

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

DADE COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 5, 2009

1 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I want to call this
2 meeting to order. Before we get started, I want to
3 recognize our Boy Scouts back in the back. We've
4 got a Boy Scout group. Before they leave, pat them
5 on the back. Tell them you appreciate them coming.
6 I think y'all are working on a merit badge, right?
7 What troop number are you?

8 THE TROOP: Eighty-four.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Eighty-four. Okay. We're
10 sure glad to have you. You're welcome here anytime.

11 Before we get started, I would like to
12 have a word of prayer and also say the Pledge of
13 Allegiance to the flag. I would like -- when we do
14 the Pledge after the prayer, I would the Scouts, if
15 they would, to lead us in the Pledge and I would
16 like for everyone to stand, if they would. I would
17 ask Robert Goff to lead us in prayer, if he would.

18 (Thereupon, the invocation and
19 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

20 MR. RUMLEY: This is the regularly
21 scheduled meeting which takes place at the same time
22 on the first Thursday of every month. Proper notice
23 of this meeting was given in the legal organ in Dade
24 County and has been posted in the hallway of the
25 Administration Building. At this time I need a roll

1 call. Mr. Lowery?

2 MR. LOWERY: Here.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

4 MR. CERVELLI: Here.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

6 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

8 MR. GOFF: Here.

9 MR. RUMLEY: And Mr. Rumley is here.

10 The reading of the minutes, the previous month's
11 minutes of February of the regular meeting will not
12 be required since all Commissioners have been
13 furnished with copies in advance. All of you do
14 have your copies, right, Lamar, everyone?

15 Okay. The minutes are public record
16 and available for review in the county executive's
17 office, which is our office here. You're welcome
18 here anytime and they are available. Come by
19 anytime. We do have copies of not only the previous
20 month's minutes, but any previous minutes back
21 whatever year you need. The minutes are included in
22 the consent agenda.

23 At this time, I would like for Don to
24 go over the consent agenda that we just discussed
25 and then I will ask a motion to approve the consent

1 agenda.

2 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. The consent
3 agenda consists of the regular agenda as presented,
4 the approval of previous meeting minutes, the
5 appointment of Peter Cervelli to the Board of
6 Health, the appointment of Fred Stevens to the
7 Industrial Development Board, the hiring or approval
8 of seasonal park employee, proclamation for law
9 enforcement week executed by the Optimist Club, the
10 Ordinance 03-05-09 amendment, Timber Operations
11 Ordinance, ordinance -- first reading of Ordinance
12 04-02-09 supplement to the Code of Ordinances, the
13 approval of West Brow Fire Department to authorize
14 the tentative purchase upon their review of a fire
15 truck and House Resolution 4, the passage of a
16 resolution to support a resolution passed by the
17 General Assembly as an amendment to the State shall
18 not be bound by any future general laws, etc.,
19 pertaining to the future laws of the State requiring
20 expenditures of county funds at any time the General
21 Assembly has not appropriated and made available to
22 the County sufficient funds to enable the counties
23 to comply with such laws to provide for sufficient
24 of the amendment of ratification or rejection and
25 for all purposes.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Don. Any
2 questions? Peter, Robert, Scottie, Lamar? At this
3 time I'll entertain a motion to approve the consent
4 agenda.

5 MR. PITTMAN: I'll make a motion we
6 approve the consent agenda as read.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I have a motion.
8 Do I hear a second?

9 MR. GOFF: I'll second.

10 MR. RUMLEY: I have a second. I'll
11 call the roll. Mr. Cervelli?

12 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

14 MR. GOFF: Yes.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

16 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

18 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

19 MR. RUMLEY: And the chairman votes
20 yes.

21 Okay. At this time we'll move down to
22 2A, district commissioner's committee reports.
23 We'll start with Mr. Lowery.

24 MR. LOWERY: Can you come back to me?

25 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. We'll start with

1 Mr. Cervelli there on the other end.

2 MR. CERVELLI: Thank you. I just want
3 to mention again that we're going to be holding a
4 series of community meetings in District 4. The
5 first one will be in the New Salem Community Center
6 on March 17th. All these meetings will be at
7 7:00 p.m. The second one will be March 19th in
8 the West Brow Community Center. The third one will
9 be in Piney Grove Baptist Church on March 26th and
10 I'm still working on trying to finalize a date for a
11 meeting out in the Head River Community.

12 The purpose of the meetings is
13 basically to work with each one of the communities
14 to understand their unique needs and concerns, what
15 they want, what they don't want for their
16 communities and to build up over time a plan, a
17 story, a vision for what each community has for
18 itself. The first set of meetings, the ones I just
19 talked about, are going to focus on two topics,
20 public safety and transportation. So if you're a
21 member of those communities, please come. This will
22 only work if the community is willing to come out
23 and say what's on their mind and allow us then to
24 try and understand how we might be able to serve the
25 needs of each of those communities.

1 There's not going to be a promise that
2 will come out of desires that we might hear, but it
3 will at least be a vision and plan in terms of we
4 know what each community wants or doesn't want for
5 themselves. So, again, March 17th, New Salem, March
6 19th, West Brow, and March 26th down in the Piney
7 Community. County Executive Ted Rumley will be
8 there as well as the sheriff and various members of
9 the county staff to talk about public safety and
10 transportation and to answer questions of the
11 community.

12 The other thing I wanted to mention is
13 that we -- County Executive Rumley and myself met
14 with the DNR down in Canyon Ridge Park Estates
15 looking at a flooding problem down there and I
16 think -- and Ted can correct me. I believe DNR
17 believes that there is some work that could possibly
18 be done to ameliorate some of the flooding issues
19 when there's really heavy rain and water coming out
20 of that canyon. And so we're waiting to hear from
21 DNR in terms of what they think needs to get done
22 and get their experts down and do all the ecological
23 studies, etc. So for the people in that community,
24 the problem is being addressed and we'll see how it
25 progresses.

1 We've also had some concerns about
2 litter up on the mountain and Commissioner Rumley
3 helped me on that one today and it looks like we may
4 be able to get the problem solved that's taking
5 place up there, so there's some success in that area
6 as well.

7 The last thing I wanted to talk about
8 is probably the most important issue in District 4
9 and that is my wife is here tonight. Betty, wave.
10 It's our 15th anniversary tonight and so --

11 MR. RUMLEY: Give them a hand. We need
12 to give her an award.

13 MR. CERVELLI: Well, the truth be
14 known, she deserves one quite frankly. Fifteen
15 years. It seems like no more than ten. No. Thank
16 you, Betty, for an interesting 15 years. I look
17 forward to the next 15. So that's the report from
18 District 4.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Peter. That
20 was a good report. Mr. Goff, can you top that?

21 MR. GOFF: He used some words I don't
22 know what they mean. One thing I would -- it's not
23 on a committee or even a district, but it's on a
24 county wide. I would like to take just a moment to
25 offer congratulations to the boys basketball team

1 here in Dade County. Most of you know by now, they
2 are going to the third round in the state playoffs
3 in Rome this coming Saturday at 5:30. I think
4 arguably one of the best games in any sport and I'm
5 not really a basketball fan, but last was played
6 here in Dade County. I don't know where you could
7 go anywhere to beat what took place here. But that
8 is something positive in our school and I think they
9 should be -- you know, anytime you see them, any of
10 the students, like these young men back here, that's
11 positive and I'm just so -- I'm proud of them. I'm
12 proud for what they've done and just keep pushing
13 them. They've got at least one more and I hope
14 three more games to go and bring a state
15 championship back to Dade County. They've done so
16 well.

17 It's been a busy month actually. I did
18 talk with David Swader a little bit at the first of
19 the month, trying to find ideas for the four fields
20 and the soccer fields to bring in types of things
21 that will bring in revenue to the county through
22 that department, through the Recreation Department.
23 That was something, I think, that was intended all
24 along, but it's hard to get some of those things
25 going, but I've been talking about that.

1 A couple of issues that I've become
2 acquainted more with this month that affect a lot of
3 citizens in the county, one of them is the -- I
4 spent all day in Atlanta with one of the citizens
5 concerning the mineral rights to the landowners in
6 Dade County. Of course, a lot of the land is tied
7 up by land barrens, I guess, and they own the
8 mineral rights to it and there's just a lot of
9 questions. But if you are interested in that and
10 you would like to get with me, it doesn't matter
11 whose district you're from, if that's something of
12 interest, I can tell you what we heard, maybe what
13 we're looking for or what some of the landowners are
14 looking for in owning their own mineral rights.

15 Secondly, it has come to my attention
16 through a few of my constituents of the changes in
17 the floodplain in Dade County through FEMA. They
18 came in and did a whole new study and that's
19 affecting a lot of people, not only the ones living
20 on the creek necessarily, but anywhere in the county
21 that you may live in a low area. So that's just
22 something that's of concern to people and, again, if
23 you have a question and would like to see where we
24 are.

25 There was actually a bill and I sent an

1 E-mail to someone in the ACCG concerning this Bill
2 169 and that bill was simply, I think, to make the
3 DNR, who was mentioned here a minute ago, be
4 responsible when FEMA does this to at least notify
5 the landowner that your floodplain has changed where
6 you live and also give you a course of appeal where
7 you need to go. And it's my understanding from an
8 e-mail that I received yesterday that it did pass in
9 the House and the Senate. It's in the Committee
10 right now, but it will become law and, therefore, at
11 least when these things are done, they will have to
12 notify people and it doesn't -- it's something that
13 doesn't necessarily slip up on you and then you'll
14 know what to do when you get there, what course you
15 have to take to appeal if you think you're living
16 higher than the flood is ever going to come. So
17 that affects a lot of people here in the county as
18 well.

19 So that's just some of the things that
20 we've done this month and I appreciate everybody
21 being here tonight and I just hope that you continue
22 to come and support your community and your
23 government. Thank you.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Scottie?

25 MR. PITTMAN: Okay. I've been talking

1 with Billy Massengale, our recycle, everything is
2 down. All the -- the aluminum cans is down 55 cents
3 a pound. The steel is down \$8 a ton or \$8 a
4 hundred. Cardboard and newspaper, it's down close
5 to \$100 a ton, but the good news is it's starting to
6 come back up and if it stays down, it's going to
7 reflect on our budget because we did estimate some
8 of our recycling. Hopefully, it will make a trend
9 and come back up. I'll keep you up to date on that.

10 Everything else is going good at the
11 Transfer Station. I haven't had any complaints on
12 the Monday closings. I'm sure there are people that
13 it will take a little time to get used to it, but
14 there was a lot less negative feedback on that than
15 the dollar a carload. That was a hot subject.

16 Just everything looks good at the
17 Transfer Station. I want to commend Billy on the
18 job he does down there, his people do. They keep
19 the place -- for a City dump or a County dump, it
20 really looks nice. Thank you, Billy, and that's all
21 I've got.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Lamar?

23 MR. MASSENGALE: It's the men taking
24 care of it.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

1 MR. LOWERY: No. I'm on the Buildings
2 Committee and I've started with the library and the
3 library was in good shape. There was a lot of
4 lights out, just minor maintenance. Bruce is going
5 to help us get that took care of. Then I made the
6 mistake of going to the old courthouse. I found out
7 right quick if you want to know what is leaking at
8 the courthouse, you've got to see which way it
9 rained the last time because if it's blowing from
10 the south, it leaks on the south. If it blows from
11 the west, it leaks on the west. So we're going to
12 try our best to do a little bit more with the
13 windows and have a temporary fix until hopefully we
14 get our new courthouse going.

15 I think we're all on this Finance
16 Committee, aren't we, Ted? This is what we all
17 worry about is our budgets and things that have been
18 passed. This past month we all heard about this
19 homeowner's tax relief grant that we didn't think --
20 we didn't know we were going to get it for a while.
21 We were all in Atlanta and we heard the Governor
22 speak and the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the
23 House and the Governor just basically said nobody
24 had shown me where that money is coming from and he
25 was going to --

1 MR. RUMLEY: He was not for it.

2 MR. LOWERY: He was not for it. Well,
3 it didn't show up until the stimulus check hit the
4 doors and that's when we got our homeowner's tax
5 relief back. I said all that to say this, too.
6 There was a new bill passed. It was signed by the
7 governor on February 17th. It's the
8 homeowners' -- it's the HP143 and it's dealing with
9 the homeowners' tax grant and the rules have
10 changed. Now, the budget has to grow by
11 three percent or we will not get that grant and our
12 budget is not going to grow this year. I mean, it's
13 pretty -- everybody knows the budgets are headed
14 down.

15 I noticed in yesterday's paper, the
16 governor said in his new budget, which starts in
17 July of '09, which this bill deals with, that he
18 will use a billion dollars of that stimulus check,
19 plus he'll cut Medicare, Medicaid funding by 180,
20 90 billion dollars, something to that effect. The
21 one thing that bothers me about this bill worse than
22 anything -- and I think the world of Martin Scott,
23 Representative Scott and Jeff Mullis. I agree with
24 them on a lot of things, but this is not right.
25 This bill that they passed and Martin and Jeff both

1 voted for it and I'm going to talk to them about it
2 and tell them that I don't appreciate this one
3 section in here because I feel like it's not a
4 transparency in government. It's an attempt to make
5 us look like we're raising taxes.

6 What they did was this homeowners' tax
7 grant is about 2 to \$300 on average per household.
8 That's pretty well understood. So that means each
9 one of us that owns a home probably next year are
10 going to be looking at a \$200 or \$300 increase. And
11 the section that's buried back here about three
12 pages deep that really bothers me, it says when the
13 funds are appropriated as provided in this code, in
14 this bill, we'll follow the procedures in the Code
15 36-89-4, which basically says if they give us that
16 homeowners' tax relief grant, on our tax bills you
17 have to write on there that this money was given to
18 you by the Governor and by the General Assembly with
19 an amount out there. But what really bothers me the
20 worst about any of it is it says when funds are not
21 appropriated, each fiscal authority, being our
22 Commission and our Tax Commissioner, shall not
23 follow those procedures line in that code section
24 and shall not include a notice on each tax bill
25 regarding the unavailability of that credit.

1 Basically what we're going to have to
2 do is send you out a tax bill with a 2 or \$300
3 increase and we're not going to be able to put a
4 reason on there why. That's not right and I don't
5 appreciate it. I don't think it's right at all.
6 That's not transparency in government.

7 MR. RUMLEY: What he means by that,
8 too, that don't mean you're going to get this.
9 That's if it does not pass next year, if they do not
10 fund it. They passed it this year. If they
11 actually do not pass this to fund this, they're
12 putting it right back on you, on us.

13 MR. LOWERY: And they don't want us to
14 tell you that in your tax bill. It's a law. We
15 can't tell you that in your tax bill, but you can
16 believe I'll be beating the papers to death with it
17 if they'll let me write it. Okay. We made -- our
18 share of it, I think, what was it, 260 something
19 thousand dollars?

20 MR. RUMLEY: 256, I believe, 256,080 or
21 something.

22 MR. LOWERY: I don't know if we could
23 cut that much more out of the budget to cover the
24 State's portion.

25 MR. RUMLEY: It's like 342,000 for the

1 school.

2 MR. LOWERY: Yeah. It's 342,000 for
3 the school and they're pinched, too. But this is
4 not transparency in government right here. That law
5 should have never been made. And what it is, the
6 reason I don't think we'll get it because this same
7 bill says our budget has to grow by three percent a
8 year before we would be eligible for it and that's
9 not happening next year. But if you see your state
10 representatives, tell them that's not right.

11 MR. RUMLEY: It will give them a year
12 to work on it, won't it? Anything else going on?

13 MR. LOWERY: That's why I wore my red
14 tie. I got tore up when I was getting dressed
15 today.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Well, on my report, it's
17 been a busy month. Everything that -- everything
18 that these Commissioners are talking about, I've
19 been right on board with them, right in the middle
20 trying to help them. We've been to Atlanta together
21 several times. The media even went with us one
22 time, Evan Stone and Eddie Gifford was also going
23 with us, but we got -- it was on the 19th, I think
24 it was, and they canceled that with Jeff Mullis.
25 We've been really trying to work on the stimulus

1 money, trying to get -- you know, it's passed, but
2 it seems like every week they're changing the rules
3 as to how it's going to funnel down or who's going
4 to handle it. So we're just trying to see if we can
5 get any of it. Hopefully, we will. I feel that we
6 will get some.

7 We have started the dirt work here,
8 fixing to bid it out on the -- where the new
9 courthouse is going. I don't know if you noticed,
10 but we took the old building down down there a
11 couple of weeks ago where the maintenance barn had
12 to go. We thought we were going to be able to keep
13 that, but the way the layout of the building, it was
14 impossible to do that.

15 We've been to -- Peter and I, we've
16 been to RDC meetings, FPO meetings pertaining to the
17 stimulus. We don't have any positive reports, but
18 there's no definite no. So hopefully, like I said,
19 we can get something out of that.

20 As Peter said, we met with the
21 Department of Natural Resources with the Cloudland
22 Canyon there about the flooding over in the
23 Canyonland Estates and that's been a problem for
24 years and years. It's not that we can eliminate
25 that problem, but there's a stream that is changing

1 its route and running directly into some houses over
2 there that's normally not happened over the years
3 and we walked up in the canyon area and found
4 that -- it's just a dry bed right now. You would
5 think you could go over there and in an hour fix it,
6 but we found out that we've got -- according to the
7 DNR when they contacted me back, they turned it over
8 to the EPD to get a permit and the EPD said, well,
9 we've got to go to the Army Corps of Engineers, so
10 that's going to take probably a month to get them in
11 here and to tell us -- it's only an area about as
12 long as this room. Well, maybe twice as long as
13 this room, so it could be a big deal. It shouldn't
14 be, but it could be. By anyway, we worked on that
15 and just the -- did you talk about the subdivision
16 out on the mountain, about the Flintstone by the
17 College?

18 MR. CERVELLI: I didn't.

19 MR. RUMLEY: This is another thing
20 that's happening. For years they've had sewer
21 problems there in the Flintstone Subdivision and the
22 college is actually in charge or the responsible
23 party for maintaining that and actually it's
24 strange. The sewer itself belongs to Dade County
25 Water and Sewer. They are the owners. There was an

1 agreement years ago that was signed whereas they
2 would be the owner, but the college would maintain
3 it. Well, they've got a lot of problems out there
4 as far as the old clay pipes and it's just a
5 nightmare. I've seen some pictures you wouldn't
6 believe in a fellow's bathroom. It's ridiculous.
7 But we're trying to help them on some grants,
8 anything we can do and we're having some pretty
9 positive feedback on some -- I think the emergency
10 grant or whatever. The college is going to
11 contribute 150,000 I think they said. So anyway,
12 we're working on that. We've spent quite a bit of
13 time on that trying to help those people.

14 MR. CERVELLI: And if I might add,
15 Walker County, I spoke with the attorney, Don Oliver
16 today, and he might actually have a reason for them
17 to step up and do some help, but I'll discuss that
18 with you, so things are looking up.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Also, City of Lookout
20 Mountain on the Georgia side, they've got -- because
21 the agreement is if they can bring it up to par, the
22 Dade County Water and Sewer will be out of the
23 picture, actually Dade County, and the City of
24 Lookout Mountain will agree to take the whole system
25 over, so that would be a blessing to everyone

1 really.

2 So it's been a busy month. And, of
3 course, answering the phone just daily is pretty
4 busy. I don't know if we've ever realized how many
5 phone calls just that office right here in the
6 corner gets, but you get a lot of calls and I
7 welcome them because I'm there for you and I'm there
8 to hopefully answer your questions. I don't always
9 give you the answer you want, but I'm not hard to
10 find. I appreciate you calling and I appreciate
11 y'all being here because it makes us feel good, as I
12 say at every meeting, to fill this thing up because
13 it shows us you're concerned and that's what it's
14 all about.

15 Saying that, I want to move along here
16 down to 3, 3A. We have the mayor here, Barton
17 Harris tonight, which we're glad to have him here as
18 our city representative, mayor. I don't know
19 whether a lot of you know, but Barton a few weeks
20 ago, he had a heart attack and I think we ought to
21 give him a hand just for being here. He scared a
22 lot of people because it was a bad one. So, Barton,
23 go ahead and we're just glad you're here.

24 MR. HARRIS: Well, I'm tickled to be
25 here. Robert kind of stole my thunder. As you see,

1 I did not wear a tie tonight. I opted up for the
2 Dade County Wolverines, my hat and shirt and stuff
3 like that. You can correct me if I'm wrong, but if
4 you wasn't at the ballgame last night, I don't think
5 Dade County led that ballgame until the second
6 overtime and at five minutes to go in the ballgame,
7 we were 17 points down. You talk about exciting.
8 For a fellow that just had a heart attack, I had to
9 sit down a few times, but it was real exciting.

10 Some other news kind of off subject
11 from the City, our school system, I want to brag on
12 them for a minute. Writing scores come in today.
13 The eighth grade writing, 95 percent passed. Last
14 year it was 93 and we placed fourth in the state.
15 We're looking this year -- Ms. Patty was talking
16 about it this morning, maybe doing a little better,
17 so that's really an accomplishment and I mentioned
18 that I was thankful they didn't have me doing their
19 writing for them because they would not have passed.

20 But anyway, what's going on in the City
21 right now, we've been doing some cleanup projects
22 we're real pleased with. We've been out riding.
23 Some of the people that got letters, we have five
24 that's completed. Five that's what I consider in
25 process. We've got one or two -- one that hasn't

1 done anything, but we've got two other jobs that we
2 failed to get the notice to and one -- letter
3 because they do live here in Dade County, so we had
4 to send a letter to this person and the letter was
5 returned. But I was real pleased with the people
6 that's made an effort for cleanup and stuff like
7 that.

8 We did get our street scape. We got
9 our notice to proceed. The sad part about it, once
10 we proceed with the environmental impact studies,
11 planning and stuff like that, the first phase of
12 money, you'll probably see some, but not very much.
13 I hate to say that, but it will take a little while
14 to do this. Hopefully we'll get more money from the
15 State, but as most people knows, no better than this
16 group of fine gentlemen up here, most of the State
17 money is dried up pretty much and it's kind of left
18 up to us to do what we can.

19 We want to commend -- kind of back to
20 the first subject, the hiring of Lifeguard. As a
21 firsthand recipient of their care and traveling,
22 excellent job. Even before that, all I had heard
23 from everyone was good comments.

24 MR. CERVELLI: You drove yourself there
25 though, didn't you?

1 MR. HARRIS: Well, I drove myself to
2 the ambulance, but they took me the rest of the way.
3 Yes, I did. But things are looking good in the
4 City. Financially we're sound. We're still
5 watching our Ps and Qs. Everybody on their budgets,
6 you know, understand with the economic times like
7 they are, to watch how the money is being spent and,
8 you know, just be on their best behavior, good
9 stewards of the taxpayer money and you'll see some
10 more stuff coming from the City in the near future.
11 Peter, you're down there. What did I overlook? I
12 didn't make any notes tonight.

13 MR. CERVELLI: Perfect. You did a
14 perfect job.

15 MR. HARRIS: All right. Well, I want
16 to thank everybody that did pray for me or anybody
17 that -- I know there was some people that pitched in
18 and helped. Some people in this room stopped and
19 seen me, but a lot of prayers. I do appreciate it.
20 My wife appreciates it. Thank y'all.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Next we have
22 Mr. Tom Black. He's our recent appointee to the
23 Mental Health Board, State Mental Health Board.
24 Tom, do you want to come up and talk to us, give us
25 a little report? We would appreciate it.

1 MR. BLACK: Good evening,
2 Commissioners. Before I start, how many of you
3 bought Boy Scout popcorn? If you haven't, you
4 should have.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Didn't know they were
6 selling it.

7 MR. BLACK: They will this year. Guys,
8 I don't know whether y'all know it right real quick,
9 something really close to me, the Scout troop had a
10 lot of their equipment stolen in the trailer. If
11 you could spare a dollar, five dollars, ten dollars,
12 give it to Nathan. The boys need it. We've got
13 some fine young men that has been done wrong and we
14 would like to see it done right from the County,
15 from all the people here.

16 This is the board that you guys conned
17 me into taking. It's the Mental Health, Development
18 Disabilities and Addictive Diseases and if you look
19 at the acronym, it looks like mad dad. So basically
20 what it is, in your packet, I believe you have a
21 report. I think it says draft on the front of it.
22 This is now the final. It's not the draft anymore.
23 This was the only copy they gave me. We're
24 paperless now, so whenever I get something, this is
25 all we get or I'll have to print it off. But the

1 thing that's really disconcerting to me more than
2 anything else is on page three down toward the
3 bottom and where it says the description of the
4 region. And Region 1 covers 25 counties northwest
5 and west central Georgia with a total population of
6 approximately 1.3 million according to this 2007
7 census. Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital located
8 in Rome is the State designated hospital for this
9 group and we have one, Georgia Regional in Columbus,
10 but the one that really disturbed me was on down
11 where it said children and adolescents who need
12 inpatient services go to Central State Hospital in
13 Milledgeville and Atlanta Regional Hospital in
14 Decatur. The next statement is the one. These two
15 facilities are scheduled for closure.

16 Now, at this point in time, they're
17 working on month-to-month and this is a serious
18 problem. This is a group that is one of our mental
19 health facilities is 100 percent State funded and
20 this is another one of these things that if these
21 hospitals are closed, one person made the comment,
22 they're going to end up in one of two places.
23 They're either going to end up in jail or on the
24 streets and this is going to be a serious problem
25 for the counties where we have people that will be

1 coming back, particularly for our sheriff's
2 department and that, too. We have a crisis going
3 on. Y'all guys are not the only ones suffering
4 money shortages.

5 But as far as the mental health and
6 addictive disease, I'm just getting my feet wet. A
7 lot of things I'm finding out I don't like and I
8 don't think that you would like them, but I will try
9 to keep you up-to-date on what I find out. But I
10 think we need to be aware that these two facilities
11 are going to be closed and we may be looked to to
12 provide some funding to take care of some people.

13 We only have one -- we have a sole
14 provider in the county and that's Lookout Mountain
15 Community Services and I've attended their meetings
16 and they're like everyone else. Their budget is
17 being slashed and, you know, we're the only voice
18 that the people have and I will be an advocate for
19 that. Thank you, gentlemen, for giving me this
20 trust. Thank you.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you for your
22 service. Okay. Move down to number 4A, Don
23 Townsend, monthly finance report, please.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: All right. I tried to
25 get this working tonight and I apologize. It worked

1 right here, but I can't get it to communicate.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Before our next meeting,
3 we'll have it where you can review it and you can
4 see it on the screen.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: We've been working on
6 it. I think it's more the user than it is the
7 computer.

8 Okay. General fund account, we have
9 1,140,935; federal asset fund treasury moneys,
10 4,388; special sheriff's fund, 10,144; drug abuse
11 education fund, 17,047; supplemental juvenile
12 services fund, 13,606; victim assistance fund,
13 2,186; jail fund, 34,300; federal asset fund,
14 Department of Justice, \$159; payroll account,
15 104,631. This is -- these balances are as of
16 February 28th.

17 In the 2004 S.P.L.O.S.T, we have
18 principal and interest in the amount of \$1,356,693,
19 principal and interest investments, 198,000; P&I
20 debt services, 26,868; capital bond fund account,
21 72,834. New moneys we have -- 2009 S.P.L.O.S.T
22 funds, we have tax proceeds account of 142,642
23 combined investments. And the construction fund,
24 the total funds for construction is \$3,200,236. And
25 you see underneath the fire departments, the first

1 three are those that chose to lease. They will --
2 the later part of this year and also the fire
3 departments that have bonded their funds, the amount
4 of moneys spent. Davis currently has a balance
5 remaining of 198,702; New Home, 3,781; North Dade,
6 180,832 and West Brow, 201,750. New Home just
7 purchased a new tanker, I believe, a pumper, so
8 that's why theirs is significantly reduced there.

9 The next page is the certificates of
10 deposit. If you go over to the next page, you see
11 what we briefly discussed earlier and that's the
12 S.P.L.O.S.T tracking worksheet. I don't know if you
13 want to get any more detailed tonight about this,
14 but again, it's pretty much as we discussed earlier.
15 The remaining owed, 1,259,820 on the bonds of the
16 current S.P.L.O.S.T that we continue to collect from
17 and the balance as you see there for the different
18 funds, the City of Trenton, courthouse renovation,
19 justice building, library and the roads and bridges.

20 Next page is the P&I S.P.L.O.S.T, and
21 the following page is -- we haven't had as much
22 activity in the old S.P.L.O.S.T this year, but the
23 next page you'll find maybe interesting. The first
24 page, page one, two and three there discusses the
25 local option sales tax revenue. The following page

1 that has a purple line through it, that's special
2 purpose local option sales tax. I've put together
3 this. This is what I was hoping to show tonight.
4 Maybe next month, but this shows the different
5 revenues that we've been collecting over the period
6 from 2003 through the current date and if you go to
7 page two, you'll see that the month February 2008 we
8 collected \$159,319 and lost. This month -- and last
9 month in January '09 we collected \$107,872. This
10 month we did go up to 193,607. You've got to
11 realize local option sales tax is 80 percent of the
12 total amount collected on that penny. The other
13 20 percent goes to the City of Trenton directly into
14 their accounts.

15 Now, these numbers correlate into the
16 special purpose local option sales tax and you'll
17 see again that we were -- in January we collected
18 only 136,419, but the month of February we collected
19 241,615, so that was a pretty big jump. Those
20 numbers do represent December spending, so keep that
21 in mind and -- so that was a good thing for a
22 change. They actually are going back up. If you
23 look at February '08, we have collected 199,187 and
24 even in 2007 in February, it was 226,000, so 241,
25 that is an improvement over what we've seen,

1 however, I'm hesitant to get too excited about it.

2 MR. CERVELLI: If you average the two
3 months together, January and February, it's down.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Right.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: So we'll --

6 MR. RUMLEY: We're just now starting to
7 see because, see, they stay two months, over two
8 months behind.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: If you look at the next
10 page, the purple graph there with the yellow line,
11 it shows a steady increase and then we went back
12 down during the recession and it appears the line
13 may be coming a little flat, but time will tell.

14 MR. LOWERY: Explain the difference
15 between local option and special option.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: Local option sales tax
17 is a penny that's collected here in Dade County.
18 It's the fifth penny collected on our seven percent
19 sales tax. That penny directly -- for the County
20 directly offsets property tax. One hundred percent
21 of it goes to reduce property tax. We do not use it
22 for anything else. That's what the voters passed.
23 The sixth penny on the seven cents is -- or
24 seven percent is the local option sales tax -- I'm
25 sorry. The S.P.L.O.S.T, special purpose local

1 option sales tax, that is what is used for these
2 capital outlay projects that we were discussing
3 earlier, the library, roads, courthouse, different
4 things like that. This has an intended purpose.

5 The seventh cent is the -- what some
6 call now the E.L.O.S.T or the S.P.L.O.S.T that the
7 school board uses for capital outlay projects.
8 Property taxes, we've collected so far this year
9 \$1,804,665. That's at basically 61 percent of
10 what -- of the total amount. Now, normally that
11 would be around 64.7 percent, so it is down about
12 three and a half percent or so, 3.7 percent, so it
13 would equate to about 110,000, but with this I'm
14 talking about property tax and traditionally -- not
15 traditionally. We ultimately will collect that.

16 In the future, which will become prior
17 years, but anything collected in the future would
18 contain interest and penalties as well. It is a
19 little bit slower, but I believe Commissioner
20 Moreland, the Tax Commissioner, has been working
21 with the public to see that, you know, everyone has
22 a fair chance to pay their taxes and she hasn't been
23 pushing them into a corner.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Don. Any
25 questions? We've all pretty well went over it.

1 Also, if you do -- I know that was real fast and
2 it's hard to understand, but there again, you know,
3 we do have copies of this. If you come by the
4 office, we'll gladly let you have a copy of this
5 where you can actually take it home and have time to
6 look it over and if you don't understand or have a
7 question, you can call Don and talk to him, myself.
8 We'll be glad to explain.

9 Moving right along, at this time I need
10 a motion to approve the monthly finance and
11 investments report.

12 MR. LOWERY: I make that motion.

13 MR. RUMLEY: I have a motion. Do I
14 hear a second?

15 MR. PITTMAN: I second.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I have a second.
17 We'll vote. Mr. Lowery?

18 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

22 MR. GOFF: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

24 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes.

1 Okay. Moving on down, we really don't have anything
2 under the -- on the agenda except down to the
3 citizen's participation. We'll allow you to come up
4 and talk to us. We'll give you five minutes. Come
5 up to the mic and at this time we see some hands,
6 someone that wants to talk to us.

7 MR. FAGAN: It's going to be hard to
8 cover this in five minutes, but I'll be as brief as
9 I can. How many people are here tonight in response
10 to their electric bill?

11 MR. RUMLEY: Tell them who are, Jerry.

12 MR. FAGAN: Jerry Fagan. I was in
13 Florida last week on vacation. I guess a lot of
14 people in this county are just wealthy and don't
15 have any problems with anything, but my phone rang
16 continuously from people down there regarding and
17 saying I'm going to be there and I'll give you
18 individual cases where the exorbitant bills without
19 basic justification. I could stand here and give
20 you figures. The reason this information concerns
21 me -- it seems kind of irregular to bring it before
22 the County Commission, but I feel -- and I invited
23 the TV people to be out here because I think it is a
24 news story and the squeaking wheel gets the grease
25 and I think there should be a lot more squeaking and

1 squawking going on because if you might look at my
2 personal bill, I could just pay it and like Henry
3 David Thoreau and live in quiet desperation. I've
4 talked to a lot of people that just had it drafted
5 out of their account. They're not aware of how much
6 their electric bill was until they actually went and
7 looked.

8 But the inconsistency of these new
9 meters -- and by the way, just for your information,
10 most people look at a public utility as being a part
11 of the government. It isn't about greed. It isn't
12 about corruption, but let's go back and be reminded
13 of Enron which was nothing but a utility broker,
14 which stole \$100 billion and walked away.

15 Georgia Power is, in fact, owned by
16 Southern Company. You can Google it. They're one
17 of the highest profit making companies in the four
18 states in the southern region, Alabama, South
19 Carolina, Georgia and, I believe, Mississippi. So
20 it is a publicly traded stock. At this point in
21 time, there's very little regulation.

22 I have a new home that I'm constructing
23 over here and I had my permanent service put in in
24 January and in January -- I've got kerosene heat in
25 there. I've got four lights burning, 150 watt bulb

1 that burns at night just to keep paint from
2 freezing. Now, during that period of time, the
3 kilowatt hour usage on that meter, which is so
4 deadly accurate as they allege, according to that,
5 the basic bill is \$13. So in a month of running
6 grinders, planers, skill saws, air compressors, I
7 used \$2 worth of electricity. I have the bill right
8 here. Now, wouldn't y'all like to have a meter like
9 that on your house? The amount of this bill -- the
10 reason I'm here, I think the Commissioners if you
11 live in a district, you should make a plea with your
12 personal commissioner to notify the Public Service
13 Commission in Atlanta, Georgia, that these bills are
14 unsound. They're unjustified. They're totally
15 inaccurate. There's no way that I could use
16 electricity a month and only be billed \$15.

17 Now, on my permanent residence, my
18 electric bill last -- year before last -- I have the
19 bills here if anybody would like to look at them.
20 You might need to look at your own. And the bill
21 down there, I had a recording studio, a Jacuzzi tub,
22 a well pump running to a small lake and nothing has
23 changed at my house except I have cut back some of
24 my luxuries. The bill was \$49 and this same month,
25 this month, last month was 214. I have a wood

1 furnace. I have people that call me personally
2 here, a gentleman, he lives up on the mountain.
3 Last month -- month before last his electric bill
4 was \$314. He went to Wal-Mart somewhere and he
5 bought kerosene heaters and installed them in his
6 mobile home and cut off his heat pump in his mobile
7 home this month. His bill was \$275.

8 I own a home on Piney Road. I've got a
9 bill here if you would like to look at this. This
10 is a testimony of the fact of the inaccuracy of this
11 and the fact that you just blindly pay these bills
12 and don't question them. We're being ripped off.

13 My next concern is this, attaining an
14 attorney and filing a class action suit against
15 Georgia Power and I think if everybody will look at
16 this, if you're talking about every issue that they
17 talked about up here was not having money for it.
18 The reason being is Georgia Power has got all the
19 money, folks.

20 MR. RUMLEY: You've got about 30
21 seconds.

22 MR. FAGAN: So I'm appealing to you,
23 Mr. Lowery, as representing the people in that, to
24 notify the Public Service Commission that there is a
25 major unrest up here and I'll finish by saying this,

1 I have a home over here, the gentleman -- is Ken
2 Dagnan here tonight? His electric bill when I
3 remodeled that house throughout was about \$130 a
4 month. That bill is now \$300 a month. It's
5 thermopane windows, 13 SER heat pump, so it makes me
6 look like a rotten landlord and I don't know how to
7 build a house and they come out and give you lip
8 service about a shorted-out water heater or
9 electricity going through the ground. It's
10 nonsense. I'm sure there's other people that's
11 going to have some statements that will back up what
12 I'm saying here. Thank you.

13 I would like to summarize this here and
14 I'll ask to prove my point. You live at Fagan
15 Place, correct? Have you seen a lightbulb on at the
16 clubhouse? I have a community clubhouse with a
17 swimming pool that we run in the summer. The bill
18 in the summer is about -- with the lights running,
19 with my bar, with my pool pump is about \$70 a month.
20 Do y'all drive by the clubhouse? Have you seen a
21 lightbulb on? No, you haven't because the main is
22 shut off. I've got a bill right here for \$68 with
23 the main breaker cut off.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Have you called Georgia
25 Power?

1 MR. FAGAN: They've been --

2 MR. RUMLEY: We have some
3 representatives from Georgia Power here tonight.

4 MR. FAGAN: They come out and they give
5 lip service because they work for Georgia Power, so
6 it's a surge underground. If that much electricity
7 is going in the ground -- in other words, they're
8 alleging everything other than saying -- but when I
9 questioned them -- I haven't questioned them about
10 this particular reading on this here, but they are
11 saying that your old meter, it didn't work properly.
12 They were too slow, so just now we're getting our
13 true electric bill. How about that, folks?

14 MR. CERVELLI: Have you contacted the
15 Public Service Commission?

16 MR. FAGAN: Well, I'm here to ask
17 because I think and I asked the TV people out here
18 because I think if people -- I don't know how many
19 people read the Dade County Sentinel, but everybody
20 that -- there's an overwhelming number of people.
21 Folks, we're talking about 100 percent increase here
22 pretty much across the board. With every tenant
23 that rents from me, they're showing -- they're here
24 tonight. This is not just a disgruntled -- I can
25 afford my electric bill, but my tenants get to the

1 point to where -- I was at Georgia Power the other
2 day. A 75-year-old lady, we're looking at a time
3 here -- and they told her, they said, ma'am, we're
4 sorry, but we're going to have to discontinue your
5 service. She's on social security. She lives up
6 here on the mountain. Her electric bill is \$328.
7 So it's now a choice of food and medicine. It's
8 going to be a choice of food and staying warm. I
9 suggest that everybody look at your electric bill.
10 The more you conserve here, it seems like the more
11 we're paying.

12 So, once again, it appears to me it's
13 corporate greed, it's uncontrolled, unregulated and
14 we need to address the Public Service Commission as
15 a unit, not as an individual. Thank you.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Either one of you.

17 MR. STEEL: I'm John Steel. I live at
18 Fagan Place. I'll be real brief. I've got a bill
19 here when this thing started going. One year ago,
20 this bill is from 12/26, one year again my power
21 bill was \$111.99. I live in an 800-square-foot
22 home. I burn wood for heat. I work pretty much all
23 during the day. My girlfriend, she don't get home
24 until 7:30, 8:00 every night. She works.
25 Everything is pretty much shut down during the day.

1 I have this lady right here, this good friend of
2 mine go to my house about 3:00 or 4:00 in the
3 afternoon and build a little fire where it won't
4 be -- on cold, cold, cold days to knock it out. The
5 next month my bill turned into \$201.04. The
6 previous month it was \$104.51. Like Mr. Fagan said,
7 he's had his -- I know for a fact. I was with him
8 when he done it. I helped him work on his place. I
9 lived -- I've known him for 25 years. I've worked
10 with him in Atlanta. I helped him build the home he
11 lives in. Something is wrong here, people.

12 Mr. Lowery, I ask you, sir, get in
13 touch with the Georgia Public Service Commission.
14 Get these people up here. Let's help these people.
15 There's people that can't even afford their light
16 bill. One lady told me outside, she called Atlanta
17 and the first thing they asked her, well, when did
18 you get laid off.

19 People is having to choose between
20 heat, food, life and death. We're in a state of
21 emergency about this. As y'all gentlemen know, I've
22 heard it all night long, money, money, money is
23 dried up in Atlanta, this, that and the other.
24 Well, guess what, for the working people out here in
25 Dade County, it's dried up, too. I'm having to go

1 to Knoxville every week to work, repossess mobile
2 homes. There's 700 of them we've got a contract to
3 redo in the Knoxville area alone, people losing
4 their homes. We need some help with this, sir, and
5 I'm asking you for your help. You told me when I
6 voted for you, you would help me if we've got a
7 problem. Sir, we have a problem. Thank you.

8 MR. JONES: My name is Terry Jones and
9 I live at Fagan Place also. I can verify what
10 Mr. Fagan said about the power being turned off at
11 the clubhouse.

12 I promised my girlfriend I wasn't going
13 to say this. I'm 64 years old and in December I got
14 the highest power bill I've ever got in my life. I
15 live in an 800-square-foot home. I live in
16 darkness. I was raised in old school, when you turn
17 a light on, you turn it off. John can verify that,
18 too. But I don't waste electricity.

19 John and I had an audit done on our
20 electricity and the meters were right. The story
21 the man gave me was when he came out before they put
22 the test meter on was if your meter is correct and
23 your hot water heater is functioning properly and
24 you're -- what you've told me is the truth, then you
25 need to get ahold of your electrician. The

1 electrician that wired these houses is here. He's
2 telling that our power is running out on the ground.
3 Now, it's not rocket science to know that if your
4 electricity is running out on the ground, you're not
5 going to be able to walk because it's going to shock
6 you and if it's wet, it will electrocute you.

7 MR. RUMLEY: That person, was he from
8 Georgia Power that came out?

9 MR. JONES: I won't mention his name
10 because he's not here to defend himself, but all we
11 got, as Jerry said, was lip service. That's all.
12 Now, after I complained, my bill went from -- first,
13 let me say this. All right. For the last ten days
14 in November, I used 58 kilowatts. The next 30 days,
15 according to them, I used 2,076 kilowatts. I went
16 to the power company office and she got a readout on
17 my meter for the next 21 days while I was standing
18 right there. All right. Keep in mind, for 30 days
19 I used 2,076 kilowatts. The next 21 days I only
20 used 1,092. Something is amiss. Something is wrong
21 here. And my bill has gone from 187. Then it went
22 down to 137 after I complained and then it went down
23 to 121. I am doing absolutely nothing different,
24 zero.

25 I called the power company one day and

1 I asked for the rates, the winter rates. I called
2 the first time. They gave me the first 650
3 kilowatts is 4.59 cents a kilowatt. The next 350 is
4 3.96 cents a kilowatt. Everything over 1,000 is
5 3.87 cents. I've got a calculator. I can add and
6 subtract and multiply pretty good in my head, but
7 I've got three calculators and I used all three of
8 them and at those rates, none of these numbers on my
9 bills will compute. I spent an hour doing it.

10 My girlfriend, who lives with me, ran
11 the mathematic center at Chattanooga State for 15
12 years. I gave these numbers to her. She sat there
13 with a calculator and for 30 minutes she tried to
14 make the numbers and these rates match these bills.
15 None of them matched, not even close, about half.
16 Now, it's not rocket science to figure out that if I
17 use 2,000 kilowatts -- we'll round it out to 2,000.
18 Say I use 2,000 kilowatts, if I paid five cents,
19 which is higher than any of these numbers, that's a
20 hundred bucks. Thank you.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you.

22 MR. JONES: Mr. Lowery, we need help.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Anyone else?

24 MR. LOWERY: While she's on her way to
25 the speaker, all the people here tonight about your

1 power problems, come up and sign this paper and give
2 me your phone number and a way to get ahold of you
3 and I will call and I'll find out what I can find
4 out.

5 MR. RUMLEY: We do have some Georgia
6 Power representatives if you would like to come up,
7 if you want to talk or if you want to just talk to
8 these people after the meeting. I don't know how
9 you want to handle it.

10 MS. WOOTEN: My name is Marie Wooten
11 and I live up on Sand Mountain and I'm the lady that
12 was talking to the gentleman outside. When I called
13 Atlanta to question my electric bill, she asked me
14 if I was currently unemployed. I said, ma'am, that
15 has nothing to do with my electricity bill. When my
16 electricity bill for the past couple of months since
17 we've had these new meters put in has jumped 30, 40
18 50, \$60 a month.

19 Okay. As I explained to her, I no
20 longer use my dryer. I hang my clothes up. I am a
21 single, unemployed parent with two children living
22 at home and raising my granddaughter. Okay. I have
23 a 16 by 80 mobile home. I do not use the
24 dishwasher. At night we watch TV in the dark. I
25 have even went and bought the lightbulbs that's

1 supposed to save your energy. Nothing is cutting
2 back.

3 When I go down here and try to speak to
4 the people down here, well, you know, maybe there's
5 something else going on, check your hot water
6 heater, check this, check that. My mobile home is
7 two-and-a-half years old. Okay. I've called them
8 out there to check my heat pump. There's nothing
9 wrong with it. I even turned the thermostat down on
10 it a couple of degrees. My light bill has still
11 gone up. There is an issue with these meters.

12 MR. RUMLEY: You've noticed it after
13 the change of the meters?

14 MS. WOOTEN: Yes, sir. My --

15 MR. RUMLEY: Because you had the old
16 meter when you first built your home and then after
17 the change is when you really noticed it?

18 MS. WOOTEN: Exactly. My thermostat
19 has always, winter and summer, stayed the same. You
20 know, I've always used my dishwasher. I've always
21 used my dryer, but those things I have cut back on.
22 I no longer use them. You know, if you can't afford
23 them and your light bill is going to run sky high
24 and you're cutting back on appliances, something is
25 going wrong. And these things have been checked and

1 there's nothing wrong. So what is the reason for
2 the jump and the increases of the light bills?

3 I mean, I have actually at one point in
4 time after I had been laid off for about four
5 months, Georgia Power actually pulled up in my yard.
6 I had not even received a cut-off notice. Okay.
7 They pull up in my yard and cut my power off. I
8 walk out there and I said, sir, why did you just cut
9 my power off? When you don't pay your bill, that's
10 what happens. There was some words exchanged. I
11 got very rude with him and I told him he better
12 never come back in my yard for the simple fact of
13 regardless who he works for, the way he spoke to me
14 was totally uncalled for totally.

15 And now with the rates of the increase,
16 when you have to pay so much a week and you're
17 having to choose like these other gentlemen have
18 spoken, when you have to choose are you going to buy
19 groceries this week or are you going to pay some on
20 your light bill this week? Do you pay your car
21 insurance to keep it from canceling? Do you pay
22 your house payment? You know, when you're having to
23 pay a little on your house mortgage, a little on
24 your light bill and there's no excuse for it, none
25 whatsoever.

1 My parents live off social security.
2 Their light bill has increased tremendously and it's
3 pathetic. It's not only the people that are
4 unemployed. It's not only the people that, you
5 know, have jobs. It's affecting everybody and we
6 would sincerely appreciate some help with this.

7 MR. RUMLEY: We're going to do what we
8 can do. We don't know these things until you come
9 and tell us. I mean, I had not -- honestly, the
10 Commission -- we had not received not one call until
11 day before yesterday and I've got a lot of calls.
12 I've got some bills that people -- there's two
13 people that live in my community that I've known all
14 my life, you know, and they've got comparisons from
15 the same kilowatts last year and they live in like a
16 2,000-square-foot home, you know, and then compared
17 to today, it's doubled, way over doubled.

18 But we'll do what we can do. We'll see
19 what Georgia Power has got to say and if the Public
20 Service needs to be called in, I'm sure -- I talked
21 to a fellow down there today. Well, I actually
22 talked to his secretary. He's supposed to call me
23 back tomorrow, but I wanted to see what comes from
24 the meeting and let's hear what Georgia Power, their
25 rep has got to say and we'll go from there.

1 MS. WOOTEN: Well, if it hadn't been
2 for my family, you know, I would not have had the
3 money to have my lights turned back on that day
4 because there's no fundings. Everybody --
5 everywhere you call there's no fundings. Thank you.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you. Thank you for
7 coming.

8 MR. FRITTS: My name is Danny Fritts.
9 I'm area manager for the Summerville and Trenton
10 area and I want to address the meter situation and
11 the accuracy of the meters. The system that we put
12 in is called AMI and it's short for Advanced Meter
13 Infrastructure and AMI is the integration of -- it's
14 got all the advanced metering technology,
15 communication and IT technologies associated with it
16 and it is really -- it's really the Cadillac of the
17 metering technology. And what it does, it allows us
18 to remotely read your meters, keep people from
19 coming out, having to come out to your house and
20 read your meters. It gives us also the capability
21 to handle service orders from the office. They can
22 look your meter up, like was said before, they can
23 look it up and tell you how many kilowatt hours
24 you've used for that period of time and it's also in
25 the future going to be able to disconnect if you're

1 a landlord like Mr. Fagan, if we need to disconnect
2 the meter, we can disconnect from the office in the
3 future.

4 These meters help us to cut costs at
5 the company and it also helps to eliminate human
6 error from meter reading, meter readers having to go
7 out and physically read meters. There has been over
8 one million of these meters installed throughout the
9 Southern Company System. Georgia Power itself has
10 installed over 500,000 of these meters.

11 You ask about the validness of the
12 readings. These -- every one of these meters, 100
13 percent of these meters have been tested twice for
14 calibration and accuracy and these tests have proven
15 that these are the most accurate meters we've ever
16 had. And these meters we installed back in the fall
17 of 2007. So it's been about a year and a half since
18 they've been installed. Since then, we've only had
19 four tenths of one percent failure rate with these
20 new meters after they were installed in the Trenton
21 and Dade County area. The failures were not caused
22 from the readings. They were caused from the
23 transmission problems from some rain or something
24 like that and these were corrected.

25 These meters, each one of these meters

1 are -- they're ANSI approved just like the other
2 meters were. That's American National Standard
3 Institute. They've approved these meters. There's
4 been a rumor going around for -- about these meters
5 only having a life span of seven years. They should
6 last as long if not longer than the old meters.

7 And bills are higher, yes, they're
8 higher, just like all our other bills are higher.
9 Grocery bills are higher. Our gas bills are higher.
10 The reasons for it, just like everything else in the
11 past year and a half, we've had two rate increases
12 due to fuel costs. Just the past few months weather
13 has been a lot colder than it was last year. If
14 you'll -- there's a web site you can go to and it
15 will give you where you can take this year and last
16 years days and show the difference in the
17 temperature. This is Georgia weather dot net. You
18 can look at it and it will give you the difference
19 in the temperature in two days. It's Georgia
20 weather dot net.

21 And if you need assistance or anything
22 understanding your bill, we'll be glad to help all
23 we can. The number in the book -- I know a lot of
24 you has called that number or come by the office.
25 The ladies down there will be glad to do anything

1 they can do.

2 As far as the instances that have been
3 discussed in here tonight, you know, I know one lady
4 was talking about being cut off back there. You
5 know, a meter is not disconnected until the third
6 reading. You've got two months and then the third
7 reading is when the meter is disconnected and there
8 is a letter sent out. There's a proactive call
9 before this happens. It's on your -- you know, a
10 postcard in the mail. So there is a notification
11 process. It's automatically generated and mailed
12 out.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Well, how many -- let me
14 ask you a question. State wide or region wide, are
15 you saying there's not been that many complaints
16 about these meters, I mean, that's actually
17 contacted Georgia Power? Do you have a web site you
18 can go to or whatever because that's what I'm going
19 to ask the Public Service tomorrow. I want them
20 to -- you know, E-mail me or fax me just how many
21 complaints have they had about this? Evidently,
22 there was a lot. I know there's a lot in Dade
23 County.

24 MR. FRITTS: I'm not sure if the Public
25 Service Commission has got a web site or not. I

1 know --

2 MR. RUMLEY: No. I'll go directly to
3 them. I'm just saying I want them to fax me or send
4 me some real numbers, you know. I don't want this
5 E-mail stuff. I want to talk to the man when I call
6 him.

7 MR. FRITTS: There is a web site and I
8 haven't got it with me tonight, but there is a web
9 site that any citizen can go to and look at their
10 account and all and I can get that for you.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, if they
12 don't have that many complaints, why does it take a
13 month from the time you notify the local authority
14 down here to get a rep out?

15 MR. FRITTS: To get a rep out to --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My house.

17 MR. FRITTS: To do what?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: To check on why
19 I got a \$342 bill.

20 MR. FRITTS: Okay. It shouldn't take a
21 month to get them out there.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it did.

23 MR. FRITTS: We've got representatives
24 that do the auditing as far as housing and things
25 like that that come out of Rome, but it shouldn't

1 take that long for them to get up here.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All he did after
3 he got there was stood there and looked at the post
4 and the meter and said, well, you might need to have
5 your hot water heater checked or you might need to
6 check this. He said, I'll see you.

7 MR. RUMLEY: I want to tell you
8 something before you start asking questions, be real
9 brief. I'm not going to let you hound him to death.
10 He's only limited to what he -- you know, he's good
11 enough to come up here. I'm not being rude and I
12 don't want you to be.

13 MR. FRITTS: I cannot get into
14 individual discussions.

15 MR. FAGAN: One question I just had and
16 I'll keep it real brief. I run electricity, they
17 know it, for a month and that thing is accurate.
18 This is the bill. You can look at it. It's \$15. I
19 run a 150 watt lightbulb for a month up there and it
20 said it used 100 kilowatts and you're up there
21 expounding to the accuracy of that. I hope you're
22 correct. So that house up there, somebody can live
23 up there for about \$5 a month.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Well, I appreciate you
25 coming.

1 MR. REYNOLDS: I have a technical
2 question.

3 MR. RUMLEY: One more. That's all.

4 MR. REYNOLDS: It might be helpful. I
5 have what they call a kilowatt meter that I can plug
6 in and tell. It's electronic. I can tell how much
7 power I burn and they also have a clip-on that you
8 don't even have to hook on with the wires that is a
9 kilowatt. Are those available through the company
10 to check out these people's meters?

11 MR. FRITTS: Not through our company,
12 but I know they are available. Where did you get
13 yours?

14 MR. REYNOLDS: Yeah. I'm on solar
15 power and I buy it through my solar company, but
16 they have these clip-on electronic meters that read
17 like the wireless amp meters and you put it on and
18 it will over days, 30-day period, it will show how
19 much power is being burned very accurately and I was
20 just wondering if the company shouldn't get ahold of
21 a few of those and these people that are having a
22 bad complaint, if it's going through the wire,
23 they're using it somewhere in the ground or
24 wherever, but if it's not going through the wire, it
25 must be a transmission problem or a computer problem

1 as it's being read. That's all.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Well, you could put one of
3 those on their side of the meter. That would be the
4 side to put it on really and then compare it to the
5 meter itself.

6 MR. LOWERY: Let me give you a personal
7 experience. Those meters are messed up, some of
8 them are. My dad was one of the ones that got taken
9 advantage of with that meter. When they put them in
10 his house, his light bill tripled and he did tell
11 them, raising cane until they came and put a new one
12 in and it went back down to where it used to be, so
13 there are accuracy problems with those meters. I
14 know that from personal experience.

15 MR. RUMLEY: We appreciate you coming.
16 I would like to -- you know, I want some numbers.
17 If you don't care, leave Lamar or myself some
18 contact numbers. I've got your number there and,
19 you know, I would like to really -- I don't know
20 whether there's another number that these people --
21 you know, I know when you call, it seems like you
22 get an automated -- you don't really talk to a human
23 and maybe that's the change of times.

24 MR. FRITTS: There is an 800 number you
25 can call and there will be somebody, a human answer

1 the telephone.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Let me ask you this. If
3 we do -- you know, if we do have -- we've got even
4 more complaints today, but if there's enough people
5 here complaining, is Georgia Power willing to come
6 up and have a workshop or have actually -- you know,
7 we could let you have it right here if you want. Do
8 they do that, go into different communities where
9 people can come in and see who they're talking to
10 and actually voice their complaints? Does Southern
11 Company have a group that does that?

12 MR. FRITTS: Let me check for you and
13 I'll be glad to find out.

14 MR. RUMLEY: And also, you know, the --
15 like I said, I've already contacted the Public
16 Service. I had more calls today than I realized. I
17 want to find out from them, you know, just -- of
18 course, I'll share that with you, too. You'll
19 probably know that one way or the other. I
20 appreciate you coming in. We didn't bring you up
21 here to put you on the spot. We just needed some
22 answers.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sir, could I say
24 something?

25 MR. RUMLEY: Yes. Go ahead.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This gentleman
2 back here, it took them about three-and-a-half weeks
3 to get to us. They told us they were backlogged.
4 The man came out. He tried to help me all he could,
5 but he said they were about three and a half, four
6 weeks backlogged.

7 MR. RUMLEY: I've got one more hand
8 back here in the back.

9 MR. SCOTT: My name is Mike Scott. I'm
10 a New Home first responder and fire fighter. I
11 would like to thank the public for the new fire
12 equipment we got. Give yourself a pat on the back.
13 You can't do a job unless you've got the equipment
14 to do it with, right?

15 My second point is directed at Robin
16 Rogers again and ask the Commission if they would be
17 willing to fire him. I discussed it a little bit
18 last month. My property -- a surveying company cut
19 a survey line across my property through my deer
20 plots. Any of you out there deer hunters? You
21 know, you go through a deer plot in the middle of
22 hunting season kind of smoking, cutting it all up,
23 it kind of wastes the work you've put into it.

24 Anyway, I asked the company for \$1,000
25 for damage to my property. They went across 1,000

1 foot. I figured \$1 a foot, that sounded reasonable
2 to me. Well, I asked the Sheriff's Department to do
3 a report on it. Well, that's a property line
4 dispute. There's nothing we can do, even though
5 Sequatchie Point didn't own the other half of the
6 property that was cut across. Then Robin, the Dade
7 County attorney, represented the company against me.
8 That just didn't seem right, the Dade County
9 attorney representing a private individual company
10 against me.

11 Then the company that he represented --
12 now, Robin is supposed to be an officer of the
13 court. If I say something wrong, you were there, so
14 you were the other party to this. If I say
15 something wrong, you feel free to check, sir. His
16 party sat right up there on the stand and lied. I
17 mean, I can't remember who my survey crew was up
18 there, I just don't remember who it was. Yet one of
19 my witnesses that I put on the stand, oh, that
20 little guy you've got sitting out in the hallway you
21 brought with you. I mean, Robin knew the man was
22 lying. The documents from Robin's own attorney's
23 firm denied being on the property.

24 MR. RUMLEY: I'm going to interrupt you
25 just a minute because Robin -- I told you this back

1 there at the time because I did investigate this.
2 Robin was working for a firm that was hired by the
3 County to furnish legal services. He was not in a
4 private practice working directly. He just happened
5 to be the one that the firm sent to hear your case.
6 So as far as him being directly, that's not -- you
7 can go on with your -- but I'm not going to let you
8 personally attack Robin because he does a good job
9 for our county. I mean, he does. I can see your
10 point and you can go ahead and explain, but I'm
11 not -- just go ahead. Be careful. I'm not going to
12 let you personally attack him.

13 MR. SCOTT: I asked for \$1,000 in
14 damage. The company ended up paying me \$2,000 and
15 no telling what they paid in attorney's fees. How
16 stupid is that? But the thing about Robin, when I
17 was sitting on the stand and I wore this tonight.
18 Why don't you tell them the question you asked me?

19 MR. RUMLEY: No. That's -- you go
20 ahead and explain. We're not going to let you
21 personally attack him because he was working for a
22 firm. We -- or the Commission before paid the firm
23 and not directed to Robin Rogers. So you can go
24 ahead and state your case. Don't be pointing your
25 finger.

1 MR. SCOTT: I've said all I had to say.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Butch?

3 MR. RAPER: My name is Butch Raper and
4 I'm a citizen here and small business owner as well.
5 I'm kind of falling on the backs of everybody else
6 here. We have 17 Georgia Power accounts between
7 Dade County and Atlanta and as you know, we light up
8 our park, 15 acres every Christmas. Our electric
9 bill is usually about \$700 a month for that period
10 of time we put the lights on. The problem I have
11 with it is not that we're paying extra for those
12 lights, but our electric bill is still the same. I
13 mean, even though we're not burning those lights
14 anymore, our electric bill is still the same. On
15 top of that, it just seems like everybody said, they
16 just keep going up, keep going up.

17 I had a friend of mine that traveled
18 here from Idaho Power. He came in and he did an
19 audit assessment of all our power usage and did not
20 find any problems. He's retired from there. I
21 worked with him for 27 years. So I feel like
22 there's power problems, too. What they are, I can't
23 answer those questions, but there is a power problem
24 and we do need everybody.

25 But on a good note, a lot of you

1 probably have seen the presentation of our middle
2 school students as far as this project cinergy, a
3 lot of recognitions for Dade County. They've done a
4 great job and I just want to put out a good plus for
5 them.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Anyone else? All
7 right. If not, I'll call for a motion to adjourn.

8 MR. CERVELLI: I make a motion.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

10 MR. LOWERY: Second.

11 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call the roll.

12 Mr. Cervelli?

13 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

15 MR. GOFF: Yes.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

17 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Lowery?

19 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley votes yes. The
21 meeting is adjourned. Thank you for coming.

22
23 END OF MEETING
24
25

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF TENNESSEE)
)
 3 COUNTY OF HAMILTON)

4
 5 I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and
 6 Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the
 7 State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that
 8 I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had
 9 in the above-styled cause on the 5th day of
 10 March, 2009;

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 31st day of March, 2009.

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



23
 24
 25