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**DADE COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 1, 2007**

1 MR. BRANDON: I want to call the  
2 regular meeting to order, please. As we always do  
3 at the beginning of every meeting, we will call on  
4 God to bless us and doing that tonight will be  
5 Reverend Ted Camp and he wants to address the  
6 meeting to begin with as we have something historic  
7 happening here.

8 REVEREND CAMP: When Lamar Lowery was  
9 running for office, he stopped by our house and I  
10 made him aware of the deaf people in the community  
11 and why they are here and I mentioned to him that  
12 this would be a good opportunity for the county to  
13 be more aware of these people. I realize that Dade  
14 County has many programs, but I feel that people are  
15 more important than programs and 14 years ago, I  
16 married a local girl here by the way. After 30  
17 years of being a missionary, my wife and I returned  
18 here 14 years ago as missionaries to the deaf and  
19 the deaf learned we were here and they said can we  
20 come to this area, can we move to this area and will  
21 you start a ministry here for us? I said if you'll  
22 come for three months and prove faithfulness, we  
23 will.

24 At that time, there were no deaf at all  
25 in Dade County or the Trenton area that we were

1 aware of and the deaf then started moving in and  
2 today, it has grown. Our ministry is behind the  
3 Moore's Funeral Home there near the high school.  
4 We're going into our third building program in May  
5 and it has now become in 14 years one of the largest  
6 deaf ministries in the world.

7 I've often said what we do is not  
8 great. We just don't have any competition. I don't  
9 know of anyone else working with the deaf in the  
10 field of education. I did put some papers out  
11 front. There will be some over here for the  
12 commission if they would like. This is our paper  
13 called The Silent Word. There's 15,000 of these are  
14 printed going to over 600 churches. Our men are  
15 going into the Ukraine. We have 12 missionaries who  
16 are with our board now. What we're doing here,  
17 we're also helping other major cities and areas and  
18 going into the foreign countries and helping them.  
19 They've asked us to come there and help them with  
20 the deaf ministries.

21 This Saturday we will have about 150  
22 deaf people coming in for a special meeting into  
23 Trenton. I've done my best to make the Chamber of  
24 Commerce and others aware. We actually teach free  
25 sign language for the community twice a year and

1 many of the people are aware of this now. They're  
2 learning sign language and we feel that the deaf  
3 people also are a vital part of Dade County.

4           They're all here now. It's amazing  
5 that -- I am shocked that -- what's taken place.  
6 The people that we have with us are not local, but  
7 they're all from other states and I think a picture  
8 is worth a thousand words. I would like to say  
9 this, sign language is a language the same as  
10 English is a language. The same as Spanish is a  
11 language. It's not doing the English in signs. It  
12 is a language of its own and if you don't mind, it's  
13 just us that's here tonight and they gave me -- they  
14 said I could have ten minutes. I would like to do  
15 this. Let me teach you a little bit of sign  
16 language just on the statement I'm happy to see you.

17           Let me show you how it works. You put  
18 your hand up like this and say I'm -- now you've got  
19 to do this, folks. They don't lip read like some  
20 people say they do. Say I'm happy. Now, let me say  
21 this, your face has to work with your hands. I  
22 don't know what's going on here tonight in that  
23 direction, but right now you need to be happy and  
24 make a statement I'm happy and you've got to put the  
25 smile on your face. I'm happy, just use your eyes,

1 to see you. Now that's all. You're seeing deaf  
2 frequently in the businesses and around. When you  
3 see them, you can say -- just say I'm happy to see  
4 you and then you go like this and run because that's  
5 all you know.

6 But sign language is fascinating and  
7 I've been doing it for over 40 years and like I  
8 said, I married a Dade County girl and we're so  
9 thrilled to be back home and be where -- to end our  
10 ministry here in Dade County.

11 I've asked Allen Snare, a deaf -- one  
12 of our deaf if he would come and have prayer. In  
13 1814 for the first time they established a school  
14 for the deaf in America. A few years ago for the  
15 first time they had a deaf man pray in the U.S.  
16 Senate. And as far as I know, in the history of the  
17 Dade County Commission and these meetings, as far  
18 as -- this is historical. It will be the first time  
19 a deaf man has ever prayed to open one of these  
20 sessions and it's an honor and privilege for us to  
21 be here tonight. I'll ask Allen if he will come and  
22 John Barr will voice for him.

23 Now, let me explain this. You don't  
24 bow your head when he prays. If the deaf bowed  
25 their head, they'd be here all night and it's okay

1 to keep your head up watching and he will sign and  
2 John Barr will -- one of our missionaries will be  
3 the voice for him.

4 Allen Snare is such -- by the way, this  
5 man preaches in major countries. He's probably one  
6 of the leading deaf preachers in the world and he  
7 lives here in Dade County.

8 MR. SNARE THROUGH MR. BARR: I do want  
9 to say thank you for the opportunity of being here  
10 tonight. I am from Pennsylvania and I moved here  
11 and really enjoy life here in Dade County. Let's  
12 pray.

13 (Thereupon, the invocation and  
14 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

15 MR. BRANDON: This is the regularly  
16 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission  
17 which takes place at the same time on the first  
18 Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this  
19 meeting was given to the legal organ of Dade County  
20 and has been posted in the hallway of the  
21 Administration Building. I'll call the roll and  
22 have it recorded by the clerk. Mr. Lowery?

23 MR. LOWERY: Here.

24 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

25 MS. MOORE: Here.

1 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

2 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

3 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

4 MR. YOUNG: Here.

5 MR. BRANDON: And the chair is present  
6 and we have a forum and, therefore, a legal meeting.

7 The reading of the minutes of the  
8 February 2007 regular meeting will not be required  
9 since all commissioners have been furnished copies  
10 in advance. The minutes are public record and  
11 available for review in the administration office.  
12 The minutes are included in the consent agenda. The  
13 approval of the consent agenda requires a vote.  
14 I'll ask the county clerk to list the items on the  
15 consent agenda, please, sir.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. We have the  
17 regular agenda as revised, approval of previous  
18 meeting minutes, the Arcadis court facility update,  
19 final reviews, strategy and development. The cost  
20 is \$4,150, Coosa Valley RDC short-term work program  
21 resolution, fire and rescue contract, bailiff fees  
22 to go from 50 to \$65 for a grand jury  
23 recommendation, new vehicle registration policy  
24 and/or resolution and finance committee report.

25 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Do I hear a motion

1 that we approve the consent agenda?

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

4 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion by  
5 Mr. Young. Do I have a second?

6 MS. MOORE: I'll second the motion.

7 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore seconds. I'll  
8 call the roll. Mr. Young?

9 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

10 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore.

11 MS. MOORE: Yes.

12 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

13 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

14 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

15 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

16 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes yes.  
17 The resolution passes.

18 Moving into the regular agenda. We'll  
19 go straight to appearances and the first appearance,  
20 we'll ask Mr. McCormick to come up who was scheduled  
21 to be with us in the work session and he was  
22 probably listening to some folks ask him some tough  
23 questions.

24 MR. MCCORMICK: Well, I apologize for  
25 not being here earlier. I'm here representing the

1 Southern Real Estate and Development Company that's  
2 doing the development in Johnson's Crook. I  
3 understand there's been some questions and concerns  
4 about what's going on down there. It's 2,300 acres  
5 located in the south end of the county. The  
6 property was for sale for -- on the market for about  
7 a year and I knew the property was going to sell, so  
8 I invited some friends of mine down, Tommy and Josh  
9 Dobson and their brother-in-law and son-in-law,  
10 Travis Shields. They bought the property and right  
11 now they're planning like a low density residential  
12 development there.

13 The lots down there range from like an  
14 acre-and-a-half up to eight acres. There's probably  
15 5 to 600 acres that's going to be put in preserve.  
16 It's some of the prettiest property. You know,  
17 unlike a lot of developments, the stuff that they  
18 could have sold first is some of the stuff that's  
19 going to be saved and never sold. I think some of  
20 the folks on Sunset and Plum Nelly, they've been  
21 concerned with their view and what's going to be  
22 changing there.

23 I've lived on Plum Nelly for 19 years  
24 now and I'm pretty thrilled with what's going on in  
25 Johnson's Crook. There could have been a Kia plant

1 there or numerous other things that could have gone  
2 in that would have really been a distasteful view,  
3 but I think it's going to be good the way it's  
4 working out. Do you have any questions or --

5 MS. MOORE: Joey, I have questions  
6 because I was the one that was contacted. David  
7 Young made that note. Do you have questions on that  
8 too?

9 MR. YOUNG: I have some questions, but  
10 I actually rode around with the developers. I guess  
11 it was about a week ago, Thursday. They showed me  
12 everything that was going on, low density and  
13 minimum footprints they're wanting for their lots.  
14 It looks like it's going to be an exciting  
15 subdivision.

16 MS. MOORE: Joey, the questions that I  
17 had, and these are questions from some of the  
18 citizens, and one of the concerns -- well, first of  
19 all, you know, when it was sold to the original  
20 Timberline Land Company, you remember, and there was  
21 some problems there and they were going to build a  
22 golf course and all of that.

23 MR. MCCORMICK: That was a few years  
24 back.

25 MS. MOORE: That went kind of by the

1 wayside. At that time we had a draft from Coosa  
2 Valley Regional Development Center and they were  
3 recommending at that time -- and this is something  
4 that we don't have, but they were recommending that  
5 we should consider land development codes such as  
6 subdivision regulations and building codes and that  
7 famous word everybody doesn't like called zoning.

8 But adoption of these tools, they said,  
9 and this was a draft from Coosa Valley from RDC and  
10 that Dade County should adopt the Georgia Department  
11 of Nature Resources Environmental Protection  
12 Division rules for the protection of our water  
13 supply, water sheds, and that would include Lookout  
14 Mountain and Sand Mountain. So this is just a  
15 report I have here that was done in 2000.

16 But the questions they had, Joey, and  
17 we also have John Klepper here tonight from the Dade  
18 County Health Department, Environmental. Is John  
19 here? Okay. One of the questions was what will be  
20 done to protect from a negative impact of 200 -- is  
21 it going to be maybe 250 homes, Joey?

22 MR. MCCORMICK: Probably 300 homes.

23 MS. MOORE: About 300 homes. What  
24 would be done to protect from a negative impact of  
25 septic systems since there's no sewer line down

1 there? You would have septic tanks.

2 MR. MCCORMICK: Right.

3 MS. MOORE: And what would be the  
4 negative impact on the underground water system in  
5 Johnson Crook? And also it mentions that there's  
6 more than 30 caves and pits. Have you identified  
7 where all the caves are?

8 MR. MCCORMICK: Well, I know where a  
9 few of the caves are.

10 MS. MOORE: Okay. Well, I have a map  
11 that shows where they all are and you can get with  
12 some of those property owners and I'm sure they'll  
13 share that with you, somebody that has a report on  
14 that. Also, I met with someone when we were doing  
15 our comprehensive plan for Dade County that has that  
16 too. But that -- we have the highest density caves  
17 in Georgia there in that Johnson's Crook.

18 And the other question is how would the  
19 sedimentation from the construction as well as  
20 pollution from lawns, driveways, and septic system  
21 leeching fields be kept from damaging the water  
22 quality in the caves and springs and the streams.  
23 Those are owned by the State of Georgia. So -- and  
24 according to their rules and guidelines, it could be  
25 a state and federal offense if you pollute those

1 underground waters. Okay. I mean, I'm just going  
2 to go over these things and then we'll kind of talk  
3 about it.

4 MR. MCCORMICK: Sure.

5 MS. MOORE: And I'll also have John  
6 elaborate on that about the septic tanks. What is  
7 the source of domestic water to the houses and if  
8 county water is to be provided, can the developer  
9 assure us neighbors that there will be no loss of  
10 water pressure in the surrounding communities and  
11 can the county assure us that the developer will  
12 pick up all costs of providing the water services to  
13 that development? And that roads are being  
14 constructed and lots are being sold on steep slopes  
15 of the creek and -- but the DNR, Department of  
16 Natural Resources has already said that development  
17 of the steep slopes and upper cove areas of  
18 Johnson's Crook would likely cause a significant  
19 negative impact to the rare species and sensitive  
20 natural habitats. And in addition state health  
21 department regulations preclude the use of septic  
22 systems on land with slopes more than 25 percent.  
23 And what is being done to protect the steep slopes  
24 from the damage during construction of homes and  
25 other roads?

1           The other question, will streets and  
2 other outdoor common areas be lighted, and if so,  
3 will the outdoor lighting fixtures be low level and  
4 have shielded tops so as to produce no glare when  
5 seen from above and to preserve the darkness of the  
6 night sky? And I've read over the covenants, too.  
7 I went to the courthouse and pulled up the  
8 Declaration of Covenants and restrictions for that  
9 area and I have all of that here, too. But can the  
10 covenants be amended to prevent the lot owners from  
11 excessive tree removal?

12           And then Tommy Lowery was  
13 commissioner -- might have been commissioner on  
14 board when that originally -- I guess with  
15 Timberline maybe came on board and he was  
16 commissioner maybe then, but pointed out in 2000  
17 that when a different developer attended a  
18 substandard subdivision in the Crook, the property  
19 tax revenues the county gets from the houses does  
20 not cover the cost of projects like this and this  
21 goes on and there's several things in here. So I  
22 guess let's let John elaborate on the septic tanks  
23 and then we'll let you come back on those others.

24           MR. BRANDON: Would this not be a  
25 subject for a public hearing rather than a --

1 MR. MCCORMICK: Probably so.

2 MR. BRANDON: -- citizen participation  
3 or a public appearance here because we're going to  
4 be here until midnight?

5 MS. MOORE: The only thing is --

6 MR. BRANDON: I agree they need to be  
7 answered if somebody wants an answer to them, but --

8 MR. MCCORMICK: I can answer a couple  
9 real quick. I think John would be better to do the  
10 septics talk and the underground streams.

11 MS. MOORE: Yeah. We didn't need for  
12 you to do a whole spiel, but just kind of tell us  
13 where you are with that.

14 MR. MCCORMICK: They've spoken with  
15 Doug Anderton with the Water Company. The company  
16 is planning on absorbing all the costs of putting in  
17 the water system. Doug said that they would have to  
18 do some changing over here at the pump station and  
19 the company is willing to do that.

20 As far as the runoff from the building  
21 of the roads and the homes, there's silt fences in  
22 place. They're in compliance with DNR and with the  
23 EPA. So, you know, I don't want to take up all the  
24 time, but if there's any other thing, we can answer  
25 that later. If anybody wants to call me or come

1 down, I would be glad to --

2 MS. MOORE: Okay. Joey, we have two or  
3 three citizens here tonight. Can they meet with you  
4 after the meeting or meet with you now after --  
5 they're here. One of them is Richard Rothman and  
6 the other fellow, could you meet with them after you  
7 leave here briefly? Would that be okay?

8 MR. MCCORMICK: Sure.

9 MS. MOORE: And you can answer other  
10 questions, but if John could answer that about the  
11 septic systems. Thanks, Joey.

12 MR. KLEPPER: The subdivision  
13 requirements that I have to enforce are state  
14 requirements. They are state wide. Every county  
15 has to follow by these. And by our regulations, a  
16 subdivision is considered a subdivision if it is  
17 over five -- if a piece of land is divided more than  
18 five times of three acres or less.

19 I have been -- I have spoken with  
20 Mr. Shields. I never met him in person, but I did  
21 talk to him on the phone. They are required to  
22 submit a soil evaluation for every lot that is under  
23 three acres. Like I said, I've not had that  
24 provided to my office, however, I have issued four  
25 permits already on that property and that's -- I

1 told the developer that the five acres is where it's  
2 going -- or the five permits are where it will stop  
3 until we are provided with the information that is  
4 required.

5           As far as, you know, the roads and so  
6 forth like that, it's something that the county  
7 would have to adopt yourself. It's not going to  
8 fall under the Health Department regulations under  
9 roads or so forth like that. But we do have the  
10 requirements that do protect the water. We have  
11 setbacks from sink holes, which a cave would be  
12 considered a sinkhole or, you know, streams have a  
13 setback and we also have a minimum lot size, too.  
14 We go by the state minimum lot size of pretty much  
15 six tenths of an acre is going to be the minimum lot  
16 size in that area. If the county does not agree  
17 with that, you are at an option to adopt a larger or  
18 smaller lot size. I would definitely not recommend  
19 a smaller lot size, but it doesn't sound like that's  
20 going to be a problem with this because an  
21 acre-and-a-half is not going to be a problem.

22           So, you know, we've got the legal teeth  
23 and I'm going to speak on behalf of the DNR that  
24 they also had the legal teeth to enforce state  
25 regulations without any consent from the county or

1 so forth.

2 MR. BRANDON: There was a meeting in  
3 Atlanta about two or three weeks ago dealing with  
4 the issue of stream buffer setbacks. Didn't they go  
5 from 100 foot to a 50 foot setback as a stream  
6 buffer?

7 MR. KLEPPER: Well, that's not my  
8 office. That would be DNR and I've been asked a ton  
9 of questions on the erosion control and so forth,  
10 but, you know, I don't know about that. But  
11 again --

12 MR. YOUNG: It's, what, 25 feet off the  
13 top of the banks?

14 MR. KLEPPER: Well, for which, for  
15 septic?

16 MR. YOUNG: For a fill line.

17 MR. KLEPPER: For a fill line, you  
18 know, there's different setbacks. It's going to be  
19 100 from a well or a sink hole. It's going to be 50  
20 from a stream. You know, we have property line  
21 setbacks as well. Like I say, both the DNR  
22 requirements and the Health Department requirements  
23 are something that's going to be enforced  
24 regardless.

25 I will have to say that there have been

1 great concerns to my office about other regulations.  
2 Even some of the commissioners have spoken to me  
3 about possibly needing more regulations. I think it  
4 would be a good time to look at possibly doing some  
5 things that would protect people coming in and the  
6 people in the county. You know, like I said,  
7 environmental regulations are cut and dry. I mean,  
8 they're from the state. There are some things that  
9 the county would probably have to address that we  
10 cannot.

11 MR. YOUNG: This issue seems to be  
12 starting to come up more and more now. Out of the  
13 discussions I've been having, I'm going to try to  
14 put together possibly a planning committee. We were  
15 looking at putting on members last month to  
16 basically come up with a developer's handbook  
17 because now someone comes in the commission office  
18 and they ask, well, what zoning do y'all have. We  
19 say, we don't have any zoning in Dade County. They  
20 say, oh, you're kidding. No, we don't have zoning.  
21 All we require is an electrical permit. Now, when a  
22 developer goes out and starts a development. Now,  
23 what I'm wanting to come up with is a checklist  
24 because there are state laws and federal laws that  
25 we need to comply with. So what I'm wanting to do

1 is put together a committee with all the  
2 stakeholders and trying to come up with a guide, not  
3 trying to add more regulations or add zoning, but to  
4 start off with a basic guide that tells the  
5 developers, you know, you have a 50-foot setback  
6 based on DNR's regulations to try and come up with a  
7 decent guide for developers. So that's what we're  
8 trying to put in. I'm going to try to get it  
9 together maybe at the end of March, have a  
10 preliminary meeting to start working on this.

11 MR. KLEPPER: Yeah. Again, I only  
12 enforce the environmental health side of it, but my  
13 office does go out and see all the building and I'm  
14 not for zoning or, you know, so forth like that.  
15 You can definitely over permit things, over require  
16 permits, but there are things that can protect  
17 people in Dade County as well as people coming into  
18 Dade County that are not going to hurt the people  
19 that I feel should be looked at.

20 MS. MOORE: Thank you, John.

21 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Thank you. Moving  
22 down our list of appearances, we have Mayor Anthony  
23 Emanuel. Is he here?

24 MR. CERVELLI: No, he's out of town. I  
25 have one Downtown Development Authority item and two

1 City items, one that you've already seen or most of  
2 you have seen.

3 Peter Cervelli representing the  
4 Downtown Development Authority on one item and the  
5 City on two. The Downtown Development Authority  
6 item is real simple. It's a good item. Family Fest  
7 is coming back again this year. It's the fourth  
8 annual Family Fest. It will be taking place on May  
9 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20th, starts in the evening on  
10 May 18<sup>th</sup>, which is a Friday and ends on Sunday,  
11 the 20th of May. We're looking for food vendors,  
12 arts and crafts vendors, volunteers and people who  
13 would like to donate money, private money. And so  
14 if you're interested in any of the above, just call  
15 City Hall and we'll get you to the right person.  
16 But put that on your calendar. Even if you don't  
17 want to donate money, come to Family Fest, May  
18 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20th.

19 The other two items, one is  
20 informational and one is one that requests for  
21 action by the County Commission. One is -- the  
22 informational item is we're going to be applying for  
23 a transportation enhancement grant to do a street  
24 scape on Highway 11 from the courthouse south as far  
25 as the money that the State will give us will go.

1 That will include improving the look of the street,  
2 hopefully burying utility lines and we'll see what  
3 that turns out to be. That application will go in  
4 sometime by June I think is the end of the  
5 application period. Senator Mullis has already been  
6 very helpful with finding some money to do  
7 engineering work. We've hired Arcadis to do some  
8 preengineering work, but the information I wanted to  
9 give you is we also plan to hold a couple of public  
10 meetings. We'd like to know what the community is  
11 interested in in terms of if we're going to invest a  
12 million dollars or \$600,000 of federal and state  
13 money that we do something that is appropriate for  
14 the community. We don't have those dates set yet,  
15 but we will once we get a little bit further down  
16 the planning path. We'll put that information in  
17 the newspapers and certainly we'll welcome input on  
18 what that design might be for a street scape.

19 Why we haven't done this before, I  
20 don't know. Every community in the state of Georgia  
21 has gotten tons of money to redo their community and  
22 so I'm hopeful. I can't say it will happen. I'm  
23 hopeful that we'll see a minimum of \$600,000 on this  
24 project. I can't say it will happen. We've done  
25 everything we can with the politicians and the

1 people that we need to talk to, but the application  
2 will speak for itself and hopefully we'll know  
3 something by early next year. So keep abreast of  
4 that and we'll tell you some more.

5 The other item is the request for an  
6 easement that I've talked to I guess it was the  
7 Building and Grounds Committee, if I've got that  
8 correct, along Town Creek. We'd like to put in a  
9 walking trail along Town Creek starting at Jenkins  
10 Park and taking it as far as we can in terms of  
11 working with property owners for easements. This  
12 will be a multi-year project. This is nothing  
13 that's going to happen overnight. The first piece  
14 of this will probably happen with a trail or the  
15 beginning of a traditional park in Jenkins Park this  
16 year. We're working on that. But in order to  
17 actually have a walking trail, it will be a minimum  
18 walking trail. We're not looking at putting in  
19 concrete or anything like that. Just natural. We  
20 would need an easement from property owners.

21 One of the pieces of property is where  
22 your Justice Building is or will be hopefully and  
23 we'd like for a 40-foot easement from the creek.  
24 Twenty-five foot of that is, I believe, the state  
25 requirement for a pairing buffer and then we're

1 looking for an additional 15 feet to actually put  
2 the trail on.

3 In your package that I handed out to  
4 you, some of you have already seen these view  
5 graphs. The only amendment that I've made to it is  
6 actually what I'm requesting of the county for the  
7 city is that the County Commission authorize that an  
8 easement be given for this trail and that you  
9 authorize the county attorney to work with the city  
10 attorney to actually work out the legal details in  
11 terms of doing that easement.

12 MR. PITTMAN: I think it's a good idea,  
13 Peter, like I told you before. Lamar brought up a  
14 good point. Until we find out about this situation  
15 on the land, you know, it might be a bad idea for us  
16 to give you 40 feet and then have to go back on it  
17 later.

18 MR. BRANDON: Unless you want to pay to  
19 clean it up.

20 MR. CERVELLI: I have a broom.

21 MR. BRANDON: If that will work, that's  
22 fine.

23 MR. PITTMAN: I think if we could put  
24 this off for a little while. I think you said the  
25 first stage will just involve the City Park.

1 MR. CERVELLI: That's correct. That's  
2 right. And it would be great if you made that  
3 decision tonight, but it's not necessary, but I'm  
4 just looking for a first step to work. I've talked  
5 to some of the property owners. We're going to talk  
6 to some others. This would be a good first  
7 indication of support from the community for this,  
8 but, no, it doesn't have to be decided tonight.

9 MR. PITTMAN: I think it's a good idea.  
10 I think y'all are doing a really good thing.

11 MR. CERVELLI: But we will be back.

12 MR. YOUNG: I think one thing we ought  
13 to do is -- the courthouse facility is take this  
14 into consideration and let Arcadis know.

15 MR. CERVELLI: Yeah. I've walked the  
16 property back there and it's not anywhere near  
17 the -- I haven't measured it. It's not anywhere  
18 near where your pad is, but comes right up to the  
19 edge of the pad just eyeballing it. But you're  
20 right, we need to actually work on the details.

21 MR. BRANDON: You're aware that  
22 whatever you put there, you're going to have to redo  
23 it every time there's a big rain.

24 MR. CERVELLI: That's why we're going  
25 to do something that's easy to redo and that's

1 something that we have to worry about every time it  
2 rains. Yeah, it is a little muddy back there even  
3 on a dry day. I came back with a lot of mud on my  
4 feet. All right. Thank you.

5 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. Next under  
6 appearances we have that Mrs. Brown was going to  
7 come talk to us or Mrs. Wooten.

8 MRS. BROWN: My name is Ann Brown for  
9 any of those that don't know me. Monda Wooten and  
10 myself are with the Dade County Animal Board along  
11 with several of the people sitting out here that's  
12 been working with us very hard this year. We're  
13 here tonight to ask Commissioner Moore, Commissioner  
14 Young, Commissioner Pittman and Commissioner Lowery  
15 to set aside five acres of property down by the four  
16 fields up behind the soccer fields. I'm sorry.

17 All four of them have looked at the  
18 property. They don't seem to have a problem with  
19 it. I know there's a lot of people out here going  
20 to say you're going to be close to the ball fields.  
21 It is not close to the ball fields. Five acres of  
22 land may sound like a lot of land, but by the time  
23 you put a facility in the middle of that land,  
24 fences around it plus a privacy fence, you're going  
25 to eat up five acres of land.

1           Also, we'd like to have Ted Dyer  
2 possibly come put an office in that. That would  
3 open up the door for a lot of grants, a lot of  
4 government money and such as that. We'd also like  
5 to have an education department in it to educate  
6 people in this county the importance of neutering  
7 and spaying and how to stop unwanted animals being  
8 born in this county.

9           I would like to touch a little bit on  
10 all the gossip, all the tales that's been told from  
11 the fact that we want a no-kill shelter, which if  
12 anyone in this room knows anything about shelters,  
13 there's no such thing. Not one time has anyone in  
14 this board said anything about a no-kill shelter.  
15 We'll be put -- I refer to we, but we, the animal  
16 board, will have nothing to do with this shelter.  
17 The county will build this shelter. They will  
18 supply the workers in this shelter and unlike  
19 Mr. Brandon has wrote in his articles, along with  
20 his wife, we have no intentions of trying to build a  
21 doggy day care. That would be stupidity on our part  
22 and impossible to ask taxpayers to fund such a  
23 something as this.

24           We've worked with the city animal  
25 control, Ronnie Page, and in that time, we have

1 managed to save all of the animals from going across  
2 Lookout Mountain except for four. It's not cost  
3 taxpayers a dime for us to do this. Monda, myself  
4 and the rest of the people that work with us have  
5 spent our own money to do these things. We've not  
6 asked taxpayers for a dime and actually have saved  
7 you all a lot of money.

8 MRS. WOOTEN: I would just like to add  
9 that we have a problem here in this community. We  
10 all know it. It's due -- you know, the mayor made  
11 the comments once that we didn't have bad pets, we  
12 had bad pet owners and, folks, whether we like it or  
13 not bad in this community, we've been bad pet owners  
14 for a long time. And due to our irresponsibility to  
15 spay and neuter, we have unwanted cats and dogs all  
16 over this community and we've got a moral obligation  
17 to present a solution to the already present result  
18 of our irresponsibility. Whether we like it or not,  
19 that's where we're at. You don't have to be an  
20 animal lover to know that we need something done.

21 I mean, I was talking to Vickie  
22 Seymour. Just today she went home -- she's not an  
23 animal activist or she's not in our group, on our  
24 board or anything like that, but she went home and  
25 her little dog had been attacked by a pack of dogs

1 because we have no -- we have nowhere to turn,  
2 nothing to do. And like I said, whether we like it  
3 or not, we have got to have a solution to this  
4 problem.

5           And, you know, when you're looking at  
6 this solution, I know we've had -- this has come up  
7 about, well, we need to put it over behind the dump  
8 and I don't care what you call it, the transfer  
9 station. You can dress up the name if you want to  
10 or dress up the place. It's a dump. Now, when you  
11 have an endeavor or a project that you need to be  
12 successful, there's four things you've got to have  
13 and you all know that. Most of you people in here  
14 and the people in this community that makes things  
15 happen. It's location, location, location and  
16 presentation. Where does the dump fit into that?  
17 We need a place. We're not looking for a Tajamahal.  
18 We're not looking for a lot of money. We need a  
19 nice little place that we can start with. We can  
20 start out small. We need a nice front. We need it  
21 to be a place that people can go with their families  
22 to adopt an animal. We want them to think of that  
23 place as a place to go to adopt an animal, not  
24 necessarily where you go to dump one. This would be  
25 an addition. It would be a welcome addition to this

1 community and we are long overdue. And what we've  
2 got to do is we've got to have a solution here and  
3 we've got to teach our youth that we've got to start  
4 making smart decisions, but yet we've got to stand  
5 accountable for the bad ones that we've made and the  
6 irresponsibility and we've just -- you know, it's  
7 long overdue here.

8 I want you to know that I appreciate  
9 all your support. I think most people in this room  
10 have supported us in so many ways. You know, I was  
11 sitting there a while ago looking out there through  
12 and I thought, you know, 75 percent of these people  
13 have either adopted an animal from me or called me  
14 with a problem with an animal and that includes  
15 Mr. Brandon too. I know how you handle animal  
16 control. You called me with an animal or, no, your  
17 wife did and first you went and dumped it off at  
18 Rosewood Subdivision and made the comment that there  
19 was so many houses over there, maybe somebody would  
20 take it in. Now, what if everybody in this  
21 community did that? And then your wife met me with  
22 this little pregnant dog that you had already dumped  
23 off because it found its way back to your house and  
24 then I take it and have it spayed and then found a  
25 home for it.

1 MR. BRANDON: And I also gave you \$100  
2 for your cause.

3 MRS. WOOTEN: You didn't give me one  
4 dime for my -- oh, oh, over here, yeah. Oh, yeah.  
5 That's been a year-and-a-half ago I did this with  
6 your dog. You did this two months ago or three  
7 months ago, whenever it was.

8 MR. BRANDON: I gave you \$100.

9 MRS. WOOTEN: No, no, you didn't.

10 MR. BRANDON: Yes, I did.

11 MRS. WOOTEN: Let's take a poll who  
12 believes you.

13 MR. BRANDON: I gave \$100 to --

14 MRS. WOOTEN: You gave \$100 to the  
15 Animal Board when we did the fundraiser over here,  
16 which was a good year after I had taken your dog.

17 MR. BRANDON: I understand.

18 MRS. WOOTEN: Right. So anyway, I  
19 appreciate your support and we need this land down  
20 here by the four fields. We have -- we've got it  
21 all planned out. We'll have a buffer there for  
22 sound, which it's not going to be -- it's not going  
23 to be bad. I know there's a couple of folks say,  
24 oh, they're going to be dropping off these stray,  
25 rabid, vicious dogs. Hey, I don't know where --

1 they drop them all over the county. We can't  
2 educate ignorance. We're just going to have to try.  
3 So that's where we're at. That's where we're  
4 standing. We're asking that y'all vote tonight.  
5 We're going to do fund raisers. We'll do whatever  
6 we have to do. There's grants out there, but we're  
7 asking that you vote to give us that land or set it  
8 aside. Don't give it to us. Set it aside, down by  
9 the four fields, not the dump.

10 MRS. BROWN: I would just like to say  
11 one other thing that Monda referred to this land.  
12 This land won't be gave to us. This land will be  
13 set aside. This land will always be county  
14 property. It will be set aside just to do an animal  
15 shelter on it or a better word instead of shelter is  
16 a facility. It's not going to be a shelter. It's  
17 going to be an animal facility. It's going to be  
18 done nice and it's going to be done right.

19 One other thing, Monda and I have  
20 talked to people that have these facilities all over  
21 Georgia. One thing that they insist that you've got  
22 to have is sewer. Well -- which has already been  
23 brought to everyone's attention, that Ronnie Page,  
24 Lamar Lowery and myself were down looking at this  
25 property Saturday. It actually beat us back to

1 Trenton that we were going to put the shelter over  
2 by the ball fields. But I just happened to ask  
3 Bobby Ryan who just happened to show up about the  
4 sewer. I said, does the sewer run down Highway 11  
5 and stop at the soccer field. He was quick to tell  
6 me that the sewer went right by where I was standing  
7 and on over the hill. Lamar was a little surprised  
8 at that, to know why they did that, but I don't know  
9 and don't really care, but it's going to save a lot  
10 of money for the county because the sewer is already  
11 there to be hooked into. Thanks to the  
12 Commissioners or whoever put it there. So that's  
13 all we've got to say.

14 MR. BRANDON: Thank you.

15 MS. MOORE: I have some comments, Ben.  
16 The comments that I have, first of all when the  
17 Commission began talking about this, we were talking  
18 about possibly putting it down on Back Valley Road.  
19 Can you hear me now?

20 When this first came to our attention,  
21 we talked about Back Valley Road and we thought,  
22 well, that would be a good location, but there is no  
23 sewer down there on Back Valley Road. Then we  
24 talked about back behind the transfer station and  
25 then I went down actually just today and looked at

1 the animal shelter that the city has and that area  
2 back in there is in a flood plain and that does  
3 flood and water has come up very high at this animal  
4 shelter that is already down there within the city.  
5 And that animal shelter -- I would hope and pray  
6 that this next animal shelter would be in a much  
7 better shape than what that one is down there.

8           And then it came to me about the four  
9 fields and then I had probably two calls against not  
10 putting it down there and I've only had maybe two  
11 calls that was for that. So I didn't get a lot of  
12 calls pro or against. I had someone approach me  
13 just this evening when I came in the door.

14           Well, I went down and looked at that  
15 property. I've been down there twice and I've also  
16 been talking to someone who is a planner and a  
17 developer and does planning and design and when I  
18 looked up there, I thought, you know, well, it's  
19 south of the ball fields -- I mean, not the ball  
20 fields, but the soccer field. It's up on a hill and  
21 you think, okay, the county may want to additionally  
22 take some more of their governmental buildings up  
23 through there if we expand further because you see  
24 we can't expand very much here in the city right  
25 here and think, well, what would that do. Okay.

1 And then what if you sold the land to do a housing  
2 development later that would go up that road. Okay.  
3 But if you have the animal control facility where  
4 they're saying that it could be put, you would have  
5 the tree line. They would not take the trees out of  
6 there, only just enough to put the animal shelter  
7 and you wouldn't even see it from Highway 11. You  
8 wouldn't even see it from the road. It would go up  
9 the hill where the sewer goes to the top of the road  
10 is my understanding and that it would be designed in  
11 such a way that it would be an attractive front.

12 And from what I'm hearing from this  
13 group out here, and I have heard from the animal  
14 control group. As a matter of fact, I've called  
15 them to come and pick up some animals at my house  
16 that was a dog that no one was caring for that had  
17 puppies after puppies and they have helped me with  
18 that situation.

19 I think they have the best interest of  
20 the county in mind, along with taking care of the  
21 animals and that they would make it attractive. And  
22 if you can, and there was some talk at one time even  
23 under the original S.P.L.O.S.T, you know, that you  
24 could build an educational building and then that  
25 would be something that could be incorporated into

1 that to teach -- have an educational facility to  
2 teach about spaying and neutering and to also work  
3 with hopefully maybe with Ted Dyer, the Extension  
4 Service through the Extension Service of the  
5 University of Georgia and have something really nice  
6 in there and coordinate it with that program with  
7 Ted Dyer to have an educational facility as well as  
8 an animal control facility.

9 From what I'm hearing from these  
10 people -- okay, where this shelter is now, how many  
11 of you know where the animal shelter is now? How  
12 many of you have been down there? How many gates do  
13 you have to go through to get there? Sheryl?

14 SHERYL: Two.

15 MS. MOORE: You have to get through two  
16 locked gates. Where is the sign that says it's an  
17 animal shelter? There is no sign. So you -- I  
18 mean, if you were wanting to go adopt an animal,  
19 would you go down there? Never. So from my  
20 investigation into it, it would be -- you need to,  
21 you know, certainly have a sign that says that this  
22 is an animal control shelter and that it is -- you  
23 can come and adopt animals and make it attractive,  
24 make it for children that need animals to have a  
25 place to come and select an animal. So that's where

1 I'm coming from with this and that's just me as  
2 commissioner of district four.

3 MR. BRANDON: Thank you.

4 MR. LOWERY: I will make a motion at  
5 this time that we donate five acres of property to  
6 be set aside.

7 MR. BRANDON: Well, first we have to  
8 amend the agenda to take the vote because it's not  
9 on the agenda.

10 MR. LOWERY: Okay. I'll ask that we  
11 amend the agenda at this time.

12 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I have a motion to  
13 amend the agenda to add this issue for  
14 consideration.

15 MS. MOORE: We have a motion. I'll  
16 second the motion.

17 MR. BRANDON: We have a motion and a  
18 second. I'll call the roll. Mr. Young?

19 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

20 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore.

21 MS. MOORE: Yes.

22 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

23 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

24 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

25 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

1           MR. BRANDON: So we've added this item  
2 to the agenda. So what is the -- we have amended  
3 the agenda to add a vote on the -- on this issue.  
4 What is the motion?

5           MR. LOWERY: I make a motion that we  
6 set aside five acres of property at the very south  
7 end of the four fields. I guess we could determine  
8 that later with an architect, surveyor to be set  
9 aside for an animal facility for Dade County as well  
10 the city. It will also be a city animal shelter.

11           MRS. BROWN: That's right. The city  
12 will have to close their facility. You can just  
13 have one facility.

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

16           MR. YOUNG: I'll second.

17           MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a  
18 second. Now for discussion. This is an issue that  
19 we've been talking about now for over a year. It's  
20 a very controversial issue and if we could have a  
21 special meeting to talk about closing the transfer  
22 station on a Monday, why wouldn't we have a public  
23 forum where you have people come in to discuss  
24 donating property for a facility like this? Why  
25 would you not want to have a public forum where you

1 have -- where you advertise in the paper and have  
2 people come in and hear people who might not be in  
3 favor of it? Why would you vote to do this tonight  
4 instead of having a public hearing on it to allow  
5 comment from anyone who wanted to make a comment?

6 MR. WARD: You just said you've been  
7 talking about it for a year.

8 MR. BRANDON: It's been talked about in  
9 the paper. It's not -- we haven't --

10 MRS. WOOTEN: We've had public  
11 meetings.

12 MR. PITTMAN: The only thing about  
13 that, Ben, is we had that open meeting because we  
14 were talking about removing a service that the  
15 county pays for. This would actually be adding a  
16 service for the residents.

17 MR. BRANDON: Well, it is. It will add  
18 service, but it's going to add expense. It's going  
19 to add -- any way you get the money, it's going to  
20 add -- the initial construction of the facility is  
21 not going to be the cost. The cost is going to be  
22 the ongoing maintenance of the facility. All I'm  
23 asking is why wouldn't you want to have a public  
24 hearing on this and invite people to give their  
25 opinion on it before you take a vote to do this?

1           MRS. BROWN: I don't think there's a  
2 soul in Dade County that didn't know or anybody  
3 that's kept up with this that didn't know tonight  
4 this was going to be discussed, Ben. You're well  
5 paid. Your letter made that clear.

6           MR. BRANDON: Yes, sir. I see someone  
7 in the back.

8           MR. RIDDLE: I love dogs. I said I  
9 have no problem and we all know Dade County could  
10 probably use this, but you're talking about signs,  
11 place to put something. The same signs you could  
12 put down there you could put over here. You can  
13 move out of the flood plain. They can remove the  
14 gates. But in my opinion, down there -- and I've  
15 checked this out too as well as they have. Anywhere  
16 you have a facility of this nature, you can call  
17 Chattanooga. They'll tell you this, too. If  
18 they've got a facility there, people have a  
19 conscience and if they want to throw a dog or an  
20 animal out, they'll take it close to that facility  
21 to put it out hoping they'll pick it up because that  
22 clears their conscience and that happens. So in my  
23 opinion, you're putting animals over children  
24 because that's where all of our kids go.

25           MRS. WOOTEN: Lee, who did you talk to

1 in Chattanooga? We've worked with those people.

2 Who did you talk to?

3 MR. BRANDON: Order, please. Anyone  
4 else who wants -- again, this is -- is there any  
5 sentiment for delaying the vote for at least another  
6 meeting since there's no imminent -- since we're not  
7 under any time deadline to do this since there's no  
8 money to build one anyway, is there any problem with  
9 waiting until the next meeting and having a public  
10 hearing between now and the next meeting to  
11 decide -- to hear from anybody else who may not have  
12 weighed in on the issue yet?

13 MR. YOUNG: I would say we didn't have  
14 a public meeting back when we donated property for  
15 the Lookout Mountain Community Services.

16 MR. BRANDON: That wasn't very  
17 controversial either.

18 MR. YOUNG: It depends on how you look  
19 at the issue, but what we're doing is reserving this  
20 property so they can go ahead and chase grants, try  
21 and look at.

22 MR. BRANDON: All right. Well, we've  
23 had some debate on it. There's a motion on the  
24 floor. There's been a motion and a second.

25 MR. PITTMAN: You've got people raising

1 their hands.

2 MR. BRANDON: It isn't going to change  
3 anything to have --

4 MRS. BROWN: That's exactly right  
5 because these people are going to talk for it, so  
6 they're not going to be allowed.

7 MR. BRANDON: We'll call the roll.  
8 Mr. Young?

9 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

10 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

11 MS. MOORE: Yes.

12 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

13 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

14 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

15 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

16 MR. BRANDON: And the chair votes no.  
17 The motion passes.

18 Moving on to fiscal matters, I will ask  
19 the county clerk to quickly read the financial.

20 MR. TOWNSEND: As of March 1st, 2007,  
21 we have a balance of \$112,659 in the drug education  
22 fund; \$8,747 in the federal assets fund; \$65,255 in  
23 the special sheriff's fund, \$14,881 in the jail  
24 fund; \$6,916 in the juvenile services fund. Payroll  
25 account is \$27,297; general fund, \$552,779.

1           In principal and interest account we  
2 have \$270,790 with 450,000 in CDs. The P&I debt  
3 services account has \$6,005 for a total of principal  
4 and interest S.P.L.O.S.T fund balance of \$726,795.  
5 Capital bond fund account, \$24,996, capital bond  
6 CDs, \$900,000, capital bond fund balance is  
7 \$924,996.

8           MR. BRANDON: Thank you, sir. Any  
9 questions or discussion about the financial report?  
10 Hearing none, we'll move on to legal matters. I'll  
11 look to the county attorney if we have any legal  
12 matters other than the one that's scheduled for the  
13 executive session?

14           MR. ROGERS: No, we don't.

15           MR. BRANDON: Under old business, I was  
16 asked to put the HMC consent order on here and I  
17 think, Ms. Moore, you asked -- did you -- who  
18 requested to put that on there, Ms. Moore?

19           MS. MOORE: Oh, is that about the  
20 Hutcheson Medical Center?

21           MR. BRANDON: Right. I have some  
22 answers on that for you if you want to ask the  
23 question.

24           MS. MOORE: That was the consent to the  
25 assignment?

1 MR. BRANDON: The ambulance service.

2 MS. MOORE: Yes. This was the consent  
3 to assignment resolution R0507?

4 MR. BRANDON: Right.

5 MS. MOORE: Okay. And did you want to  
6 talk about that?

7 MR. BRANDON: Yeah. Well, I know we  
8 voted last time to agree to allow Hutcheson Medical  
9 Center to basically outsource their ambulance  
10 service to one of their own companies and it's an  
11 accounting procedure, I'm sure, because it will  
12 allow them to bill for the services that they're  
13 providing that they currently can't bill for. When  
14 we asked the question of them how would this impact  
15 the service in Dade County, we were told, oh, it  
16 won't impact it at all, it will be fine, don't worry  
17 about it, and we passed it because there's no reason  
18 not to believe them. I'm sure in their minds they  
19 think there's not going to be any impact, so we  
20 approved it.

21 Since that last meeting, it was the  
22 week when Mr. Townsend was on vacation for a few  
23 days. I signed it, put it in the outbox and we  
24 didn't get it sent out. And on Thursday -- what day  
25 did I call you, Don, Thursday? I got a call from

1 Sheriff Phil Summers in Catoosa County and he said,  
2 I have to ask you, he said, have y'all mailed back  
3 your consent order that you voted on yet, and I  
4 said, I don't know. I said, I know I signed it,  
5 I'll have to check and see if it was mailed. And he  
6 said, well, there's something you need to know. He  
7 said, Hutcheson is planning on doing their own  
8 dispatching, which means they would not go through  
9 our 911 system to dispatch an ambulance call. And I  
10 said, okay, well, I said give me -- I said, you're  
11 the expert here. I said, how is that going to  
12 impact us? He said, because we won't be able to --  
13 we won't control where the ambulances go, they will.

14 Their plan is to use the ambulances  
15 during the day to return people from the hospital to  
16 their homes -- this is according to Sheriff Summers,  
17 what he told me on the phone. Which if you have  
18 ambulances tied up doing, you know, transporting  
19 non-emergency patients from the hospital back to the  
20 home, that means you can't use them to dispatch to  
21 an accident scene, you know, and I don't know. He  
22 was going to get together with them and ask for some  
23 explanation. But the way he found out about this  
24 was the Motorola radio vendor that they use, they're  
25 upgrading their radio system to the new thing that

1 we can't afford to do, and he was talking to him.  
2 He said, oh, yeah, Hutcheson is buying two  
3 dispatching consoles. He said, why would they need  
4 that? That's how this all came up.

5 So what I did is I asked the clerk to  
6 delay mailing that consent order back to Hutcheson  
7 until Sheriff Summers could get with -- and also  
8 Sheriff Cannon and the sheriff in Walker County to  
9 determine what the impact is going to be and whether  
10 us not being able to dispatch those ambulances is  
11 going to have a negative impact on the county.

12 We've already approved it. We just  
13 haven't mailed it back to them yet and they can't  
14 move forward until they do. I did this as a  
15 courtesy to Sheriff Summers in Catoosa County  
16 because they're most directly impacted by this.  
17 They're already in Catoosa County where the hospital  
18 is. I think about 40 percent of the ambulance calls  
19 in Catoosa County have to go to Angel instead of HMC  
20 because they don't have enough ambulances already  
21 over there to do that. His argument was that if  
22 they're dispatching ambulances to take people home  
23 from the hospital for a billable trip, that means  
24 you can't dispatch one to go out and pick somebody  
25 up who might have had a car wreck.

1           So that's the reason that we held that  
2 up and I sent out a notice to the Commissioners on  
3 that day explaining that. I have not heard back  
4 from Sheriff Summers. I don't know if Robin -- have  
5 you talked with Skip Patty from Catoosa County about  
6 this or Don Oliver?

7           MR. ROGERS: I've spoken with Don  
8 Oliver and he didn't know anything about this.

9           MR. BRANDON: Well, we'll get in touch  
10 with Sheriff Summers because they're anxious to get  
11 going and the only -- right now we're the ones  
12 holding it up because we haven't mailed back our  
13 contract yet, but I wanted -- as a courtesy, I  
14 wanted to have him have time to investigate this and  
15 be assured as we need to be that what they're going  
16 to do here isn't going to affect it because they  
17 assured us when they came over and made this  
18 presentation, y'all will remember that we asked,  
19 well, how is this going to affect us and they said,  
20 oh, it won't have any effect at all.

21           I would think that if you're using the  
22 ambulances to do nonemergency transportation of  
23 patients, that's going to take them out of service.  
24 Those of you in the audience who have done this  
25 before, I mean, it doesn't take a brain surgeon to

1 figure out that if they're transporting somebody  
2 home from the hospital, they can't be picking up  
3 somebody going to the hospital. So that's something  
4 we need to investigate and find out what Sheriff  
5 Summers over there has discovered. Yes, ma'am?

6 UNIDENTIFIED CITIZEN: I have a  
7 question. Don't we have currently ambulances  
8 stationed here in the county down there by -- and if  
9 they're transporting patients in the daytime, we  
10 wouldn't even have ambulances in our county ready to  
11 go; is that correct?

12 MR. BRANDON: That would be my  
13 understanding, yes. That's why I instructed the  
14 clerk not to mail that back yet until we can be  
15 assured that's not going to be the case. Yes, sir?

16 MR. WARD: Have they changed their SOP?  
17 I mean, you know, what I'm saying is not a lot of  
18 people get dispatched back home from the --

19 MR. BRANDON: Well, this is a revenue  
20 generator for them.

21 MR. WARD: They have made a change in  
22 policy.

23 MR. BRANDON: Again, this is just what  
24 Sheriff Summers has told me on the phone. I called  
25 and talked with Mr. Townsend and he said, no, we

1 haven't mailed it yet and I said, well, hang onto it  
2 until we can investigate this further because I --  
3 we've already approved it. No doubt we've already  
4 approved it, but if they're going to do what the  
5 sheriff said he thought they were going to do, this  
6 would adversely effect the service of Dade County.

7 Yes, ma'am?

8           SHERYL: My only question is if they're  
9 going to be dispatching over there, they don't know  
10 Dade County. They don't know these roads. If we  
11 have a two-car 1050, we've got to have two  
12 ambulances plus float one and like she said, I  
13 totally disagree with this. We need to keep what we  
14 have. It works great. Our dispatchers know our  
15 county.

16           MR. BRANDON: Well, that's the point.  
17 But, again, Sheriff Summers says that they had  
18 ordered two consoles to do their own dispatching and  
19 so that's why I immediately said, you know what,  
20 let's don't mail that back yet and let's take a look  
21 at this before we do something that we can't undo.

22           SHERYL: We're too far away from a  
23 hospital to have a multi-car 1050.

24           MR. BRANDON: Anyway, that's what that  
25 issue was about. So we still have things ready to

1 go as soon as we get some assurances, but we need to  
2 get a meeting with HMC and the new entity to get  
3 some assurances that having them dispatch their own  
4 calls and provide nonemergency transportation is not  
5 going to adversely effect us. That's what that  
6 issue was about.

7 MR. YOUNG: Do we need to kind of  
8 rescind what we --

9 MR. BRANDON: I mean, we don't need to  
10 rescind it. We just don't need to put a stamp on it  
11 right yet because until they get it, it's not  
12 official.

13 MR. TOWNSEND: I haven't signed it.

14 MR. BRANDON: So I think if we just sit  
15 on it until we hear -- we get some assurances. I  
16 don't think we need to rescind it because if it's  
17 not going to adversely impact us, there's no  
18 problem, but I think we need to go back and revisit  
19 the issue and maybe have them come back and tell us  
20 why it isn't -- again, this is based solely on the  
21 information that I had from Sheriff Summers. I  
22 haven't spoken with HMC or Curtis Sly or anybody  
23 over there at the hospital. So that's -- I've told  
24 you everything I know about it right now.

25 Moving forward under new business, we

1 have the approval of the Chamber of Commerce  
2 contract. Do I have a motion that we approve the  
3 contract?

4 MR. YOUNG: I make a motion we approve  
5 the Chamber of Commerce contract.

6 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion. Do I  
7 have a second?

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

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

11 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

12 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

13 MS. MOORE: Yes.

14 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

15 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

16 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

18 MR. BRANDON: The chair votes no. The  
19 motion passes. Moving along to citizen  
20 participation.

21 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, I need to  
22 amend under new business to add an ordinance. I  
23 want to add this ordinance to the building codes you  
24 were wanting to talk about.

25 MR. BRANDON: Is that something that we

1 need to do tonight?

2 MR. LOWERY: You said you wanted to --  
3 you had sent us this memo to up the minimum  
4 standards. Georgia has changed theirs.

5 MR. ROGERS: Oh, right. There was --  
6 we currently have an ordinance to enforce the  
7 electrical code, the 1995 edition and I was -- the  
8 State of Georgia recently changed their codes, the  
9 2005 edition of the electrical codes. So I was  
10 suggesting to the Commission that you all may want  
11 to look at revising our existing ordinance which  
12 adopted the 1995 ordinance to make it consistent  
13 with that edition to the 2005 edition that the State  
14 of Georgia has recently adopted. That was the gist  
15 of my --

16 MR. BRANDON: Do we have the amendment  
17 or the ordinance drawn up yet?

18 MR. ROGERS: No. All I've made was a  
19 recommendation.

20 MR. BRANDON: Could we wait? Would you  
21 be willing to delay this, Commissioner Lowery, until  
22 the next meeting and give him a chance to draw up  
23 the ordinance so everybody can look at it?

24 MR. LOWERY: Sure. I think we need to  
25 get it and talk about it.

1           MR. BRANDON: All right. I'll instruct  
2 the county attorney to construct an ordinance  
3 putting us in compliance with state law on that.

4           We're up to citizen participation.  
5 Yes, sir, Mr. Bill Marshall.

6           MR. MARSHALL: As you know, my life has  
7 been dedicated -- as most people here know, I've  
8 been working in economic development most of my life  
9 and when we get to talk about building up the  
10 county, I would like for them to consider the fact  
11 that they said getting mixed places as possible.  
12 I've been giving a Power Point presentation about  
13 how to manage your growth to manage your tax base.  
14 I'll be giving that the third Friday of this month  
15 at the Chamber of Commerce meeting if you're  
16 interested in seeing it.

17           But it points out that no houses pay  
18 enough taxes for the services they receive from the  
19 county. Now, you may not agree with the services,  
20 but what it costs to run the county is what we're  
21 talking about. In the state of Georgia -- well, in  
22 the southeast anyway, none of the houses really pay  
23 enough to pay their way. For every dollar you  
24 invest in the services to a house, you get 87 cents  
25 back. Now, the way you balance that, for every

1 manufacturing or commercial place that you have, for  
2 every dollar you invest, you get \$2-and-a-half back.  
3 So you see if you mix your housing with  
4 manufacturing and commercial and even green space.  
5 Green space pays more back to the county than  
6 actually housing does.

7           We really need to consider not just  
8 loading Dade County up with housing just because  
9 we've got room for them. It would be nice to get  
10 all those people, but to make your tax base work  
11 out, you need to balance it. We're going to be  
12 doing some here, I hope, soon here where we're going  
13 to use some land to build some houses, but we're  
14 using the land to build houses and we're going to  
15 get the money off of that land to buy industrial  
16 land so we'll have some additional industrial land  
17 to get business in. It's that kind of thinking  
18 you've got to have when you're building houses. You  
19 can keep a green space out of it and make it balance  
20 some or you could have like they've done over at  
21 Rock Springs. They've got a bank and convenience  
22 store and some other things at the entrance to where  
23 they've got the -- I forget the name of it there,  
24 the subdivision.

25           But I would just like everybody to keep

1 thinking about what makes your tax base work and you  
2 can never -- you can probably never charge enough  
3 for all the houses. You would have to have your tax  
4 so high that you would run manufacturers out for  
5 sure. So it's a balancing situation. It's not that  
6 hard to do. You've just got to be thinking about --  
7 don't get excited about a lot of houses. It's nice,  
8 but let's see if you can mix that with some  
9 manufacturing and commercial business. Come the  
10 third Friday and I'll show you how simple that is on  
11 a Power Point presentation or I'd be glad to give it  
12 here. Thank you.

13 MR. BRANDON: I will second what  
14 Mr. Marshall said. There's some circumstances where  
15 you can't collect enough, but typically those  
16 instances are where you have families with children.  
17 I was in a conversation with one of the analysts at  
18 the University of Georgia in a class I went to and  
19 he was saying until you -- a housing price of  
20 \$125,000 will pay its way as long as the people that  
21 live there don't have any children. That's where  
22 the costs start accruing is when you have  
23 developments with school age children. Otherwise,  
24 if you have a lot of retirees moving in, which Mr.  
25 Marshall has been pushing for for a long time, if

1 they're building very expensive houses, then you  
2 might make a dollar or two off the property taxes on  
3 those. But anyway, thank you, Mr. Marshall. Any  
4 other citizen participation? Yes, sir, Mr. Fowler?

5 MR. FOWLER: Mr. Chairman, after Monda  
6 getting ahold of you, I almost hate to do this. I'm  
7 going to make it short and to the point.

8 Mr. Chairman, it appears you're not doing your job.  
9 I asked you before to resign. Now I'm telling you  
10 we can fire you. We're going to start a recall  
11 petition. Also, I'm going to add to that. It  
12 appears to me that you deceived the public by  
13 distortion of facts and figures. Also, you've got a  
14 degree, I understand, in business administration; is  
15 that correct?

16 MR. BRANDON: I have a master's degree  
17 in business administration.

18 MR. FOWLER: It would appear to me a  
19 person with a higher degree needs to be held to a  
20 higher standard. I believe you're a disgrace to  
21 your profession and need to be brought up on ethics  
22 charges. Thank you.

23 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. Anybody else?  
24 The chair recognizes Mr. Helen Haney.

25 MS. HANEY: I'm up here in defense of

1 Ben. Ben is my son-in-law. Let me be upfront about  
2 that. Tonight is -- it's really not very fair of  
3 you to gang up against Ben and make snide remarks  
4 and you have no proof. If you do have proof, then  
5 you should present that to him when you get up  
6 there.

7 Now, Ben is quite capable of taking  
8 care of himself. He does not need me. But Ben has  
9 been in my family now for about 15 or 16 years and  
10 we have been delighted to have him as a son-in-law.  
11 He is a very fine Christian man and this county is  
12 lucky to have him. Now, some of you may not know  
13 enough to appreciate what you've got and my advice  
14 to him is to leave you all absolutely as you have  
15 suggested. I forgot your name and I apologize for  
16 that.

17 MR. FOWLER: Are you talking to me?

18 MS. HANEY: Yes.

19 MR. FOWLER: I stated my opinion. I  
20 don't believe I have to have proof.

21 MS. HANEY: You do have an opinion. I  
22 don't want to argue with you.

23 MR. FOWLER: I'm not going to argue  
24 with you either. I stated my opinion.

25 MS. HANEY: But if you're going to have

1 a complaint, you need to have some kind of  
2 documentation --

3 MR. FOWLER: I stated my opinion.

4 MS. HANEY: -- to put before the people  
5 to show that you're not just being partisan, that  
6 you're not -- that you don't have an agenda of your  
7 own. Now, if I were going to get up here and  
8 criticize Lamar, he's my commissioner, I would  
9 expect Lamar to expect me to have something to show  
10 him on the points that I want to get up here before  
11 the public and accuse him of.

12 MR. FOWLER: What do you want to me  
13 to -- what kind of proof do you want me to give of  
14 my opinion?

15 MR. BRANDON: Order. This is  
16 Ms. Haney's participation.

17 MR. FOWLER: She asked a question.

18 MS. HANEY: I didn't ask you a question  
19 and I would appreciate it if you would not commit to  
20 that.

21 At any rate, this is not -- this is a  
22 public meeting. We're here for the county's  
23 business. It doesn't turn out to be the county's  
24 business. It turns out to be a free for all with  
25 people screaming instead of speaking politely to

1 each other. We get up here and scream. Who's  
2 interested in that? And I think everybody ought to  
3 have their say. I'm not against that. I'm for  
4 that, but be polite and have your proof in hand. If  
5 it is your opinion, then speak to him privately. Do  
6 you have to publicly humiliate in order to get your  
7 point across? I don't think so, not at least the  
8 way I've been raised. That's been a long time ago.  
9 Maybe we don't have that today, but I thank you for  
10 listening.

11 MR. BRANDON: Thank you. Yes, sir?

12 The chair recognizes Mr. Harrison and we need to  
13 move along to executive session, so we'll make  
14 Mr. Harrison the last speaker if that's all right.

15 MR. HARRISON: Ms. Haney, with all due  
16 respect, Ben, would you please resign?

17 MR. BRANDON: Moving on, we need to  
18 move to executive session to discuss some pending  
19 legislation and to do that, we need to have a vote  
20 to do so. Do I have a motion we enter executive  
21 session?

22 MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, if that's  
23 for me, that issue was covered last Friday.

24 MR. BRANDON: Oh, is that what we did  
25 last Friday? Oh, good. All right. Having no

1 further business before the Dade County Commission,  
2 we stand adjourned.

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## 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 March, 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007.

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