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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

11

REGULAR MEETING

12

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

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MR. RUMLEY: At this time, we'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. I can't think of a better place to be than Dade County.

This is the regularly-scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission which takes place at the same time on the first Thursday of every month. Proper notice of the meeting was given to the legal organ of Dade County and has been posted in the hallway of the Administration Building, which is right outside. At this time, I'll do roll call. Mr. Cervelli?

MR. CERVELLI: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

MR. LOWERY: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

MR. PITTMAN: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

MR. GOFF: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley, and I'm here. The reading of the minutes of the January '09 regular meeting will not be required since all Commissioners have been furnished copies in advance. You do have your copies, correct? The minutes are public record and available for review in my office, the county executive's office. During work hours,

1 come by. I'll be glad to give you a copy, discuss
2 anything pertaining to the minutes. The minutes are
3 included in the consent agenda. The approval of the
4 consent agenda requires a vote. Do I hear a motion
5 to approve the consent agenda? Now, the consent
6 agenda --

7 MR. CERVELLI: I'll make the motion.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Finally, Peter. Peter has
9 been making motions all night. He is ready.

10 Let me tell you why we don't have a tie
11 on. I did wear my tie today, but Peter -- I felt so
12 bad for Peter. He has been sick. He left his tie
13 at home and he said, oh, I'm going to be the only
14 one without a tie, so I did take my tie off.

15 MR. CERVELLI: That's one of the many
16 services the county executive provides.

17 MR. LOWERY: Yeah. Last month they
18 both had coats and ties on, so I brought my coat and
19 tie.

20 MR. RUMLEY: But anyway, everyone is on
21 board with our consent agenda. Don, would you
22 please just go over that before we --

23 MR. TOWNSEND: The consent agenda
24 includes the regular agenda, approval of regular
25 agenda as presented, the approval of previous

1 meeting minutes, other boards and authorities
2 discussed, approve Tom Black appointment to the
3 Mental Health Board which is Region One, Ordinance
4 02-05-09, which is a mobile home citation for
5 failure to display decal. That was approved on the
6 consent agenda as the second reading tonight. Fare
7 box fee for public transportation which includes a
8 dollar one way per trip hopefully to be set by
9 March 1st for 65-plus years of age, they will be
10 exempt and it is also to include the charging of
11 Medicare and Medicaid. I think Peter said it stated
12 at best, so for the record, we can go back and have
13 that.

14 Public transportation, that's on the
15 consent agenda. Next on the consent agenda is
16 public transportation agreement, the 5311 grant,
17 federal grant, the timber permit bond requirement
18 was the first reading tonight, approval of the first
19 reading requiring a \$10,000 bond. The National
20 Association of Counties agreement was approved under
21 the consent agenda. A question to be placed on the
22 2010 ballot for the decision by the elected -- by
23 the people of Dade County for district commissioners
24 at large districts will be submitted by resolution
25 to the legislatures of the General Assembly. I

1 believe that's it.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Now, we're going to
3 do this a little different. All of you have been
4 read to and you understand our consent agenda and
5 this is pretty much what we're here for tonight, so
6 I would like to stand up and go ahead and ask prayer
7 and also the Pledge of Allegiance and pray that
8 we're making the right decisions. I feel good about
9 it. I think we all do, but let's have prayer, if
10 you don't care.

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

14 MR. RUMLEY: And now, do I hear a
15 motion that we pass the consent agenda?

16 MR. CERVELLI: For the third time, I
17 make a motion we accept the consent agenda.

18 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I
19 hear a second?

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

21 MR. RUMLEY: Call a vote. Mr. Lowery?

22 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

24 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

1 MR. GOFF: Yes.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

3 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes.

5 Okay. Let's move down to the district
6 commissioners' reports and we actually have formed
7 our committees, if you call them that, and if you --
8 you know, I would like for you to also comment on
9 what's been going on as far as the parks and what
10 you -- whatever you feel free to share with us. So
11 we'll start with you, Mr. Lowery.

12 MR. LOWERY: Well, most of them are
13 here. I mean, you've been looking at a lot of our
14 roads. We've looked at -- we've talked about Dave
15 L. Brown Road because it's mainly in my district and
16 the dams. I think I've got buildings, too. We've
17 had Walt -- what was Walt's last name? Gregory,
18 Walt Gregory with Chevron has come up and talked to
19 us, how we can make our buildings more efficient.
20 We're going to be looking into that.

21 Things are going good. I appreciate
22 all of Ted's hard work. He's been out. A lot of us
23 have -- or a couple of us have full-time jobs and
24 we're not able to get out as much as we would like,
25 but Ted is filling us in and going out and catching

1 us up, too. So I appreciate that.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Appreciate it. Scottie?

3 MR. PITTMAN: Okay. I think I ended up
4 on sanitation and waste. I know the Transfer
5 Station hours and we're going to be closing one
6 extra day a week. I think that starts Monday.
7 We'll be closed Sunday and Monday, hours from 8:00
8 to 6:00 instead of 7:00 to 7:00. That's an
9 estimated savings of around \$50,000 a year, so
10 hopefully that will be enough. We're not going to
11 charge the dollar a vehicle. It did result in one
12 employee or one job being cut out. Hopefully, that
13 will be enough and we won't have to make any more
14 cuts.

15 MR. RUMLEY: What we're doing actually,
16 too, is on the -- we did lack around \$75,000 coming
17 up with -- as far as the budgeted line item there
18 shortfall, but we have come up with some salvaged
19 equipment that we are going to put on -- we've
20 actually put on the market on the internet and just
21 getting some fillers, but we've got a couple of
22 walking floor trailers we're actually going to put
23 up for sale and right now they're averaging selling
24 for around \$35,000 apiece and they're older
25 trailers. So hopefully, we can put that back into

1 that general fund to make up for that and there's
2 some other things. There's a couple of road
3 scratchers that we're going to put out for bid, so I
4 feel better, Peter, you know, about the shortfall
5 after doing this. Go ahead, Robert. I'm sorry.

6 MR. GOFF: That's okay, Chairman. I
7 would like to take this time -- I know since our
8 last meeting we were kind of -- had a lot of rain.
9 We had a lot of stuff washed into our roads and into
10 our -- down into the creeks against our bridges and
11 a lot of times we talk about Billy, but I want to
12 tell you, his whole crew, the Road Department did a
13 great job getting everything back, cleaning out a
14 lot of the debris that was against the bridges that
15 were causing them to run over the roads even more
16 have been done.

17 I talked to the State, went down to the
18 State barn and talked to them and they were able to
19 get the bridge at 136 over Lookout Creek, get in and
20 clean it. It had one tree that was almost the
21 length -- the tree was the length of the width of
22 the creek. So a lot of stuff that's gone on this
23 month -- not only that, but I know the fire
24 departments were out on that night that it flooded
25 helping people in the communities get to higher

1 ground you might say, so my hat is just off to them
2 for all that I saw and the work that we've been able
3 to get out and do with the Road Department and just
4 thank even the citizens. There were a lot of
5 citizens that helped others and you're to be
6 commended for that because we went through a trying
7 time.

8 Then the Lookout Lake, you know, to be
9 able to go out and see what a real strong rain would
10 do and be able to have that to take to the safe dams
11 people and show them that maybe we're in better
12 shape than might first have been thought and help us
13 out and just keep hoping for that, if you would.
14 But thanks to the people of Dade County for getting
15 us through some pretty rough times at the first of
16 the month.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Peter?

18 MR. CERVELLI: I've been assigned to
19 work on the financial planning committees for the
20 County. In terms of planning, we met with the
21 Commissioner of Georgia Department of Transportation
22 and one of the things we knew from an earlier
23 meeting with them here in January was that because
24 we did not have a county-wide transportation plan
25 that looked out over the future of our county in

1 terms of where we want to be with our roads, we were
2 having difficulty talking to them about where we
3 might want to get them to spend some money. And so
4 based on their recommendation that they did, in
5 fact, have some money to help us put a
6 transportation plan together for the County and the
7 City, Ted did make that request and I am hopeful and
8 the Commissioner was very strongly supportive of
9 that. That's what we need to do. We need to have a
10 vision about where we want this county to be in
11 terms of our transportation over the next several
12 years and so that when we go and ask for funding, we
13 already have an approval from the State Department
14 of Transportation that they support the plan that's
15 been put together as feasible and reasonable. So I
16 look forward to our being able to do that.

17 Just in terms of roads, for the folks
18 up in Lookout Mountain, you know how bad fog can be
19 and certainly when we had that weather at the early
20 part of the year, there was some pretty horrendous
21 fog on the mountain. There are some places here
22 that do not have reflectors on the roads and those
23 of you who live there know about that. And there's
24 many times I've lost the road in a fog and so we
25 are -- in fact, Billy Massengale and I rode several

1 of the roads earlier this week and it's clear to me
2 a much thorough review needs to be done of that. So
3 it's not going to be something we can afford to do
4 right away on every road, but we're going to pursue
5 making sure that our citizens are safe, especially
6 in those fog prone areas.

7 The other thing I would like to add is
8 that in March, I'm planning to hold two town hall
9 meetings in two of our communities, one in New Salem
10 and one in West Brow to cover transportation and
11 public safety issues and there will be more about
12 that. But I also plan to find a way to do the same
13 thing for the Piney community and also for the folks
14 out of Head River who may feel that they need some
15 more closely -- and this is one of the reasons I
16 really believe that being by district counts, but to
17 talk to each one of the major communities in
18 District 4 and do this on a regular basis and just
19 to find out what the needs are and we'll do it by
20 topic and we'll see how it works. So starting in
21 March, we'll start this process. I've asked the
22 sheriff to attend and he said he would be able to.
23 I've spoken within the county executive in terms of
24 getting the right people from the staff here at the
25 County to attend as well. So I look forward to

1 seeing how that process will work.

2 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate it, Peter.

3 MR. LOWERY: Mr. Chairman, I did forget
4 a couple of things.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Too late. I don't
6 recognize you. Yeah, go ahead.

7 MR. LOWERY: No. I did forget two
8 things. One was the prescription drug discount card
9 program that we're trying to get going. We're one
10 step closer to doing that. We agreed on the
11 contract tonight and this is a prescription card
12 program for those who are underinsured, don't have
13 insurance at all. So it may be a big benefit for
14 them. And the second one was the microphones. I
15 wanted to really say thank you to Ted and Bruce and
16 his men. I think Joe -- I'll agree. For four years
17 that's been my biggest complaint, we can't hear you.

18 MR. RUMLEY: The good thing about it,
19 it didn't cost us anything. We did some bartering.
20 We had some surplus stuff in the barn down here and
21 we actually did a little trading, you know, so it
22 didn't cost really anything.

23 MR. CERVELLI: These are
24 \$200 microphones.

25 MR. RUMLEY: We didn't have to pay him

1 boot in other words. And this stuff, I wouldn't
2 have gave you \$20 for the whole pile we had down
3 there. So anyway, it works out.

4 MS. REYNOLDS: Could you explain
5 that -- I haven't heard anything about that
6 prescription drug card. Is it for County employees?

7 MR. LOWERY: It will be for all
8 citizens once it -- it's not insurance now. It's
9 not insurance.

10 MS. REYNOLDS: Right. I heard it's a
11 discount card. That's all I know about it. I
12 didn't know who it's available to.

13 MR. LOWERY: It's available to all
14 citizens at no charge to the county whatsoever. It
15 will be -- once we get the contract signed, there
16 will be some more media stuff done on it and some
17 more explaining. Until we get everything done,
18 we're kind of limited to what we can say about it,
19 but it is -- it's for the underinsured and the
20 noninsured people and you can even get some pet
21 medication if you need that. So we think it will be
22 a good deal and I really appreciate these
23 Commissioners for supporting it and some other
24 counties have it. Maybe it won't work out, but
25 hopefully it will and if it helps -- you know, if it

1 just helps a handful of people, it will be -- during
2 these times that we're in right now, you know, it
3 could be a lot of help for some folks.

4 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate that. Well,
5 the month has went by pretty fast for me. This has
6 been a full month of being on the new job here and
7 I've had a lot of people come through. I've had
8 more traffic than you could ever imagine. That
9 carpet is padded down in there. I've had a lot of
10 phone calls. Thank goodness the good outweighs the
11 bad. I've had a few, as they say, cussings, you
12 know. That's part of the job.

13 We did go to Atlanta as Peter -- your
14 mic works pretty good, Peter. We did go to Atlanta
15 and we've got several trips planned. This time of
16 the year our legislation is in session and that's
17 the time you go and actually beg for your money. I
18 hate to say it that way, but it's a fact. It's hard
19 just to do things over the phone, but they want --
20 they want to look at you and see you present your
21 case to them. It's just better. It's better to do
22 a hand shake.

23 We didn't really have any positive
24 yeses as far as our -- we didn't bring a wheel
25 barrel full of money back, but we had some positive

1 things happen. One of the things we went for other
2 than money was to actually try to get our driver's
3 license back in this county one day a month anyway
4 from the driver's services and we did meet with the
5 top man. He's the commissioner. We didn't just
6 talk to the secretary. We actually met with him.
7 He's a very nice man. I had met with him back in
8 the summer pertaining to this before I was elected
9 and talked about this and really they talked pretty
10 negative at that time, but after we -- what I did, I
11 took a Google map, you know, from a satellite map
12 and actually had a professional drawing on there to
13 show that we're actually traveling round trip a
14 little over 60 miles to go over there and back to
15 get your license and it's a long way. He didn't
16 realize that. Also, he didn't really realize you're
17 not just not driving flat land. You're driving
18 across Lookout Mountain. Either that or go into
19 Tennessee and come back in.

20 I think we made a good point.

21 Actually, he is coming up here next month and is
22 going to meet with us and we're going to actually --
23 I'm going to take him and show him in reality what
24 we're talking about. I feel pretty good about it.
25 I don't know that it will happen in the next few

1 months, but I think if any county will regain it
2 back, I think we will. I feel good about it.

3 Also, the other thing, we met with the
4 Department of Transportation on our roads, our LARP
5 list to find out where we're at on money. Of
6 course, that was not a good subject to the
7 commissioner. She was pretty honest with us. She
8 said -- you know, she told us she couldn't even
9 afford to buy salt to salt the state roads this
10 year. Was that not what she said, Robert? That was
11 hard to hear from her, but she took it out of
12 another line item because of winter. We have had
13 more winter than normal in some of the mountainous
14 areas and she -- so that was not good right off the
15 bat, but we did -- I think we presented a pretty
16 good case as far as our roads go.

17 And also, we're discussing the -- I
18 don't know whether you're familiar with this, but
19 they're actually trying to close our DOT people, our
20 barn down over here and they're going to move
21 everything over to Villanow, Georgia, if you know
22 where Villanow is. So they'll be working our county
23 out of Villanow if we let this happen, which is
24 farther than the driver's services. We had a little
25 taste of this the other night when we had the ice on

1 the roads and bridges and normally when we go out,
2 you know, when we take our trucks out, the State is
3 just right behind us or in front of us. Well, we
4 were putting salt on our stress areas up here on the
5 mountain and Alex, he contacted the state and it was
6 real, real late in the night before they even, you
7 know, could get here because it was so far to travel
8 because they did come out from Villanow. Of course,
9 they picked their spreaders up here, but it took a
10 lengthy time and we just worry about it. I mean,
11 the safety factor, plus the -- the expense.

12 We tried to explain to her how much
13 more it would cost them to actually have trucks
14 stationed over there to come over here. It may not
15 sound like a big deal right now, but it's kind of
16 like water. You don't realize how important it is
17 until you don't have it. We just don't need to let
18 that go.

19 But all in all it's been a good month,
20 January. We've got off to a good start. As I
21 promised, you know, the Commission, we're trying to
22 cut. We're cutting everything we can. We're trying
23 to be as tight with your money as we possibly can.
24 I appreciate the cooperation I've had this month and
25 look forward to seeing all of you. It's an open

1 door if you call me.

2 I don't know where our secretary is
3 here. I think she's in the back, so I can say this.
4 I didn't know this the other day. She came back
5 there and she said, you've got a call. She said,
6 the lady won't tell me who she is, you know. I
7 said, well, why did you ask her anyway? I didn't
8 realize that procedure of when you answer the phone
9 here, the first thing they say is may I ask who's
10 calling. Well, I can't stand that. She didn't
11 realize it. She said, well, you mean, you don't
12 want me to say that? I said, no. I said, because,
13 you know, if you call me or you call Robert or
14 Peter, you know, you need to talk to them. They
15 shouldn't -- I mean, that may be professional and I
16 may be unprofessional in saying this, but it's the
17 way I feel about it.

18 She asked this lady -- I'm not going to
19 call her name because she's probably listening on --
20 but I said, what did she say? She said, well, I
21 said, may I ask who's calling and she said certainly
22 not and she said -- and I said, well, from now on,
23 you know, I appreciate it, I mean, you know, but
24 please just put the calls through. So I believe in
25 an open door policy and also, if you call me, you're

1 going to talk to me or any of us. I'm not just
2 saying me. But let's get on with the meeting. I
3 think I've said enough. I just appreciate all of
4 y'all.

5 Do we have a City of Trenton official
6 here tonight that would like to talk to us? No.
7 Okay. How about a Chamber? I see a Chamber, a
8 grinning Chamber member here.

9 MS. TINKER: Did you see the book I
10 brought up here for you? You have two different
11 things that the others don't have. If you would
12 possibly pass those around. The Chamber did print
13 those for the Dade Middle School's project. I won't
14 take a lot of y'all's time because I know you are
15 running late, but the Chamber would like to welcome
16 the new commissioners and thank you for your support
17 this year. We do appreciate you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear
19 you.

20 MR. RUMLEY: And this is Debbie Tinker.
21 She is our --

22 MS. TINKER: Dade Chamber of Commerce
23 director.

24 MR. RUMLEY: She's the director.

25 MS. TINKER: And I'm always nervous up

1 here.

2 MR. RUMLEY: No need to get nervous.
3 We've got all night. We don't like to run late, but
4 that's what we're here for.

5 MS. TINKER: I know it. The copies of
6 this Chamber report that I gave to them are on the
7 back table back there if any of y'all would like to
8 read the thorough report.

9 I would like to announce this year's
10 executive board to the Chamber that includes Lionel
11 Austin, Trenton Telephone Company as our president,
12 Shawn Roberts, National Boiler is our president
13 elect, Judy Stanfield, Bank of Dade is the
14 secretary/treasurer, Allan Ward, Nova South is past
15 president and VP of committees. New additional
16 members to the board include Gail Brewer. She is
17 with Dade County Library. Kathy Browning, she's an
18 active member of West Brow Community Center, past
19 mayor, Anthony Emanuel, Dade School System teacher
20 Matt Jelly, and owner of Creative Installations and
21 R Haven Family Park, Jeffrey Raper, which y'all know
22 as Butch. And I think they're all going to make
23 great additions to our board this year. We have one
24 of the finest sitting boards that we've ever had, I
25 believe. And the main focus this year is going to

1 be on economic development and bringing business
2 into our community.

3 In y'all's report, it also includes our
4 visitation for the year and our web site stats. But
5 I do want to mention one thing to all of y'all. The
6 Chamber Board has been working with the Dade County
7 Middle School for the past month to finalize their
8 plans to market their winter quarterly educational
9 market place, Innovation to Volkswagen to be held on
10 March 19th. Their plans are to have school
11 children, K through 12, to invent new ways for
12 Volkswagen to market that promote ideas from a local
13 commercial or slogan and invent a new user-friendly
14 dashboard design video console to any other idea the
15 brilliant children's imagination may come up with.

16 The Chamber made arrangements through
17 Senator Mullis's office earlier in December for
18 representatives from the Chamber Board, Lionel
19 Austin, Shawn Roberts, myself, Commissioner Peter
20 Cervelli, Dade school superintendent, Patty Priest,
21 Dade Middle School principal, Karen Demarche, and
22 Dade Middle School teachers and program initiators,
23 Tom Randolph and Matt Jelly to go to Atlanta where
24 Dade Middle School made a presentation of the
25 project at the state level to representatives of the

1 lieutenant governor's office, Georgia Department of
2 Economic Development and the State Board of
3 Education. Chamber representatives returned to
4 Atlanta to the offices of Georgia Department of
5 Economic Development in January and the Tourism
6 Product Development director Bruce Griggs discussed
7 with the Chamber representatives how Georgia
8 Department of Economic Development can help with the
9 future upcoming marketplaces at the Dade Middle
10 School and they're going to go after Porsche for the
11 next one.

12 But these are some of the things that
13 we worked on and I think this is one of the most
14 important things we've been working on because these
15 children will be the next workers of Dade County.
16 So we have quite a few different things from
17 economic development, tourism, the school system
18 that we work with. So I hope that all of y'all
19 realize how important the Chamber is to this
20 community or we feel it is. Thank you.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you. We'll move
22 down to number four, Don, the monthly finance
23 report.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: As of January 31st,
25 the general fund had a balance of \$1,867,071;

1 federal asset fund, \$2,519; special sheriff's fund,
2 \$8,556; drug abuse education fund, \$15,000;
3 supplemental juvenile services fund, \$13,624; victim
4 assistance fund, \$2,563; the jail fund, \$39,985; and
5 then payroll account at \$112,588. The whole
6 S.P.L.O.S.T funds you see under 2004 S.P.L.O.S.T
7 funds, the 1,339,262, along with 793,049 there.

8 We currently have enough money in
9 reserve to pay off the indebtedness that we have for
10 the current S.P.L.O.S.T bond issue if that's
11 something that y'all would like to consider doing
12 early. I called Linda Beasley, which is our banker
13 that's over this, and she called me back, but I
14 haven't called her back. So we've been playing
15 phone tag. If there's no benefit in paying it off
16 early, then I would recommend investing the money,
17 you know, 1.2 million of it at least into a
18 certificate of deposit locally maybe for six months
19 and gain about \$10,000 worth of interest. If not,
20 if there is a benefit, then I would recommend going
21 ahead and paying that off, but we're going to have
22 to pay it regardless and there's no current
23 immediate need as far as this money is concerned.

24 Below is 2009 S.P.L.O.S.T funds. Of
25 course, we have not started collection on those

1 funds yet, but we do have from the proceeds account
2 investments of \$142,641, which is the scheduled
3 payment coming up May 1st with the first interest
4 payment which was capitalized interest.

5 Below is the construction account and
6 the investments in that fund. We currently have a
7 total of three -- almost 3.2 million, 3,199,233,
8 which is currently available for use for the new
9 court facility and whatever other projects that are
10 deemed needed.

11 Below you see the breakdown with the
12 fire departments and the only expense this month new
13 to this was Davis at the last meeting was approved
14 for three purchases and they had a \$3,048 purchase.
15 Page two is the certificate of deposits active and
16 other investments that are currently active and then
17 redeemed certificates and renewed certificates on
18 the next page.

19 Page four is the departmental level
20 budgets. We had a little -- having some challenges
21 putting numbers into the Solomon, which is our
22 accounting software, but we will get through that
23 soon, hopefully within a week. However, I stayed
24 last night and worked on this report so we could
25 have something and you see that after -- as of

1 January 31st, the collections is \$1,842,422.
2 That's about on target. It looks like we've got a
3 little over 87,156. So that's good. That's
4 21 percent of collection attained for the whole year
5 as part of our whole budget, the total amount of
6 budget we anticipate bringing in. The reason, of
7 course, is December is our heaviest tax collection
8 period through Tax Commissioner Jane Moreland's
9 office and she's submitted those payments to us in
10 early January, so that was the -- we had \$1.5 just
11 in her line item alone that was brought in. We
12 anticipated at least 1.4 million, so she was a
13 little bit heavier than we anticipated.

14 There are other departments though that
15 have kind of failed -- have fallen short, I should
16 say, in some respects, but again, it's very early in
17 the year. And as far as the S.P.L.O.S.T collections
18 go, S.P.L.O.S.T collections was down again and this
19 was probably the first month that we experienced
20 without Shaw -- actually, next month will be the
21 first full month without Shaw. This was the first
22 sign of -- since that announcement was made with
23 those employees that are no longer traveling maybe
24 not through Dade County.

25 The department level expenses at the

1 bottom you'll see is 770,000 in total. Budget wise,
2 some of the departments look like they're over
3 budget, but we found -- Peter and I were looking at
4 this earlier and found that we had actually three
5 payrolls in the month, which actually skewed these
6 numbers a little bit. These were based off taking
7 the payroll and dividing it by 12 and we actually --
8 two months out of the year we have three payroll
9 cycles. That explains the majority of these
10 differences.

11 The budget attained for the year so far
12 should be at 8.33. Again, revenues are already at
13 21 percent and the expenses attained is 8.9 percent,
14 so we spent a little heavier than anticipated by
15 \$31,000. The next page you see is the breakdown for
16 the project variance and that's the different
17 projects in the county that you see. About midway
18 down there's revenue number 31.3100 which is local
19 option sales tax and that was 107,872. He's the
20 S.P.L.O.S.T guru. Anticipated bringing in around
21 \$161,656 and you see that, you know, we brought in
22 107, so --

23 MR. CERVELLI: Don, why is that -- why
24 is that number different than the S.P.L.O.S.T sales
25 tax number?

1 MR. TOWNSEND: S.P.L.O.S.T is collected
2 at 100 percent. Local option sales tax is collected
3 at 80 percent because 20 percent goes to the City of
4 Trenton.

5 MR. LOWERY: Is the S.P.L.O.S.T listed
6 on here?

7 MR. TOWNSEND: S.P.L.O.S.T is not on
8 this report because this is dealing with the general
9 funds activity. S.P.L.O.S.T is in its own account.
10 If you flip over to the first page, you can see that
11 the collection there was 136,419 for the month of
12 January. So that's been averaging -- you know, we
13 have a high maybe of 313,000 at one time per month.
14 So that's definitely down.

15 MR. LOWERY: Way down.

16 MR. CERVELLI: Yeah. And Don may be
17 right, that this is an accurate reflection of the
18 economy or it may be an accurate reflection of the
19 Department of Revenue's ability to collect taxes in
20 a way that makes sense. So we'll probably have to
21 look at it as sort of a four-month moving average at
22 this point or something like that to get a real
23 sense of this. It's going to take another month at
24 least to know.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Or maybe two. Probably a

1 quarter.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: I would say you're
3 correct, probably two. The very last page in there
4 before -- you've got actually -- I just want to
5 explain this. Normally we only have one section,
6 but we had so many budget amendment -- not budget
7 amendments. So many journal entries and a journal
8 entry, for anyone that doesn't understand that, is
9 when an invoice comes in on December 31st -- well,
10 let's say it comes in January 31st, but for
11 services rendered or purchased in the prior year,
12 under accounting guidelines and regulations for the
13 State of Georgia, we have to back those back into
14 2008. So we had several of those occurrences this
15 past month and that's why you've got other reports
16 here, just kind of refresh this information I may
17 have given you before.

18 The last page in the first section is
19 the S.P.L.O.S.T breakdown and that's what will be
20 published in the paper here within a month as we
21 normally do.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions?

23 MR. LOWERY: I know one thing I've
24 noticed here too, Peter had asked for a head count
25 and it's in this thing, too. I'm always getting

1 asked how many employees the County has. It says we
2 have a total elected of 11 officials, total
3 full-time, 105 people and total part-time, 27. So
4 if anybody would like to see them, I have the exact
5 list. You can see who they are and where they're
6 at.

7 MR. RUMLEY: That's an accurate
8 account. Thank you, Don. Good job.

9 Is there any more questions pertaining
10 to -- we need a motion pertaining to our finances
11 and investments. Do I hear a motion to approve or
12 disapprove?

13 MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we
14 approve.

15 MR. LOWERY: Peter is afraid to now.

16 MR. RUMLEY: I do have a motion. Do I
17 hear a second?

18 MR. GOFF: I'll second that.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I'll call the roll.
20 Mr. Lowery?

21 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

23 MR. GOFF: Yes.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

25 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley, yes.

2 MR. PITTMAN: I'm a yes.

3 MR. RUMLEY: You're a yes. Thank you,
4 Scottie. All right. Okay. Let's move down to
5 legal matters.

6 MR. ROGERS: We have nothing new to
7 report. There's been no new developments on the
8 challenge to the ambulance service contract that we
9 had and all that's quiet and I anticipate it may
10 remain that way. There may be nothing more to come
11 from that. We'll have to wait and see.

12 MR. RUMLEY: There's not any unfinished
13 business or new business. We'll move down to
14 citizen participation. I would like to keep it to
15 five minutes, if possible. Do we have anyone out
16 there that wants to come out there and talk to us
17 tonight? Okay. I've got several. Let's let the
18 lady go first.

19 MS. REYNOLDS: Hi. First, I want to
20 thank this Commission for the microphones. It has
21 been four long years. Thank you.

22 I want to talk about the
23 representative, electing the representatives. The
24 way we have it right now, it is the same as our
25 state and our federal government. We can't pick our

1 state representatives that are from south Georgia.
2 We can't pick our federal representatives that rule
3 our lives that are not from our state, but we have
4 to live under the rules that they deem for us. We
5 may not like what they do, but they certainly -- we
6 certainly have a voice with them, just like I
7 believe we have a voice with every commissioner up
8 here whether we vote for them or not. I do believe,
9 especially locally, they listen to everyone.

10 So for us to go through again changing
11 our government, spending all the money and all the
12 time locally and with the State and then another
13 election, I really think it's a waste of time until
14 we give this form of government a real chance.
15 We've only had it four years and as we all know,
16 they were not a good four years as far as the way
17 the government ran here, and I just strongly feel
18 that we ought to give you guys a chance and give
19 this form of government a chance before we go trying
20 to change it again, before we turn around and try to
21 have -- well, we didn't like that one either, let's
22 change it again. I just don't think it's right. We
23 haven't given this a chance.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Well, actually, you know,
25 you say form of government, our government -- as far

1 as being the chair and executive --

2 MS. REYNOLDS: Well, it's how many --

3 MR. RUMLEY: How you would actually
4 elect your government. That's what would be
5 changing. Also, you were talking about cost, our
6 chairman of our Board of Elections, he presented us
7 with some figures today that it would actually save
8 the County quite a bit of money as far as the
9 election goes, you know, electing the officials by
10 having one, you know, lump election, you know, as
11 far as -- or electing them at large. He had some
12 pretty good figures. I didn't have time to make a
13 bunch of copies, but it's pretty interesting. I'll
14 give you a copy when we get through.

15 MS. REYNOLDS: But the process to get
16 it changed cost a lot.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Well, it would be
18 actually -- it would be on the general election. It
19 actually wouldn't be that much --

20 MS. REYNOLDS: Well, it first has to go
21 through the State.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah, it has to go through
23 legislation.

24 MS. REYNOLDS: I mean, every process
25 costs something.

1 MR. RUMLEY: But it's just mainly
2 because we're in a situation we get a lot of people
3 call us. We get a lot. It's not saying that we
4 support it or not support it. We support the
5 freedom of voting, you know, as a whole and if it
6 passes, then you know that the majority ruled and
7 so -- but I see where you're coming from.

8 MS. REYNOLDS: But isn't it too soon to
9 go and try to change something already? I mean, we
10 really haven't given this way a chance with the four
11 plus one. Before we had five and they didn't like
12 that, so they went with four plus one. Well, we
13 don't like this. Let's change it to something else.
14 You know, we haven't really given this a chance to
15 work.

16 MR. RUMLEY: But that will be up to the
17 people. That will be up to the majority of Dade
18 County.

19 MS. REYNOLDS: Well, not really because
20 you decide when it goes -- when it would go on the
21 ballot. If it goes on next year's ballot, we
22 haven't really given it a chance to work. If it
23 does go on the ballot, I think one of the big
24 problems in changing it was extremely confusing
25 voting and I think if it does go on a ballot, it

1 needs to be very plain and simple, one question yes
2 or no because when they went to this, it was
3 almost -- everybody I talked to, it was very hard to
4 understand.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you so much. We
6 appreciate it. Mr. Riddle, do you want to come on
7 up?

8 MR. RIDDLE: My name is Lee Riddle.
9 I'm from the north end of the county and I too would
10 like to thank you guys for the way you're so far
11 working together. I hope it remains that way.

12 The lady was talking about I think it
13 should be put on the ballot and voted on for at
14 large commissioners, which doesn't change -- Lamar
15 would still be in charge of his areas of the county,
16 each one of you yours, but it would be the way you
17 get elected. The whole county has something to say
18 about it. I don't think it's going to cost any more
19 money to do that. You're going to have an election
20 anyway. It's just going to be put on the ballot.

21 And another thing I would like and I
22 guess -- a lot of people have talked to me and I
23 understand this is going to happen with you guys.
24 When you spend -- take money, taxpayer dollars to
25 take a trip to do anything with it, you should turn

1 in an expense account when you get back just like I
2 used to have to do for a lot of companies. I don't
3 care if I bought a cup of coffee, I had to turn in a
4 voucher that's what I did with company money. You
5 should surely do that with taxpayer money since --
6 especially the way times are now.

7 And the constitutional officers, I
8 understand they're different, but I think they also
9 should turn something in to these Commissioners
10 saying what you did with taxpayer dollars. I
11 understand there's some accounts that maybe are
12 different than taxpayer dollars. I don't see how,
13 but I think if it comes into this County, it should
14 go through that general fund so these guys can see
15 what's happening at least with any money that was
16 taken in pertaining to this County and I think you
17 guys somehow surely, state level, wherever you have
18 to go with it could have some say-so in how that
19 could happen. That's all I've got to say.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you. Thank you for
21 your comment.

22 MR. LOWERY: I believe that is our
23 current travel policy right now, isn't it?

24 MR. RUMLEY: Do what now?

25 MR. LOWERY: I believe that is our

1 current travel policy that everybody has to --

2 MR. RUMLEY: Definitely.

3 MR. LOWERY: You do have to turn
4 receipts in.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Right now we are going to
6 strictly enforce that from now on. I don't know
7 that it has not been, but you can bet with this
8 administration, it will be followed right.

9 In the back, do you want to come on up?

10 MR. SCOTT: My name is Mike Scott. I
11 live up in New Home. Looking at that flag over
12 there, that means a lot to me. I spent 20 years
13 military active more or less and since I came back
14 from Iraq, I've had several problems in this county.
15 Some of y'all may know the development Sequatchie
16 Pointe up in New Home. Well, they cut a survey line
17 across my property and Mr. Rogers over there, the
18 county attorney, represented the company and
19 actually made fun of me while I was on the stand.
20 So I would ask that the Commission remove that man
21 as the county attorney if y'all can possibly do
22 that.

23 The Sequatchie Pointe, New Home Road up
24 there, if you've driven Hales Gap, tore it all to
25 pieces. The developer is going to walk off making a

1 ton of money. The taxpayers are going to foot the
2 bill for fixing the roads back. Does that seem very
3 fair? The company that I mentioned about that did
4 the surveying work was not even licensed to practice
5 in the state of Georgia. There are several firms
6 that could have been hired right here in the state
7 of Georgia to do the survey work. So they paid no
8 tax dollars while they were doing their surveying up
9 there, yet when it comes to law enforcement, your
10 Dade County deputies act as private security guards
11 for them patrolling in Dade County patrol vehicles
12 doing private security work. That doesn't seem very
13 fair, does it?

14 Then my one last issue is, which I
15 brought this up to Patrick Cannon, and from my good
16 fortune of being at work, I'm on probation. Okay.
17 And every time I bring this little issue up,
18 probation calls and threatens to arrest me for
19 saying I haven't showed up and turned in my proper
20 paperwork to them, which I've got it documented
21 every time I've showed them. The judge says they
22 can arrest me if they want to.

23 Anyway, the last issue is the school
24 resource officer, my daughter, she had an accident
25 over at school. She was backed into by State

1 Trooper Danny Blevins' -- a post of the Georgia
2 State Patrol, his daughter backed into my daughter.
3 It was caught on school cameras. When you -- we got
4 the accident report. The state trooper calls me and
5 says, do you want to go ahead and pay to fix our car
6 before we turn it over to your insurance since your
7 daughter is at fault, even though her daughter --
8 his daughter was the one that backed into my
9 daughter. It was caught on school cameras. The
10 school resource officer filled out a false accident
11 report, put false times on it and everything. We
12 went to court, went into court over here, Judge
13 Morgan looked at Danny Blevins, Josh Powell and
14 said, I don't understand this, when you back into
15 somebody, the law is quite clear. He said,
16 Mr. Scott, I'm awarding you damages for your car to
17 what happened.

18 Well, I didn't have the money to fight
19 it to Superior Court. Danny Blevins appealed it to
20 Superior Court. Brian House, your newly elected
21 judge, represented him for free. It was going to
22 cost me \$1,500 to collect \$1,100. You know, \$1,500
23 out of somebody's pocket is not a very fair thing.

24 The judge that you had, Tom Morgan, the
25 one everybody just voted out -- the surveying

1 company I was talking about, I was at Wildwood up
2 there, they had me arrested, made some claims
3 against me. Anyway, I was awarded to go to
4 psychiatric evaluation. I was going to psychiatric
5 evaluation that morning, pumping gas, they come
6 driving by. I knew they lied on me and I ain't
7 going to deny it, I did this right here. It's not a
8 very polite thing. I was arrested for stalking. I
9 had to pay a bail bondsman another \$385 to get out
10 of jail. And most of this stuff I went through, but
11 like with the car accident -- Scottie Pittman knows
12 about all of it, too, and I complained to everybody
13 from your district attorney about the perjury that
14 was committed over there to the governor's office
15 and I'm asking y'all if there's any help y'all can
16 give me in dealing with that crooked Sheriff's
17 Department.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Well, we appreciate your
19 comments. I will look into it and I'll question
20 Patrick. Of course, he is the sheriff of the
21 county, as I explained to you. He is an elected
22 officer and really the only -- as far as when you
23 say anything we can do, we control his budget.
24 That's pretty much that bottom line and except for a
25 few different funds -- two different funds that

1 he -- but I appreciate your comment.

2 MR. SCOTT: Well, myself and my fire
3 chief, Tom Tamburello, when the accident happened,
4 we went over there and talked to Patrick. Patrick
5 looked at the accident report and he said, well,
6 it's not filled out exactly like it should be, I
7 will agree. Then he looked at the DVD of the
8 accident and he scratched his chin like this about
9 ten or fifteen times, watched the DVD some more and
10 said, well, your daughter is still at fault because
11 she turned a little bit wide. Now, Danielle did
12 back into her, but Danielle is not at fault.

13 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate it. I
14 appreciate it.

15 MR. BALL: I'm Gary Ball and I
16 appreciate y'all letting me speak. I don't -- I had
17 to go to a basketball game earlier, so I don't know
18 whether you discussed the issue that was discussed
19 in the last couple of days. I just wanted to make a
20 couple of observations. I went to a board meeting
21 the other night and serving on a board is a
22 privilege. It's not a right.

23 It appears that some people that serve
24 on boards in this county might think it's a right
25 that nobody in the county has any right to even

1 question. The State has some very particular and
2 explicit requirements for serving on boards and when
3 a person becomes a chairman of a board, and I would
4 assume that that person would take that position
5 extremely, extremely serious.

6 When the State of Georgia puts
7 information on their web sites at the Department of
8 Revenue, I would assume that sometime during the
9 course of doing business, that person would make
10 sure that everybody that's coming to vote every
11 night is legal under the law, but that didn't happen
12 on this particular board. I don't know what your
13 county attorney is going to end up saying the
14 repercussions are, but it is troubling in this day
15 and age with all the information that we have
16 available to know that people that -- I doubt any of
17 these guys appointed the people that are on this
18 particular board. Maybe most of them were on
19 before. I don't know. But it is troubling to know
20 that people will do business for all of us in the
21 County and make decisions and vote and one
22 individual on the board evidently had a letter that
23 was over a year old telling them that they weren't
24 supposed to be serving on that board, weren't
25 supposed to have any voting rights and it just gives

1 the appearance that it's valid for a lot of people
2 to look down their nose at their elected and
3 appointed officials and say we don't trust them and
4 they have to earn the citizens' trust. They
5 don't -- we don't have to give it to them without
6 them earning it.

7 And I just -- there's the document. It
8 says right there, you know, who's current and who
9 isn't, who's certified, who isn't and I just hope
10 that we don't have a bunch of business that's been
11 done that people that maybe thought they were done
12 wrong by that board and maybe it was a close vote
13 now have a right to come back maybe and contest what
14 business the County did. I don't know. I just know
15 I saw one vote the other night that went down two to
16 two and didn't get any action because that first
17 person was voting and it would appear to me now that
18 that person's vote didn't count, so it would appear
19 that maybe that motion passed. That would be up to
20 your county attorney to determine.

21 But it just troubles me, but you get
22 what you deserve. As -- no, I'm pointing at myself.
23 That board has been meeting without much of anybody
24 overseeing what they were doing. That's just as
25 much fault as mine as it is anybody in this room and

1 there probably wouldn't have been anybody in the
2 room the other night had there not been a
3 controversy and that's been on me and everybody else
4 that was in the room.

5 So these gentlemen, I hope, have the
6 right -- are going to have the right to appoint some
7 people and I hope that they'll take that serious
8 from here on out, the ones that have that
9 opportunity and that it won't become a respector of
10 the person situation, but they'll find people that
11 want to serve and then want to go the extra mile and
12 do what the State says they have to do to serve.
13 Evidently, there might be some other boards that
14 might ought to be checked out. I don't know. I
15 don't know what the requirements are for other
16 boards, but there may be some other situations where
17 people are serving that aren't certified. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate your comment.
20 Anyone else? Mr. Black?

21 MR. BLACK: For those who don't know,
22 I'm Tom Black and I've just been told I'm mentally
23 incompetent, so they put me on the board. But I
24 would like to say one thing to the Commissioners. I
25 really appreciate you guys looking at the home

1 certification, mobile home certification, making
2 sure they have decals on them. But there's another
3 problem we need to resolve here and that is this, I
4 know of one trailer in my area that was a meth lab
5 and I still have it after five years and we have
6 several of these around the county that are not
7 necessarily trailers, but some just abandoned
8 dwellings that are just hanging around and are
9 basically nuisances and as long as -- dealing with
10 this, I think we ought to maybe look at dealing with
11 some abandoned property that is just -- could be --
12 kids could get in and get hurt. I know this one
13 particular one has a hole in the side of it where a
14 guy drove a truck through it trying to kill his
15 girlfriend or his wife. I don't know. But they
16 were cooking meth in it and I thought whenever they
17 cooked meth, it would be taken away. Wrong. I
18 talked to the sheriff about it. It's one of these
19 that fell through the cracks, but I understand there
20 is some areas, some other -- still in the county
21 that's like that.

22 And as far as electing commissioners by
23 district, I'm not going to say one way or another.
24 The only thing I will say, the major thing that we
25 need to address is we need a representative from

1 Dade County at the State level. We can share Martin
2 with anybody we want to, but guys, we -- I mean,
3 Mr. Mullis with anybody we want to, but we need --
4 every county in the State of Georgia needs a
5 representative to have a voice and this is something
6 that they'll whip us to death with and there's no
7 state that I know of that has to share a senator or
8 a representative with another state, but we're doing
9 it with our counties and this is something that's
10 very important to us because if we ever get anything
11 across this barrier over here, this mountain, we're
12 going to have a voice here and we just don't have
13 political clout to pull it at this point in time to
14 elect one that will speak for us from our county.
15 But I really think this is -- this is the major
16 concern that I have is we send them our taxes, but
17 we don't get much representation.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you. Anyone else?
19 Any more comments from the commissioners?

20 MR. LOWERY: I think Senator Mullis
21 does a pretty good job working with us. I will say
22 that.

23 MR. RUMLEY: What now?

24 MR. LOWERY: I thank Senator Mullis
25 does do a good job.

1 MR. RUMLEY: He does, but you can
2 understand. I know I found it when I actually ran
3 for office, state office. We're just one-third
4 of --

5 MR. LOWERY: Stepchild.

6 MR. RUMLEY: No matter if I carried 100
7 percent of Dade County, you know, you've got, you
8 know, the majority and it's hard for them to vote
9 for a person that you're not one of them. Hopefully
10 one day it may change. I don't know. Hopefully.

11 MR. LOWERY: We're 16,000. They're 69
12 and 80,0000.

13 MR. RUMLEY: That's right. You can
14 knock on all the doors you want over there. If
15 there's nothing else, I entertain a motion to
16 adjourn.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I ask a
18 question? On the decals for the trailers, whatever,
19 how is that going to be taken care of, followed up
20 on when they're pulled in at night, they're sitting
21 there probably no septic tank, fill lines, whatever
22 and there's four at least, how are you or Jane
23 Moreland, she has no record that they're there.

24 MR. RUMLEY: What they're doing though,
25 they're going to pick them up on the power, you

1 know, when they actually apply for power like for a
2 temporary power for the --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They have a
4 temporary thing there, I think.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah. Like when they
6 change the meter out, they report it. And also on
7 the sewer permits, you know, if they have a permit.
8 And then also the Assessor's Office, they are
9 actually -- they've been doing it. They've actually
10 got little door hangers they've been hanging on
11 doors and then our -- Alex back there, he --

12 MR. CASE: Address.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah. The address, if
14 they actually apply for an address, they're going to
15 get their mail. If they've got a P.O. Box, but an
16 address. So there's several ways. That really
17 hasn't been kept up with, but we're just going to do
18 the best we can do. That's the way we're going to
19 approach.

20 MR. LOWERY: But we didn't have a law
21 to enforce it either, did we?

22 MR. RUMLEY: Not particularly to do
23 anything.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There was years
25 ago with the Health Department or who, but someone

1 came around and checked.

2 MR. RUMLEY: That's a good question.
3 If there's nothing further, I'll entertain a motion
4 to adjourn.

5 MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we
6 adjourn.

7 MR. LOWERY: Second.

8 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call the vote. Mr.
9 Lowery?

10 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

12 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

14 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

16 MR. GOFF: Yes.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes. I
18 appreciate all of you.

19 END OF PROCEEDING
20
21
22
23
24
25

