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**DADE COUNTY COMMISSION**

11

**REGULAR MEETING**

12

**FEBRUARY 1, 2007**

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1 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I would like to  
2 call the meeting to order. Before we start, as we  
3 always do, we'll start with the invocation and  
4 Pledge of Allegiance and I'll ask Brother Robert  
5 Goff to come up and lead us in that, please, sir.

6 (Thereupon, the invocation and  
7 Pledge of Allegiance was given.)

8 MR. BRANDON: This is the  
9 regularly-scheduled meeting of the Dade County  
10 Commission which takes place at the same time on the  
11 first Thursday of every month. Proper notice of  
12 this meeting was given to the legal organ of the  
13 county and has been posted in the hallway of the  
14 Administration Building. I will call the roll and  
15 ask that it be recorded by the clerk. Mr. Lowery?

16 MR. LOWERY: Here.

17 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

18 MS. MOORE: Here.

19 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

21 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

22 MR. YOUNG: Here.

23 MR. BRANDON: And the chair is present.  
24 We have a forum and therefore a legal meeting. The  
25 reading of the minutes of the January 2007 regular

1 meeting will not be required since all Commissioners  
2 have been furnished copies in advance. The minutes  
3 are public record and available for review in the  
4 county manager's office. The minutes are included  
5 in the consent agenda as well as a number of other  
6 items which were -- which had no dissenting opinions  
7 in the work session. At this time I would like to  
8 ask the county clerk to read the items that were on  
9 the consent agenda that will be included in the  
10 first vote with the approval of the minutes of the  
11 meeting.

12 MR. TOWNSEND: Of course, that is the  
13 approval of the previous meetings of January 4<sup>th</sup>  
14 and January 8<sup>th</sup>, New Salem Fire Department  
15 S.P.L.O.S.T. request by Mr. Rodney Ross, Arcadis  
16 site update which is going to be a proposal provided  
17 by them for the environmental assessment, identify  
18 the scope of work and consent to assignment  
19 resolution from Hutcheson Medical Center that's been  
20 reviewed by our county attorney and provided to all  
21 the Commissioners.

22 MR. BRANDON: As an explanation of that  
23 last item since we didn't debate it in the work  
24 session, Hutcheson Medical Center -- and we'll get  
25 around to the vote in just a minute, but Hutcheson

1 Medical Center is setting up a separate entity apart  
2 from the hospital to run their ambulance service and  
3 the counties involved in their service area have to  
4 agree to the assignment of that contract. And I'll  
5 tell the attorney to stop me when I make a mistake  
6 here. The counties involved in there, Dade, Catoosa  
7 and Walker, have to agree to consent to that  
8 assignment of that contract to this new entity. We  
9 have gone over this with them. Robin and I have met  
10 with them and it is our recommendation that it be  
11 done. We've talked about this offline and in  
12 various documents here. That was one of the reasons  
13 it was added to the consent agenda. At this time I  
14 will need a motion to approve the consent agenda.

15 MR. YOUNG: Can I clarify the Arcadis?  
16 Is the motion that we're just going to accept a  
17 proposal for them or we're going to allow them to do  
18 the work as long as we're in the 3,000 to \$5,000  
19 limit?

20 MR. BRANDON: How did you write that  
21 down?

22 MR. TOWNSEND: I've got Arcadis to  
23 provide a proposal.

24 MR. BRANDON: Do I have a motion that  
25 we approve the consent agenda?

1 MR. YOUNG: I make a motion we approve  
2 the consent agenda.

3 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I  
4 have a second?

5 MR. PITTMAN: I'll second that motion.

6 MR. BRANDON: Then I'll call the roll.

7 Mr. Young?

8 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

9 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

10 MR. LOWERY: I'll abstain since some of  
11 it has got to do with my employer.

12 MR. BRANDON: Fair enough.

13 Mr. Pittman?

14 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

15 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

16 MS. MOORE: Yes.

17 MR. BRANDON: Moving into the regular  
18 agenda, we have the executive update. The only  
19 part, the only part of the executive update I have  
20 since it's the first day of the month, the overall  
21 financial results for the county. These are new  
22 reports. We don't have percentage year-to-date  
23 figures on them. Don, do you have the percentage  
24 year-to-date for the county?

25 MR. TOWNSEND: Not percentage

1 year-to-date. Overall what we spent, it's about  
2 eight point something.

3 MR. BRANDON: Right. But I mean,  
4 against -- the percent year-to-date attainment, the  
5 budget variance report for January because these new  
6 reports don't show percentages.

7 MR. TOWNSEND: Right. I didn't do the  
8 math there, but 300,000 good, so --

9 MR. BRANDON: Also, on the -- I don't  
10 know who fixes this, but on the detailed reports on  
11 these new reports, it shows that we didn't pay  
12 anybody any salary during January on the detail for  
13 each department. If you'll look through the detail  
14 by department, there's no -- it indicates that  
15 everybody worked for free during January. You might  
16 want to fix that before the next meeting.

17 Otherwise, I think at this early in the  
18 game, I think we are -- again, that's the only thing  
19 that I had was the financial update and I don't have  
20 the numbers on that except to indicate that we do  
21 appear to be under budget for the year. Am I right,  
22 Don?

23 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, that's correct.

24 MR. BRANDON: Moving along under  
25 appearances, we'll ask the mayor of the City of

1 Trenton who is here.

2 MR. EMANUAL: Good evening. I know you  
3 can do better than that, but I won't ask you to.

4 The City Commissioners and I are  
5 pleased to present the following information  
6 regarding the City of Trenton's calendar year 2007  
7 performance indicators at the Dade County  
8 Commissioners' monthly meeting. First is financial.  
9 In the month of January 2007, we had 166,000 plus in  
10 revenue, 143,000 in total expenses, leaving a net  
11 income of some 20,000 plus dollars. That includes a  
12 \$9,000 contribution to the contingency fund which we  
13 promote and maintain.

14 The second area I would like to present  
15 is economic growth. You hear a lot about economic  
16 growth in the city and in the county. When we look  
17 at the calendar year 2006, the county experienced  
18 \$4.6 million in construction renovation.  
19 2.4 million was generated in home construction  
20 and/or renovation. 2.2 million was generated in  
21 commercial buildings. We talk about a balance  
22 between residential growth and commercial  
23 development. That's about as balanced as you can  
24 get. The third area we would like to mention is  
25 animal control. We are still dealing with the

1 intergovernment agreement. We thought we had it  
2 finished, but when we bounce it against the business  
3 plan that's currently being developed for animal  
4 control, it required some adjustments and those  
5 adjustments will be dealt with in the next City  
6 Commissioners' meeting.

7 As always, we look forward to working  
8 with our respective Dade County Commissioners in  
9 improving the quality of life for all Dade  
10 Countians. I thank you for your time.

11 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mayor.

12 Next up we have another appearance. We  
13 have Evelyn Bowden here about a tax matter. Ms.  
14 Bowden.

15 MS. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I don't see  
16 her here. I was the one that -- she had asked to be  
17 put on the agenda, but I think her problem has  
18 already been solved. But I would ask, we do have  
19 Raymond Wooten under citizen participation. He is  
20 here. Could he move in her place? He was another  
21 one from Lookout Mountain that I know that had  
22 asked.

23 MR. BRANDON: Certainly.

24 MR. WOOTEN: Yes. I was wanting to  
25 talk about my taxes, how they have jumped sky high

1 and doubled this past year. Last year, we went  
2 through this same process last year. I came down  
3 here to the assessor's office. We went through  
4 everything. I signed everything that I was supposed  
5 to sign to put them on hold and according to them,  
6 it did not get put into the computer. I don't know  
7 why it did or didn't.

8 But last year my taxes -- it says  
9 market value was 122,647. This year they went up to  
10 173,200. School taxes, to which I've been told that  
11 I am supposed to be old enough to get by those  
12 things, but they went from 389 -- 369 last year to  
13 741 this year. Now, my taxes is over \$1,021 for  
14 this year. I came down here. This was not even  
15 mailed out until January 5<sup>th</sup>. I received them on  
16 January 7<sup>th</sup>. The assessor's office said I could  
17 not appeal it. All the appeals ran out in November.  
18 Well, I'm here to appeal these big taxes because I  
19 think it's unfair and I definitely still think it's  
20 unfair.

21 MS. MOORE: May I ask a question?

22 MR. BRANDON: Certainly.

23 MS. MOORE: You said that you did come  
24 down and you signed up for the educational tax  
25 exemption?

1 MR. WOOTEN: I came down and signed  
2 everything I was supposed to sign.

3 MS. MOORE: Did you go to the tax  
4 assessor's office?

5 MR. WOOTEN: I went there first and  
6 then I went over to the board's office and paid the  
7 taxes last year and I paid -- last year I paid \$537.  
8 This year they are \$1,021.39, just about double what  
9 they was last year.

10 MR. YOUNG: Mr. Wooten, how much did  
11 your county taxes go up this year compared to last  
12 year?

13 MR. WOOTEN: You make me get my glasses  
14 out.

15 MS. MOORE: The only thing I'm trying  
16 to understand is he thinks he signed up for that  
17 exemption and we wanted to be sure.

18 MR. BRANDON: There are a lot -- I've  
19 had dozens of calls about this. I am sympathetic  
20 with you, but we don't have a thing to do with the  
21 assessment of property or the exemptions or  
22 anything. If I had to say one thing about going to  
23 sign up for exemptions is do not leave that office  
24 without a piece of paper in your hand that you --  
25 showing where you've signed up for it. I understand

1 that a lot of times people don't think about that  
2 when you go in there, but if you don't have that  
3 piece of paper, it's your word against theirs that  
4 you signed up for it.

5 MR. WOOTEN: See, last year -- I want  
6 to make a statement. Three years ago, the 24<sup>th</sup> of  
7 this month three years ago, the doctors told my  
8 family I would be here three months. I'll soon be  
9 here three years and as of right now I don't have no  
10 cancer, but I'm having trouble with my bones  
11 breaking. I've beat this cancer, but I can't beat  
12 the Dade County taxes. I just can't win this one.  
13 It's just a no-win situation.

14 MR. BRANDON: They say only two things  
15 are sure, death and taxes and in your case only one  
16 of them is sure.

17 MR. WOOTEN: That's right, only one of  
18 them.

19 MR. BRANDON: Congratulations on  
20 surviving that.

21 MR. WOOTEN: Well, I've survived it so  
22 far. They told me to sign this, sign this and sign  
23 this and I signed everything. But at that time I  
24 was on chemo and radiation and so much, I took their  
25 word for it, you know. I signed what I was supposed

1 to sign, but evidently it's not.

2 MS. MOORE: When did you come down and  
3 sign up for those exemptions?

4 MR. WOOTEN: Last year.

5 MS. MOORE: Just sometime last year?

6 MR. WOOTEN: Last year before I paid  
7 this amount, see.

8 MS. MOORE: Okay. Well, could he go  
9 back and talk to the tax assessors?

10 MR. BRANDON: I would. Again, I don't  
11 know. We've been through this several times and  
12 Commissioner Lowery has pointed out at an earlier  
13 meeting that we have a process to appeal this and  
14 handle situations like this and that's what we need  
15 to follow and I would ask that you speak with Ms.  
16 Moore or Mr. Lowery. They can fill you in on that.  
17 All we do is set the millage rate. And back to the  
18 question that Mr. Young had for you, I think if  
19 you'll check, your county taxes probably didn't go  
20 up all that much. School taxes probably did.

21 MR. WOOTEN: Well, they went from --  
22 county taxes went from 157 to 265.

23 MR. BRANDON: Right.

24 MS. MOORE: That's because your  
25 property value went up.

1           MR. WOOTEN: Property value went up,  
2 yes. But how do they assess the property value?

3           MR. BRANDON: The people come by and  
4 look at your house and determine, based on some  
5 criteria, what it's worth compared to your  
6 neighbor's houses. Again, we don't have anything to  
7 do with that. All we do is set the millage rate and  
8 we set the rollback millage rate, which means that  
9 there were no inflationary increases in the Dade  
10 County Commission's digest year over year. The big  
11 increase would have been the school board, which  
12 only rolled back half a mill and they're collecting  
13 about a million dollars more than their budget  
14 indicates they need for property taxes this year and  
15 so -- but we can't control that either.

16           I would encourage people who are upset  
17 about that to go to their school board meetings and  
18 next year when they're having their millage rate  
19 setting functions, to go there and be more involved  
20 in that. We filled up the room here because people  
21 were worried we were going to collect one nickel  
22 more than we collected last year, but in the three  
23 hearings they had over there, you could have got all  
24 the people that attended the meeting into a minivan  
25 and I know because a member of my family went there

1 and nobody complained. I don't know if it's because  
2 they think they can't or because it's not  
3 appropriate or whatever, but your tax increase is a  
4 result of two things. One is the increased value of  
5 your property, which if you had the freeze on it and  
6 they had you down to the senior exemption, that  
7 should have taken care of most of that, but the  
8 biggest increase was in the school taxes.

9 MR. WOOTEN: Well, there was a little  
10 over \$100 in the county taxes alone.

11 MR. BRANDON: Yes, sir.

12 MR. WOOTEN: The whole thing seemed to  
13 me like it's out of proportion.

14 MR. BRANDON: There are procedures to  
15 go in and do that. Since the time for appeal has  
16 past -- you would have gotten the assessment notice.  
17 When did the assessment notices go out?

18 MR. ROGERS: August 1, I think.

19 MR. BRANDON: The assessment notices on  
20 your property, you would have received an assessment  
21 notice in August and then you had, what, 45 days  
22 after that to appeal the assessed or the appraised  
23 value of your house. And during that time, if you  
24 had objected to that value, they would have either  
25 had a hearing before the Board of Assessors or they

1 would have referred you to the Board of  
2 Equalization. I don't think we got that. I don't  
3 think so. I think this was the first thing we got.  
4 As far as I know, this is the first we got.

5 MS. MOORE: I think the problem I'm  
6 still having is if he said he signed up for the  
7 exemption tax, it should have been on there and I  
8 would think he would need to go talk with Ashley  
9 O'Donald in the tax assessor's office and just state  
10 that. Do you remember who you talked to concerning  
11 that?

12 MR. WOOTEN: No. It was a man. I know  
13 that.

14 MS. MOORE: Okay. Well, that would  
15 have been in that office then I would think.

16 MR. WOOTEN: O'Donnell, N-E-L-L?

17 MS. MOORE: O'D-O-N-A-L-D, Ashley.

18 MR. LOWERY: While you're in there  
19 talking to him, this time make sure you sign up for  
20 all that stuff and make sure you have some receipts,  
21 so at least next year you won't be facing this  
22 problem again.

23 MR. BRANDON: If I could throw out one  
24 sound bite for the papers, I would tell every  
25 taxpayer do not ever leave that office without a

1 copy of whatever you just signed up for, there and  
2 the tax commissioner's office as well, to prove that  
3 you paid the taxes that you were supposed to pay  
4 because this has come up if not a dozen times, 100  
5 times in the last year. I'm very sympathetic, but  
6 there's very little we can do. Now, we do have --  
7 there is a process that Commissioner Lowery reminded  
8 us of back in, I guess, August or September, but I  
9 would start going back down there with them and  
10 reason with them and start there and take it from  
11 there, but I'm very sympathetic. Really all we do  
12 is set the millage rate.

13 MR. LOWERY: Because a part of that  
14 process is you actually have to go back to them and  
15 make them admit that they made a mistake and it was  
16 their fault.

17 MR. WOOTEN: Well, they're not going to  
18 admit they made a mistake.

19 MR. BRANDON: All right. We appreciate  
20 you coming.

21 MR. WOOTEN: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Any -- moving on  
23 to fiscal matters, I would ask the county clerk to  
24 read the financial report.

25 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. The drug

1 education fund has a balance of \$112,973. The  
2 federal assistance fund has a balance of \$8,745;  
3 special sheriff's fund has a balance of \$71,438.  
4 The jail fund has a balance of \$19,733; juvenile  
5 services fund has a balance of \$6,925. Payroll  
6 account, \$122,488. General fund, \$142,484. There  
7 are currently no general fund CDs.

8 S.P.L.O.S.T. funds, principal and  
9 interest account, \$48,112; principal and interest  
10 CDs purchased currently \$450,000. Principal and  
11 interest debt services account, \$2,601 for a total  
12 principal and interest fund balance \$500,713.  
13 Capital bond fund account under S.P.L.O.S.T.  
14 \$24,996; capital bond CDs, \$900,000, for a total  
15 capital bond fund balance of \$924,996. And then you  
16 have the different fire departments, which the only  
17 ones left with a balance right now is South Dade at  
18 \$105,674, New Salem, \$13,981.

19 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Don.

20 Moving on to legal matters. I'll ask  
21 the county attorney if we have any outstanding legal  
22 matters.

23 MR. ROGERS: No, we do not.

24 MR. BRANDON: There being no unfinished  
25 business that I know of, we'll move into new

1 business. We have several items on new business.  
2 We have four items on new business that were carried  
3 over from the work session because we ran out of  
4 time. First and foremost was funding for the  
5 Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority.  
6 There's a little background on the Joint Development  
7 Authority. The Joint Development Authority has for  
8 years funded -- has represented four counties in  
9 northwest Georgia, now only three. It was  
10 Chattooga, Walker, Dade and Catoosa. Catoosa County  
11 elected to hire their own development -- economic  
12 development specialist and so now it is Dade, Walker  
13 and Chattooga Counties.

14 The funding for that has been to the  
15 tune of one dollar per person based on the  
16 population of the county for years now. I'm not  
17 sure exactly how long it's been at that level, but  
18 it hasn't gone up in a long time. We recently lost  
19 the executive director, Ms. Cathy Johnson who had  
20 been doing a great job for us over there. She was  
21 responsible for bringing in the 40 percent of that  
22 big Kenco building that sits up there right on the  
23 state line in Wauhatchie. Forty percent of that is  
24 in Dade County and we collect an enormous amount of  
25 property tax off of that building and provide

1 literally no services for it. So it's a really good  
2 deal for us. She was almost single-handedly  
3 responsible for bringing in the JMS Metals business  
4 that just recently last year came into the  
5 industrial park and she also -- her office also  
6 provided service on -- for tax credits for  
7 businesses every year for all of the industrial  
8 partners over there in the Dade County Industrial  
9 Park.

10 She resigned, took a better paying  
11 position with the Southeast Industrial Development  
12 Authority in Chattanooga and the -- in looking for a  
13 replacement director, they have decided that they  
14 need -- in order to be competitive, they need to pay  
15 a bigger salary than she was making and that's  
16 the -- I understand it, Peter, that's the gist of  
17 the requirement for the additional funding, which  
18 accounts for about another 19 cents per person in  
19 Dade County.

20 So do we have a -- having said that, is  
21 there a motion to increase the funding for the Joint  
22 Development Authority for the year 2007 for the  
23 remaining three quarters of 2007.

24 MR. YOUNG: I make a motion that we  
25 increase the funding of the Northwest Georgia Joint

1 Development Authority by \$1,995 with the additional  
2 stipulation that the Development Authority will do a  
3 due diligence study on the county and identify what  
4 parcels would make sense for the Industrial  
5 Authority to either purchase or enter into private  
6 partnership agreements to expand our industrial  
7 park.

8 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I got all that. I  
9 have a motion. Do I have a second?

10 MS. MOORE: I'll second that motion.

11 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a  
12 second. Is there any discussion? Well, there's  
13 some dissenting opinions on it.

14 MR. LOWERY: The reason I'm not going  
15 to support it is because we worked so hard to keep  
16 our budget at a bare minimum this year and this was  
17 not presented to us in a timely manner and maybe  
18 next year, but not this year as far as I'm  
19 concerned.

20 MR. PITTMAN: I echo that sentiment.

21 MR. BRANDON: Anything else?

22 MR. YOUNG: This is a study. You know,  
23 by giving this additional amount, this is a study  
24 that our county really needs.

25 MR. PITTMAN: We're not arguing that,

1 David. It's just that we sat over here for three  
2 months and beat our brains out about the budget.

3 MR. LOWERY: Cut people out of jobs.

4 MR. PITTMAN: Everybody that asked us  
5 for money felt like they deserved the money, so --

6 MR. LOWERY: I think we would be smart  
7 and I don't think -- (inaudible) where to buy  
8 property at.

9 MR. PITTMAN: At one point the Joint  
10 Development and the Chamber was actually cut out of  
11 the budget as one option. So that's after we give  
12 them a \$16,000 raise, point A to point B. I'm not  
13 saying that I won't support it in the coming year,  
14 but right now I can't support it a month into the  
15 budget.

16 MR. BRANDON: As I said in the meeting,  
17 if you look at the relative value of what we get for  
18 what we pay, our ROI or return on investment, it's  
19 always been my opinion that we've gotten more for  
20 our money from the Joint Development Authority than  
21 from the Chamber of Commerce and I would be in favor  
22 of increasing -- not increasing the total budget but  
23 shifting budget money from the Chamber of Commerce  
24 to the JDA.

25 MR. PITTMAN: That would be a totally

1 different motion.

2 MR. BRANDON: I suppose it would. Do I  
3 have a motion then that we -- well, no. We have a  
4 motion on the floor. We'll call for the issue. I  
5 will call the roll. I have a motion and a second.  
6 I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

7 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

8 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

9 MR. LOWERY: No.

10 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

11 MR. PITTMAN: No.

12 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

13 MS. MOORE: Yes.

14 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes.

15 The motion passes.

16 Next up is the appointment to the  
17 Industrial Development Authority Board. We have two  
18 qualified candidates that have been offered up.  
19 Mr. Bill Marshall and Mr. Peter Cervelli to choose  
20 from. Both have experience. Both are willing to  
21 serve. Do I have a motion on one of these gentlemen  
22 to be appointed to the Industrial Development  
23 Authority Board?

24 MS. MOORE: I make a --

25 MR. LOWERY: I would like to make a

1 motion that we wait and talk about this and consider  
2 your idea about possibly talking to a company owner.  
3 That would seem reasonable to me that somebody that  
4 owns one of the businesses over there would have  
5 some kind of representation on that board.

6 MR. BRANDON: Okay. But the issue is  
7 making a -- so you're making a motion that we hold  
8 this in abeyance until the next meeting and research  
9 it further and not take action tonight?

10 MR. LOWERY: That would be my motion.

11 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion that we  
12 delay this until the next meeting. Do I have a  
13 second on that?

14 MR. PITTMAN: Is this a pressing issue?

15 MR. BRANDON: No. It's not a pressing  
16 issue. Do I hear a motion from Mr. Young?

17 MR. YOUNG: I'll second it. Who made  
18 the motion?

19 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I have a motion  
20 and a second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

21 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

22 MR. BRANDON: This is to delay  
23 consideration of this issue until the next meeting.  
24 Oh, okay. Well, is there any discussion?

25 MS. MOORE: Well, discussion on that is

1 that this has been going on for several weeks,  
2 talking about it and we do have Mr. Marshall here  
3 present who spoke to us at the work session. I've  
4 spoken to several board members of the Industrial  
5 Development Board and Mr. Marshall does do a lot of  
6 the leg work for the Industrial Development Board,  
7 still does. Still gives them advice. Those board  
8 members call them for advice they told me today or  
9 this week and he is certainly wanting to serve. He  
10 has the time and he has the knowledge and the  
11 ability.

12 I also talked to Peter Cervelli. Peter  
13 Cervelli said that he would also be willing to serve  
14 and Peter does a great job. He serves on the  
15 Northwest Georgia Joint Development and the Downtown  
16 Development Authority Board as well and is very  
17 knowledgeable. I don't see any reason -- and you  
18 talk about maybe getting someone in one of the  
19 businesses. How do you determine which one of the  
20 businesses that you would choose and would they have  
21 the time to go to Atlanta and go to all of these  
22 meetings that you need to do? And for that reason  
23 to delay it, I wouldn't be for delaying this any  
24 further. I mean, that's my discussion on it.

25 MR. LOWERY: That's a good point as far

1 as them having time to do it. Most business owners  
2 are covered up.

3 MR. BRANDON: Well, it's -- it's going  
4 to be -- if you're doing it right, it's going to be  
5 a burden for anybody, but again, you won't know  
6 until you ask. The motion on the floor that is  
7 before the committee now, before the Commission now  
8 is to delay this or not. I have a motion and a  
9 second. Is there any more discussion?

10 MR. PITTMAN: Well, actually, the first  
11 nominee for this board was a business owner in the  
12 Industrial Park, correct?

13 MR. BRANDON: That's correct.

14 MR. PITTMAN: So why would we kick him  
15 to the side to just go ask another business owner?  
16 Wouldn't that be a different business inside the  
17 park?

18 MR. BRANDON: It probably would.

19 MR. PITTMAN: I think we need to decide  
20 on one of these guys that actually volunteered to  
21 serve and put their time into it.

22 MR. LOWERY: I'll withdraw my motion,  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 MR. BRANDON: Okay. The motion has  
25 been withdrawn.

1 MS. MOORE: Can I make a motion?

2 MR. BRANDON: Do I have an alternate --  
3 wait a minute. Well, no. You made the motion, so  
4 the motion stands withdrawn.

5 MR. PITTMAN: David's recommendation  
6 was to actually have like an immediate election.  
7 You wouldn't actually nominate one or the other. We  
8 would just say who we support, correct?

9 MR. YOUNG: Right. Whoever the  
10 majority wants would actually --

11 MS. MOORE: Mr. Chairman --

12 MR. TOMMY LOWERY: Can I address that  
13 issue, Mr. Chairman?

14 MR. BRANDON: Yes, sir. We try to keep  
15 people anonymous to protect the innocent in all  
16 these things.

17 MR. TOMMY LOWERY: I think most  
18 everybody knows who I am, but my name is Tommy  
19 Lowery. Lamar is my son. I served on the  
20 Commission from '99 through 2002. Bill was the  
21 chairman of the Industrial Development Authority and  
22 Bill could sell snowballs to Eskimos. I'll tell  
23 you. Everybody knows that, I think. He does put a  
24 lot of work into it and a lot of effort. One thing  
25 I do agree with him on, he never showed any

1 partiality about who he sold property to and never  
2 altered the price regardless of who they were.

3 The one thing I totally disagreed with  
4 him on and we fought about it. That's why he's not  
5 on the Industrial Development Authority was buying  
6 that 80 acres of land across the creek. I think it  
7 was a mistake, still think it's a mistake, but  
8 Bill -- they're a separate entity. Once you appoint  
9 members on that Board, the Commissioners can't  
10 override it. They have the authority. They can  
11 sell bonds or buy property or sell property. They  
12 have that authority. So the only control that the  
13 members of this Commission has over that board is  
14 who they put on the board, the members of the board.

15 Now, I just want to make that clear  
16 where I stand about Bill. He brought my name up.  
17 He really puts the effort into it. There's no  
18 question about that. I mean, and spends his own  
19 money doing it, but I had that disagreement with him  
20 and I still do.

21 Now, Peter, I went through a leadership  
22 school with Peter. We started about six months ago  
23 and that's the first time I've got to know him.  
24 I've had some dealings with him since then and  
25 that's really all I know about him. I just wanted

1 to make that clear about Bill, where I stand and my  
2 opinion about putting him back on the board. I  
3 think he would work hard at it and he would be fair  
4 with whoever he sold property to, but he's hard  
5 headed once he makes up his mind. You're not going  
6 to change it. Thank you.

7 MR. BRANDON: Anyone else care to  
8 comment on this issue since we've allowed comment on  
9 one of the candidates? Hearing none, the chair is  
10 open to another motion on either one of the  
11 candidates or on doing something else other than  
12 delaying the vote.

13 MS. MOORE: I would make a motion to  
14 appointment Bill Marshall to the Board of Industrial  
15 Development Authority.

16 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore makes a motion  
17 to appoint Bill Marshall. Do I have a second?

18 MR. LOWERY: I'll second it.

19 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a  
20 second by Mr. Lowery. Any discussion? Hearing no  
21 discussion, I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

22 MR. YOUNG: No.

23 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

24 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

25 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

1 MR. PITTMAN: No.

2 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

3 MS. MOORE: Yes.

4 MR. BRANDON: The chair votes no.

5 MR. YOUNG: I make a motion we nominate  
6 Peter Cervelli.

7 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion that we  
8 nominate Peter Cervelli -- appoint Peter Cervelli to  
9 the Industrial Development Authority. This motion  
10 is by Mr. Young. Do I have a second?

11 MR. PITTMAN: I second that motion.

12 MR. BRANDON: Second by Mr. Pittman.  
13 Do I have any discussion? Hearing none, I'll call  
14 the roll. Mr. Young?

15 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

16 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

18 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

19 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

20 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

21 MS. MOORE: Yes.

22 MR. BRANDON: Motion passes.

23 Mr. Cervelli, you're in. Thank you very much.

24 Next item on the agenda is something  
25 that was left over from the work session. It's the

1 budget amendment to amend the budget for public  
2 transportation and I will turn that over to  
3 Ms. Moore to explain.

4 MS. MOORE: Okay. What that is is on  
5 the public transportation and when we were doing the  
6 budget, we set that budget based upon 2006 figures  
7 that we had from the DOT. We didn't get the 2007  
8 figures in until after the budget was set. And for  
9 any of you that don't understand that program, we  
10 are reimbursed 50 percent of the transportation  
11 program from DOT and in the previous budget for  
12 2006, it was only allowed for -- they allowed budget  
13 for two van drivers. We have three vans and three  
14 van drivers, but at one time Hutcheson Medical  
15 Center helped fund one of those drivers, which they  
16 no longer do.

17 Then we have a -- we have a person down  
18 there who is serving as a supervisor of the senior's  
19 building who also does the bookkeeping and the  
20 dispatching and drives a van and was never -- based  
21 upon the budget at 50 percent, was never really  
22 given the other fees that she was allowed for her  
23 salary based upon the grant that we get. So now  
24 this year they are allowing for three van drivers  
25 and the money is figured in there for three van

1 drivers. They're allowing for a dispatcher salary.  
2 They even pay the fuel expenses, maintenance  
3 repairs, insurance expenses, supervisor's salary,  
4 bookkeeper's salary, training expense, marketing and  
5 telephone, which we are reimbursed at 50 percent.

6 When we worked at that budget  
7 diligently, it was set for \$120,000, but the  
8 revenues that we would get back from it was 60,000.  
9 So now if we go with the new proposal, they give us  
10 an 18-month budget from DOT and we had to figure out  
11 what it would cost for 12 months and it is -- and  
12 there again, it is funding for three van drivers and  
13 I believe that that was for \$9 an hour, I believe,  
14 is what they're proposing and -- but what -- I know  
15 that we do have three vans and I'm not sure. I  
16 think we have Annette here tonight, but we do have a  
17 third van. Has that third van arrived, the newer  
18 van?

19 MS. CASH: Three vans have always been  
20 here.

21 MS. MOORE: Yeah. The three vans have  
22 always been here. We're just getting a newer  
23 upgrade. Well, Annette is here tonight and we are  
24 paying for two van drivers. Annette has been one of  
25 the van drivers herself and trying to do all the

1 other additional duties.

2 Based upon the grant and getting the  
3 funding back, we will be getting -- if we go with  
4 what the grant allows, allowing three van drivers  
5 and allowing for a dispatcher and the supervisory  
6 positions. We had several options and I know that  
7 you talk about, well, why would you want to go back  
8 and amend the budget at this point, but there again,  
9 we didn't have the information until after January.  
10 I think my opinion if you get grant money and you're  
11 getting paid half of it, you know, I think that's a  
12 great service to the county besides the service that  
13 the senior vans do provide.

14 And there was one proposal that we go  
15 with, it would be paying for that third van driver,  
16 but even they were recommending \$9 an hour and I  
17 think we were looking at 8.26 an hour as a beginner  
18 driver and then increasing -- increasing the  
19 supervisor's salary based upon the grant  
20 information. And you would be adding back to the  
21 revenues instead of 60,000, you would be adding  
22 75,500 instead of the 60 and then we picked up  
23 another 13,500 from DHR for public transportation as  
24 well.

25 And then in looking the budget over,

1 section 53-11 is the grants for the vans. We had  
2 another -- in the previous budget, we had 45,000 in  
3 there showing for another grant that we really don't  
4 have at this time. So that's why it looked like the  
5 service balance decreased because we had to take the  
6 45,000 back out, but then we added 15,500 more back  
7 to the reserves, plus 13,500 back to the reserves,  
8 which actually decreased the -- decreased our  
9 budget, but it's using the money that was allowed by  
10 the state of Georgia. It's not raising your  
11 revenues -- I mean, it's not raising your  
12 revenues -- I mean, it's not having us to come up  
13 with more money. The only thing it is, it's  
14 reducing what we call the reserve balance, which the  
15 reserve balance is used to balance the budget  
16 between the revenues and expenditures.

17 MR. BRANDON: Let me ask a question.  
18 Back in July -- I see Bruce Castleberry here. We  
19 approved an 18-month budget for public  
20 transportation in July. Does this contradict  
21 anything that we approved last July in that one-year  
22 budget from the DOT?

23 MR. CASTLEBERRY: I don't believe so.

24 MR. BRANDON: So there's going to be no  
25 effect?

1 MR. CASTLEBERRY: No, I don't think so.

2 MR. BRANDON: Because we've already  
3 signed that contract.

4 MR. CASTLEBERRY: Yeah. We've already  
5 signed the contract.

6 MR. LOWERY: What was the contract  
7 though? Explain that. How many people in here  
8 that's as clear as mud what we've just been talking  
9 about?

10 MR. BRANDON: Well, the contract  
11 signed -- the state is on -- their fiscal year runs  
12 from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The contract we  
13 signed was for 18 months and we had to sign it back  
14 then because they required us to if we wanted to get  
15 any reimbursement for public transportation. I just  
16 want to make sure that what we're doing here isn't  
17 contradictory and doesn't put us in default of the  
18 contract we signed with them back in July. I have  
19 no problem with the numbers that Ms. Moore has  
20 presented. I think Annette and the ladies driving  
21 these public transportation vans are well deserving  
22 of what they get and probably more, but I want to  
23 make sure that the state is not going to come back  
24 and find us in default or in violation of the  
25 contract we signed back in July.

1 MR. CASTLEBERRY: I would have to check  
2 into that, Ben. I really don't know.

3 MR. LOWERY: The problem I've got with  
4 it is we've already talked about it once tonight.  
5 We worked on this budget. We cut it to bare bones.  
6 We've eliminated people's jobs. Now we're fixing to  
7 turn right around and pump up another employee into  
8 another position that doesn't need to be there.

9 MS. CASH: But wasn't it my  
10 understanding that you never realized that  
11 50 percent of the budget would be -- didn't you  
12 think all of that was coming out of the county to  
13 begin with?

14 MR. LOWERY: Yes, ma'am. You're  
15 probably right about that, but you also told me  
16 yourself that you didn't -- you were given some  
17 false information about that I was wanting to get  
18 rid of that third van. You told me that if we got  
19 rid of that van, you would continue to go ahead and  
20 drive and do what you've been doing.

21 MS. CASH: That's not an issue as far  
22 as that.

23 MR. LOWERY: It is an issues for me. I  
24 don't mind giving you more money because you are  
25 doing a lot of work. I don't mind doing that, but

1 hiring another employee I'm totally against it and  
2 that's just where I stand on the issue. We only  
3 dropped about, what, \$24,000 out of our budget  
4 because this contingency fund didn't have --

5 MS. CASH: You'll have to send the  
6 money back for that.

7 MR. LOWERY: What's the difference?

8 MR. TOWNSEND: 45,000. In the original  
9 budget that we approved on January 4<sup>th</sup>, we had in  
10 there DOT Section 18 Grant, 45,000. Well, at the  
11 bottom there, we also had reimbursement to DOT for  
12 transportation, 60,000. Well, you know, one of  
13 those was too much. The 45,000 really needs to come  
14 out of this budget because it's just -- it truly is  
15 not there.

16 MR. LOWERY: This 45,000 under DOT  
17 grants?

18 MR. TOWNSEND: Right. It's on your  
19 original section. On your original revenue sheet  
20 for the budget, there was two line items. One was  
21 called DOT Section 18 Grants, 45,000. The other  
22 said reimbursement from DOT for total  
23 transportation, 60,000. Well, 60 represented half  
24 of the total budget which was 120. Well, of course,  
25 Commissioner Moore has just reviewed this. It's no

1 longer called Section 18. I don't even know if  
2 there's a Section 18.

3 MR. BRANDON: No. This Section 53-11  
4 changed it, but that was just a nomenclature that  
5 had been used for years and years.

6 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. Well, anyway, so  
7 now we've gone from 60 -- you can go to 75,5 or you  
8 can go to 72,5. It's whatever you anticipate  
9 spending is what you're going to get half back. So  
10 if you don't spend it, you're not going to get it.  
11 That's where Bruce uses the figures, the actual  
12 numbers when he arrives at his budget for the  
13 upcoming year.

14 Now, saying all that, we recently were  
15 awarded -- I guess you would say awarded,  
16 \$44,038.69. Where did that come from? Well, it was  
17 from the DOT. Actually, it has nothing to do with  
18 public transportation. It came in -- we put it  
19 under other grants, but really it's reimbursement  
20 for services that were performed on the Holder Loop  
21 Bridge and I've been trying to track that down with  
22 DOT for the last two days to find out was it a  
23 grant? Was it just a reimbursement of services?

24 MR. BRANDON: No. It's reimbursement.

25 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. Well, the money

1 has been spent already, so it's reimbursement and it  
2 went into the general fund, \$44,038.69. Well,  
3 that's mighty close to 45,000 that we're actually  
4 taking out. The problem is if you take it over here  
5 and put it under reserve fund, you know, that  
6 reserve fund, this budget is still, as I've said, so  
7 tight that -- the reserve fund is going to have to  
8 be used sometime in the year not as new projects  
9 necessarily, but as --

10 MR. BRANDON: Don, let me ask you a  
11 question. What's the net of the revenue between  
12 this budget and the old budget? I don't have my old  
13 copy with me.

14 MR. TOWNSEND: The old amount was  
15 7,000,402.

16 MR. BRANDON: So this is actually lower  
17 than --

18 MR. TOWNSEND: This budget is  
19 7,000,386. So we don't have the \$44,038.69  
20 represented that we just received the check for last  
21 week into this budget. You could call it other  
22 grants. We've got other grants (inaudible) -- yeah,  
23 75,000.

24 MR. BRANDON: What we're talking about  
25 here is actually lowering the budget, but increasing

1 the funding for public transportation?

2 MR. TOWNSEND: That's actually right.  
3 You're lowering the overall budget, but you're  
4 increasing customer services.

5 MR. BRANDON: All right. Any other  
6 debate on this issue? Any other questions? Do I  
7 have a motion that we amend the budget as requested  
8 by Ms. Moore?

9 MR. YOUNG: It looks like we've got two  
10 options here.

11 MS. MOORE: There are two options,  
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 MR. BRANDON: I was afraid you were  
14 going to say that.

15 MS. MOORE: The one option -- let me  
16 see if I've got the figures right. The one option  
17 was hiring the third van driver and not raising the  
18 salary of the supervisor to the full potential that  
19 the grant would call for. And then the second  
20 option -- well, that's the second option. The third  
21 option would be if you raised everything to the full  
22 potential based upon the grant. So the thing would  
23 be, first of all, I guess, you would have to make a  
24 motion to which option. Option one --

25 MR. BRANDON: Well, it's your issue.

1 Which one do you recommend?

2 MS. MOORE: Well, I would really  
3 recommend what the grant calls for, but then -- but  
4 I don't know the consensus of the other  
5 Commissioners.

6 MR. BRANDON: We'll find that out if  
7 you'll make a motion.

8 MS. MOORE: If you raise a salary by a  
9 great percentage, it probably would be my  
10 recommendation to increase the salary, but not to a  
11 great percentage, but to the percentage that's based  
12 upon option one.

13 MR. BRANDON: Should we study this more  
14 and maybe next month --

15 MS. MOORE: I've studied it quite  
16 thoroughly with Bruce and with Annette.

17 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Then which of your  
18 three options then would you like to make a motion  
19 on?

20 MS. MOORE: Well, if you go with the  
21 grant, the second option.

22 MR. LOWERY: Is that hiring another  
23 driver or not hiring another driver?

24 MS. MOORE: That's hiring another  
25 driver. If you don't use this grant, you have to

1 send this back to the state and I can't see losing  
2 50 percent.

3 MR. LOWERY: We can still use that  
4 grant as long as we have three drivers.

5 MS. MOORE: Well, Annette can explain  
6 that because we've met, I'm telling you, hours on  
7 this project.

8 MS. CASH: You can't because they've  
9 got money in there for me and the third driver also.  
10 So my -- the percentage for myself has to be sent  
11 back. Fifty percent of that would still have --  
12 you've got to use --

13 MR. PITTMAN: How much would that be,  
14 Annette?

15 MR. LOWERY: Fifty percent of  
16 whatever you've got in there --

17 MR. PITTMAN: Half of her -- it's  
18 not --

19 MS. CASH: I mean, if you start  
20 refusing money, they're going to cut you.

21 MR. PITTMAN: How much would we have to  
22 send them back, Annette, do you know?

23 MS. CASH: Supervisor's salary is --  
24 you would have to send the whole amount back,  
25 34,500, would you not, if you don't --

1 MS. MOORE: Now, what she's got there  
2 are figures based upon -- all right. She's got  
3 figures that are based upon 18 months. They are  
4 allowing for 18 months to give us half of \$99,000  
5 for three drivers. For the dispatcher's salary,  
6 it's 34,500, but that's for 18 months, which that  
7 would be -- like for 12 months, it would be about  
8 29,000 something. They allow \$5,980, which she's  
9 never received, as being -- don't know where that  
10 went, just into the general fund, probably  
11 reimbursed, but never to her. And \$5,980 for the  
12 supervisory salary, 5,520 for the bookkeeper's  
13 salary that they are funding half of that. So they  
14 have allowed \$99,000 for 18 months, 34,500. But for  
15 hers alone it was 34,500 for 18 months, 5,980 and  
16 5,520 and when you take that and divide it --  
17 prorate it into 12 months, that second option I gave  
18 you was like -- we would be increasing that budget  
19 from 120,000 to 151,000, but you get 75,500 back.  
20 But on the next option if you didn't raise the  
21 salary to the full potential, it was raising that --  
22 I mean, that budget would have been 145,000. I  
23 think that's correct, 145,000. So it would be a  
24 difference -- and if you go 145,000, they're going  
25 to get half of that. If you go 151,000, they're

1 going to get half of that.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: So you're looking at  
3 12,500 or 15,000, option one, the 145,000 or if you  
4 do the option two, 151,000. The difference is  
5 either 12,500 or 15,000.

6 MR. LOWERY: What we're going to have  
7 left in the contingency fund after either one of the  
8 options.

9 MS. MOORE: I believe Annette has  
10 something else.

11 MS. CASH: Their full reimbursement for  
12 the 1,800 is \$1,791 in reimbursement.

13 MS. MOORE: That would be our share.

14 MS. CASH: And everybody has got this  
15 and they've had it for years and years and years,  
16 the budget we go by.

17 MS. MOORE: Actually, they allowed  
18 201,583 and our share is 100,791 that they would be  
19 reimbursing the county and we have been over this,  
20 but the thing is that I apologize for is that I  
21 didn't have all of this information until after  
22 January. And in this 45,000, you look at it  
23 reducing that budget, we didn't know about that  
24 either until we started looking into those grants  
25 and found out we no longer had that grant. But now

1 Don has told me we're going to have 44,000 more to  
2 put back into that. Do you hear me, gentlemen?

3 MR. PITTMAN: We hear you.

4 MR. BRANDON: All right. Again, let me  
5 ask you which one of these do you want us to vote  
6 on?

7 MS. MOORE: Well, I would vote to  
8 accept this \$100,000.

9 MR. BRANDON: Which option is that?

10 MS. MOORE: And that would be option --  
11 well, that's option one. There's option two.  
12 Option two.

13 MR. BRANDON: Option two. It appears  
14 to be the net difference is the overall budget does  
15 not change -- county-wide budget does not change.  
16 The county-wide budget does not change. The only  
17 change is there appears to be about a \$2,000  
18 difference in the fund balance -- I mean, the  
19 reserve balance. So Ms. Moore has made a motion  
20 that we accept option two from her research here.  
21 Do I have a second?

22 MR. PITTMAN: Option two would be --

23 MR. BRANDON: Don't start with that  
24 again.

25 MR. LOWERY: How did our reserves get

1 down from 50,000 last meeting to 12,000 this  
2 meeting?

3 MS. MOORE: He just explained that.

4 MR. TOWNSEND: The 45,000 had to come  
5 in.

6 MR. LOWERY: I thought you said it just  
7 came back in.

8 MR. TOWNSEND: Well, it did.

9 MR. LOWERY: Well, these figures are  
10 not right.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: No, not what you're  
12 looking at. This would be a true reflection of  
13 leaving the 44 out and then just letting it  
14 accumulate into that other grant that's currently  
15 75, but now it's not really a grant. It was a  
16 reimbursement the chairman said. I mean, you've got  
17 it back in there, but again, you're going to need to  
18 use --

19 MR. BRANDON: The trick though, Don,  
20 you're going to have to put that back into the P&I  
21 budget for roads because that's where the bridge was  
22 paid out of. You can't put that back into the  
23 general fund.

24 MR. PITTMAN: Do you know about that,  
25 Robin?

1 MR. ROGERS: No, I don't.

2 MR. BRANDON: That's the way I read it  
3 because the bridge was paid for out of the  
4 S.P.L.O.S.T. P&I account. So if you're getting  
5 money back to offset that, it would make sense to  
6 me -- now, I don't know what the legality is, but it  
7 would make sense to me that you would want to put it  
8 back where you took it out of originally. Again,  
9 that's a legal matter.

10 MR. ROGERS: I'll check on that.

11 MR. YOUNG: Well, if you do that, I'm  
12 not -- I'm just throwing this out there, but on your  
13 S.P.L.O.S.T. collection, you stop collecting when  
14 you collect a certain amount of money or complete  
15 the project, correct, or the time runs out? So if  
16 you take this money from the grant and put it in  
17 there, then that's considered money you've actually  
18 collected, but haven't really collected from taxes,  
19 correct?

20 MR. LOWERY: That's even clearer.

21 MR. BRANDON: Let's don't get that deep  
22 into this. But anyway, it appears to me that the  
23 net difference here is that the overall budget  
24 decreases, correct? And the difference in the  
25 reserve balance between option one and option two

1 appears to be \$2,000.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: That's correct.

3 MR. BRANDON: Do I have a  
4 recommendation from Mr. Castleberry or from Annette?  
5 Have you seen both of these options?

6 MS. CASH: All I know is in the past  
7 years we've always -- we've never ever went by DOT's  
8 budget. The county balances out federal funding for  
9 transportation except for maybe 25 or 30,000 at the  
10 most and this year I don't think we've even gotten  
11 the last reimbursement for the last six months and  
12 we just applied for three months and we're talking  
13 about a little over 70,000 coming in. We haven't  
14 even received last year.

15 MS. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, may I add  
16 that in their budget also it has been coming out  
17 funding for the Meals on Wheels. That's an entirely  
18 different --

19 MS. CASH: We actually pay for  
20 maintenance out of the transportation. There's a  
21 lot of things coming out of the transportation where  
22 it would probably show a profit if all of that had  
23 not been taken out.

24 MS. MOORE: But it's a service.

25 MR. LOWERY: When we get through, I

1 want to ask you some about that Meals on Wheels. Me  
2 and Scottie has been --

3 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Let's don't do  
4 that now. We have a motion on the floor to accept  
5 option two of Ms. Moore's proposal here. She has  
6 made the motion. Do I have a second?

7 MR. YOUNG: I'll second.

8 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a  
9 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

10 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

11 MS. MOORE: Discussion, Ben.

12 MR. BRANDON: Oh, I'm sorry.  
13 Discussion?

14 MR. PITTMAN: Option two and option one  
15 includes the new employee, correct?

16 MS. MOORE: Right. It includes the  
17 third driver where Annette will not have to pull  
18 triple duty and they provide for that and it would  
19 increase her salary because she has been very low  
20 paid over the last several years in that division.  
21 I mean, very underpaid. And I spent quite -- I  
22 guess I spent hours on this project and now I  
23 understand it, but I did not understand it before  
24 and didn't have the figures before me before until  
25 after January and it was really me discovered that

1 45,000 that shouldn't have been in that budget. I  
2 wish I hadn't of discovered, but I did, but I guess  
3 I'm glad I did. But still that's what that  
4 decreased that more so.

5 MR. BRANDON: Any other discussion?

6 MR. LOWERY: After everything is said  
7 and done, the senior program is a great program.  
8 There's no doubt about that. But as usual I'm  
9 always concerned about growing government. I don't  
10 like that idea at all. But like Ben has pointed  
11 out, it doesn't raise out -- it actually lowers our  
12 budget and I won't have a problem with it.

13 MR. BRANDON: Any other discussion?

14 All right. I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

15 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

16 MS. MOORE: Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

18 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

19 MR. PITTMAN: No.

20 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

21 MS. MOORE: Yes.

22 MR. BRANDON: The motion passes. Okay.  
23 Moving on to the last item under the new business.  
24 It is the issue of operation of the transfer  
25 station. This is Mr. Young's issue. I will turn it

1 over to him for an explanation and a motion of what  
2 we should do.

3 MR. YOUNG: Right now the transfer  
4 station is open six days a week. We got to looking  
5 at it and looked at some other counties and saw that  
6 we could save, potentially save a lot of money if we  
7 close the transfer station down one day a week. The  
8 recommendation from the public works director was  
9 that we close down on Mondays. That seems to be the  
10 day that is the slowest as used by residents. And  
11 what we could tell, the only commercial carrier that  
12 does residential garbage pickup that comes in on  
13 that day is Allied Garbage Services.

14 So we advertised in the paper to see if  
15 there's any public comment on this because this is a  
16 big -- the transfer station is one of the few  
17 services we provide our residents. We advertised in  
18 the paper and I guess, Billy, how much did we end up  
19 in the end figuring we were going to save?

20 MR. MASSENGALE: 26,741.63.

21 MR. BRANDON: Can you be a little more  
22 precise than that? Just kidding.

23 MS. MOORE: I mean, how did you arrive  
24 at that savings?

25 MR. MASSENGALE: To pay for the manager

1 we had last year if he was here today, which he quit  
2 Christmas Eve, would be 17.71. We can run it with  
3 the gentlemen we've got for \$12 an hour, saves you  
4 \$5.71 an hour, which is 11,876.08. By the time you  
5 get your social security, retirement and insurance  
6 and benefits, it comes to 13. Then by not replacing  
7 him for six months on the road crew, that's another  
8 12,791. It comes to 26,041. Anytime you add your  
9 electrical bill you save for that one day, your  
10 water bill you would save for one day a week. You  
11 save over \$600 on your electrical bill and not only  
12 that, but right now our equipment is getting old on  
13 us. We've got a rolloff truck down there that's got  
14 443,000 miles on it and it needs some serious work  
15 now. It's hard to work on it running six days a  
16 week unless you want to pay somebody to come in on  
17 Sunday and work on it.

18 Plus I know there will be some that it  
19 might cause a hardship. I think United. It might  
20 be Allied, but I think it's United. They do bring  
21 it on Monday, but they're the only commercial hauler  
22 that does. The other -- Tuesday through Friday we  
23 have BFI, which is, what, Waste Management now and  
24 we've got Mountain Sanitation. We have two to three  
25 commercial haulers Tuesday through Friday. On

1 Monday, we have one. That way instead of splitting  
2 it up, employees getting a Sunday then a Wednesday  
3 or a Sunday and Saturday, they would have two days  
4 off back to back, too.

5 By doing that way too, we could overlap  
6 our scale operator, overlap because we could use  
7 them in recycle without having to hire somebody for  
8 recycle. Recycle has picked up. Last year it went  
9 up directly if I'm wrong, Ben, what 25 percent more  
10 we took in? It's growing every day. And BFI, they  
11 have -- from what I gather, has doubled their price  
12 and that's got a lot more residents bringing bags in  
13 and -- but just doing this, it would be a benefit  
14 for taxpayers, but there again, they lose one day of  
15 service.

16 MR. YOUNG: And the one -- who was that  
17 you said comes and dumps on Mondays?

18 MR. MASSENGALE: United.

19 MR. YOUNG: Also, I talked with Billy  
20 earlier today to see if there is a way we could  
21 accommodate him so he could still bring his trucks  
22 on Mondays to dump. Billy said as long as he would  
23 call him within an hour, isn't that right?

24 MR. MASSENGALE: We could do it if you  
25 choose to go that route, if I had most of the time

1 30 minutes. You know, you never know what we're  
2 into, but an hour, it would be no problem if he  
3 wanted to do that.

4 MR. YOUNG: You could meet down there.  
5 That would be something. I know Mr. Casey has  
6 expressed some concerns. He's picked up a lot of  
7 customers since BFI raised their rates, so that may  
8 be an undue hardship.

9 MR. PITTMAN: We know how Mr. Casey  
10 feels about it. Do we have any citizens that might  
11 want to talk.

12 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: If you let him  
13 in on Monday, is that not showing favoritism? Also,  
14 if you close it, what about the contractors and  
15 stuff that need to dump the -- in the construction  
16 industry, you can't burn building materials, so we  
17 have to take everything that we do to the landfill.  
18 If y'all close it down, we don't have nowhere to  
19 take our scraps or left-over material.

20 MR. MASSENGALE: I think they just  
21 passed an ordinance on that about inert material.

22 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: Sheetrock scrap,  
23 shingles, what's -- they no longer take it?

24 MR. BRANDON: Would it be appropriate  
25 to -- on this issue --

1 MR. YOUNG: I'm not saying we have to  
2 make a decision tonight. I was just wanting to  
3 bring in some public comment.

4 MR. BRANDON: Would it be appropriate  
5 though to -- since we seem to have some dissenting  
6 opinions on this, maybe have a public hearing on  
7 this?

8 MR. PITTMAN: The difference I feel  
9 like, Mr. Hartline, on that situation is, you're as  
10 a building contractor, you're serving one resident  
11 or yourself or whoever. United is serving the  
12 entire county.

13 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: This is true.

14 MR. PITTMAN: He's going around picking  
15 up residential for elderly and people that can't  
16 take it to the landfill themselves.

17 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: Not me. I mean,  
18 I have no problem. It just kindly shows favoritism  
19 to one person.

20 MR. PITTMAN: If you have a pickup load  
21 of sheetrock you need to haul off --

22 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: I'm talking  
23 about a dump truck load. Twenty loads off last  
24 month. When I haul, I usually haul four or five  
25 loads a day. It's not just one load here or there.

1 MS. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I only had  
2 one call other than Mr. Casey who came and  
3 approached me tonight and presented me with daily  
4 transaction summaries and it was showing that on  
5 Monday, they were pretty big loads on Mondays. But  
6 only the other citizen that contacted me said, well,  
7 why close it on Monday, everybody has the whole  
8 weekend to do their cleaning out or whatever, would  
9 Wednesday. They said if you have to, what about  
10 choosing another day.

11 MR. PITTMAN: It's open on Saturday at  
12 7:00.

13 MR. MASSENGALE: All the other days you  
14 have more than one commercial hauler come in.

15 MR. BRANDON: I think the key, if there  
16 would be any type of overwhelming decision factor on  
17 this for me would be what Billy was talking about is  
18 you can't work on equipment when it's moving. So a  
19 lot of that stuff down there, he spends probably  
20 half his time down there fixing stuff that's broken  
21 or repairing -- fixing flat tires where they run  
22 over things at the landfill. To me that would be  
23 the only compelling reason -- one of the compelling  
24 reasons, besides the savings, to close on a weekday  
25 where you can actually work on the equipment while

1 you're not going to be using it that day. But  
2 again, I would recommend that Mr. Young take, as the  
3 author of this idea, maybe hold a public hearing on  
4 it and announce it and have people come in and give  
5 their comments and maybe vote on it the next meeting  
6 since it's not an immediate.

7           What I would recommend though is if we  
8 were to decide to close a day during the week is  
9 that we take whatever savings that is generated from  
10 that and apply it back to some other department or  
11 put it back into the reserve by way of a budget  
12 amendment that he's recommending rather than just  
13 leaving it in the department and letting them come  
14 in under budget because of that, but to put it back  
15 into the reserve fund wherever it could be used  
16 wherever appropriate somewhere else.

17           MR. LOWERY: We did advertise that in  
18 the paper.

19           MR. BRANDON: But we didn't have a  
20 public hearing.

21           MR. LOWERY: This is a public hearing.  
22 This was advertised to come here tonight and talk  
23 about it.

24           MR. BRANDON: Did you ask for people to  
25 come and comment on it?

1           MR. LOWERY: Evan Stone has had it on  
2 his radio program.

3           MR. BRANDON: All right. Do you want  
4 to make -- put this in the form of a motion then so  
5 we can move on?

6           MR. PITTMAN: Do we have any other --

7           MR. BUD: I don't think it's hardly  
8 fair myself because a lot of people comes on Monday.  
9 If one can call Billy on Monday, I think we all  
10 ought to be able to call him on Monday.

11          MR. MASSENGALE: I thought that was  
12 coming from somebody.

13          MR. BUD: I think that's all I have to  
14 say.

15          MRS. REYNOLDS: Don't the commercial  
16 haulers do their pickups based on when they're open?  
17 I mean, can't the other haulers change their pickup  
18 schedules? Didn't the paper also say that you were  
19 talking about closing early, one hour early?

20          MS. MOORE: I think that had been  
21 discussed, right.

22          MRS. REYNOLDS: I don't think that  
23 would be a good idea, especially in the summertime  
24 because people don't get home from work until 5:00,  
25 6:00. By the time you want to run down there,

1 especially if you're going on Saturday, you can't  
2 get down there. 7:00 is great. Maybe open later in  
3 the morning, but not close earlier.

4 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Let's see what the  
5 sentiment is for moving forward on this. Do I have  
6 a motion that we --

7 MS. MOORE: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry.  
8 Mr. Casey is back there.

9 MR. BRANDON: I know. We're going to  
10 have a discussion in just a moment. Okay. We have  
11 the -- is there a motion to close the Dade County  
12 Transfer Station on Mondays?

13 MR. YOUNG: I make that motion.

14 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I  
15 have a second?

16 MR. LOWERY: Second.

17 MR. BRANDON: That was Mr. Lowery.  
18 Time for discussion. Mr. Casey, would you like to  
19 come up and talk to us, sir?

20 MR. CASEY: I brought this down here.  
21 I wish y'all would all take time to look at what  
22 goes on on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays. That's  
23 the department that needs to grow instead of cut  
24 back. You know, I pick up five days a week.  
25 Fridays if I have a blow out and I can't go dump on

1 Monday, I can't pick up Monday's garbage and the  
2 dogs are going to be in it. It's going to be  
3 scattered up and down the road. People are going to  
4 be complaining. But if you look on these Mondays  
5 and y'all can all get this, get you a copy. This  
6 ain't just -- this is what goes across the scales.  
7 It ain't what goes in to the dump to the cans for  
8 free. Here's a Monday with 37 went across the  
9 scales. Tuesday, 34.

10 MR. BRANDON: Thirty-four trips or 34  
11 tons?

12 MR. CASEY: Thirty-four vehicles  
13 crossed the scales. It ain't just the commercial.

14 MR. BRANDON: You don't make that many  
15 trips, do you?

16 MR. CASEY: Oh, no. I do one to two a  
17 day. And if you'll look at this, the whole year,  
18 Monday was some of the biggest money making days you  
19 had in there.

20 MR. MASSENGALE: There's no money  
21 making days at the landfill.

22 MR. BRANDON: You don't make any money  
23 in garbage.

24 MR. CASEY: It brings in as many on  
25 Monday as it does any day of the week.

1 MR. MASSENGALE: There are more trips.  
2 Mike is right. About as many trips, but weight wise  
3 it's not. Like I said, he comes in one time on  
4 Monday. He'll have -- what do you have, six, eight  
5 tons?

6 MR. CASEY: Well, it varies. If it's  
7 wet weather, you'll have seven or eight. Dry  
8 weather, you'll have two to three.

9 MR. MASSENGALE: But residents come in.  
10 Like you talk about Monday, you've got 65,000. Look  
11 at Wednesday, we've got 121,000. Look on the next  
12 Wednesday, we've got 227,000. As far as weight  
13 wise, that's the lightest day we have.

14 MR. CASEY: That is the lightest day on  
15 weight, but still on people that it concerns. You  
16 know, it's not just concerning me. This is  
17 concerning the whole county, every taxpayer here.  
18 BFI has done went to \$64 every three months.

19 MR. PITTMAN: The reason Monday is  
20 brought up, Mike, is so employees could have  
21 adjacent days, Sunday, Monday off.

22 MR. CASEY: Well, if you'll go down and  
23 talk to your employees, they say they like it like  
24 this better than they would --

25 MR. MASSENGALE: That's not what

1 they -- Rebecca, she didn't understand the schedule.  
2 I know you've been talking to her about the schedule  
3 and she said she would like it and everybody else  
4 was for it.

5 MR. CASEY: Well, all of them I've  
6 talked to said if they had to work every Saturday,  
7 they would probably have to hunt them a job because  
8 they had families. The way it is now, they rotate  
9 them. Every other Saturday an employee works. You  
10 know, I know Billy needs time to work on the trucks,  
11 but we've got a bed down there we took off of  
12 another truck. We should have trucks at the road  
13 department we could pull a bed off of that ain't  
14 working and make them a spare rolloff truck and then  
15 you've got something to work with.

16 MR. PITTMAN: What do you think about  
17 the idea if you notified Billy 30 or 40 minutes  
18 ahead of time?

19 MR. CASEY: I think that would work  
20 fine for me, but, you know, I don't want to make  
21 everybody in Dade County mad at me, think I'm  
22 getting some kind of favoritism.

23 MR. BRANDON: What about the idea of  
24 having a very specific time on Monday that would be  
25 open for anybody that wants to show up, say 4:00 to

1 7:00.

2 MR. MASSENGALE: If you do that though,  
3 you're going to have to have someone coming down to  
4 man the scales.

5 MR. BRANDON: Well, you are anyway,  
6 aren't you, if you let him call you 30 minutes in  
7 advance, somebody has got to go man the scale  
8 anyway.

9 MR. CASEY: They go in and --

10 MR. MASSENGALE: Anybody can go down  
11 there and take the weight and print them a ticket  
12 when we load back up.

13 MR. BRANDON: Well, it's just a  
14 suggestion, but if you're going to allow one person  
15 to do it -- I agree with Buddy that, you know, if  
16 you're going to let somebody do it and no offense,  
17 but somebody do it who's making a profit off of  
18 hauling garbage, why wouldn't you let Buddy come  
19 down there who's paying the taxes and bring it for  
20 free.

21 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: What about even  
22 if -- if they close on Monday, are they going to  
23 haul off the load they've already got Monday? Is  
24 the truck still going to run because I went in last  
25 Saturday and they done had two tractor trailer loads

1 full. So if you've got two loads already full, what  
2 are you going to do with the load on Tuesday because  
3 you're going to have a buildup from Monday.

4 MR. PITTMAN: It would be the same as  
5 opening Monday morning.

6 MR. CASEY: No, it won't. You're going  
7 to have Tuesdays and Mondays coming in there all at  
8 once.

9 MR. MASSENGALE: Nobody to dump --

10 MR. CASEY: You're going to have buy  
11 another tractor and trailer and another driver just  
12 to get rid of what has piled up. You know, this is  
13 something that's going to have to grow. Our county  
14 is growing. There's 400 new homes going in in the  
15 Big Woods. That's 400 new people going to be  
16 bringing it down here. There's hundreds going in in  
17 Back Valley.

18 MR. BRANDON: Could we have order.  
19 Please? Could we have order, please. I'm sorry,  
20 Mike. Go ahead.

21 MR. CASEY: You've got hundreds of  
22 people going -- new homes going in in Back Valley.  
23 That's more garage coming. You've got new  
24 subdivisions going in on Sand Mountain, Lookout  
25 Mountain. The more homes we get, the more we're

1 going to have garbage come to our transfer station  
2 and the more we're going to have to have somebody  
3 there to run it and trucks and equipment.

4           You know, like Billy said, that old  
5 truck has been around a long time down there. It's  
6 about ready to lay down. If I'm not mistaken, the  
7 bed that they took off of the one they pull the  
8 trailers with was a good bed and we should have some  
9 kind of reserve where we could put it on another  
10 truck or something and have backup equipment. You  
11 know, we've hired another man at the scale house.  
12 He's supposed to have his CDL license. On Monday  
13 let him come in and instead of working recycle, the  
14 recycle is going pretty good, which it's grown, let  
15 him come in and get in a tractor and trailer and  
16 haul off what they're taking in on Monday. It  
17 balances out pretty good if you can rotate your  
18 employees and keep things going like they are  
19 instead of cutting back when it's time to grow.  
20 Come spring of the year, everybody is fixing to do  
21 their cleaning.

22           MR. BRANDON: I think we've got an  
23 understanding this is a very important issue. Thank  
24 you, Mike. At this point, again, I will ask is this  
25 something we want to -- there's a motion and a

1 second on this. Is this something that we want to  
2 go ahead and vote on tonight or would we rather  
3 study this more and get more public comment or do  
4 we --

5 MS. MOORE: My discussion on this is I  
6 would like to see us have another public hearing  
7 just for this and postpone it until we have another  
8 public hearing.

9 MR. PITTMAN: Billy, do you feel like  
10 this is an urgent issue to deal with or can we  
11 postpone it a couple of weeks?

12 MR. MASSENGALE: We can keep going like  
13 we are. I mean, it's just -- well, like that truck,  
14 I need to take it in. I need it down for at least  
15 one whole day right now to fix a leak. It looks  
16 like a sifter the way it's leaking fluid, but you  
17 can't fix it with it running.

18 MR. BRANDON: One of the things that  
19 Mike is absolutely on the money with is that Dade  
20 County is growing and the one thing you're going to  
21 always have more of is garbage and so we're going to  
22 have to make adjustments in this. Billy and I were  
23 talking about this earlier today. When you look at  
24 the balance sheet we have here, the revenue and the  
25 expense of solid waste in Dade County, you look at

1 it and go, wow, we're collecting a lot more money  
2 from people hauling stuff down there, but you've got  
3 to look at the other side of the equation. We're  
4 paying over twice as much to get rid of it by the  
5 time you factor in salaries, wear and tear on your  
6 equipment and the tipping fees down there at Sand  
7 Valley. We need to have a complete relook at this  
8 issue because you shouldn't make money on garbage,  
9 but it shouldn't cost you as much net expense as  
10 we're paying today. So this whole issue needs to be  
11 reevaluated sometime in the not too distant future.  
12 But right now on this issue we have a motion and a  
13 second on closing the transfer station on Monday.  
14 Is there any more discussion on this issue?

15 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: Ben, can I say  
16 something?

17 MR. BRANDON: Yes, sir.

18 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: I don't think  
19 that y'all should pass on this because the people is  
20 the one that's paying the bill and the people should  
21 be the one that makes the decision, not the  
22 commissioners because us taxpayers is picking up the  
23 tab and you should have open discussion on it. I  
24 don't think y'all should make that decision for us.  
25 Am I out of order on that?

1                   MR. BRANDON: No, sir. I mean, your  
2 opinion is never out of order. But again, the  
3 reason you elect your commissioners is to make our  
4 decisions and hopefully if we had a public forum  
5 where people knew that this was going to come up and  
6 knew that their input mattered, they might show up  
7 to actually talk about it and have time to lobby  
8 their commissioners a little more. I agree with Ms.  
9 Moore. I think this needs a public hearing where  
10 two weeks from now, three weeks from now, sometime  
11 before the next meeting or whatever. There's no  
12 urgent need to do this today. It's not like we're  
13 going to -- the county is going to run into a  
14 financial ditch if we don't do it tonight. I think  
15 this is something that's going to adversely impact a  
16 lot of people and it's not something you should do  
17 lightly. I don't know if everybody knew this was  
18 going to be voted on one way or the other tonight.  
19 I'm sorry. I didn't read the -- I didn't see the  
20 ad, but I would -- it would be my opinion that we  
21 should have another public hearing on it sometime  
22 that Commissioner Young would conduct and take input  
23 on people and just get the sentiment of the county,  
24 take their temperature on this issue.

25                   Anyway, we have a motion and a second,

1 so let's go on and vote on this. I'll call the roll  
2 on closing the transfer station on Mondays. Mr.  
3 Young?

4 MR. YOUNG: Did I make the motion? I  
5 know I made the motion, but I'll vote no on it  
6 because you changed my mind. We'll have a public  
7 hearing.

8 MR. BRANDON: Well, imagine that.

9 MR. YOUNG: I'll take my motion back  
10 then. I'll rescind my motion.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Young rescinds  
12 his motion which means we will -- the issue becomes  
13 moot.

14 So moving on --

15 MS. MOORE: So, Mr. Chairman, I still  
16 had one more thing under that number 11 item under  
17 administration.

18 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I think what  
19 you're talking about there is something that can be  
20 decided by just a committee.

21 MS. MOORE: Because the committee has  
22 already met and approved it.

23 MR. BRANDON: Changing a job  
24 description, I don't think, requires a full vote of  
25 the Commission.

1 MS. MOORE: If it was at the approval  
2 of the personnel committee, it's okay.

3 MR. BRANDON: That's not something  
4 that's required. I hope we don't have to vote on  
5 every job description.

6 MR. ROGERS: The way that it currently  
7 reads is changing the wages or terms of his  
8 employment. So if the change in description  
9 involves a change in wages, it would need to be  
10 voted on.

11 MR. BRANDON: All this is is a change  
12 of a job description and the duties of the person  
13 involved, right?

14 MS. MOORE: Well, we're talking about  
15 two different individuals. You may not understand  
16 what -- one of them involves just a changing of  
17 status from a county clerk two to county technician,  
18 which involves a small increase in the pay, but it's  
19 within the budget. And the other one was simply  
20 just changing an employee from a salaried position  
21 to an hourly position.

22 MR. BRANDON: That would not require a  
23 full vote of the Commission, would it? And neither  
24 would the first one --

25 MR. ROGERS: If it's a change in wages,

1 in the amount of wages that are paid, the way it  
2 currently stands, that would. The second one, I'm  
3 not sure if it would constitute a change in wages or  
4 not.

5 MS. MOORE: No, it doesn't. It doesn't  
6 change the wages.

7 MR. BRANDON: So we're going to have to  
8 vote -- every time we give somebody a nickel an hour  
9 raise, we're going to have to vote on it?

10 MR. ROGERS: The way it currently  
11 stands.

12 MR. BRANDON: Okay. All right. Well,  
13 on item B, 11B, Ms. Moore's presentation, do I have  
14 a motion that we approve the changes that she's  
15 recommending?

16 MS. MOORE: Well, can I make the motion  
17 if I make the recommendation?

18 MR. BRANDON: Sure.

19 MS. MOORE: Well, I make the motion  
20 that we change the status in an administration  
21 employee from a county clerk two to county  
22 technician.

23 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I have a motion.  
24 Do I have a second?

25 MR. YOUNG: I second.

1 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a  
2 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

3 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

4 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

5 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

6 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

7 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

8 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

9 MS. MOORE: Yes.

10 MR. BRANDON: Motion passes.

11 Okay. Moving on to -- having no more  
12 new business, we move to citizen participation and  
13 on the agenda I was given, we have Mr. Henegar who I  
14 don't see here. Do we have someone representing Mr.  
15 Henegar here?

16 MS. MOORE: Mr. Henegar had contacted  
17 me, but I don't see him.

18 MR. BRANDON: He's in ill health, I  
19 believe. Is there anyone here representing  
20 Mr. Henegar? Seeing no one, we will move on.

21 We had a request from Mr. Hartline to  
22 speak. If you would come up to the podium and speak  
23 into the microphone.

24 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: Mine is about  
25 the property taxes. I'm a builder and a developer

1 in Dade County. Who hires the tax assessors and the  
2 people that deals with property taxes?

3 MR. BRANDON: The Board of Assessors.

4 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: Okay. Whenever  
5 I build a house in this county and I sell it, say if  
6 I sell it in May of this year, I will end up paying  
7 prorated taxes on that property. When they send out  
8 property taxes, I will get the taxes for the  
9 previous year. Would that not -- I mean, they've  
10 got six months out of that year to figure who owns  
11 that house and send the taxes to the right person,  
12 right?

13 MR. BRANDON: Correct.

14 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: They're being  
15 paid for a job that I have to do. I have to  
16 deliver -- I delivered six sets of taxes this week  
17 on houses I sold in the middle of last year. Also,  
18 it costs an extra 50 to \$100 on appraisals on houses  
19 in our county because they're six months behind on  
20 assessing houses that's been sold in the county. So  
21 it's harder to get -- it's costing people that's  
22 buying houses in this county more money to get their  
23 houses appraised because when they go to the tax  
24 assessor's office, they say, well, we don't have the  
25 houses that's been sold in this area in this six

1 months period of time to do their appraisals on.

2 That's my thing is if I was building you a house and

3 I was six months behind on my job, I would be fired.

4 So somebody needs to look into that and be

5 responsible for what's going on.

6 MR. BRANDON: One of the issues that I  
7 think -- and I'll look to the county attorney on  
8 this, but the assessor's office is prohibited from  
9 doing what are commonly referred to as PT51  
10 appraisals which is what they used to do in the old  
11 days where they would sit in the office down there  
12 and not go out and appraise your property and wait  
13 until it sold and then run over there to the --  
14 where the sale was registered and say, oh, it sold  
15 for \$115,000 and automatically your house is  
16 \$115,000. So they're prohibited from doing that, we  
17 assume, and we hope that they don't do that. Now,  
18 why they're behind in the registration of the change  
19 of the property status, I don't know. That's a  
20 question that you would need to go ask the Board of  
21 Assessors and their next meeting is when? Does  
22 anybody know when the next --

23 MR. LOWERY: First Tuesday.

24 MR. BRANDON: The first Tuesday of the  
25 month, which would be next Tuesday. You might go

1 there and ask them because they control all of the  
2 assessment of property and the appraisal of property  
3 in the county, not the assessment, but the appraisal  
4 of property in the county.

5 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: And the mailing  
6 out of the taxes?

7 MR. BRANDON: That's done by the tax  
8 commissioner.

9 MR. LOWERY: They told me whoever that  
10 owns that property January 1, that's who gets the  
11 tax bill, whether that's a --

12 MR. BRANDON: When we approved for them  
13 to hire additional personnel in 2005, one of the  
14 things that they inherited was they inherited about  
15 a two-year backlog of properties that had never been  
16 transferred and that's why a lot of people come in  
17 complaining, I didn't get a tax notice last year,  
18 but I got one this year. They finally got caught up  
19 on that backlog. I don't know if they're still  
20 behind or not. They shouldn't be because they've  
21 had adequate personnel. The place you would want to  
22 go and ask that question is next Tuesday night at  
23 their board meeting, which is held down the hall  
24 here and the notice and the place and time if it  
25 will be placed in the hall out here as well.

1 MR. LOWERY: It's at 6:00, work  
2 session.

3 MS. MOORE: Could I add something to  
4 that?

5 MR. BRANDON: Certainly.

6 MS. MOORE: When a deed is recorded,  
7 they fill out what you call a PT61 form and those  
8 forms are generated in the Superior Court Clerk's  
9 office and they're entered into the computer into  
10 their database immediately and so the tax assessor's  
11 office has the same information that the Superior  
12 Court Clerk does and they get their information from  
13 the PT61. So what you're talking about down there,  
14 Lamar, is when they -- I think it might be a  
15 state -- I think it might be a state law that  
16 whomever owns that property on January 1<sup>st</sup> is who  
17 the tax bills goes to, but they are updated. But  
18 there again, they probably do run, like you said,  
19 six months to a year, but that may be something to  
20 do with the state. Again, that's what you could  
21 find out from their meeting.

22 MR. BRANDON: There's really no reason  
23 they shouldn't have it the same week or within two  
24 weeks of when the deeds are registered, when they're  
25 updated, but I don't know. Again, you would have to

1 ask them what their update schedule is. I agree  
2 with you though, there's no reason for somebody to  
3 end up paying six months worth of taxes they don't  
4 have to pay.

5 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: It's not that I  
6 have to pay it. It's just I have -- you know, like  
7 if I sold it in June, I've got to prorate them taxes  
8 and pay myself out, but then I still get the bill  
9 the next year and I've got to go hand deliver it.  
10 You know, somebody is getting paid to do that job.  
11 And then I don't think it ought to cost people  
12 buying houses in this county 50 to \$100 more to get  
13 it appraised because our county's tax assessors are  
14 so far behind.

15 MS. MOORE: That's a good question to  
16 ask them.

17 MR. BRANDON: Yeah. I would -- next  
18 Tuesday, 6:00 down the hall here.

19 MR. PHILLIP HARTLINE: All right.  
20 Thank you.

21 MR. BRANDON: Any other citizen  
22 participation? Yes, sir. The chair recognizes Mr.  
23 Burrell Hill.

24 MR. HILL: I'm Burrell Hill. I'm the  
25 past president of the Dade County Chamber. I am no

1 longer a member of the board of the Dade County  
2 Chamber, but I am still a member of the Dade County  
3 Chamber of Commerce. So I want to apologize and ask  
4 you to forgive me if I say we when I'm talking  
5 tonight because I said we for five years, so it's  
6 kind of hard to get out of the habit, but since the  
7 first of the year, I am no longer on the board of  
8 directors. I served my term.

9 But what I'm here to say is that we  
10 have records down at the Chamber that is open to the  
11 public. It's the minutes of the Chamber meetings.  
12 In those minutes is Mr. Brandon's resignation when  
13 he resigned from the board of directors of the  
14 Chamber. If he wants to take up why he resigned,  
15 that's up to him. But anyway, he stated that he  
16 would continue to support the Chamber in any way he  
17 could. Well, now, I don't remember him voting for  
18 anything for the Chamber since he's been in this  
19 position. He has put articles in the Dade County  
20 paper downing the Chamber and disgracing us you  
21 might say. He tried to slide \$5,000 by us that  
22 Senator Mullis got for us. He tried to slide that  
23 by us. So I just don't see -- this is basically  
24 another one of his flip flops in my opinion.

25 And Mr. Carroll --

1 MR. BRANDON: Burrell, if the only  
2 reason you're standing up is to attack a  
3 commissioner, then you're out of order.

4 MR. HILL: You're talking about being  
5 out of order, I would like to remind you that you  
6 were out of order when you brought up the Chamber  
7 personnel down there. That is the Chamber's --

8 MR. BRANDON: I was --

9 MR. HILL: -- business. You give us  
10 \$20,000, but if you took all the taxes that the  
11 board members pays and add them together, it would  
12 not even be a percentage of what y'all were given  
13 this department. So we're paying taxes.

14 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Burrell.

15 MR. HILL: I'm not through yet.

16 Mr. Young, somebody in the paper said  
17 that they had told you that they didn't like how  
18 y'all was handling Mr. Brandon's job. It said that  
19 you had one now. Well, you've got one now and to  
20 all the commissioners, I appreciate you and I know  
21 you're doing the right thing because myself and the  
22 public too can see what kind of shape we would be in  
23 if Mr. Brandon had the authority to do things by  
24 himself. So just -- the Chamber is just one example  
25 of what it would be like. So y'all have my support

1 and you can tell that guy that you've got more than  
2 one now.

3 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Burrell.

4 MR. HILL: I may not be through yet.  
5 Let me think a minute. My five minutes is not up  
6 yet.

7 MR. BRANDON: Burrell, it's getting  
8 late and if all you're going to do is criticize  
9 somebody, it's late.

10 MR. HILL: I know it's getting late,  
11 but I've got five minutes. I'm a taxpayer and I've  
12 got five minutes.

13 MR. BRANDON: No, you don't. You don't  
14 have any specific time.

15 MR. HILL: To you and other people out  
16 here in the public, Mr. Carroll was not fired. Mr.  
17 Carroll was hired under a one-year contract. His  
18 contract was up. We advertised the job. We took  
19 applications and we rehired. He put in an  
20 application, but he was not rehired. So he was not  
21 fired. And I just wanted to clear that up.

22 So since Mr. Brandon wants me to sit  
23 down, I think I'll just stand here another couple of  
24 minutes to make sure I get my five minutes. Thank  
25 you.

1 MR. BRANDON: The chair recognizes  
2 Mr. Reynolds over here and Buddy will be next.

3 MR. REYNOLDS: Hi. I'm Dick Reynolds,  
4 a resident of Lookout Mountain and hence lies the  
5 problem. I run up and down Burkhalter Gap Road. I  
6 would like to address the board and see if they  
7 could look into the matter of them repainting the  
8 double lines. It used to be about three-eighths of  
9 a mile straight run with passing zone. Now, I  
10 foresee a problem particularly coming warm weather  
11 when you've got construction vehicles, loaded dump  
12 trucks that travel at 12 to 15 miles an hour up and  
13 down Burkhalter Gap. You're going to have  
14 automobiles 25 or 30 of them lined up behind them  
15 crawling up the mountain because you legally can't  
16 pass and an automobile cooling system is not really  
17 not designed to go up a mountain at 12 miles an  
18 hour. You're going to have overheating problems and  
19 so forth.

20 Now, the other thing that's ridiculous  
21 you can consider is a bicyclist is a legal member of  
22 our highways now in Georgia and if you can't get by  
23 him without crossing that line, you're going up the  
24 highway at five miles an hour for all the way up  
25 Burkhalter Gap and I really think they should relook

1 at the criteria of this and -- because it's not  
2 really a hill. It's a straight incline with good  
3 visibility, I think they need to reconsider putting  
4 passing back in on Burkhalter Gap.

5 MR. BRANDON: One of the things, Dick,  
6 and I don't know. I've talked to Billy about this.  
7 I've already had a couple of complaints. We hire  
8 Walker County to do our striping. The thing that we  
9 tell them is we want you to comply with state law,  
10 so I don't know unless they've -- I don't know what  
11 the law is on passing lanes. I have no idea, but  
12 they do this for a living every day. There must be  
13 some good reason why they double striped that line.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: Well, there must be  
15 extenuating circumstances in that. I talked with  
16 him and he said --

17 MR. BRANDON: I agree with you, by the  
18 way.

19 MR. REYNOLDS: Yeah. Because it's  
20 going to create safety problems. I think the  
21 balance here is that an extremely straight, good  
22 visibility highway should have passing on it and  
23 you're going to have people that are 10 or 15  
24 vehicles back that are going to pull out and pass  
25 and that's going to create a safety hazard. The

1 sheriff's department will have a field day if they  
2 don't do something.

3 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Thank you.

4 MS. MOORE: I've had several calls on  
5 that. Anyone else? Yes, sir.

6 MR. FAGAN: You answered some of the  
7 questions that I was -- came down here to find out.

8 MR. BRANDON: If you could come up to  
9 the microphone and tell us who you are, sir.

10 MR. FAGAN: Jerry Fagan. I live on  
11 1937 Creek Road. If I go over here to get an oil  
12 change and I just assume that an oil change is going  
13 to be 24.95 and then you come out and tell me that  
14 an oil change is 150, that gives reason for concern.

15 I got a notice here that I could appeal  
16 the taxes. Taxes seem to be relatively reasonable  
17 here after living in Atlanta, but the fact that I  
18 put in my septic tanks, keep up my own roads and  
19 basically creating more of a tax money revenues in  
20 the county with the ten houses that people rent and  
21 spend money in this county, but I didn't get that.  
22 I just got the evaluation. I didn't really look at  
23 it. At the time I was working down in Florida. But  
24 if I'm going to bill somebody, I would say, here is  
25 what it cost you and here is why it cost you that.

1 So I don't know if you have any influence over the  
2 Tax Commission, but I've already spoken with an  
3 attorney about this because if you look at this,  
4 this is one of the things where they're saying,  
5 well, we're not responsible. Nobody is responsible,  
6 but they hand you a bill for \$4,742, which is over  
7 twice what I paid last year.

8 I've always paid my taxes, but \$4,742  
9 concerns me and what really concerns me is here's a  
10 house here and if you look at this house, they took  
11 a picture of this house. Well, they're alleging  
12 that it's cedar. In fact, the house is built out of  
13 lumber I bought at Clark Lumber and it's stained.  
14 It's not cedar. That's the most expensive siding  
15 you can put on a house. So they didn't estimate the  
16 square footage correctly and I'm sure they would  
17 say, well -- do y'all have any part of the process  
18 of selecting the assessors?

19 MR. BRANDON: We choose the board of  
20 assessors members, members of the board, but not the  
21 people who work in the office.

22 MR. FAGAN: Well, I'm going to be  
23 asking for a special right to appeal. You see, here  
24 is my statement. You see that house? Okay. That  
25 house there, it says it's 34,900. We go to another

1 house and then we go to the next page. Here's the  
2 same house and another assess for \$42,400, so  
3 they're throwing thousands of dollars around like  
4 they're chump change. I mean, how would you like it  
5 if you got your car and they said, I'm billing for  
6 this engine, but by the way, there's another engine  
7 over here and it's in the trunk of your car, we're  
8 going to charge you for that one, too.

9           And that alone, to add insult to  
10 injury, along with not -- just everything. These  
11 people were out there camped out on my property, but  
12 these people, I'm assuming, have some education, but  
13 would you not know the difference between, you know,  
14 masonite?

15           If you look at this house here, this is  
16 a real clencher over here. That's just my storage  
17 building where I have my sound equipment when I  
18 travel and play music. My equipment is stored in  
19 there. Well, here it's saying here that the  
20 plumbing is complete. There is no plumbing in it.  
21 There is no heat in it, but this is a \$30,000  
22 storage building. Now, over here they list these  
23 here. I have allowed one of my renters to build  
24 these storage buildings. They're not affixed to the  
25 ground. They're taxing -- does that mean that

1 they're taxing me on these little storage buildings  
2 that my renters are using?

3 MR. BRANDON: I assume so. Again, we  
4 have no control over that.

5 MR. FAGAN: Well, the next thing is the  
6 cane that grows on the right side of the road there.  
7 You know where I'm talking about, Mr. Lowery. They  
8 mowed the other day and they mowed my mailboxes down  
9 and knocked the lids off of some other mailboxes, so  
10 I had to have my maintenance man go and repair the  
11 mailboxes. But on this side of the road, which they  
12 mow about twice during a growing season, anybody  
13 should be able to look up there and see that I had  
14 azaleas planted there. I spent several hundred  
15 dollars putting landscaping boulders in and put  
16 Bradford pears. There's no power lines above it.  
17 They mow this far on the right side of the road, but  
18 they reach over 15 foot from the road and mow down  
19 all my Bradford pears and tear my landscaping up.  
20 So I'm paying \$4,700 a year for them to come out  
21 there and destroy my property. I'm not a real happy  
22 camper.

23 MR. BRANDON: Well, what we do is we  
24 mow the right-of-way. I'm not sure. Are you  
25 talking about Creek Road?

1           MR. FAGAN: Well, do you mow it on both  
2 sides or just one side?

3           MR. BRANDON: Well, it depends. The  
4 right-of-way is from the center line of the road. I  
5 imagine they reached as far as they could go.

6           MR. FAGAN: No, that's not true at all.  
7 It's absolutely not true. In other words, I'm  
8 standing here and the mailbox is here. The cane is  
9 immediately behind it and they mow about a four-foot  
10 strip and trim the canes, but on my side of the  
11 property they reach over there, which is not part of  
12 the obstruction of anything. As a matter of fact, I  
13 cleared it myself and spent the money in there and  
14 had helpers in there landscaping this and now they  
15 went in there and destroy it. Can I not just say if  
16 I keep those trees pruned and keep that entrance to  
17 my property looking nice instead of being chopped  
18 up, can they not put something there where they're  
19 not going to go in there and destroy it again?

20           MR. BRANDON: Well, we try to take note  
21 of where people are maintaining the right-of-way  
22 even if it's on the county right-of-way. We try  
23 to -- we get complaints about this a lot because  
24 sometimes when you're going through there, you can't  
25 tell if you're not into horticulture, you can't tell

1 whether that's a really valuable tree or something  
2 that's grown up there over the last ten years. So  
3 the people on the road crew try to take note where  
4 they shouldn't cut even if it's on the right-of-way.

5 MR. FAGAN: Well, it just looks to me  
6 like it's very visible that they're in a nice and  
7 straight line and they're all pruned and there's --

8 MR. BRANDON: I don't think there's  
9 anything malicious about it. I don't know if  
10 anybody knows you. I'm sure it was an accident.

11 MR. FAGAN: I don't come up here very  
12 often. I work.

13 MR. BRANDON: We'll try to take note of  
14 it. We can get you together with the folks that do  
15 this.

16 MR. FAGAN: So you're telling me that  
17 the school board -- I don't have any children, but  
18 I'm paying \$3,000. So the school board is the  
19 people I need to go talk to.

20 MR. BRANDON: You do, but probably not  
21 until next year because it's too late this year.

22 MR. FAGAN: They're telling me and I  
23 heard you tell somebody that this is etched in stone  
24 and I talked to my attorney. He's in Atlanta and at  
25 Kennedy, Koontz and Fulton down in Chattanooga.

1 It's not etched in stone.

2 MS. MOORE: Have you appealed it?

3 MR. FAGAN: They're telling me I didn't  
4 have a right to appeal. The point I'm trying to  
5 make here, if I send you a bill and say, well -- say  
6 we were doing business and you're going to the post  
7 office and a stamp is 35 cents and the next day it's  
8 36. You don't appeal that. Every year I've just  
9 got a statement. It's pretty reasonable, so I'm  
10 thinking, well, they raised my property taxes.  
11 Property taxes have went up anywhere, but not  
12 double. And if they had sent -- I think it's a  
13 little bit unreasonable, as I said, the fact that  
14 they come and say, well, your property is now worth  
15 700, whatever they say here, \$1 million, but the  
16 point being is it was probably undervalued, but I  
17 think this is just a little bit overkill just to  
18 come in and slam you with.

19 MS. MOORE: But you do have a right to  
20 appeal.

21 MR. FAGAN: No. They're telling me I  
22 don't have a right to appeal.

23 MR. BRANDON: Not anymore. The appeal  
24 period ended 45 days after the assessments went out.

25 MS. MOORE: Oh, so you didn't come in a

1 timely --

2 MR. FAGAN: Well, the point I'm making  
3 is they send you a thing in an envelope and it says  
4 notice, but they should have very important notice,  
5 don't you think? This is very important. This is a  
6 third of a lot of people's salary for a year that  
7 they want me to pay. Don't you think that would be  
8 kind of an important notice?

9 MS. MOORE: Yeah. I would be sure to  
10 appeal it next year.

11 MR. FAGAN: Oh, I probably -- I'm  
12 thinking that I'll be doing something. It's out of  
13 your hands. They're going to be the ones that's  
14 delighted to see me coming.

15 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Fagan, I share your  
16 frustration because I also moved back here from  
17 Atlanta and I know it's a tax --

18 MR. FAGAN: Well, not to beat a dead  
19 horse, but you're talking about shutting down the  
20 plant over here that's recycling. I just bought a  
21 house on Piney Creek Road. We completely redid it.  
22 I haul stuff over there every day, every day because  
23 I'm working every day. But there again, aren't the  
24 people when you go in there and dump, they're paid.  
25 Okay. But with this kind of tax increases across

1 the board, you would think they could have somebody  
2 there make you a hamburger before you go in there.

3 MR. BRANDON: If you'll notice where  
4 the bulk of your tax increase came from, maybe you  
5 could take your garbage over and dump it at the  
6 school system.

7 MR. FAGAN: The point there, you moved  
8 here from Atlanta and I lived in Atlanta in a  
9 five-bedroom home, swimming pool -- oh, this is a  
10 cute one. They put my swimming pool, which I took  
11 the river stone and built it myself and put  
12 waterfalls in it. The cost of it was a couple of  
13 loads of concrete from Sequatchie, but here's  
14 they're saying it's a \$5,800 pool. So the deck  
15 around it is worth -- I built it out of culled  
16 lumber from Clark, but here the deck -- I'm a lot  
17 richer. I should be happy, I guess, shouldn't I.

18 The point I was making is what you're  
19 saying. In Atlanta they pick my garage up at my  
20 door. If I trimmed a tree, they picked up and  
21 hauled it off. I had security that drove the  
22 neighborhood at night and watched the property. I  
23 didn't have to buy a water meter. There's lots of  
24 services there. I'm out here in the woods and the  
25 only time they come out here is to basically say,

1 here, you need to feed some more people.

2 MR. BRANDON: All right. The chair  
3 recognizes Mr. Riddle if you still want to come up.

4 MR. RIDDLE: First of all, I want you  
5 to know this is not --

6 MR. BRANDON: Tell us who you are, sir.

7 MR. RIDDLE: Lee Riddle. This is not  
8 from me. I have been asked to come here for a  
9 reason by quite a large group of people.

10 When this board was set up, Dan Hall,  
11 myself and Uncle Leonard Jeffreys, who is no longer  
12 with us, were the people that got this board changed  
13 and got it set up to what it is today. There's been  
14 a group of people -- I think y'all probably saw some  
15 letters in the paper this week. They have grown  
16 very disgusted with the fact of the way the  
17 legislature brought this back because it was not the  
18 way it was intended when it went to Atlanta. This  
19 was intended to be a four member board with an  
20 elected county manager, not county executive, which  
21 changes the whole wording of the whole deal. And  
22 there's a large group of people in Dade County today  
23 that is very disgusted with the fact that they voted  
24 three to one for that to happen. It did not happen.

25 Now, the thing you're going to see

1 starting probably within the next two weeks, I'll  
2 put it that way. You will see the petitions flying  
3 around to go back to a single-man commission in Dade  
4 County. So any of you that's interested in those  
5 petitions, please come see me, call me. But it is  
6 fixing to happen and I wanted to come and tell you  
7 because the people came to me because I was one of  
8 the people that was responsible for what happened  
9 here and I'll apologize for that happening the way  
10 it did because it wasn't the way it was intended.

11 MR. BRANDON: May I ask a question just  
12 for clarification?

13 MR. RIDDLE: Yes, sir.

14 MR. BRANDON: Did I have anything to do  
15 with this?

16 MR. RIDDLE: We did not even know who  
17 Ben Brandon was or even if he existed.

18 MR. BRANDON: No. I mean, the  
19 petitions you're getting ready to do.

20 MR. RIDDLE: No, and neither do I, by  
21 the way. The last ones I did. This one I did not.  
22 But I want you to understand, I do not have anything  
23 to do with it this time. They came to me and I told  
24 them I would.

25 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: You're promoting

1 it now.

2 MR. RIDDLE: No, not really.

3 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: Well, sit down.

4 MR. RIDDLE: Because a group of people  
5 in Dade County asked me to, so I'm here to you tell  
6 you it's going to happen. Now, whether you get it  
7 passed or not, that's up to the voters of Dade  
8 County. They changed the last one three to one.  
9 I've got a feeling you're looking at it again  
10 because they're very disgusted with what happened  
11 with this one. So I just wanted to come and tell  
12 you.

13 Ben Brandon, when we changed it the  
14 last time, we did not even know who he was, neither  
15 did I, neither did Dan Hall or neither did Leonard  
16 Jeffreys. When we changed it, we had no idea who  
17 might get elected to that position and be sitting  
18 there, had no idea. Well, we kind of had an idea,  
19 but he wouldn't run for it when we got it. But at  
20 this point in time, they just asked me to come and  
21 tell you if you're interested in any way. Within  
22 the next two weeks, you'll know who they are and you  
23 can come and see me.

24 MR. PITTMAN: Mr. Riddle, do you know  
25 how many signatures you have to have on that?

1 MR. RIDDLE: Yes, sir. Way too many.  
2 Mr. Jeff Mullis required us to get 15 percent the  
3 last time when it shouldn't have been but five. We  
4 had about 1,800 over the last one.

5 MR. BRANDON: Okay. The meeting must  
6 be nearly over because all of our batteries are  
7 running down up here. Do you have -- is that all  
8 you had? All right, sir. Thank you very much.

9 I have one more. I recognize Brother  
10 Bill.

11 MR. SLACK: Is there any money in the  
12 budget to buy new batteries?

13 MR. BRANDON: We don't need them.  
14 We've already got stock. All right. Seeing no  
15 further requests for citizen participation and  
16 having no further business before the Dade County  
17 Commission, this meeting stands adjourned. Thank  
18 you.

19 Sorry. Everybody listen up for a  
20 second. The public meeting on closing the transfer  
21 station on Monday will be February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.  
22 February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 public hearing on closing  
23 the public transfer station on Mondays. Thank you.

24 END OF MEETING  
25

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF TENNESSEE )  
 )  
 3 COUNTY OF HAMILTON )

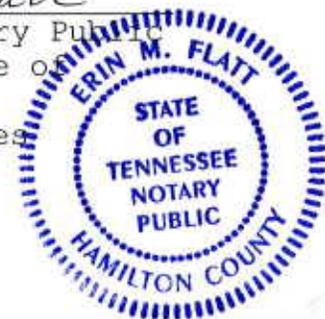
4  
 5 I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and  
 6 Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the  
 7 State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that  
 8 I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had  
 9 in the above-styled cause on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of

10 February, 2007;

11 That the said proceedings were  
 12 reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;  
 13 and that the foregoing is a transcript of said  
 14 proceedings.

15 This the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2007.

16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20 Erin M. Flatt  
 Erin M. Flatt, Notary Public  
 21 in and for the State of  
 Tennessee at Large.  
 22 My commission expires  
 23 November 7, 2010.



24  
 25