for the invitation. I will say this is a little unusual for me. I wasn't sure -- I thought I was just going to be speaking to nine of you. I didn't under -- realize that my congregation was going to be behind me. Usually I speak to the congregation before me, but I am going to be speaking to you, our Commissioners, and to let you know that I certainly appreciate the good work that each one of you are doing for the people of Chatham County.

Pastor Hodge said, when Gail [Gordon] called and asked if I could come be with you today, I -- I thought it would probably be good if I knew a little bit more about what Commissioners do and their responsibilities. So I went to the source that knows everything about everything, Mr. Google, and if Google is right, then I will have to say today that each one of you have a full plate. The decisions and choices that you make not only affect you and your families but it affects thousands of lives of people here in Chatham County, and I think you would agree with me today that when the weight of this kind of responsibility is upon your shoulders, at times it can be overwhelming.

Pastor Hodge said, as a pastor making decisions and choices and caring for the welfare of people and others, it has been at times very overwhelming. And when those times come in to our lives, the Psalmist David gives us some good advice and direction in Psalms Chapter 61, when he said, hear my cry, oh God, attending to my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, and when my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou has been a shelter for me and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle forever, and I will trust in the cupboard of thy wings. He ends that chapter in verse number eight by saying so will I sing praise unto thy name forever that I may daily perform my vows. So David found the answer of how could I daily perform my vows? How can I fulfill my responsibilities every day? He said, lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Of course, we know that Jesus Christ is our rock, and David knew if somehow we could just get into his presence, then in those times when our hearts are overwhelmed, we will see things from a different perspective.

Pastor Hodge said, it is those who have to go through storms, literally, and the rain, the thundering, the lightening, the darkness, and we can be overwhelmed at those times. But there is a place that's higher. Those that fly a little bit higher can see further than we can see, and they see that just up ahead, there are clear skies, the sun is shining and everything is all right. And this is why David said when my heart is overwhelmed, though not so sunk or so burdened, but that it may be lifted up to God in prayer. David said, if I can just get to that

higher place, let me get to the rock, and then I can see things from a different perspective. I found out a long time ago that the Lord is greater than my problems. He's bigger than the mountains in my life. He's stronger than the storms that rock my boat, and he's mightier than my enemies. And that's why David said in Psalms 73:28, but it is good for me to draw nigh or near to God. I have put my trust in the Lord that I may declare thy works.

Pastor Hodge said, you may have heard the story about the writers of the Declaration of Independence. I read this just recently as I was studying for a message for July the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I read this story that during a time when they were in discuss -- discussing and debating all of this, one of them stood and suggested that all of them got on their knees and asked God what should be done, and these writers of the Declaration of Independence all went their knees as one man and began to pray and seek the wisdom and the guidance of God. So I say to you here today that when your heart is overwhelmed, get into the presence of God, and when you do that, he'll give you the wisdom, the knowledge, the understanding and the guidance that you need.

Pastor Hodge said, I'm not too proud to tell you today I need God. And those who acknowledge their need for God will find him ever present to minister to their every need. My prayer for you today as our Commissioners is that God's blessings and protection shall be upon you and your families, and that God will grant you strength and wisdom and guidance as you perform your duties and responsibilities to Chatham County. And in those times when you might feel overwhelmed, I pray that you will seek God's help, and his will. Knowing assuredly today that nothing is impossible with God. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I pray today. Amen.

Members of the Commission and Members of the audience collectively said, Amen.

Pastor Hodge said, thank you again so much for the privilege of being with you this morning.

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### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Scott said, when I said that we'd be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Stone, actually it was Commissioner Center who volunteered to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and -- so at this time, would you please stand? Commissioner Center, would you please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Center said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Center led all in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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### **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Chairman Scott presented Pastor Hodge with a Certificate of Appreciation for his devotion and invocation.

Pastor Hodge said, I did want to mention as a small token of my appreciation for your service, you'll find in your boxes when you leave today a copy of the two CDs that my family and I recorded. If you don't like southern gospel music, maybe you've got family members you could pass it on to. And then for a time that you need to take a break from your busy schedule, for a time of relaxation, I also included in there a -- a western that I wrote, and I hope that you'll enjoy it as you read it. God bless you so much. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, all right. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman? Pastor?

Commissioner Center said, Pastor?

Chairman Scott said, Pastor, you -- you've generated some comments. Come -- if you would come back. And I failed to mention in the introduction that not only was he a pastor but he was also an author and -- and a musician.

Commissioner Thomas said, wonderful.

Chairman Scott said, but at this time our Vice Chair, Commissioner Thomas have some comments.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Pastor. You were so uplifting this morning. You referred one of my favorite passages in the Bible. I want you to know that I truly believe that you are a God-sent man, and I want you to continue to uplift the word of Jesus because it meant so much to me this morning. Thank you so very much.

Pastor Hodge said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you, Pastor, and thanks so much for the CD.

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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  
                               Yusuf K. Shabazz, District Five  
                               Lori L. Brady, District Six  
                               Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

Also Present:           Lee Smith, County Manager  
                               R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
                               Janice Bocook, County Clerk

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

##### **1. PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS.**

Chairman Scott said, okay. At this time we will have the presentation of service awards. Our HR Director, Ms. Smalls, if you would come up, and Mr. Manager.

County Manager Lee Smith said, yes, sir. We'd ask the Board step down as we receive our Team Members and recognize them for their service. So we'd ask the Board to step down, please.

[NOTE: The Board stepped down to receive the Team Members being recognized.]

Human Resources Director Carolyn Smalls said, good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. I am very pleased to be here this morning to present to you the employee service award recipients for July 2016. We have eight members here this morning. If you all would please stand, and as I call your name, if you would please come forward and greet the Commissioners and receive your service award. This morning we have one Team Member receiving a 20-year service award, and that is Theresa C. Harrelson with the Tax Commissioner (applause). We also have 15 [sic] Team Members who are receiving a service award for 15 years of service with the County, and they are Carolyn S. Foster, Facilities Maintenance (applause); Angus T. Hill with Public Works (applause); and Donnica L. Scott with State Court Clerk (applause). And with 10 years of service Ms. Tiffany S. Williams with the Coroner's office (applause); and also with 10 years of service, Amy R. Stewart, State Court Clerk (applause). And with five years of service, from the Human Resources Department. I'm very proud of her, Ms. Shannon Bazemore (applause).

Ms. Smalls said, I just want to congratulate all of you for your years of service and to tell you that we are appreciative of all that you do for Chatham County. Congratulations. [Applause].

Chairman Scott said, and we also have the Tax Commissioner with us, Commissioner Danny Powers who's here for -- to celebrate that 20 years of service.

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##### **2. RECOGNITION OF THE 2016 CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION'S LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR BASEBALL TEAM PLAYERS AND COACHES.**

Chairman Scott said, do we have someone here from Parks and Recreation?

County Manager Smith said, Stephen Proper.

Chairman Scott said, I didn't see you, Steve. Our next special presentation is to recognize -- to recognize the 2016 Chatham County Park and Recreation's Little League All-Star baseball team and their coaches, and at this time I'm going to recognize Stephen Proper for an introduction of the team and the coaches.

Parks and Recreation Director Stephen Proper said, yes. I thought it was important to get some of the youth in -- in front of y'all. This is our inaugural year for Little League. Little League is the same Little League you see on ESPN that has the World Series. We've been --

Chairman Scott said, pull those mikes to you, Stephen.

Mr. Proper said, and -- and we've been -- we've been playing under GRPA, which that's just state-wide, so we thought we'd -- we'd do something different with our baseball program and go national -- potentially national, potentially international, so this is our first year. They did a pretty good job at -- at the all-stars. I think they went to Marietta and they went to Warner Robins, and they didn't win, but they -- they had a good showing, and we had a real great year and this is what it's all about. This is what Parks and Recreation's about to -- to get our youth involved in some positive activity. So I would like to recognize the coaches, which are volunteer coaches, take a lot of time -- time out of their busy schedules. Also, the parents who get the kids there and make sure that they're there at the games and practices, and also the kids. The kids did a great job. Every -- everything was great. It -- it -- it ran real smooth, and also I would like to thank my staff, which is Vicki Blumberg and Cameron Chastain, and I would like for everyone to come over -- to come up. Everybody, even the kids. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Mr. Proper said, Cameron [Chastain], could you come up here? Cameron is our sports coordinator. He's done a real good job with this and football. He's one of our rising stars. As you can see, he's a very young man. So.

Mr. Cameron Chastain said, okay. Yeah. Thank you for having us here. This is our -- our 12 and under team. They went to -- up to Peachtree City last weekend. Coached by Chad [Serafece (phonetic)] and the Assistant Coach Will [Griffin]. So, they did a -- they did a good job up there. And then on my right side we have our eight, nine and ten team. They went up to Marietta, Georgia about two weeks ago, coached by Tom [Sassville], and the other coach was unavailable for today. But these are the all-stars for -- for Chatham County. They played a regular season with us, and like Mr. Proper was saying, this was a our first full year doing it, and we took both these teams to state. We also had a younger team that went -- went up to Warner Robbins about a month ago, for seven and eight year olds. It's new. We've got a lot of positive feedback, and I don't know if the coaches want to say anything. But, I guess they don't want to say anything, but -- so these are the teams. They did great. They represented us really well. As you can tell the jerseys say Chatham, so I mean, that's, you know --

Chairman Scott said, let's hear from at least one coach, and let's -- and -- and what about hearing from a player?

Commissioner Farrell said, yeah. How about that Will Griffin?

Commissioner Thomas said, that -- that would be wonderful.

Mr. Chad Serafece (phonetic) said, my name is Chad Serafece (phonetic). I'm a coach of the 12 and under all-stars. Just wanted to thank you guys for bringing Little League baseball to the county. It's been a great experience for a first year. It's -- we're learning every -- a lot of different, you know, lessons about going to the tournaments, organizing the team, and we had a pretty good participation for a first year, and we're really trying to encourage everybody to get more kids coming out, so we have better competition all through the season, so that when we put these all-star teams together, we're performing even better year after year. So I just want to thank you, and I want to thank my coaches, thank the parents and all the kids, once again, for such a great season and being part of the first group to ever go to an all-star game -- all-star tournament in -- for the state for Chatham County. Thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, that's wonderful.

Chairman Scott said, and just -- just a special thanks to the coaches because you volunteer your time and without you this really couldn't happen and -- and thank you so much for your time. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, and -- and can -- can you introduce the team?

Mr. Serafece (phonetic) said, first of all, I have my son, who is nine, so he was our bat boy, Dannick Serafece (phonetic).

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Mr. Serafece (phonetic) said, then I'm going to recognize our 12 year olds 'cause this is the last year that they can play with us, and we got Tyler Kirkland. We got --

Commissioner Center said, what positions? Do you mind?

Mr. Serafece (phonetic) said, Tyler Kirkland played third base and right field for us. We have Logan Hunt, who was going to play center field, if he didn't get hurt. We have Dylan Hunt, who played first base, third base and pitcher for us. Raise your hands guys when I call you out. And then going -- and then we have Nicolai Teaque, who pitched a great game for us that first game and also played left field and -- and shortstop for us. And going down the line we have Josh Sussman, who pitched and also played the outfield for us. We have Keygan Abney, who played shortstop and also pitched for us. Then we have Richard Yang, who pitched and played first base. And then we have Justin Kryder, who played second base and shortstop for us. And then we have James Webster who played second base and outfield for us. [Applause.]

Commissioner Center said, congratulations.

Mr. Serafece (phonetic) said, I also want to recognize Will -- Will Griffin, also, as my assistant coach, and I'll let Tom (Sassville) introduce his team.

Mr. Tom Sassville said, I hate speaking anyway. Thank you guys.

Commissioner Center said, tell us your name.

Mr. Sassville said, my name's Tom Sassville. I coached the 10U all-star team, and I appreciate it. I'll introduce the kids 'cause I'm not into much of this part of it. Carson Kurdys is my little guy.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Mr. Sassville said, Braeden Swab, Joey Cardillo, Robbie Holden, Jerald Sikes, and Jackson Robinson. I have a couple boys missing, Ross Ducey, Ben Fernandez, Owen Jones and Wyatt Oliver. So. We had a pretty good time. We won one game, and the other ones were -- they were competitive but they got us. So, maybe next year we'll get it. We'll bring home the title for you guys.

Commissioner Thomas said, you will.

Mr. Sassville said, appreciate it. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, is there -- is there -- is there a team spokesman for either team would like to say anything?

Commissioner Center said, that guy right there.

Chairman Scott said, yeah. There's a hand up at the end there.

Mr. Serafece (phonetic) said, I just want to say we have Jackson Cheeks, Connor Frick and -- oh, and Garrett Griffin, who are not here who were on the team as well. That's all.

Chairman Scott said, pull those mikes down for him.

Mr. Seraface (phonetic) said, and Chris Zipper.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Master Jackson Robinson said, I just wanted to say thank you for letting me have this experience. I learned a lot this season about -- and I perfected my fielding, my batting, and I kind of just got better all around.

Chairman Scott said, and just for those that might have missed your name, tell them your name.

Master Robinson said, Jackson Robinson.

Chairman Scott said, okay. And your parents' name.

Master Robinson said, I have Mike Robinson and I have Cindy Robinson. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, great.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right. All right. That's the way to do it.

Chairman Scott said, is there -- is there -- is there a spokesman for the 12s? Anybody want to say anything. Okay. Then we have some questions from up here. First Commissioner Holmes from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Commissioner Center from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and then Commissioner Thomas from the 8<sup>th</sup>. In that order, please.

Commissioner Holmes said, good afternoon young mens and young ladies. Now I -- when I say young ladies, I'm speaking about them parents. And I know you got some parents back there. Are there any parents in the

audience? I know that. There got to be. Congratulations to you all. Mr. Proper, let me say thank you, and -- for a job well done for the first time going into this level of play, and --

Mr. Proper said, thank you so much.

Commissioner Holmes said, -- what I would like to say to all of you all, this is a beginning of the footstep of success. You all are following footsteps that the Chatham County athletic program have known nothing but success. I don't see any losers out of there. You all are about building character. You ain't building athletes; you're not building winning and losing, you are building your character, and one thing I love to say to you going forward, whatever you do, it ain't but one thing that count, participation. It ain't how many games you win. It ain't how you look. I look at Mr. Robinson came to that mike just now, and Robinson, you're going to be a leader, son.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Commissioner Holmes said, just keep doing what you're doing. I'll be following this program day in and day out and really, when I say follow you, I follow you footstep to footstep. So on behalf of the Chatham County Commissioners, I say congratulation and wish you all the luck going forward. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center.

Commissioner Center said, thank you very much. I too want to congratulate you, and I echo everything my colleague, Coach, Commissioner Holmes said. I'm a Little League product. Played first base, shortstop, and second string catcher, and when I played Little League, we used to start off the season by marching down Broughton Street, down President Street, and there was a football -- a baseball field called Coke field, just down the hill, and the entire Little League community in their uniforms would march down there and the two selected teams would play. But, Mr. Robinson, I -- I was really impressed. Not only did you perfect your athletic skills but your speaking skills. I want to give a shout out to your school, and your educators, 'cause they're probably doing a good job, as well as your parents. Where do you go to school?

Master Robinson said, Charles Ellis Montessori Academy.

Commissioner Center said, Charles -- Charles Ellis?

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Commissioner Center said, well, they've done a good job, too. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, our vice Chair, Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, good morning. Good morning.

Audience said, good morning.

Commissioner Thomas said, I too want to express my sentiments. I'm sitting here and I'm just saying to myself, how proud we are of each and every one of you. It's not about always winning. It's how you go about playing the game, and preparing yourselves, and I know that from what I have seen here this morning, the positive attitude and the support that you have from your parents and other community people. You are going to go really, really far. I want you to know that you make us very, very proud because you are part of Team Chatham and always remember to do your very, very best, okay? And you will make it through in years to come. Again, thank you so very much, and if there is anything that I could do to help facilitate whatever you're doing, please let me know. Thank you. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell of the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, many congratulations to all the boys on the team there in participating in sports. If you're going to join a -- a gang, join a team.

Commissioner Thomas said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Farrell said, and -- and do something productive, and that's a bright spot in our community, and y'all are all heading in the right direction. I do want to give a shout out to Bob Fritts, my old classmate from Benedictine.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Commissioner Farrell said, I see he walked in today. I'm sure he was participating in some form. He's a big advocate for recreation. So -- and Will Griffin, good to see you. I know you're very active in volunteering with the sports programs around the community even though you -- you've only barely been here a couple of years. So, welcome to Chatham and thanks for diving right in. We -- we really -- I personally, really appreciate all the hours that the volunteer coaches in Chatham County put in, because you're have -- you're -- you're providing

a very much needed service at no cost to the community but at great cost to your personal time and energy and you -- you -- you must be put on a pedestal and -- and -- and recognized for -- for what you do and all the hundreds if not thousands of other volunteer parents that -- that -- that coach entire teams of all the different sports. So whatever I can do to advocate and to -- to assist in getting more participation from our youth, you can count on me. So, thanks for being here and thanks for representing Chatham County. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, yeah. Can we get y'all to squeeze in a little bit? We want to get a picture of you so we can --

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Chairman Scott said, we can put in our publication. Okay. Madam Clerk, you're -- there you go.

Photographer said, ready?

Commissioner Center said, she's playing scooter.

Photographer said, we'll do one more.

Commissioner Farrell said, smiles, guys. Y'all -- there we go.

Chairman Scott said, we didn't get -- we didn't get any of the parents in that picture though.

Commissioner Center said, come on. Come on.

Chairman Scott said, does any of the parents want to come up to get in the picture?

Commissioner Farrell said, or take a picture?

Commissioner Thomas said, come on. Come on.

Commissioner Thomas said, all right.

Chairman Scott said, Mr. Manager, we need to put this up on our website.

Photographer said, you ready parents?

County Manager Smith said, will do.

Photograph said, all right. Here we go. One more.

Chairman Scott said, thank you so much. [Applause.]

Commissioner Farrell said, and, yes, guys, you are on television, and there will be reruns. I think we show this show like three times, so you can get all your friends to tune in to your Comcast station.

Commissioner Center said, 16.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Commissioner Farrell said, on Channel 16 and -- and you can review your -- your --

Commissioner Center said, behavior.

Commissioner Farrell said, your 15 minutes of fame.

Commissioner Thomas said, 20 years from now, they'll look they'll say, was that me?

Chairman Scott said, we lost two-thirds of our audience.

Commissioner Farrell said, shows you what a big chunk a rec -- a recreation is in Chatham County.

Commissioner Center said, you should have told them -- you should have told them the CNT presentation.

**AGENDA ITEM: V- 2**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager

**FROM:** Stephen Proper, Parks and Recreation Director

**ISSUE:**

Request Board to recognize the 2016 Chatham County Parks and Recreation's Little League All-star Baseball Team players and coaches.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County Parks and Recreation (Park Services) has been providing opportunities for local youth to participate in various sports for decades. Baseball is one of the most popular sports in Chatham County.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Little League International is world renowned as the premier organization of youth baseball.
2. This is the inaugural year that Chatham County Parks and Recreation participated in Little League.
3. The Little League All-stars are the best youth players in the league and are chosen through nominations from coaches and through an evaluation of their skills.
4. The Chatham County Parks and Recreation Little League All-stars participated in the Georgia Little League Championships in Marietta and Warner Robins this month.

**FUNDING:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board recognition.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It is consistent with Board policy to recognize organizations or groups that contribute to the quality of life of Chatham County youth.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

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**3. INTRODUCTION OF THE COUNTY'S NEW ANIMAL SERVICES DIRECTOR, KERRY SIREVICIUS.**

Chairman Scott said, next is -- I know you all have read and seen in the paper about all the changes at Animal Control, and we have with us today our new Animal Service Director. It's not called Animal Control anymore, it's Animal Service Director in Ms. Kerry Sirevicius, and I want to just invite her up and see if she want to have any comments, as well as the County Manager in reference to this program.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. We went through an arduous process of recruiting and after going through that and I will tell you we met a lot with the staff out at Animal Services. We worked with them to even develop the scope of work for the type of director they were looking for, as well as the public, Humane Society, and after that process, we were lucky enough to recruit Kerry [Sirevicius] and get her on board. So I would like to formally introduce Kerry Sirevicius to Chatham County.

Ms. Kerry Sirevicius said, well thank you. Mr. Chairman --

Chairman Scott said, pull those mikes up.

Ms. Sirevicius said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, it's truly a privilege to have been selected to serve the pets and people of this community. I mean just -- it was -- as he said, quite a process. I met a lot of the community before even being selected, and I -- it's just truly a privilege. Thank you.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Anybody have any questions of her?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, welcome.

Commissioner Thomas said, welcome aboard.

Ms. Sirevicius said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, no questions at Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes, I have a question.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Stone, no questions?

Commissioner Shabazz said, I have a question.

Ms. Sirevicius said, no questions.

Chairman Scott said, we have -- Commissioner Shabazz has a question.

Ms. Sirevicius said, okay.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. What -- what will your function be in terms of an -- Animal Service Director?

Ms. Sirevicius said, well, as Animal Service Director, we will really be providing services to the pets and people in the community. First and foremost we're an enforcement agency. We are here to -- to make sure that everyone gets their rabies shots. Secondly, we really are trying to make sure that everybody finds their lost pet, and after that, we'll be, you know, really working with the Humane Societies in getting pets adopted, really have a high -- higher live release rate is essential in a community like that that really demands a lot and wants to raise the bar for the pets in the community.

Commissioner Shabazz said, yes. There's -- there's a serious problem in the 5<sup>th</sup> District with stray dogs.

Ms. Sirevicius said, oh.

Commissioner Shabazz said, just running around.

Ms. Sirevicius said, well that's -- that's a huge issue and that's something we can address.

Commissioner Shabazz said, more -- more -- more specifically, pit bulls.

Ms. Sirevicius said, okay.

Commissioner Shabazz said, because just last week, I had about three or four in my front yard just sitting out there, and no one knew who the owners were.

Ms. Sirevicius said, okay.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and we -- we call 9-1-1 and SPD came.

Ms. Sirevicius said, okay.

Commissioner Shabazz said, and they were waiting for someone from your department --

Ms. Sirevicius said, okay.

Commissioner Shabazz said, -- to come, but I -- I don't know whether they ever came, but what they -- what the officer did is open up his car door and took them off.

Ms. Sirevicius said, he --

Commissioner Shabazz said, the cop took the dogs off somewhere. I don't know.

Ms. Sirevicius said, oh, he did -- he did take them? So he probably did bring them to Animal Services.

Commissioner Shabazz said, right. Right.

Ms. Sirevicius said, that is where they would be impounded and held for five days to see if the owners came forward. But if you're having any problems with dogs running around, that is something that we can address. They can actually come up and set up some dog traps, 'cause even if we're not there and there -- dogs are missing at that time, we can definitely bait them and bring them into the trap so that they can come to the shelter, 'cause we don't want any -- to pose any danger to the community. Especially stray dogs can act very strange. They act -- act very differently than they do with their owners around. So please call again if you have any issues or call me personally.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Ms. Sirevicius said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we have one more, the Commissioner from the 6<sup>th</sup> District, Commissioner Brady .

Commissioner Brady said, good morning.

Ms. Sirevicius said, good morning.

Commissioner Brady said, do you have a plan on how to deal with feral cats?

Ms. Sirevicius said, I absolutely do. First and foremost, I really have to bring out of the shadows the -- the ferality in our community. The trap, neuter, release people in the community, seem to have kind of -- they've gone into the corners because they're afraid of law enforcement not working with them in terms of handling the -- the -- the feral cat problem, but I plan on introducing or changing the ordinance, a really comprehensive TNR program that will be working them. The Animal Control -- I'm sorry, Animal Services will not be doing the TNR program, but we can definitely provide back up for their -- for the programs that go on in the community, but I have not even met the -- the TNR community yet. That's definitely on the agenda. I'm only on week two.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Ms. Sirevicius said, sure. Any other questions?

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any other questions of Ms. Sirevicius?

Commissioner Shabazz said, why -- why -- why -- a -- a -- a follow-up question. Why was the name changed from Animal Control to Animal Services?

Ms. Sirevicius said, you know, there's a very bad connotation with control. We're not here to control anything. We really are here to provide a service for the pets and the people. This is about customer service. We're paid by tax payers, and the -- the level that people really want their animals cared for is much higher. We're not here to control anything. Just the industry itself has changed completely. We're here to provide a service.

Commissioner Shabazz said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. All right. Thank you so much.

Ms. Sirevicius said, thank you.

Commissioner Center said, welcome.

Chairman Scott said, welcome. [Applause.]

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**4. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE AUGUST 1 THRU AUGUST 5, 2016 AS "CHATHAM COUNTY'S PREPAREATHON! WEEK." DENNIS JONES FROM CEMA AND WILLIE WOMACK FROM FEMA WILL BE ACCEPTING THE PROCLAMATION.**

Chairman Scott said, next we have a -- a proclamation and the whole purpose of this is to acknowledge the need to prepare for disasters. And I'm going to read a portion of it, and then I'm going to invite Dennis Jones up to introduce some of our partners in this effort, and some participants.

Chairman Scott read the proclamation as follows:



**WHEREAS**, Chatham County's PrepareAthon! creates an important opportunity for residents of Chatham County to be prepared for any type of emergency where they live, work, and play; and

**WHEREAS**, taking steps toward personal preparedness and ensuring that our households, workplaces, schools, institutions of higher learning, houses of worship, and community-based organizations are prepared for disaster can reduce fatalities and economic devastation following a major crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, participating in Chatham County's PrepareAthon! will increase the number of citizens who understand which disasters could happen in our community and our citizens will know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham Emergency Management Agency will participate in community resilience planning and other Federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private, and volunteer agencies are working to increase public activities in preparing for emergencies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert J. Scott, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim August 1 thru August 5, 2016 as:

**CHATHAM COUNTY'S PREPAREATHON! WEEK**

in Chatham County and urge all citizens to make preparedness a priority and work together to ensure that individuals, families, and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of any type.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert J. Scott, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail F. Gordon, Administrative  
Assistant to the Chairman

Chairman Scott said, and with that, I'm going to introduce our CEMA Director, Mr. Jones. I didn't know you had a -- a presentation, but a presentation and introduction of our partners.

Chatham Emergency Management Agency Interim Director Dennis Jones said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not really a presentation, it's just a promo that I want to show in a little -- just a little bit. But I would like for all of our partners to come up, stand behind me, because this is a community-wide event. It's not really a CEMA event, it's a community event. We're just recognized as the lead of the -- of the event. Last summer we were selected by FEMA to be a model community for what is considered the -- the FEMA's national PrepareAthon!. It's a nation-wide grass roots effort designed to encourage community leaders, community partners and also individuals to become prepared for hurricanes or any other disasters that could affect their community.

Mr. Jones said, within the last year as part of the overall emergency management program, we started adopting the principles of whole community emergency management. When a disaster strikes, we know, we recognize that we can't do it all by ourselves. We rely on the partners, some of those -- some of those standing behind me, and also private individuals from across the community to make sure they're as prepared as possible, and that they are ready for the -- to -- to react, to recover and to respond for their particular community and their individual household. The whole community approach is vitally important to make our community more resilient. The national PrepareAthon! concept builds on that whole community concept. We have several recognizable partners here with us today. I'll introduce them in a minute, but before I get into that, I want to show you the promo that WTOC has ran for us. This promo will be running throughout the weekend and into next week.

[NOTE: A short promotional video was presented for the Board.]

Mr. Jones said, thank you. Several partners as I mentioned are joining us today. We do have one that isn't here today. She's actually in the back, Catherine Neal, our Public Information Officer. She's been instrumental in helping us kick off this campaign. Also some other county staff that have been involved in this, Meredith Ley, with CEMA; Robert Drewry, Public Works; we've got Nathan Benson, our safety -- safety director; and we also got Southside Fire and EMS. They've been involved in helping us with that. Also with us is Greg Schroeder, Krystal Ladue and Rebecca -- Rebecca Pierson from the United Way. Thank you. Megan Collins from the Humane Society, back behind -- there she is. And several -- several partners that weren't able to be with us today, Sherryl Lang, from the Juliette Gordon Low House and also the Savannah Heritage Emergency Response group; Lee -- Linda James from the Salvation Army; we do have two FEMA representatives that were not able to be here today that have been recognized in this effort, and also the most recognizable and the tallest meteorologist in our area, Mr. John Wetherbee. And I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Wetherbee for a few minutes so he can offer some comments.

Mr. John Wetherbee said, yes, tallest. Hardest working, maybe too. Good morning Chairman. Good morning Commissioners.

Commissioner Holmes said, good morning.

Mr. Wetherbee said, my pleasure to represent WTOC as we get involved with our friends from CEMA and get a chance to execute this model program that's been put together by the FEMA folks bringing it to our community in an effort to help individuals learn about how important hurricane preparedness is. We broadcast information constantly on the Big Red 11 on all the different platforms. We try to get forecasts, safety information. Our

friends at CEMA, our partners behind us from the Humane Society, the United Way and all of our partners are constantly trying to help people prepare. Now the challenge is to make sure individuals understand what's going on.

Mr. Wetherbee said, PrepareAthon! is a way for us to get phone numbers that people will actually get calls, automated calls, that will tell them the information that's going on. Where to find that information. All that PrepareAthon! activity will culminate a week from today with a day long telethon, which WTOC will support. The folks at CEMA have -- will be setting up a phone bank. Folks will be able to call, register their phone numbers in order to get information. During the week, we'll also be talking about different things that you can do on the air and on our website and smart phones, things that you can do now, and then coming up on Friday, a week from today, we have our next WTOC hurricane special. It's entitled, *It's Not If But When*. We know there's going to be eventually some kind of weather disaster that we're going to have to deal with. We'd like it not to be while we're on duty, but we know that that's going to happen. Preparation is so important. So I thought it might be a good idea to get you all the different days and steps that we're going to take. I'm going to hit that one more time and that's it. Can I introduce Meredith Ley and ask her to tell you the five days that are coming up to help these individuals? Meredith.

Ms. Meredith Ley said, thank you, John. Good morning.

Members of the Board collectively said, good morning.

Ms. Ley said, so as John [Wetherbee] mentioned, it's a week-long campaign that all leads up to Friday. Monday is emergency alert day. Everyone is encouraged to download the WTOC app, as well as the CEMA app, the Chatham EMA app. It's just had a full face lift. It's new. It's improved. It's got lots of different features, including a way that you can sign up for Swiftreach, which is our reverse notification system that we will be doing the telethon for on Friday. So the CEMA app, the WTOC app. Tuesday is make a family communications plan day. Make sure all your contacts are up to date. Wednesday is the -- is the day that everyone is encouraged to review their insurance and check their flood coverage. Thursday is make an evacuation plan, and don't forget your pets. Friday is business preparedness day, again, as well as the telethon day, which we're really excited about. We're going to be staffing the EOC from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We're going to be having volunteers answer calls, talk to residence, and make sure that they're signed up for Swiftreach. So it's going to be a big, fun-filled week.

Mr. Jones said, thank you Meredith [Ley] Thank you John [Wetherbee]. You know, without hesitation, I -- I can honestly say that we have -- probably have the best emergency management program in the state, and it's really because of the direct commitment that the -- the Commission has for the program and also the strong partnership that we have with the people behind us and also the people watching today. So we have very strong relationships throughout the community and with the whole community approach to emergency management, we can make sure that we sustain those efforts so we can have the most resilient community available to us. So, thank you for recognizing next week as PrepareAthon! week, and thank you for your support of -- of your program.

Chairman Scott said, thank you. Anybody have any questions or comments? Thank you, Dennis [Jones].

Mr. Jones said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Scott said, appreciate it.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you all. [Applause.]

Chairman Scott said, the --

County Manager Smith said, Mr. Chairman we have the proclamation. Did you want to bring Dennis [Jones] up? The actual framed proclamation.

Chairman Scott said, we have it framed?

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, yeah.

County Manager Smith said, I was slow to act on that one. I was reading something else.

[NOTE: Chairman Scott presented Mr. Jones with the framed proclamation.]

Chairman Scott said, okay. Dennis [Jones], I want to present you with a framed copy of the proclamation that was read and to thank all the partners for their participation and their efforts in trying to get us prepared for an emergency that I hope will not -- John [Wetherbee] said it will happen.

Mr. Wetherbee said, we hope never.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

Mr. Wayne Noha of Southside Fire said, Chairman? Chairman, can I make one comment about CEMA?

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Mr. Noha said, just on behalf of Southside Fire EMS and the other 15 fire departments in Chatham County, I'd like to thank personally Dennis [Jones] and CEMA as a whole. They are the driving force behind all of this, and we appreciate their efforts, we really do. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, thank you.

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## 5. PROCLAMATION ENTITLED "STEPPING UP TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS."

Chairman Scott said, next we have a proclamation entitled Step up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails. This is an issue that's been championed since I've been Chairman by our 1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner, Commissioner Stone, who also serves as our Pro Tem, and at this time I'm going to recognize Commissioner Stone for the purpose of reading and presenting this proclamation, and then afterwards, I'm going to ask that our Sheriff come up and make some comments because we were talking earlier about the high percentage of inmates who are at the Chatham County Detention facility, who are actually suffering from mental illness. At this time I recognize Commissioner from the 1<sup>st</sup> District, Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a unique problem to Chatham County. This is a nationwide problem, and I'm very grateful that this Commission and our County Manager has taken this seriously and wants to work with our Sheriff and work with this community to see what we can do to alleviate the problem. Currently, somewhere between 25 and 30 percent of our inmates in our local jail suffer from mental illness, and that's not a place for them to get the care that they need. So I'm going to read this proclamation, and I thank you for including this on the agenda today.

Commissioner Stone read the proclamation as follows:



**WHEREAS**, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year and prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders. Adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders;

**WHEREAS**, through Stepping Up, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails; and

**WHEREAS**, the Savannah-Chatham County Mental Health Court is a judicially supervised program designed to hear cases involving individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness and encourages participants to address his/her mental illness while remaining on probation and provides participants with intensive treatment under enhanced supervision as an alternative to jail or prison time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that I, Albert J. Scott, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails, collect and review prevalence numbers and encourage all Chatham County officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2016.

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Albert J. Scott, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Gail F. Gordon, Administrative  
Assistant to the Chairman

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, okay. I -- I'm going to ask the Sheriff to come up and accept this proclamation and then make whatever comments that he wish to make. Ms. Stone, do you care to present this with us, please?

[NOTE: Chairman Scott and Commissioner Stone presented Sheriff John Wilcher with the framed proclamation.]

Chairman Scott said, Sheriff, as our partner in this effort, I -- I wanted to present you with this proclamation, and at this time have you to make any comments you wish to make in reference to this issue.

Sheriff John Wilcher said, thank you, Mr. -- thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank y'all Commissioners. I want to digress back a little bit. In 1974, when I came to work for the Sheriff's office, they had 12,000 people in Milledgeville, Georgia with mental health problems. Today they have 2,000. Over the years, the state itself has tried to close down all these mental health facilities to where we don't have anybody [sic] to put them, and I'm saying we as in law enforcement. Georgia Regional can hold 100 people, and it's a 30- to 60- day waiting period before we can even get one evaluated. A lot of these people that come into the jail do not need to be in that jail. They need to be taken somewhere to some type of facility that they can be evaluated and get back on the medication that they need to get them stabilized. Have they committed a crime? Yes, but we're talking about petty crimes, shoplifting, pan handling, minor things. So we as a community have got to go back and figure out some way to keep a lot of these out of jail.

Sheriff Wilcher said, as Commissioner Stone says, I have about 40 percent of the people in my jail on mental health, psychotropic drugs, about 400 of them. The drug court does excellent; the mental health court does excellent; but we still get these people. We're getting the same people back in there all the time. When we keep them there, they stay in the jail. I try not to keep them there because it costs roughly \$70 a day to keep somebody there on a misdemeanor or a felony. If we keep them there until they go to court, they get a six-month sentence, they're going to do half of that which is three months, that's 90 days they're going to do in my jail. Well, you multiply 90 times 70, that comes out \$6300 it's costing the tax payers of this community to house those mental health patients there. So we as the community need to do something to try to divert these people to places they need to be, not in jail.

Sheriff Wilcher said, so, like I told Commissioner Scott and most all of y'all Commissioners when I took office, I'm going to do everything in my power to do the right things for this community. I work for y'all; y'all don't work for me, and we need to make this one of our priorities in the community to get mental health for these people. The ones that get out of jail, we give them seven days medication when they walk out on the street, and it's terrible to say, but, most of them get out there and they sell the drugs that you give them to take so they can buy drugs that they want to take. So, we as a community have got to do something to divert these people to some kind of mental health place that they can actually get help. So, with that, I mean, I'm open for suggestions, comments, criticism or whatever, you know.

Chairman Scott said, anybody have any questions of the Sheriff?

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, ma'am.

Chairman Scott said, we recognize the Commissioner from the 1<sup>st</sup> District and then the Commissioner from the 4<sup>th</sup> District, Commissioner Farrell, in that order.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Scott said, and then the Commissioner from the 8<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Stone said, Sheriff Wilcher, I was very pleased that you were at the graduation for the mental health court. Is there any possibility that we as a community, do you think, could -- or as a Commission, encourage more funding for an expansion in that mental health court? Because these people that go through that court really do get the treatment that they need and the recidivism rate is very low.

Sheriff Wilcher said, I -- I think that everything that y'all are doing, and I know it's a big issue when it comes to a five letter word, and that's M-O-N-E-Y. That is the biggest thing that holds up anything in any community or anything else. You've got to have the money to put up to make these things work, and you're correct. I think they've got about one percent or maybe two percent failure rate in the mental health court and the drug court. They -- they do an excellent job. Also, in the jail, we have a mental health place for them. We have -- I have like ten different programs that we try to work with different people. I'm putting together now a veteran's program, so when we get veteran's in there who are mentally health people that we can put them in this

veteran's court. I just hired a new coordinator, one superous lady. She's writing some grants. We're -- we're trying everything that we can. And -- and I know y'all as Commissioners are too. I mean I -- I don't hold anything against y'all, but like I said earlier, money is the biggest problem.

Commissioner Stone said, well but can't we prove by saying that if we could have the money to expand the court, we're probably saving money in the long run at \$70 a day?

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, ma'am. I totally agree with you. That's why -- and I said earlier, and I -- I -- I talked to Commissioner Scott, that misdemeanor's when they come in my jail, where they're mentally health people -- mentally -- people that need mental health are not -- when they come into my jail, I keep them in there no more than six hours, and I turn them lose on subpoena 'cause I'm saving the county money, and this is something other that we need to do and look at to put more money in these mental health and these drug programs so we can make more progress, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Stone said, well, I'd be happy to work with you in any way that I can to assist --

Sheriff Wilcher said, I'm here for y'all. Like I told y'all before, I work for y'all.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell of the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you. You mentioned that years ago there was 12,000 folks up -- up -- up at --

Sheriff Wilcher said, 12,000 people in Milledgeville, Central State Hospital.

Commissioner Farrell said, -- Milledgeville and now we're down to two. With that kind of reduction of 10,000 what was the -- do you have any concept of what the intent of the state was for the other -- for the reduction and not factoring in as years go by things tend to get larger numbers instead of smaller numbers of people that need assistance?

Sheriff Wilcher said, the only thing that I can contribute that too, Commissioner, is that they cut it for the money. I mean that was a big undertaking under there years ago. I remember one case, Matthew Washington, who killed somebody in Liberty City. Took him to Milledgeville; he stayed up there six or eight months; brought him back here and tried him to where -- where you can see if he's competent or incompetent, and you got to open those places back up so you can have those places, but the state chose to shut them down. If Georgia Regional goes on shut down out there, I have to take people to Augusta or to Dublin or as far as Atlanta to get them evaluated. We have to move them. So it's -- it's still costing people money, not the state so much, but it is in our -- our county.

Commissioner Farrell said, well --

Sheriff Wilcher said, our county is having to pay for it, 'cause you have to send two deputies with them everywhere they go because of their mental -- their mental capacity.

Commissioner Farrell said, if the -- if the possible legislative intent was simply to -- to save money, did they have some idea who was going to provide these services or they're just going to turn their back on thousands --

Sheriff Wilcher said, I can tell you exactly who's providing the service.

Commissioner Farrell said, -- of mental ill patients?

Sheriff Wilcher said, I can tell you exactly who's providing the service. The people behind me. That's where they dumped it, on the cities and the counties.

Commissioner Farrell said, throughout the state?

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, so it's a state-wide issue.

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, sir. It's a state-wide issue. Yes, sir.

Commissioner Farrell said, your colleagues in the Sheriff's departments of the 159 counties throughout Georgia, do they have a similar -- issues?

Sheriff Wilcher said, I think probably everyone in this county -- in this state, the 150 -- other 158 Sheriff's have some kind of capacity like that where they're feeling the same as I do. I know the bigger states [sic], like Fulton, Gwinnett, DeKalb, Decatur, and all of them are. Some of the smaller ones, they even bring them here. I've -- I've seen them bring them from Valdosta to Georgia Regional here in Savannah because they have no where else to take them. So it's -- it's a county -- I mean, it's a state-wide issue.

Commissioner Farrell said, so are they bringing them to -- to -- to Eisenhower or they bringing them to your jail?

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, sir, they're bringing them to Eisenhower to get evaluated, yes, sir. And like I said, on Eisenhower, they are 30 to 60 days before you can get anyone evaluated from the jail, and I'll give Ms. Barnwell, she's my mental health person out there, Cassandra Barnwell, she's tirelessly working everyday to get these people there so they can either be determined they're incompetent to stand trial or they're competent to stand trial.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, we have --

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, sir.

Chairman Scott said, we -- we got our Vice Chair, Commissioner Thomas, and then we have Commissioner Brady in that order.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, sir. In addition to what the -- my other colleagues have asked, I was under the impression other than Georgia Regional we had some type of facility here where, you know, where you could take them to take care of those mental patients rather than, you know, putting them in jail. Are we saying that we do not have any such facility where we can get them help?

Sheriff Wilcher said, Dr. Thomas, my understanding is, I know we've got places like Curtis Cooper and --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Sheriff Wilcher said, -- and places like that that handle these type people, but the first thing you got to think about, I as a police officer arrest you --

Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Sheriff Wilcher said, -- the norm is to take you to jail. If you're mentally -- got something mentally wrong with you, they should have some place to take you other than the jail, and the answer to that question is no. And a lot of people don't need to be in jail. They need to be back on their psychotropic drugs or -- or help get into something like Curtis Cooper or several of the other things around here, and, believe me, I'm not criticizing the police departments, they do an excellent job, but everything that comes, comes to the jail. Anytime -- if they commit a crime, they come there. If they are mental health, they still come there, and we need to figure out something that we can have somewhere to take them maybe like Curtis Cooper, get them evaluated so that they don't have to come to jail. You don't have to put everybody in jail. Now, felons, yes. I -- I have no problem with that, but you're talking about misdemeanors, a lot of them are misdemeanors, and they just don't need to be in jail, and they stay there 60, 90, 120 days, and you start multiplying 70 times 120 and 70 times 12, I mean, you -- you're talking money that we could save if they had somewhere that they could actually take these people.

Commissioner Stone said, that's right.

Sheriff Wilcher said, and, also, too, I was talking to Commissioner Stone, it would maybe cut down on your contracts that we just did almost a \$7 million contract with CorrectHealth to cut that down if you don't have so many mental patients in there. But when you have 400 mental patients, and you've got psychotropic drugs that you have to give them, and some of those drugs are pricey, believe me.

Commissioner Thomas said, well, I've always wondered myself why the jail, you know, but I assumed that the policemen they don't have any other place to take them --

Sheriff Wilcher said, that's right.

Commissioner Thomas said, -- but to the jail.

Commissioner Stone said, that's right.

Sheriff Wilcher said, that -- that's my point --

Commissioner Center said, that's the point.

Sheriff Wilcher said, -- Dr. Thomas, that we -- we as a community need to figure out some way to have them taken somewhere that they can be evaluated and if they need the help of psychotropic drugs or need mental health, that they can put them there. Not do away with the crime, because you ain't got to lock everybody up. I mean, you know. The -- the ones that need to be locked up would be your felons and stuff like that.

Commissioner Thomas said, mm-hmm.

Sheriff Wilcher said, and we have them at Georgia Regional. I think I have nine at Georgia Regional now that's on felony charges are not capable of standing trial because they've been determined that they're not capable of standing trial.

Commissioner Thomas said, well I --

Sheriff Wilcher said, they've had them out there as nine -- one of them's going on nine years.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Well, I -- I think that that -- it's -- it's -- it's an urgency.

Sheriff Wilcher said, sure.

Commissioner Thomas said, -- for us to take some type of action or find some ways in which we can help, you know, to facilitate -- facilitate those causes that you're talking about, and if I can be of service or help in any way, please let me know.

Sheriff Wilcher said, and -- and I feel sure the Commissioners going to do everything they can, but we -- we've got to get people besides the Commissioners. We've got to get the whole community involved in this.

Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. That's exactly what I'm talking about.

Sheriff Wilcher said, you know, we as -- me as a constitutional officer and y'all as Commissioners for the County --

Commissioner Thomas said, mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Sheriff Wilcher said, us ten can't do it all. We got to have help from the -- the community. They got to understand that they have a terrible problem here with mental health issues in our community.

Commissioner Thomas said, so that's why I'm saying, we-- we have got to go to the community.

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Thomas said, and we have got to, you know, make sure that they understand what the, you know, the situation is and get involved and let's get it done, you know, right away. Let's take some action.

Sheriff Wilcher said, and I agree with you, but their thing is, that ain't my problem.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Yeah, well, we're going to have to fix it some kind of how. I don't know how, but we --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Brady said, I -- I would like to request that we put this issue on our legislative agenda for funding for -- for a program for us. The -- the legislators, they cut the funding years ago and -- and I saw -- and I saw it when they did it, but we need to go back to them and say, you know, this is a priority.

Sheriff Wilcher said, sure.

Commissioner Brady said, and we've got to deal with it that way.

Sheriff Wilcher said, sure.

Commissioner Thomas said, whatever it takes.

Chairman Scott said, any -- any further questions or comments from the Sheriff? Thank you so much, Sheriff.

Sheriff Wilcher said, I'd like to make one other comment, Commissioner Scott, if you don't mind. Talking about the Animal Service, you know, we provide a New Hope project out at the jail that we take dogs from the Humane Society, train them, and have them adopted out. We've had a successful rate for over four years that we've only had -- hadn't adopted one dog out. So we work very closely with the Animal Service now -- I want to say Animal Control, 'cause it's always been that. We have men and women that train these dogs through a four-week program, so I just want people to understand that these dogs that go to the Animal Service are just -- not euthanized and put down and everything. We try to get them adopted back into the community and everything.

Chairman Scott said, all right. Thank you, Sheriff.

Sheriff Wilcher said, yes, sir. Thank y'all.

Commissioner Center said, thank you, Sheriff.

Chairman Scott said, I will recognize the County Manager for some comment on the mental health discussion.

County Manager Smith said, yes, sir. The Sheriff's office some time ago aided us, the staff and Commissioner Stone to go to Cobb County and look at how they're handling mental health, which they have a model program, but they also put in place with the help of the state and the local mental health facility, a diversion program, so as the Sheriff said, if they had minor issues like pan handling or loitering, something like that, they actually would go into this program for a few days to get stabilized and avoid jail. We're working with Gateway right now and with Commissioner Barry, who a lot of you have met in our mental health symposium, to look at a program like that. We're looking for space now, and we're asking the state to fund, so I think it is appropriate to look at our legislators, but they do have funding. There is some funding, but we would need more. But we need -- we have to have a diversion program. The Sheriff cannot keep taking these folks at the jail. So we've started that process. Commissioner Stone's been very active in it, and we did go up, and I appreciate the Sheriff setting that up for us to go up and look in Cobb County. So we have gotten started.

Commissioner Thomas said, very good. That's what we've got to do.

Chairman Scott said, okay.

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**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

Chairman Scott said, we don't have any Chairman --

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**VII. COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS**

Chairman Scott said, -- or Commission Items on the agenda.

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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. **THIS ITEM WAS TABLED AT THE JUNE 10, 2016, MEETING.  
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM AT THE JUNE 24, 2016 MEETING.  
NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM AT THE JULY 15, 2016 MEETING.**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Three (3) on-call professional services annual contracts with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms for miscellaneous civil design	Engineering	•Hussey, Gay, Bell •EMC Engineering Services •Wolverton and Associates	\$250,000 (Not to Exceed)	The cost will be charged to appropriate projects budgeted in the Sales Tax I, II, III, IV, V & VI SPLOSTs, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Special Service District (SSD) and the Land Bank Account

Chairman Scott said, we have one tabled item that will roll off after this meeting.

Commissioner Center said, that won't -- Mr. Chairman, that won't appear on paper for us anymore, will it?

Chairman Scott said, no.

Commissioner Center said, unless we bring it up? Great.

County Manager Smith said, no. This is the last time.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Item was left on the Table until next Commission meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM:** ~~X-8 A thru E~~  
**AGENDA DATE:** ~~June 10, 2016~~  
**AGENDA ITEM:** ~~VIII-1~~  
**AGENDA DATE:** ~~June 24, 2016~~  
**AGENDA ITEM:** ~~VIII-1~~  
**AGENDA DATE:** ~~July 15, 2016~~  
**AGENDA ITEM:** **VIII-1**  
**AGENDA DATE:** July 29, 2016

**TO:** BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
**THRU:** LEE SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER  
**FROM:** LINDA CRAMER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** AWARD OF BIDS

**ITEM A**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects.

**BACKGROUND:** There are small to medium projects that can be done by a variety of professional engineering companies that have demonstrated their ability to accomplish quality and timely work for the County. Projects to be considered to be miscellaneous civil would include parks, recreational facilities, site design and other similar work.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The contracts will be managed by task orders. Each task order will be for a specified not to exceed amount. The task orders will be for specific tasks with deliverables and schedules determined by the solicitor of the services. The contracts shall have a one year term and may be automatically renewed for up to four additional one year terms under the same conditions.
2. The companies listed in this report are not intended to be inclusive of all "qualified" companies. Their selection was evaluated through a quality based selection process. Nine proposals were reviewed and scored. (See attached matrix on pages 3 and 4 for detailed scoring) The following firms were the highest rated from the list of proposers and are recommended to receive contract awards in the amounts indicated.

Hussey, Gay, Bell (NTE \$ 250,000)  
Savannah, GA

EMC Engineering Services (NTE \$ 250,000)  
Savannah, GA

Wolverton and Associates (NTE \$ 250,000)  
Savannah, GA

3. Any on-call task orders that exceed \$25,000 will require Board approval.

**FUNDING:** The costs will be charged to appropriate projects budgeted in the Sales Tax I, II, III, IV, V, & VI SPLOSTs, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Special Service District (SSD) and the Land Bank Account.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award three (3) professional services on-call contracts with a total annual fee for each contract not to exceed \$250,000 over a one (1) year term with renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms with various engineering companies for miscellaneous civil design projects.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to award professional services contracts to the highest scoring firms.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
READ DEHAVEN

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

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

- 1. TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFER: 1) IN THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND INCREASE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES \$194,750 FOR A DBHDD REGIONAL GRANT AWARD; AND 2) IN THE GENERAL FUND M&O TRANSFER \$84,070 FROM THE SHERIFF'S DETENTION CENTER BUDGET TO THE DETENTION CENTER SHERIFF'S BUDGET.**

Chairman Scott said, and now we're on Items for Individual Action. First item is to request the approval of the following budget amendments and transfer: in the Multiple Grant fund increase revenues and expenditures by \$194,750 for a regional grant award; and 2) in the General Fund M&O transfer \$84,070 from the Detention Center budget to the Sheriff's budget.

Commissioner Center said, you want a motion?

Commissioner Brady said, so moved.

Commissioner Center said, second.

Chairman Scott said, properly moved and second. Any discussion?

Commissioner Center said, may I ask one question?

Chairman Scott said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, explain to me the difference between --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner from the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Center said, -- the difference between the detention center and the Sheriff's budget. The detention center is run by the Sheriff.

County Manager Smith said, correct.

Commissioner Center said, could you explain to me the difference between the two budgets?

County Manager Smith said, well, they're two separate cost centers. So as we began to look at trying to at least make some attempt to get competitive salaries, and the -- we -- I appreciate the Sheriff working with us and his -- his team for, you know, really a couple months now. But we had to make transfers to, you know, to make this work, and you see the total in the report, to, you know, the annualized cost of the increase is to be \$525,000 and what it's inclusive of, but in order to balance it out, we need to transfer from one cost center to the other.

Commissioner Center said, but -- but what I'm asking, is -- is the detention center not run all by the Sheriff's department?

County Manager Smith said, yes, it's run by the Sheriff. Yeah.

Commissioner Center said, okay. I didn't understand why there's two budgets, a detention center budget and a Sheriff's budget.

County Manager Smith said, we -- we have -- it's just two cost centers. That way we can -- as the Sheriff said, like the \$70, that way we can know what our costs are.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

Chairman Scott said, one -- one is salary and one is the other facility. Is that not right?

County Manager Smith said, yeah.

County Attorney R. Jonathan Hart said, yeah. If you merge the two, you have trouble keeping up with how much you're spending on the detention center --

County Manager Smith said, correct.

County Attorney Hart said, -- and how much you're spending on the enforcement side.

County Manager Smith said, yeah. Yeah.

Commissioner Center said, okay. Thank you. Thank you.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any further discussion? Unreadiness? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The motion carries.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved for approval of the following budget amendments and transfer: 1) in the Multiple Grant fund increase revenues and expenditures \$194,750 for a DBHDD regional grant award; and 2) in the General Fund M&O transfer \$84,070 from the Detention Center budget to the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: IX-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Amy Davis, Finance Director

**ISSUE:**

To request approval of the following budget amendments and transfer: 1) in the Multiple Grant fund increase revenues and expenditures \$194,750 for a DBHDD regional grant award; and 2) in the General Fund M&O transfer \$84,070 from the Detention Center budget to the Sheriff's budget.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Board of Commissioners has been awarded a \$194,750 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) grant for the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court. Correspondence and a resolution to amend the Multiple Grant Fund are attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).
2. A transfer of \$84,070 from the Detention Center budget to the Sheriff's budget is requested to provide necessary funding for salary increases for sworn personnel. Correspondence is attached (to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file).

**FUNDING:**

The budget amendment will establish funds in the Multiple Grant Fund. Funds are available in the Sheriff's budget.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the following:

**MULTIPLE GRANT FUND**

Increase revenues and expenditures \$194,750 for a JDBDHH Regional grant award.

**GENERAL FUND M&O**

Transfer \$84,070 from the Detention Center budget to the Sheriff's budget.

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:**

Staff recommends Alternative 1.

Prepared by: Estelle Brown

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**2. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY DIRECTOR RAGAN.**

Chairman Scott said, the next item in this section of the agenda is the CNT monthly report. At this time I recognize Director Reagan for his report.

CNT Director D. Everett Ragan said, good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. First of all I'd like to go over the June monthly report and -- for the month of June we started out with -- we had 92 cases we initiated -- initiated in the month of June; 45 of those cases have been closed out. For the month we seized over \$72,197 worth of narcotics. To date we have seized over \$543,242 narcotics. Basically this -- we're seeing that heroin is still one of our biggest seizures on drugs purchased, along with our meth. Weapons seized for the month was 16; total for the year is 45; 25 arrests for the month. Out of that 25 arrests, 20 are from Savannah, one from Atlanta, one from Rincon, Port Wentworth, Pooler and Lithonia.

Director Ragan said, investigated a total of 21 Crime Stopper complaints, 18 hotline and one project log from a politician. The next pages, of course, are the actual addresses in each individual District that we worked; arrests made, and/or Crime Stopper tips coming in for your Districts. Hours expended for that month, for the month of June looks like again Central and the Islands basically with the Islands we're talking about not east of the river, the Wilmington Island area, but we're talking about the state streets and east Savannah. Those are parts of the Islands precinct. City of Savannah, again, leads the way as far as our number of hours expended in the municipality. Twenty-three hundred and fifty-five hours spent total investigations; all precincts were 1861; 13 hours in the unincorporated area; municipalities 449.

Director Ragan said, a couple of significant events, and then I have a -- a Power Point on -- on -- on the case we -- we just concluded. June 13<sup>th</sup> we concluded an investigation on the sale of heroin in Chatham County. Suspect, and this individual was a documented gang member out of Tatemville. The -- the Tatemville Terrors, a/k/a the Hell Hole Gang, they've had several -- several moments of -- of -- of publicity in Chatham County, with the -- the fair shooting several years ago, that was members of the Hell Hole Gang. So we were able to arrest one of those individuals. Not only did he have numerous charges that we placed on him with the sales of heroin and possession of firearms, he was also wanted at the time by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Bryan County, Effingham, and Glynn County. So, he -- he was an active member in criminal activity in -- in this area.

Director Ragan said, June 12<sup>th</sup>, we began an investigation actually out of Effingham County. They -- they passed some information on to us, information in reference to a pound of methamphetamine coming in. Did not know whether it was going into Effingham to Chatham County. It came in to Chatham County, the individuals. We were able to intercept and arrested two individuals over -- we discovered over a pound of heroin, two guns. They had a security badge. Within the next couple of months, I will -- we took this one pound of heroin. So far we've recovered multiple -- excuse me, one pound of methamphetamine. We recovered multiple pounds now. Active investigation that we're -- we're about to close down again. We will see -- be able to see photographs of our famed Ghost Face Gangsters, still in prison, still trying to negotiate and middle deals -- methamphetamine deals out of prison. So, we'll hopefully indict within the next month and a half on those -- those individuals.

Director Ragan said, and to see, we're still running the gamut of -- of drugs. We don't hear much about mushrooms, but we recovered mushrooms, meth, and everything -- all the -- affiliated together on the same case. This was a resident off of Rose Hill Drive that we charged individuals with methamphetamines, mush -- and the other hallucins -- hallucinogens [sic]. So we still have people smoking mushrooms. If -- I guess if we have POD around here, we'd still have people smoking POD too.

Commissioner Center said, is it -- is it okay to ask a question at this point?

Chairman Scott said, go ahead.

Commissioner Center said, all right. I -- I wanted to back up --

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Center has a question.

Commissioner Center said, I want to back up to the -- to the Tatemville Terrors and the Hell Hole Gang. Do you know anything about the gangs? I mean, are people going in there straight from high school? What are the age groups? Tell me a little bit about this.

Director Ragan said, the age groups are anywhere from the teens into some of the ones that are in their -- in their 30s and 40s. This individual was not a -- is not a young person using and his age -- I will show you a slide -- in part of my Power Point is going to be on Power -- on Tatemville --

Commissioner Center said, this gang?

Director Ragan said -- on our operation, and I'll show you -- we have individuals in that who is the hierarchy of that organization that were part of the Hell Hole Gang from years back. This gang's been around for a while. They got -- received notoriety a couple of years ago, but it's -- it's been around for a while.

Commissioner Center said, they're just growing up into this gang.

Director Ragan said, sir?

Commissioner Center said, so it's people who have been living in this area for years, and they're just --

Director Ragan said, growing -- yeah.

Commissioner Center said, part of their life evolution, they're going into this gang.

Director Ragan said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, okay. Thank you. I'm sorry to interrupt.

Director Ragan said, that's all right.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell.

Commissioner Farrell said, if there were enhanced recreation opportunities for youth such as we saw here today, do you feel like that that may divert some of the potential gang members in a different life direction?

Director Ragan said, I would think that with the -- with the combination of positive role models and with the coaches and the opportunity to spend time on a baseball field instead of an empty lot, that, yeah, I think it would have an impact. It did on -- you know, it did on me, and it's done it on millions of other people, but you have to have the combination of -- of -- of opportunity and the willingness to participate and -- and go from there.

Commissioner Farrell said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Holmes have one for you.

Commissioner Holmes said, Mr. Ragan?

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, on page four.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, the West 33<sup>rd</sup> and the East Duffy Street, same name.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Holmes said, is that person relocating to different parts of Savannah or what?

Director Ragan said, could be using just a -- a couple of different houses to do it -- getting Crime Stoppers on one, and I -- I will -- again, this Power Point, I'll be able to explain a little bit as to how they operate when they do have a distribution network and different houses, the trap houses, the safe houses and the houses that they sell out of. So he may be associated with two different -- two or three different houses, still living in one or not living in any of the two but selling drugs off the porch or somewhere else of those other two residences, and his name comes into the Crime Stoppers, and we get his name that way.

Commissioner Holmes said, okay.

Director Ragan said, I'm going to talk briefly in reference Operation Jericho, and, you know, I -- I -- I leave it to some of my -- and these -- these cases primarily come out of my major case unit. I usually leave it to them to give us an operational name or -- or a tag for an investigation. They came up with Jericho basically because Joshua walked around the walls until they finally crumbled. This is a house, this is an investigation that had walls up that we had to do a lot of work to keep getting into one particular house and -- till we finally got it to crumble. So, Operation Jericho actually started around April 2015. Seems like a long time, but it takes a lot of work and we had some setbacks. We met with our DEA partners. They had a liaison officer with us, and the FBI, who had a -- a role in this investigation, and we had a role in -- in one of theirs. Group of individuals that was distributing cocaine in the Savannah area. Through surveillance, wire taps, search warrants, background investigations, agents were able to identify several key distributors, suppliers, and consumers of cocaine and Molly. Molly is the ex -- ecstasy, MDMA. It is -- it was established that the group had primarily distributed multiple kilograms of cocaine, as well as the MDA [sic]. Key members of the conspiracy were found to have drug ties in Atlanta and reaching out as far as Houston.

Director Ragan said, I can tell you that CNT reached out to Atlanta, and we knocked a few off. We -- we haven't been able to go to Houston yet, so we're not -- we're not really able to do that yet, so, we're working with our DEA partners in -- in reference to that. Case overview, agents discovered that a residence in the 800-block of Tatem Street was being used as a primary drop-off point for the cocaine, which was then distributed to other locations throughout the city. Group was apparently -- operating from various trap houses, and basically a trap house is where certain amounts of cocaine and the workers are taken and the drugs are there, and they work out of those houses and they got other areas to distribute. They were on a -- and with this one investigation, we had trap houses on the southside, west side, east side neighborhoods. That was i.e. Tatemville, Windsor Forest, Highway 204 and I-95, Gateway Village and the Skidaway Road corridor.

Commissioner Center said, these -- these are leased houses?

Director Ragan said, sir?

Commissioner Center said, these houses leased or owned? I mean --

Director Ragan said, owned -- owned and rented. Okay? Most of them -- most -- two of them that I know of were owned and two were rentals. Okay? This house you -- you can see the house on Tatem Street, very little living in there, but you got every window secure with heavy bars. You got every room had the TVs on the wall, flat screens on the wall. That was the security system. They wasn't in there always watching TV, they were all hooked up to a security system and very little activity unless they had drugs or were cooking drugs. And basically what this house was when cocaine came in in powdered form, they cooked and -- crack in that -- in that house. Identified the drug residence, McKenzie Place, Tatemville, 12150 White Bluff Road, that's condos/apartments right across the street at Windsor Road.

Commissioner Brady said, can I make a comment?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady of th 6<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Brady said, that -- those condos have been a problem with drugs --

Director Ragan said, mm-hmm.

Commissioner Brady said, -- consistent -- consistently, and just crime.

Director Ragan said, hmm-hmm.

Commissioner Brady said, and I don't know what we can do other than obviously what you're doing.

Director Ragan said, yes.

Commissioner Brady said, and Savannah Metro, but we -- we need to have discussion about that, 'cause it's -- it's all the time. And -- and to be quite candid with you, you know, I -- I really watch when I'm driving by that place to make sure I don't see anybody out in front or, you know, getting ready to shoot me when I drive by.

Director Ragan said, on this address on White Bluff Road, it was a quote unquote safe house for Marcus Scott. It's where he stored his drugs. That's where he had his safe. That's where -- whenever he would buy his kilo of cocaine, he would go and that's where he would keep the majority of it, and he would break it down in there and then take smaller amounts to McKenzie Place and Carolyn [sic] to -- to sell. But that was an address -- he did not sell drugs out of there, but his supplier would bring him kilo or multi-kilo to that location where he'd keep it and cut it and everything else. Very few people knew that he was actually living there. It took hours of surveillance and -- and electronic surveillance to be able to pin him in to that apartment. He was not on the lease. One of his buddies was on the lease. He sub-leased it, so he -- he did everything possible to keep that as -- as quiet as he could and nobody knowing that he lived there, but he was actually storing and keeping kilos of cocaine and -- and portions of kilos in there.

Director Ragan said, again 715 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Montgomery Landings Apartments. Again, it was -- was one of the addresses. Here's a structure of the conspiracy. These -- these four guys here we found to be the main suppliers, but we kind of were not able to stay on them as much as possible because as in all good things, there was a snafu, and we had to break the investigation of them off, and we had to end it earlier. Anthony Pointer, supplier, Khalil Sloman, they were associated with the house on Tatem Street, the one with all the bars on the windows. Morris Pollard, association with -- associated with a house on Preservation Way. Seneca Roberts, supplier out of Atlanta. He's an alternate supplier. During the investigation, it was determined that the above-person -- this person was the main source of supply to Marcus Scott, who's our actually target we first went up on and others who would distribute cocaine from the list of trap house locations.

Director Ragan said, again, we got -- we got Pointer, Sloman, Pollard and Scott, the four main players. They were selling one kilogram of coke -- coke -- cocaine. Two point two pounds for \$36,000 is what they was getting wholesale for the price of cocaine. A few years ago we could buy -- four years ago we could buy all we wanted to for \$30 -- \$31,000, but now it's -- it's gone up. Yes, sir? Excuse me.

Commissioner Center said, I -- I -- I'm still astounded when I -- when I look at these. Obviously, these people have some business acumen. I mean if -- if -- if it weren't cocaine, they -- they had to find each other.

Director Ragan said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, you can't Google, you know, and look up, but they have to find each other, know they're in the business, distribute, and set up. Do we -- does anybody ever study their backgrounds to find out how we can prevent from the beginning people going into this type of business?

Director Ragan said, well, it's -- it's actually --

Commissioner Center said, I know it's a -- it's a long thought.

Director Ragan said, it's a money maker. It's a lot of money. It -- it is a lot of money. With -- with Pointer, with Khalil Sloman, with Pollard, they were all associated for many years together, quote, unquote trucking

companies, and the investigators determined that they would bring the multi-kilos in on car haulers, put the cars -- cocaine and the drugs. It's a process. Something that's been going on. We've been working very closely with our partners on spin-offs on these and it's all coming out. Like I said, this is coming out of Texas and Atlanta -- but we're -- we're showing --

Commissioner Center said, but -- but --

Director Ragan said, so they had -- these individuals like Pointer and -- have actual businesses, transport businesses and this type of thing, that we are -- we search into their -- their records and all that kind of stuff to get them. So they -- there -- there is a -- there is a commonality that they do get together and run a quote, unquote business and --

Commissioner Center said, and then they find out it's more profitable to incorporate drugs.

Director Ragan said, well and sell drugs, and the purpose of forming the business is -- is to distribute cocaine, so they -- they form a business that they feel -- feel they can be under the radar to bring -- bring the cocaine in. But again, most of these were born and raised out in the -- out in the area, so they've known each other for years.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Director Ragan said, again, Seneca Roberts. He's an alternate source. When it was dry for Tatem Street, Marcus Scott would make contact in Atlanta, Seneca Roberts, we covered surveillance. He sold them a kilo of cocaine. We followed it back, knocked him off -- knocked his brother off, Marcellus, and continued to run our investigation. We didn't approach him at that point in time. We had some of our partners knock him off, and we were present when we did it. James Riley, a source of Molly, again out of -- out of Atlanta associated with a rap group, along with -- with Seneca and along with Morris -- Morris -- Maurice -- Morris Pollard, excuse me. And here's the -- again, the upper echelon with Morris Pollard, Anthony Pointer, Khalil Sloman, Marcus Scott, Seneca Roberts, alternate source, and Marcellus Scott, and -- the Molly source.

Director Ragan said, interesting story about Marcus, was he didn't trust his -- him and Marcellus are brothers. He didn't really trust his brother with his money, so he went up and bought the -- a kilo of cocaine in Atlanta, then called his brother to come up and come transport it back. He would be in the lead car, and his brother would come back in the back car. Of course, we were -- we were listening and surveillance on the whole thing, so we knew which car they were in and where they were coming, and we were tracking them all the way back till we had them pulled over, and Marcellus was stopped with a kilo of cocaine and the Molly that he had bought, but his brother just kept right on, right on going. Went up the interstate to come back around, saw the trooper behind him, state -- the deputy behind him, and just left his brother hanging in jail for about six months before we closed our case out and just knocked on the door.

Director Ragan said. co-conspirators here you got more on a local level with Marcus Scott, Eric Brown, Manigo, Anthony Boyd, Ramon Wright, Jermaine London, and he's with Marcellus [Scott], William Wilkerson and Doug Reed. Doug Reed was the one who was living in Montgomery Landing. With Doug Reed you had Anthony Smith and Chiquetta Jordan. The structure of the conspiracy, members from persons who have been identified -- indicted federally with the assistance of the DEA and the FBI for charges ranging from conspiracy to traffic cocaine, so we've got seven of them out -- out of our 16 are going federal prosecution. Not only did we indict Marcus Scott, but the FBI indicted Marcus Scott also. He is now a fugitive. Some -- most of the other ones have turned -- we got 12 in -- in custody. Marcus is a fugitive. Marcus understands that he has now -- he is a four-time convicted drug dealer. He was caught with guns, a bullet proof vest, and we can put multi-kilos of cocaine on him. So, he is looking at life in prison. So he -- he is now on the run. Us and the Marshal service are -- are looking for him.

Commissioner Center said, considered dangerous?

Director Ragan said, sir?

Commissioner Center said, considered dangerous then?

Director Ragan said, considered dangerous. He -- he had two guns and a bullet proof vest. So. When we pulled him over, we pulled him over on White Bluff just outside -- just south of Windsor, and -- and he had a gun under his seat, and he had a bullet proof vest also, so, yeah, he's considered dangerous.

Commissioner Brady said, I have a question.

Director Ragan said, ma'am?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Brady of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Brady said, how long has he been a fugitive? How long has he been gone and on the run?

Director Ragan said, he has been gone since the middle of June. He has -- we lost contact -- contact with him.

Commissioner Brady said, he has -- and he -- other than -- other than his brother, he has family here in Savannah, doesn't he?

Director Ragan said, he has -- he had a girlfriend. She now has taken up with somebody else. She's also been indicted, so -- he -- but he's got other family. He's got a mother here. The mother lives off of McKenzie Place, so, yeah, we're -- we are actively -- actively looking for him. He is not -- we do not believe he is in Chatham County area now. We have evidence he's somewhere else, and we're looking.

Commissioner Brady said, okay.

Director Ragan said, hard and heavy.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you.

Director Ragan said, and we're -- back to this part of the structure, these are individuals we did state-wide, the Rileys and Manigos, Porsha -- Porsha Graham is interesting, Marcia -- Marcus' Scott's girlfriend. They lived in the -- off of Pennsylvania Avenue in the homes over there, apartments off Pennsylvania is where actually they lived, and one of the weapons we recovered, and we have -- the reason she is charged, she bought a gun for him at a -- at the gun show, straw purchase, as we've seen. She bought it, she furnished it to him, he had it when we caught him, so -- so we charged her with furnishing of a weapon to a known drug offender.

Commissioner Center said, are there separate criminal penalties for being a straw purchaser?

Director Ragan said, yes, sir, there are.

Commissioner Center said, okay.

Director Ragan said, okay. Some of the other ones, these are -- were kind of like the bottom feeders. They wasn't -- really wasn't dealing with weight. These would be like -- a couple of them are like cab drivers, would go re-up and sell drugs to the customers, this type of thing. They'd call. So these are what some of those are, and those are just -- those that we show buying small amount. Again, we said 11 weapons. You can see the variety -- variety of the weapons we recovered in -- in this sale. Four of them had been stolen fire arms. Drugs seized, a total of 5.75 pounds of cocaine, a little bit of Molly that Mar -- Marcellus [Scott] had on him after he picked it up in Atlanta, and marijuana which was 25.9 we received when we did one of our search warrants. And, like I said, seven individuals charged federally, nine going through state court. We did a round-up on July the 8<sup>th</sup>, seized about 13,000 and those were -- grams of cocaine wind up being 100 -- excuse me 5.75 pounds. We have spin-off investigations on this. So, they are not over yet, and that's -- this is what my major case unit does. Many, many hours put in to -- to surveillance, put in to preparing wire taps, preparing PIN registers, so a lot -- a long time and a lot of hours behind the scenes to get this done. So. Any questions?

Chairman Scott said, Commissioner Farrell of the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Farrell said, year in, year out, we go after the bad guys; we catch them; put them in jail. There's a vacuum that gets filled and round and round we go. What's it going to take to get the bad guys off the street and no vacuum to fill?

Director Ragan said, it's going to take -- it's going to take the opportunity as you mentioned earlier for the youth to find something else that they would rather do than -- than emulate a drug dealer on the corner or an individual who is selling drugs that has the cash in his pocket. Okay? It's going to be for the hard -- seeing something about hard work being put in and some -- something coming out of it. It's going to be when these that go in -- one of these individuals had been booked in the Chatham County jail 21 times for everything from drug possession to aggravated assault, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. So, it's going to be -- the bad ones need to stay in jail and get hope for the young ones to do something else.

Chairman Scott said, okay. Any further questions of Director Ragan? If not, thank you, sir.

Director Ragan said, yes, sir.

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

For information only.

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## **X. ACTION CALENDAR**

<p>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.</p>
---

Chairman Scott said, next on the agenda is approval of the Action Calendar. There was no indication in the Green Room that anyone wanted to pull anything off for discussion or voted on separately, so at this point I'll entertain a motion for approval.

Commissioner Brady said, Mr. Chairman, I make a motion for approval.

Commissioner Shabazz said, second.

Commissioner Holmes said, second it.

Chairman Scott said, it's been moved by Commissioner Brady, second by Commissioner Shabazz for approval. Any discussion?

Commissioner Center said, may I ask a question?

Chairman Scott said, any unreadiness?

Commissioner Center said, yes.

Chairman Scott said, I recognize Commissioner Center from the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Center said, yeah. And this -- this may be for the County Attorney, on Item 8, with the contract between the Georgia National Guard and Chatham County I -- I saw that they're going to be responsible. Is there a hold harmless also? I mean, it says they'll be responsible if -- the negligent action but they all will hold us harmless?

County Attorney Hart said, yes.

Commissioner Center said, thank you.

Chairman Scott said, any further unreadiness or discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. The Motion carries.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved to approve all items on the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 11 and under Item 11 Items A through E. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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

=====

- 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 15, 2016, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 15, 2016, as mailed. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

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- 2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 7, 2016 THROUGH JULY 15, 2016.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period of July 7, 2016 through July 15, 2016, in the amount of \$3,976,693. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

=====

3. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE DBHDD REGIONAL GRANT AWARD OF \$194,750 FOR THE SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY DRUG COURT AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE RELATED CONTRACT AND HAVE ACCOUNT CODES AND PROJECT NUMBERS ASSIGNED. NO MATCH IS REQUIRED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved for Board approval to accept the DBHDD regional grant award of \$194,750 for the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court and authorize the Chairman to sign the related contract and have account codes and project numbers assigned. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-3**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager

**FROM:** Jean Cottier, Coordinator, Deputy Court Administrator, Savannah Chatham County Drug Court Coordinator  
 Crystal Cooper, Superior Court Administrator

**DATE:** July 12, 2016

**ISSUE:**

To request Board approval to accept the DBHDD regional grant award of \$194,750 for the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court and authorize the Chairman to sign the related contract and have account codes and project numbers assigned.

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 2005, the Commission has approved the acceptance of DBHDD funding to help defray substance abuse treatment costs for the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court. The contract was received 7/12/16 and the period of this contract (grant) began July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 and ends July 30, 2017. This amount of funding has held steady for the past 4 years.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The County will serve as the local fiscal sponsor for the contract (grant) in the amount of (\$194,750).
2. The Commission Chairman is named as Authorized Representative for the contract (grant).

**FUNDING:**

No match is required.

The grants receipts and disbursement will be reflected in the Multiple Grant Fund.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approve the acceptance and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract (grant) as presented.
2. That the Board deny approval of the funding and providing other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

It has been consistent with Board policy to authorize the Chairman's signature on contracts to receive funding for the necessary expenses and services of the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court. The county funds for approximately 35% of the funding used to run this program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

=====

4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) PROGRAM GRANT OF \$76,913 FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (CJCC) AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE GRANT APPLICATION AND ITS SUBSEQUENT AWARD. THE GRANT REQUIRES AN IN-KIND MATCH OF 25%**

**WHICH WILL COME FROM VOLUNTEER HOURS. NO ADDITIONAL COUNTY FUNDS ARE REQUIRED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved the Board approval to apply for Victims of Crime Act Program grant of \$76,913 from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and authorize the Chairman to sign any documents related to the grant application and its subsequent award. The grant requires an in-kind match of 25% which will come from volunteer hours. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-4**

**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Sheryl Sams, Youth Intercept Program

**ISSUE:**

To request Board approval to apply for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and authorize the Chairman to sign any documents related to the grant application and its subsequent award.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The Youth Intercept Program is applying for **\$76,913.00** which includes the salary and benefits for the Community Intervention specialist, and staff travel and training.
2. The grant requires an in-kind match of 25%. The 25% match will come from volunteer hours. **No additional funds from the County are required.**
3. The Community Intervention Specialist is currently on a grant that is set to expire. The Youth Intercept Program is applying for victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds as a replacement for grant set to expire. The Victims of Crime grant is a more stable grant. The grant will run for one year with an option for renewal. The starting grant cycle is October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017.

**FUNDING:**

No additional County funds are required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. That the Board approves the Youth Intercept Program to apply for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).
2. That the Board not approve the Youth Intercept Program to apply for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funding from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

No additional funds from Chatham County are required. There is an in-kind match of 25%. The 25% match will come from volunteer hours.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approves Alternative 1.

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5. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIRMAN TO ACCEPT A GRANT AWARD FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL'S (CJCC) FY17 JUVENILE JUSTICE INCENTIVE GRANT (CONTINUATION GRANT) ON BEHALF OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY JUVENILE COURT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,062. NO LOCAL FUNDS ARE REQUIRED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved for Board authorization for the Chairman to accept a grant award from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's (CJCC) FY17 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant (Continuation Grant) on behalf of the Chatham County Juvenile Court in the amount of \$54,062. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz

seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-5**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Suzanne Cooler, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

To authorize the Chairman to execute an Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services with Norfolk Southern Railway Company in the amount of \$30,000 for the Pipemakers Canal Railroad Bridge Replacement Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The proposed project will expand or replace two existing railroad bridge crossings with associated channel improvements to improve capacity of the crossings and reduce water surface elevations in the Canal. Preliminary Engineering documents must be submitted to and approved by Norfolk Southern before the project can proceed to the bidding phase.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The existing bridges were left in place when other projects expanded the Canal size upstream and downstream of each crossing. The retained bridges are bottlenecks which retard flow and prevent full realization of completed improvements.
2. Improvements to the crossings are needed to increase capacity and reduce water surface elevations during rainfall events. The improvements located on railroad right-of-way must be designed and constructed with the approval of Norfolk Southern.
3. The agreement will allow for reimbursement of Norfolk Southern expenses associated with the review and approval plans and specifications in advance of putting the project out of bid for construction.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To authorize the Chairman to execute an Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services with Norfolk Southern Railway Company in the amount of \$30,000 for the Pipemakers Canal Railroad Bridge Replacement Project.
2. To not authorize the Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Services.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the 1998-2003 SPLOST Drainage, Fund/Department 3224250/Account Code 521200/Project 3228021.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board must approve all Agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve Alternative No 1.

District 3, 8

Prepared by: Bill Nicholson, P.E.

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**6. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,900 FOR THE LITTLE HURST CANAL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved for Board authorization for the Chairman to execute a preliminary engineering agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc., in the amount of \$3,900 for the Little Hurst Canal Drainage Improvements Project. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-6**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Suzanne Cooler, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

To authorize the Chairman to execute a Preliminary Engineering Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc., in the amount of \$3,900 for the Little Hurst Canal Drainage Improvements Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The proposed project will install new pipes under the CSX tracks at the crossing of Little Hurst Canal with associated channel improvements to improve capacity of the crossing and reduce upstream flooding conditions. Preliminary Engineering documents must be submitted to and approved by CSX before the project can proceed to the bidding phase.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The existing structures beneath the CSX crossing of Little Hurst Canal are undersized, which has resulted in exacerbated flooding conditions upstream during large rainfall events.
2. Improvements to the crossing are needed to increase capacity and reduce upstream flooding. The improvements to be located on CSX right-of-way must be designed and constructed with the approval of CSX.
3. The agreement will allow for reimbursement of CSX expenses associated with the review and approval of plans and specifications in advance of putting the project out to bid for construction.
4. The Preliminary Engineering Agreement was reviewed and approved by the County Attorney as to legal form.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To authorize the Chairman to execute a Preliminary Engineering Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$3,900 for the Little Hurst Canal Drainage Improvements Project.
2. To not authorize the Preliminary Engineering Agreement.

**FUNDING:**

Funds are available in the 1998-2003 SPLOST Drainage, Fund/Department 3224250/Account Code 521200/Project 3228025.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board must approve all Agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve Alternative No. 1.

District 8

Prepared by: Bill Nicholson, P.E.

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7. **REQUEST BOARD CONFIRM THE COUNTY MANAGER'S GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO GEORGIA POWER TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN POWER SERVICE TO THE COUNTY'S NEW FUEL SITE.  
[DISTRICT 1.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved Board confirm the County Manager's granting an easement to Georgia Power to install and maintain power service to the county's new fuel site. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-7**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** Suzanne Cooler, P.E., Assistant County Engineer

**ISSUE:**

Confirm the County Manager's granting an easement to Georgia Power to install and maintain power service to the County's new fuel site.

**BACKGROUND:**

The fuel site is currently under construction on Varnedoe Drive. Georgia Power requires the easement to provide electrical service to the site. Georgia Power must install an additional power line and guy wires on the County property. The easement is necessary to allow for installation and future maintenance.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Power is necessary for the fuel dispensing system at the new fuel site. Georgia Power will install the necessary wire and service and will provide maintenance. The easement allows for access to the County's property. Installation of the power service is a critical step in finishing this project and making the fuel system operational. Georgia Power would not schedule the installation until the easement was signed. The County Manager executed the easement in order to cause no further delay to the project.
2. The agreement was reviewed and approved by the County Attorney as to legal form.

**FUNDING:**

No funds are required.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To confirm the County Manager's granting an easement to Georgia Power to install and maintain power service to the County's new fuel site.
2. To not confirm the County Manager's signature.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

The Board must approve easements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve Alternative No. 1

District 1

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD AND CHATHAM COUNTY'S CNT AGENCY TO ALLOW FOR COOPERATION AND ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIMINATE THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITY WITHIN CHATHAM COUNTY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved for Board approval of a contract between the Georgia National Guard and Chatham County's CNT agency to allow for cooperation and additional assistance to eliminate the use of illegal drug activity within Chatham County. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-8**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

**ISSUE:**

To approve contract between the Georgia National Guard and Chatham County's CNT agency to allow

for cooperation and additional assistance to eliminate the use of illegal drug activity within Chatham County.

**BACKGROUND:**

CNT is a department funded exclusively by the M&O of Chatham County that works throughout the county, in every municipality and with boarding counties to perform high level drug investigation. The Governor of the State of Georgia has designated the Georgia National Guard as a law enforcement agency capable of performing those duties within the State.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. CNT is tasked with performing high level drug investigation throughout Georgia.
2. As a part of these investigations, CNT is called upon to travel throughout the State.
3. The Georgia National Guard is designated to be a law enforcement agency but is not staffed by POST sworn police officers.
4. Cooperation between these two agencies is contemplated under federal and state law.
5. Cooperation between agencies similar to CNT in other counties with the Georgia National Guard has been successful.
6. The County Commission is asked to approve this agreement.
7. Liability for the Georgia National Guard's actions remains with federal authorities and there is no liability to Chatham County for the action of such personnel.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

This contract will benefit Chatham County by assisting CNT with additional resources.

**FUNDING:**

There is no County funding requirement outside the already approved CNT budget and future use of confiscated funds.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To approve contract between the Georgia National Guard and Chatham County's CNT agency.
2. Do not approve contract between the Georgia National Guard and Chatham County's CNT agency.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative No. 1

[NOTE: Memorandum of Agreement between the Georgia National Guard and The Savannah-Chatham Counter Narcotics Team is attached to the original staff report in the Clerk of Commission's meeting file.]

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**9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GEORGIA PORT AUTHORITY AND CHATHAM COUNTY MARINE PATROL FOR THE USE OF DOCK SPACE AND A STORAGE YARD AT OCEAN TERMINAL.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved for Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Georgia Port Authority and Chatham County Marine Patrol for the use of dock space and a storage yard at Ocean Terminal. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-9**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager

**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney

**ISSUE:**

To approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Georgia Port Authority and Chatham County Marine Patrol for the use of dock space and a storage yard at Ocean Terminal.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chatham County, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, resumed control of Marine Patrol who is now under the directive of CNT. In addition to their location in Thunderbolt, Marine Patrol desires a presence along the Savannah River to assist in its essential functions.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. Chatham County Marine Patrol is tasked with ensuring the safety of the waterways of Chatham County to include the Savannah River and the areas populated by the Georgia Port Authority.
2. The Georgia Port Authority recognizes the need for Marine Patrol to assist in the safety and functionality of the river that the GPA utilizes.
3. The Georgia Port Authority is an instrumentality of the state and works closely with SEDA, Chatham County and other governmental agencies.
4. Cooperation between these two parties is state law and necessary to ensure the safety of Chatham County's waterways.
5. For consideration of \$10, the GPA agrees to allow Marine Patrol the use of one designated floating dock for this purpose.
6. The GPA further agrees to allow Marine Patrol the use of one designated land storage area to include identified parking space where Marine patrol may store an office trailer and other necessary items.
7. The County Commission is asked to approve this agreement.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

This contract will benefit Chatham County by assisting Marine Patrol's capability to ensure the safety of the port and the Savannah River.

**FUNDING:**

There is no County funding requirement outside the already approved CNT budget.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. To approve contract between the Georgia Port Authority and Chatham County's Marine Patrol.
2. Do not approve

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Alternative. 1

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**10. REQUEST FOR NEW WINE RETAIL AND POURING LICENSE FOR 2016.  
 PETITIONER: THOMAS E. DENNARD, III, D/B/A SAVANNAH BEE COMPANY,  
 LOCATED AT 211 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.  
 [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved Board to approve the Petition of Thomas E. Dennard, III, d/b/a Savannah Bee Company, located at 211 Johnny Mercer Boulevard for a new wine retail and pouring license for 2016. Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-10**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager

**FROM:** Gregori S. Anderson, Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services  
 Joseph Lumpkin, Sr., Chief of Police

**ISSUE:**

Request for new retail and pouring license for 2016. Petitioner: **Thomas E. Dennard, III, d/b/a Savannah Bee Company** located at **211 Johnny Mercer Blvd., Savannah, Georgia 31410.**

**BACKGROUND:**

Mr. Dennard requests approval for a new wine retail and pouring license in connection with an existing business. 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 and Sunday Sales.
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 1**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Joseph Lumpkin, Sr.

=====

**11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$25,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved for approval to award bids as follows: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$25,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.) Commissioners Holmes and Shabazz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter were not present for the vote.]

**AGENDA ITEM: X-11 A-G**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**THRU: LEE SMITH, COUNTY MANAGER**  
**FROM: LINDA CRAMER, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER**  
**SUBJECT: AWARD OF BIDS**

**ITEM A**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$499,876 Change Order No. 1 to add a 30 day extension to the construction contract with Griffin Contracting, Inc., for the resurfacing of Grove Point Road.

**BACKGROUND:** The project involves deep patching, surface treatment, paving, striping and signing. Partial funding for this project comes from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Local Maintenance and Improvements Grant (LMIG).

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. At the Board meeting on May 13, 2016, a construction contract was awarded to Griffin Contracting, Inc., for the resurfacing of Grove Point Road.
2. The extension of the project includes a 0.30 mile portion of Grove Point Road owned by the City of Savannah and the remaining 0.45 miles of Grove Point Road to its terminus owned by Chatham County. A 30 day extension to the contract is required to complete the extra work.
3. The original contract ended the improvements of Grove Point Road at the intersection of Shore Road. County staff coordinated with the contractor and City of Savannah to extend the project limits through the City of Savannah maintained portion to its terminus.
4. City of Savannah agreed to reimburse the County for the portion of the improvements within their jurisdictional limits. The estimated reimbursement is \$213,157, but the final reimbursement will be

based on the final quantities measured in the field. The estimates were based on unit prices established in the contractor's base bid.

5. Contract History:
- |                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Original Contract (5/13/16) | \$ 844,288  |
| Change Order 1 (pending)    | \$ 499,876  |
| Revised Contract Amount     | \$1,344,164 |

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2008-2014) - Unincorporated County Roads  
(3244220 - 541400 - 32456767)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$499,876 Change Order No. 1 to add a 30 day extension to the construction contract with Griffin Contracting, Inc., for the resurfacing of Grove Point Road.
2. Provide staff other direction.

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

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUCALO

**ITEM B**

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval to award an annual professional service contract/agreement to Evidence Based Associates, LLC (EBA). EBA will manage and provide oversight for evidence-based programming for youth referred by the Chatham County Juvenile Court. This initiative will be funded entirely through a \$698,339 grant awarded to Chatham County by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) through the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program.

**BACKGROUND:** The Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) awarded Chatham County a grant in the amount of \$698,339 as part of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program. This award is provided to continue programming to the youth and families of Chatham County. The goals of the program include reducing felony commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice and Short-Term Program (STP) sentences, reducing annual secure detention admissions, and reducing recidivism.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The contract is a continuation of a previous contract with Evidence Based Associates, LLC (EBA) to oversee and monitor these programs in Chatham County. Grant funds have been awarded from the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to fund this program. This is the second year of funding and it is anticipated that additional funding will be available through additional grant dollars to continue the program in subsequent years.
2. The Juvenile Court Administrator, in consultation with the Juvenile Court Judges, negotiated with Evidence Based Associates (EBA) LLC, to establish, oversee, and monitor Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) programs for identified youth and families in Chatham County.
3. Evidence Based Associates (EBA), LLC quoted the Juvenile Court Administrator a cost of \$54.67 per client per day for Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and \$82.97 per client per day for Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), based on a total number of 127 clients for the grant period. This daily rate includes all of the costs associated with the establishment and oversight of these programs and outcome reporting as well as the provision of services to individual clients.
4. Staff believes the quote of \$54.67 for FFT per client per day and \$82.97 for MST per client per day to be fair and reasonable.
5. The Chatham County Juvenile Court will receive \$689,339 in grant funding for FY 2017 from the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council CJCC effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

**FUNDING:** Georgia Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program  
(2502600 - 523900 - 25020004)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval to award an annual professional service contract/agreement to Evidence Based Associates, LLC (EBA). EBA will manage and provide oversight for evidence-based programming for youth referred by the Chatham County Juvenile Court. This initiative will be funded entirely through a \$698,339 grant awarded to Chatham County by the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) through the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program.

2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to fund court initiatives that increase the level of services provided to youth and families in Chatham County.

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

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

#### ITEM C

**ISSUE:** Request Board to declare as unserviceable surplus and approval to sell at a public auction or to dispose as scrap material older vehicles which cannot be economically repaired. The listed items attached can no longer be beneficially or advantageously used by the County.

**BACKGROUND:** Fleet Management and the various departments to whom the vehicles and equipment were assigned are in agreement that the identified items are unserviceable and should be disposed.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The attached list, on page 6, are the vehicles to be sold at a public auction or disposed of as scrap material.
2. These items will be disposed of as appropriate for condition, value and circumstance. By far, the most common method will be public auction, as prescribed by the Purchasing Ordinance. Some items, however, without a reasonable resale value, will be sold as scrap.
3. The date, time and location at which these vehicles will be auctioned will be publicly advertised to give citizens an opportunity to bid on these vehicles and equipment.

**FUNDING:** N/A - Revenue Producing

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board to declare as unserviceable surplus and approval to sell at a public auction or to dispose as scrap material older vehicles which cannot be economically repaired. The listed items attached can no longer be beneficially or advantageously used by the County.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve disposal of surplus County property through a public auction.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MELVA SHARPE

#### ITEM D

**ISSUE:** Request Board approval of a \$358,300 Change Order No.1 to the professional services contract with Cogdell Mendrala Architects, for architectural and engineering design services for the Chatham County Fleet Facility.

**BACKGROUND:** The 2014-2020 SPLOST referendum allocated funds for the Fleet Facility and Vehicle Replacement. The Fleet Services Department is currently operating out of two leased facilities that are too small. Many of the maintenance services are outsourced due to the limited space.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. In 2010 - 2011 the U.S. Government acquired the existing site of the Chatham County's Fleet Service Facility on Sallie Mood Drive for flood mitigation. Chatham County acquired the 84 Lumber site on Ogeechee Road to be adapted for the new Fleet Services Facility. On February 25, 2011 the Board approved award of a professional services contract in the amount of \$225,500 to Cogdell Mendrala Architects for the design and engineering services to adapt the 84 Lumber building and site to a Fleet Services Facility. This contract was carried through bid when the project was placed on hold due to contractor bids exceeding the project budget. The County sold the 84 Lumber site and the Fleet Facility was relocated to its current locations, at two temporary, leased facilities on Old Louisville Road in Garden City.
2. 2014-2020 SPLOST funds will be allocated for Vehicle Replacement and the remaining used toward the Fleet Facility.

3. Cogdell Mendrala Architects provided the architectural and engineering services for the 84 Lumber adaptive reuse and are familiar with the Fleet Department's operations and needs. The new Fleet Facility is to be located near the Public Works Facility on Varnedoe Road.
4. Contract History:
 

Original Contract (2/25/11)	\$225,500
Change Order No.1 (pending)	<u>\$358,300</u>
Revised Contract Amount	\$583,800

**FUNDING:** SPLOST (2014-2020) – Fleet Facility & Vehicle Replacement  
(3254980 - 521200 - 3256063)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board approval of a \$358,300 Change Order No.1 to the professional services contract with Cogdell Mendrala Architects, for architectural and engineering design services for the Chatham County Fleet Facility.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to approve change orders to professional services design contracts.

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

BUDGET APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
MARK BUCALO

**ITEM E**

**ISSUE:** Request Board confirmation of a \$50,000 initial payment to Fusion to provide Electronic Health Record Software and Implementation services for the Chatham County Detention Center. The initial payment was necessary to expedite installation of the system to coincide with the start of the new contract with CorrectHealth for inmate healthcare services. Also, recommend Board approval of the total initial one time cost of \$260,506 less the initial payment of \$50,000 and annual maintenance and hosting fees of \$83,654.

**BACKGROUND:** Chatham County is in the process of changing healthcare providers for the Detention Center. The existing electronic health record system is inadequate and does not belong to the County. It is important for continuity that the County own and maintain the electronic health record system

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. The GE Centricity Electronic Health Record System is currently used by Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care. Curtis V. Cooper is in the process of implementing a new system. Fusion has agreed to transfer the licenses currently used by Cooper at a greatly discounted price.
2. It is in the County's best interest to implement the electronic health record system as quickly as possible to insure proper record keeping of inmate healthcare at the Detention Center.
3. In order to expedite delivery and implementation of the system. Staff requested an emergency authorization to make the initial \$50,000 payment. The Chairman concurred.
4. Staff has reviewed the fee proposal furnished by Fusion and believe the costs to be reasonable and customary.

**FUNDING:** Capital Improvement Fund  
(3503160 - 542500)

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Board confirmation of a \$50,000 initial payment to Fusion to provide Electronic Health Record Software and Implementation services for the Chatham County Detention Center. The initial payment was necessary to expedite installation of the system to coincide with the start of the new contract with CorrectHealth for inmate healthcare services. Also, recommend Board approval of the total initial one time cost of \$260,506 less the initial payment of \$50,000 and annual maintenance and hosting fees of \$83,654.
2. Provide staff other direction.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:** It is consistent with Board policy to confirm all emergency purchases and to provide software necessary to the operation of the Detention Center.

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

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

PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
PURCHASING DIRECTOR

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## **XI. FIRST READINGS**

### **1. TO REPEAL THE CURRENT CHATHAM COUNTY FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE (FDPO) AND ADOPT A NEW VERSION TO BE APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).**

Chairman Scott said, the next item on the agenda is First Readers. This is to repeal the current Chatham County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance or EPDPO [sic] and adopt a new version to be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. This is a First Reader, so we won't have a discussion on it. We will have a complete discussion and presentation at our Second Reading. Any member have any questions about that? Hearing none.

**AGENDA ITEM: X1-1**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager  
**FROM:** R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
Leon Davenport, County Engineer

**ISSUE:**  
Request Board consideration of an amendment to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO).

**BACKGROUND:**  
Chatham County is ranked in the top five (5) percent for compliance with the directives of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for preventing damage from both rising waters and water surges. Given the topography of Chatham County and the continued growth within the County, the FDPO is a major source of both pride and concern.

In 2008, FEMA released maps based upon technology that was newly developed at that time which showed both the flood plains and flood zones of Chatham County. In 2014, the Board of Commissioners adopted the current FDPO. That ordinance matches the model ordinance provided by FEMA in most regards. However, there are differences and those have become of particular interest to the citizens and builders of Chatham County as real estate development increases.

#### **FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

1. FDPO was first adopted in 1987 as a mandate to the County to establish an ordinance whose purpose was to control filling, grading and other development which may increase flood damage or erosion.
2. In 2008, revisions were made to the FDPO that included a required 1-foot Freeboard that allowed no finished rooms or partition walls below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).
3. In the 2008 revision the county restricted Critical Facilities located in 500-yr floodplain for Community Rating system (CRS) points.
4. The 2008 revisions restricted any fill placed in the AE Zone is required to cause NO rise in the BFE in any area of the community.
5. In 2014, additional revisions were made to the FDPO. Those changes included that all structures must comply with the ordinance if any part is located in the SFHA. Likewise, structures must comply with most restrictive element if split on two zones.
6. The 2014 amendments also added the AE Zone fill mitigation language which has become an issue of debate.
7. Part of the amendments in 2014 were requirements of FEMA: including that no fill is allowed for septic systems in the VE Zone; restricted enclosures in VE Zones and Coastal A Zones to less than 299 square feet; and restricted use of wood materials for building foundation systems in the AE, VE and Coastal A Zones with the exception of pilings.
8. In 2014 the County also removed Critical Facilities language and lost 90 CRS points.
9. FEMA is releasing new maps that are to be used going forward starting sometime next year. There is no date certain. The new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) are based not only upon topography but also upon projected models of flood events that could occur, whether rising water or storm surge.
10. The Federal National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations require that any fill placed in the AE Zone must not result in a rise to the base flood elevation (BFE) greater than one foot anywhere within the community. FEMA Engineers were unable to provide

guidance as to what modeling is necessary to determine whether that allowed one foot of rise is to occur. Department of Engineering staff cautions that many homes were built Pre-FIRM and before the one foot of freeboard requirement was implemented in 2008. Those homes are at or below BFE. Any rise in the BFE could affect these properties.

11. Any changes made to the FDPO by the Board of Commissioners would require approval of the State Flood Plain Administrator before the County could enforce the ordinance.

**POLICY ANALYSIS:**

A policy decision must be made as to what, if any, changes should be made the FDPO. Once the Board has a first reading of an amendment FDPO, the County will forward the same to the State Flood Plan Administrator for review.

**FUNDING:**

The cost associated with mapping required for any change to the FDPO would need to be addressed upon implementation, if approved. However, forwarding the ordinance to the State Flood Plane Administrator for review will allow those costs to be determined upon FEMA's adoption of an appropriate modeling system.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Pass or modify the ordinance.
2. Do not pass the ordinance.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff makes no recommendation and presents it to the Board for appropriate consideration.

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**XII. SECOND 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, there are no Second Readers.

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**XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Chairman Scott said, everything else on the agenda is informational. Mr. Manager, do you have anything for informational purposes?

County Manager Smith said, no, sir.

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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: July 29, 2016**

**List of Purchasing Items between \$2,500 and \$24,999  
 That Do Not Require Board Approval**

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Installation of white aluminum single slope awning across the front of Juvenile Court modules	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Coastal Aluminum Builders, LLC	\$13,750	General Fund/M&O - Juvenile Court
Expert review and testimony for various cases	Public Defender	Phillip Resnick, M.D.	\$24,500	General Fund/M&O - Public Defender
Oyster bag installation at Turner's Creek	Engineering	HES Environmental, Inc.	\$8,750	CIP - Recreation Department
Update tablet operating systems and databases	Detention Center	Scottech, LLC	\$2,500	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Annual maintenance and service agreement for two (2) dishwashers	Detention Center	Hobart Corporation	\$9,060	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Annual services agreement for fingerprinting system at the Sheriff's Complex	Detention Center	Eagle Advantage Solutions, Inc.	\$9,762	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center
Data recording and tracking devices for three (3) Mosquito Control trucks	Mosquito Control	Adapco, Inc.	\$20,340	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
24 tons of industrial grade sand	Mosquito Control	Standard Sand & Silica Co., Inc.	\$4,200	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control

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### 3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE.

A status report was attached as information.

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 ROADS**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager

**FROM:** Leon Davenport, 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. Jimmy Deloach Parkway Extension and Interchange of Jimmy Deloach Parkway at U.S. 80. Design is on-going. Right of way (ROW) acquisition approximately 85% complete. Projects to be let together for construction by GDOT in Fiscal Year 2018.
2. Islands Expressway Bridge Replacement. Environmental document approved on May 26, 2015. ROW certification sent to GDOT. Final Field Plan Review (FFPR) scheduled for August 2, 2016. GDOT funding construction in Fiscal Year 2017.
3. SR 25 at Pipemakers Canal. Board approved design contract with Moffatt & Nichol at their meeting November 6, 2015. Preliminary design including survey, environmental and concept development underway. Project will replace the existing bridge to increase the capacity of the Pipemakers Canal.
4. SR 21 at Pipemakers Canal. Board approved design contract with Moffatt & Nichol at their meeting December 18, 2015. Preliminary design including survey, environmental and concept development underway. Consultant is developing alternatives to increase the capacity of Pipemakers Canal either by adding additional box culverts or by replacing the existing box culverts with a bridge.
5. Interstate 16 at SR307. Lump sum operational and safety improvement project. Chatham County is sponsoring preliminary engineering and GDOT is funding right of way, utility relocation and

- construction. Traffic Counts and projections complete. Concept recommendation from the traffic study is construction of a Diverging Diamond Interchange. GDOT is currently reviewing the alternatives.
6. Local Roads under Construction.
    - a. Road Resurfacing.
      - I. Resurfacing of Grove Point Road from King George Boulevard to Shore Road was awarded by the Board to Griffin Construction on May 13, 2016. Pre-construction meeting and notice to proceed issued July 21, 2016.
      - II. Staff soliciting an invitation to bid for approximately 5.0 miles of road resurfacing to include Al Henderson Boulevard, White Ibis Lane, Zipperer Road, Junco Way, Finn Circle, Sugar Mill Drive, Saint Ives Drive, Valhalla Drive, Hopeton Court and Frontage Road (connects Al Henderson Boulevard). Staff anticipates construction in Summer 2016.
      - III. Staff developing bid documents for approximately 5.8 miles of road resurfacing to include Dinghy Place, Brittlewood Drive, Suncrest Boulevard (south of 80), Kentshire Court, Halifax Road, Ashley Road, Montford Court, Wyckfield Court, Sea Palm Road, Cromwell Road, Pineneedle Drive, Woodridge Drive, Chatsworth Road, Druid Road, Palmetto Cove Road and Woodbine Road. Staff anticipates construction in Fall 2016.
      - IV. Staff developing bid documents for approximately 5.3 miles of road resurfacing to include Melody Drive, Marcy Circle, Nottingham Drive, Cypress Glen Drive, Garfield Street, Beaulieu Farm Bend, Whitefield Avenue, Mulberry court, Sandlewood Drive, McIntosh Drive, Norwood Avenue and Green Gate Court. Staff anticipates construction in Fall 2016.
    - b. LaRoche Avenue at Hopecrest Intersection Improvements. Construction is substantially complete.
    - c. Carl Griffin Drive at Chatham Parkway Intersection Improvements. Right of way acquisition is complete. Staff bid the project for construction and only received one bid that was over \$400,000 higher than the engineer's estimate. Staff is currently rebidding the project to obtain a more competitive price for the work.
  8. Local Road Projects under Design.
    - a. Benton Boulevard. Project will extend two lanes of Benton Boulevard north from its existing terminus at Highlands Boulevard to State Route 30. Two roundabouts will be constructed as a part of the project. One will be constructed at SR 30 (approved by GDOT) and the second will be constructed at Meinhard Road (approved by City of Port Wentworth). Preliminary design is complete and right of way plans are underway. Anticipate construction beginning in 2017.
    - b. Quacco Road. Concept phase including traffic counts, database preparation and concept development complete from Highway 17 to bridge over Interstate 95. Traffic study recommends a three-lane section that will function adequately beyond the year 2040. Board approved Phase 2 design services including preliminary engineering, right of way plans and final construction plans at their meeting on July 15, 2016.
    - c. Skidaway Road. Project will provide improvements along Skidaway Road from Montgomery Cross Road to Ferguson Avenue. Project includes constructing a roundabout at the intersection of Montgomery Cross Road and Skidaway Road, as well as roadway, drainage and pedestrian improvements along Skidaway Road through the Norwood/Ferguson Intersection. Right of way acquisition is underway and staff anticipates construction beginning in 2017.
    - d. Hill Road. Dirt road paving project. ROW plans are complete and ROW acquisition is underway. Utility coordination and final plans are underway. Majority of acquisitions will require condemnation for title, which could take 12 months or more to complete.
    - e. Bradley Point Sidewalk Improvements. Preliminary plans and environmental permitting underway for the preferred alternative based on comments in support of the alternative received from the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 meeting. A third community meeting for the project was held June 22, 2016 at the Frank Murray Center. Project will include constructing a new traffic signal at the intersection of Johnny Mercer Boulevard and Bradley Point Road.

- f. Canebrake Road Improvement Project. Preliminary design underway for extension of the Coastal Georgia Greenway on the southside of Canebrake Road, a 5-ft sidewalk on the northside of Canebrake Road and pavement widening to provide two 11-ft travel lanes. Right of way acquisition and final design underway.
- g. Truman Linear Park Trail, Phase 2-A. Revised concept report approved by GDOT on March 3, 2016. Preliminary plan design underway. Preliminary Field Plan Review (PFPP) scheduled for July 6, 2016 at the local GDOT area office. FHWA and CORE MPO are providing partial funding for construction in fiscal year 2017. This portion will construct the trail from Lake Mayer north to DeRenne Avenue. The City of Savannah has committed to constructing the remaining portion of the project from DeRenne Avenue to 52<sup>nd</sup> Street/Bee Road.
- h. Crisp and Fisher Street Improvements. Dirt road paving project. Right of way plans and final construction plans underway by staff. Anticipate construction in early 2017.
- i. Garrard Avenue Improvements. Project will provide improvements along Garrard and Lane Avenue from Chatham Parkway to Gamble Road. Preliminary design by staff underway.
- j. Little Neck Road Rehabilitation. Concept development by Hussey, Gay, Bell for future widening and improvements is underway. Project is considering improvements from Highway 17 west to the existing bridge over Interstate 95.
- k. Johnny Mercer Corridor Improvement Project. Staff hired Wolverton and Associates via a Task Order Contract to develop construction plans for upgrading the existing traffic signals and to resurface Johnny Mercer Boulevard from the Walgreens/CVS intersection to Penn Wall Road. Traffic signals will be interconnected and a timing plan will be implemented to provide better operation of the corridor during the AM and PM peak travel times. Preliminary plans are underway.
- l. Berwick Boulevard at US 17 Improvements. Staff hired Moffatt and Nichol utilizing a Task Order Contract to develop intersection improvements to add dual left turn lanes for Berwick Boulevard. Traffic signal upgrades at the intersection are required to accommodate the dual left turning movements. Staff is coordinating the improvement project with GDOT and GDOT is considering funding construction of the improvements. Preliminary plans are underway.
- m. LaRoche Avenue at DeRenne Avenue Traffic Signal Upgrade. Staff hired McGee Partners utilizing a Task order Contract to develop construction plans to upgrade the existing traffic signal equipment to current GDOT standards at the intersection. Preliminary plans are underway.
- n. LaRoche Avenue at Jasmine Avenue Intersection Improvements. Staff hired McGee Partners utilizing a Task Order contract to analyze the intersection and develop improvement alternatives. Based on the analysis, a roundabout will provide a safer and more efficient intersection rather than simply upgrading the existing traffic signal. Staff is developing plans to replace the existing traffic signal with a roundabout. A public information open house regarding the project will be held at the Savannah Christian Campus on DeRenne Avenue on July 19, 2016 from 4 to 6 pm.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.  
Districts All

**AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 DRAINAGE**  
**AGENDA DATE: July 29, 2016**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**THRU:** Lee Smith, County Manager

**FROM:** Leon Davenport, 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. Ashley Road Outfall Drainage Improvements. The project will improve a drainage system from the Ashley Road cul-de-sac. Design work is underway by task order.
2. Gateway-Henderson Drainage Improvements. The project will improve portions of the drainage system in the northeast quadrant of I-95 and SR 204. These improvements will benefit both the Henderson community and the Henderson Golf Course. The project includes construction of maintenance access and drainage improvements. Design work and permitting underway by task order and contract.
3. 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. These improvements will be included in the Skidaway Road Improvement project.
4. Louis Mills/Redgate Canal. The project will correct inadequate drainage capacity and the lack of maintenance access to the canal. The Board approved a construction contract and work began in December. Construction should be complete in summer 2016.
5. 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 by task order.
6. Shipyard-Beaulieu Area. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance. Design of a project to expand and relocate an existing outfall channel is underway by task order.
7. Little Hurst Canal. The project will improve drainage capacity and access for maintenance along the canal. Field surveying and wetland delineation are complete. Design of improvements at the CSX crossing is underway by task order. CSX approval of the project is pending.
8. Willow Lakes Drainage Improvements. The project will relieve internal drainage issues within the Willow Lakes subdivision. The project will increase the storage capacity of the pond by lowering the existing water elevation. Design work is underway by task order.
9. Wahlstrom Road Drainage Improvements. The project will relocate a part of a drainage system located on private property into the County right-of-way and an acquired drainage easement. Construction is complete and project closeout is pending Board approval.
10. Vidalia Road Canal Drainage Improvements. The project will improve conveyance and obtain easements for access and maintenance. Design and permitting is complete. Construction has been completed and project closeout is underway.
11. Concord Road Drainage Improvements. The project will include the replacement of the existing open channel along Concord Road with a closed system and improvements to the outfall system along Penn Waller. Design is underway by task order. Staff anticipates construction to commence in spring 2017.
12. Tiana Circle Drainage Improvements. The project will reconstruct a segment of the existing roadway which has settled and improve the drainage system to eliminate chronic street ponding. The Board approved a construction contract in December 2015. The work is substantially complete and project closeout is beginning.
13. Pipemakers Canal Tidegate Monitoring Improvements. The project will install new gauges and other equipment to monitor water levels and flow rates and detect blockages impacting the operation of the tidegates. Design is underway.
14. Pipemakers Canal Norfolk Southern Bridges. The project will expand or replace two existing bridges which carry Norfolk Southern tracks across the canal. The existing crossings are bottlenecks which restrict flows in the improved channel sections on both sides. The bridge improvements will eliminate the restrictions and enhance flow characteristics in the channel. Design is underway by task order.
15. Pipemakers Canal CSX Drainage Improvements. The project will relocate and expand the crossing of the Pipemakers Canal by CSX tracks just west of SR 21. The existing trestle crossing is a bottleneck which severely restricts flow from the completed improvements upstream. The proposed improvements will increase capacity and eliminate the restriction. Design is underway by contract.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For information.

Districts: All

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Scott said, okay. It will be necessary for an executive session. At this time I'll recognize Commissioner from the 6<sup>th</sup> District, Commissioner Brady, for the purpose of a motion.

Commissioner Brady said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a motion that we go into executive session for real estate and legal, litigation.

Commissioner Stone said, second.

Chairman Scott said, moved and second. Any discussion? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion indicate by voting yes, opposed no. Okay. We're headed for executive session.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Brady moved to recess to executive session for the purpose of litigation and personnel. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Farrell and Kicklighter was not present for the vote.]

The Board recessed at approximately 11:13 a.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**2. CONTRACT LITIGATION****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Center moved to approve contract litigation services. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Shabazz and Kicklighter were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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**APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF AUGUST, 2016.**

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**ALBERT J. SCOTT, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY,  
GEORGIA**

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