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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2008

1 MR. BRANDON: Okay. I want to call the
2 meeting to order. Before we get started, as we
3 always do, we will go to the Lord in prayer and have
4 the Pledge of Allegiance, and ask our designated
5 prayer, Robert Goff, to come up and do that for us,
6 please.

7 (Thereupon, the invocation and
8 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

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

17 MR. LOWERY: Here.

18 MR. BRANDON: Ms. Moore?

19 MS. MOORE: Here.

20 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

21 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

22 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

23 MR. YOUNG: Here.

24 MR. BRANDON: The chair is present. We
25 have a forum and, therefore, a legal meeting.

1 The reading of the minutes of the
2 September 2008 regular meeting will not be required
3 since all Commissioners have been furnished copies
4 in advance. The minutes are public record and
5 available for review in the county manager's office.
6 The minutes are included in the consent agenda along
7 with a lot of other things. At this time, I will
8 ask the clerk to read through all the other things
9 that are included in the consent agenda.

10 MR. TOWNSEND: All right. We do have
11 approval of the previous meeting minutes, approval
12 of new employments.

13 MR. BRANDON: Is your microphone on,
14 Don?

15 MR. TOWNSEND: It is. Okay. Approval
16 of employments. I'll speak a little louder.
17 Approval of invoices as presented to the
18 Commissioners tonight, announce a special-called
19 meeting for October 16th, Cherokee Regional
20 Library Systems. We have three invoices that were
21 approved. INTEC Phone System, the proposal as long
22 as the -- I believe the budget is not increased and
23 there's no net increase. It was approved in the
24 consent agenda as well as reducing speed limits on
25 various roads. Ordinance 10-02-08 on the -- do you

1 want me to list the roads?

2 MR. BRANDON: It's up to you. Yeah, go
3 ahead and list them.

4 MR. TOWNSEND: The roads going from 35
5 to 25 Alsobrook Road, Griff Johnson Road, Morgan
6 Forester Road, Head River Ranch Road, Long Branch
7 Road. This is the second reading and will be
8 approved immediately. That's all on the consent
9 agenda.

10 MR. BRANDON: To approve the consent
11 agenda including the minutes of the last meeting
12 requires a vote. Do I have a motion that we approve
13 the consent agenda?

14 MR. LOWERY: I make that motion.

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

17 MR. PITTMAN: Second.

18 MR. BRANDON: I have a motion and a
19 second. I'll call the roll. Ms. Moore?

20 MS. MOORE: Yes.

21 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Pittman?

22 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

23 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Young?

24 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

25 MR. BRANDON: Mr. Lowery?

1 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

2 MR. BRANDON: The chairperson votes
3 yes.

4 Moving right on into our
5 administrative. Is there any district commissioner
6 reports?

7 MS. MOORE: I have a report on
8 Burkhalter Gap. On Burkhalter Gap Road, we have
9 finally received a report from the Department of
10 Transportation concerning an analysis of the road
11 failure on Burkhalter Gap Road and we've been
12 hearing from a couple of engineering firms or one
13 firm already that has also done an analysis and
14 their analysis was pretty similar to the Department
15 of Transportation's analysis. And in conferring
16 with DOT, it isn't going to cost nearly as much as
17 what we thought to have that road repaired and
18 hopefully, we'll be meeting and having a
19 presentation which will be announced to the public
20 from some engineering firms as to what their
21 analysis was and hopefully we can receive some
22 funding to help us with that project.

23 MR. BRANDON: Good. Thank you. On the
24 executive update, I have a couple of things. First,
25 I want to welcome the Junior Chamber of Commerce

1 tonight. They're a bunch of lovely young ladies and
2 from the looks of it, all the businesses in Dade
3 County are going to be run by ladies here in the
4 next couple of decades. Thank you.

5 One other thing that I want to bring up
6 that -- we're so cut off from the rest of the state
7 up here that we usually don't get a lot of
8 information about what goes on in the rest of the
9 state. Some of us like it that way, but sometimes
10 things happen that impact us that we have not had
11 any input on and they just kind of show up one day
12 and catch you off guard.

13 I went to a meeting Monday in Atlanta
14 at the Capitol and the subject of the meeting was
15 trauma and crisis. It's something that we don't
16 think about a whole lot up here because we have very
17 good trauma service here in Dade County, all the way
18 from when the 911 call is placed to the time when
19 the ambulance shows up and takes you to get cared
20 for at either Erlanger, Memorial or Hutcheson. So
21 we don't give a lot of thought to those things
22 because we have a pretty good system.

23 Over the last month or so in meetings
24 with some of the other county commissioners, I've
25 learned that we actually have a better setup for a

1 lot of the services that we have here in Dade County
2 than you would find in counties a whole lot bigger
3 than us. One thing that shocked me a few weeks ago
4 as I was talking to a county commissioner from
5 Fulton County, which is the city of Atlanta, and
6 they were talking about 911 service. It turns out
7 they don't have enhanced 911 service. If you have a
8 problem in Atlanta and dial on your cell phone 911,
9 they can't tell where you are. If you're in Dade
10 County and you have a problem with that, we know
11 exactly where you are because we have enhanced.

12 We have advantages earlier on. David
13 was talking about some of the things like with the
14 census tracking that we did earlier this year. When
15 we showed up at that meeting, we were the only
16 county there that had all of our data on a disk.
17 Every other county there had stacks of paper that
18 they went from to give the information to the RDC
19 and to the Census Bureau that they needed. We were
20 the only ones that had that information
21 electronically. So we're way out on front in that.

22 The back of this issue of the trauma,
23 trauma care, there are places in south Georgia
24 primarily where this is a big problem. They have --
25 there are, I think, 19 counties in Georgia that

1 don't even have 911 service. You can't pick up the
2 phone and dial 911 because you won't get anything.
3 They don't have a 911 service. There are places
4 where there's not a hospital for 150 or 200 miles
5 that's listed as a trauma center. They actually
6 have done an analysis where they've drawn a line
7 that goes across from about Augusta over to Columbus
8 and they call it the line of death. That's kind of
9 a scary -- I don't know why they would -- I guess
10 for impact, but they call it the line of death
11 because they say when you get south of there, if you
12 have an accident or you have a heart attack or you
13 have some traumatic event, that your chances of
14 surviving drop by 50 percent if that happens to you
15 below that line and it is strictly because there is
16 no organized trauma network of 911 service, EMS or
17 the ambulance services and hospitals that are
18 designated trauma centers.

19 The reason I'm telling you all of this
20 is there were probably six or 700 people in this
21 room at the Depot down there the other day and they
22 were selling this idea that Georgia needs to do
23 better on this. And we are in the position where we
24 are actually going to be -- if this passes, if
25 they're successful in getting this passed, we're in

1 the position where we're going to end up paying for
2 something that we really don't have any need for at
3 this time because we're already getting all this
4 stuff. We already have all of this in place and
5 when you get taken to the hospital, we go to
6 Erlanger if it's really bad or one of the children's
7 hospitals and we already have that.

8 Now, you could be really selfish and
9 say, well, I'm not going to pay for something that's
10 not going to benefit me, but overall, you know, if
11 you're traveling somewhere and you're driving
12 through south Georgia and you have a wreck, I would
13 kind of want to know there's going to be an
14 ambulance there that takes me to the hospital
15 somewhere. So you could look at it from that
16 standpoint.

17 But other than that, the argument that
18 I made with them is that, okay, well, if you're
19 going to charge me something -- and I think they're
20 probably going to end up with doing something on
21 your driver's license renewal or your tag renewal or
22 whatever, a 5 or \$10 fee or whatever on that. And I
23 said, if you're going to charge us for something,
24 then I think we ought to at least get the benefit of
25 the money coming out of our area to fund our EMS

1 service or give that money to the hospitals that we
2 use like Erlanger, Memorial, Hutcheson or whatever.

3 So I tell you all this just because
4 it's going to turn into a very big issue with the
5 next session of the legislature that begins in
6 January. You're going to see it again and I didn't
7 want anything to sneak up on you and you go to buy
8 your tag a year from now and have them throw in a
9 \$10 fee and have you ask what's that for.

10 But there are pluses and minuses to it.
11 The pluses are that it might improve even our
12 service if we can get some of the money spent up
13 here because right now they have us covered --
14 believe it or not, they have us covered by these
15 circles from the trauma hospitals out of Whitfield
16 County and I said, as far as I know, nobody from
17 Dade County has ever been taken to Whitfield County
18 or Rome, which is the next closest place, and
19 certainly not to Grady Hospital, which is the other
20 level one trauma center in Atlanta because having
21 lived in Atlanta for a long time, I tell people if
22 you ever find me unconscious somewhere, unless I'm
23 about to die, do not take me to Grady if that tells
24 you anything about my opinion of Grady.

25 But this is going to come up again. If

1 it passes, it may improve the trauma network and the
2 infrastructure in certain areas of the state and
3 hopefully if it does pass and we do end up paying
4 the money for it, which I've talked to some of our
5 elected representatives. I'm not exactly clear that
6 they don't have enough money for it already, but
7 hopefully we'll be able to take that money that we
8 do have to pay and apply it back to where we could
9 actually use it up here and maybe offset some of our
10 costs that we're currently paying for ambulance
11 service or some of the other services. I just
12 wanted to throw that out there for you.

13 On to appearance, we have the City of
14 Trenton. Who's representing the City of Trenton?
15 It looks like the mayor has not joined us tonight,
16 so we move on from there onto fiscal matters. I'll
17 ask the clerk to read the financial report, please.

18 MR. TOWNSEND: It looks like it's a
19 little thicker in your packet, but it's basically
20 just the same information included inside the packet
21 this time. The account fund balance, drug education
22 fund, 43,460; federal asset fund, 2,358; special
23 sheriff's fund, 37,029; jail fund, 27,916; juvenile
24 services fund, 13,532; victim assistance fund,
25 2,427; payroll account, 102,426; general fund,

1 169,273. Principal and interest, 1,988,272.
2 Principal and interest CDs, 299,545, for a total
3 P&I, which is principal and interest fund balance,
4 \$2,312,669.

5 Capital bond fund total balance is
6 820,037. One thing to note on the S.P.L.O.S.T
7 funds, it seems like it's been a little high there
8 at 2.3 million, but we have the 1.4 million bond
9 that was due and cut -- the check has been cut,
10 however, it has not actually cleared the account
11 here and that's why the elevated account balance.
12 Also, we will be paying the City of Trenton's
13 portion. I think it's at 16.29 percent of what's
14 collected. So that check will also be cut here
15 within a week.

16 Next page over is the information on
17 all the certificate of deposits and then they've
18 been redeemed or renewed and there's also -- we are
19 in a situation where we can invest some money on
20 short term and I would like to talk to y'all
21 probably more at the 16th meeting about that. It's
22 just a little better treasury management. We have
23 to watch everything we invest in, especially outside
24 of the borders of Dade County. I trust both banks.
25 I worked for one of them. I do trust both banks, I

1 promise. They're very good people in Dade County,
2 but anytime -- even their investments that they have
3 that back up our funding, we have to, I think, as
4 far as due diligence review those occasionally as
5 well. The state of Georgia does require trust funds
6 to be backed up at 110 percent.

7 MR. BRANDON: Question. Today they
8 announced that they were raising the FDIC amount
9 from 100,000 to 250,000. Do we have, Don, \$1.9
10 million in a single account?

11 MR. TOWNSEND: We do not have it in one
12 single account. All the public funds are backed up
13 at 110 percent based on US agency's securities and I
14 know from Bank of Dade's standpoint, they're backed
15 about three times that. And the reason they back it
16 up so much is because towards the fall of the year
17 when tax collections start coming in, you know, it's
18 not uncommon to have an account balance of
19 \$3 million and that's why Georgia law requires
20 county balances or county funds and city funds to be
21 backed up other than FDIC insurance. Now, if either
22 bank went belly up, FDIC insurance would cover
23 that, a portion of it, which would only help the
24 banks.

25 But the benefit to the County for an

1 increased level at 250,000 would be if we wanted to
2 invest in an individual institution, financial
3 institution outside of Bank of Dade or the Citizen's
4 Bank & Trust. I think at times, you know, if the
5 interest rates -- we're in some kind of bubble here
6 and we need to at least consider looking at that. I
7 always want to use our local banks if we can, but if
8 they're not willing to pay -- if we can get a CD at
9 five percent and we can only get two percent in
10 Trenton, that's something we have to at least
11 consider looking at.

12 The following page, page four and that
13 is our -- basically our income statement and fund
14 balance sheet and you see that the month of
15 September was a little harder to collect money.
16 Again, our loss was down from what we anticipated.
17 Loss is the sales tax revenue that directly reduces
18 property taxes in the county. Those have been hard
19 pressed to come by this year and I think we will
20 continue that way for the remainder of the year and
21 we'll look at reducing that as part of next year's
22 budget. We won't talk about that tonight.

23 But anyway, we did collect over
24 \$491,468 of an anticipated monthly budget of 477, so
25 we still did okay. We came out in excess of 14,000

1 and our expenses continue each month to be down as
2 well. They're 549,000 and, again, our monthly
3 budget was 602,000. So overall we're okay. You see
4 those two bottom numbers at the bottom. We did
5 spend more than we actually brought in during the
6 month and that's where you get into a problem, but
7 this is -- there's some seasonality in these
8 numbers. I've said that all year. On different
9 months we have different contracts that renew, so
10 overall we are still okay.

11 MR. BRANDON: We should be getting our
12 insurance premium check this month.

13 MR. TOWNSEND: We should and I hope
14 within about 12 days we'll be collecting --

15 MR. BRANDON: That's \$700,000?

16 MR. TOWNSEND: Right at 700. At least
17 \$670,000. And with nine months complete, that's
18 75 percent of the budget. We have collected 65.96
19 percent of our revenue and we have spent 67 of the
20 total budget, so --

21 MR. BRANDON: What are we currently
22 drawing on that line of credit?

23 MR. TOWNSEND: 300,000 and I'm hoping
24 as soon as we get our insurance premium tax, that we
25 can go to the bank and pay that off.

1 MR. BRANDON: That's what I was going
2 to ask. I noticed one thing at last month's
3 meeting, we were at 104 percent year-to-date on fuel
4 and we're only right now at 118 percent, so it's not
5 gone up quite as bad as I thought it was going to
6 do.

7 MR. TOWNSEND: I don't know if Billy is
8 still here or not. Fuel has for us, at least, been
9 stable. We've seen prices closer to \$4 and right
10 now -- Billy, what did you pay for fuel?

11 MR. BRANDON: What did we pay for gas
12 on this latest shipment?

13 MR. MASSENGALE: Tax and all 3.29.

14 MR. TOWNSEND: 3.29 a gallon. So
15 that's a lot better. Now, it seems like you say,
16 well, wait, the other month it was 3.67. I don't
17 know. You'll have to ask him why you're paying
18 3.67.

19 MR. BRANDON: It's the tax that we
20 don't have to pay.

21 MR. TOWNSEND: That is still a
22 significant amount. We are at, like you said,
23 118 percent for gasoline for the year, so we are
24 going to be increasing that budget as well next year
25 because we have no choice. Well, in addition to

1 that, you have to look at some cut backs, perhaps,
2 how you do day-to-day operations, maybe save a
3 little bit of gas.

4 MR. BRANDON: Well, one of the things
5 as a byproduct, if there's any good news at all out
6 of this incredible financial crisis, the price of
7 oil, I've heard predictions that it will drop below
8 \$50 a barrel before long. So if there's any good
9 news, that would have to be all I've come up with so
10 far, so maybe the price of gas will go down.

11 MR. LOWERY: What about the overhead
12 projector?

13 MR. TOWNSEND: Well, the overhead
14 projector is fixed. It's working believe it or not,
15 even though we don't have it tonight. I've had
16 personal things in my life with my father-in-law in
17 the hospital. I didn't have time to put a power
18 point together tonight, but Alex Case fixed it. I
19 saw it for myself. It does work. It's really nice
20 and hopefully we'll have all of our budget
21 information at one of our workshops and the public
22 will be able to see everything we do and hopefully I
23 can find a laptop somewhere in here to plug it up
24 and make it happen.

25 MR. BRANDON: Okay. Thank you, Don. I

1 will look to the attorney to see if there's any
2 legal matters we need to talk about tonight.

3 MR. ROGERS: There's a bond validation
4 hearing that's been set for October 9th. That's
5 the next thing coming up.

6 MR. BRANDON: Okay. All right.
7 There's no unfinished business. As far as I know,
8 there's no new business because we didn't put on
9 there any at the work session. I'll ask if there's
10 any citizen participation at this time? Seeing none
11 and we have no executive session and there being no
12 further business before the Commission, we stand
13 adjourned. Thank you.

14 END OF PROCEEDING
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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 2nd day of
 10 October, 2008;

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 3rd day of November 2008.

16
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 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.

