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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2009

1 MR. RUMLEY: I've got me a new gavel  
2 tonight, compliments of Robert Goff. I'll call the  
3 meeting to order. I appreciate all of you being  
4 here tonight for our work session and our meeting.  
5 It's always good to have a crowd on a night like  
6 this. We do have storms. Is Alex in here? I just  
7 want him to update us on this. I understood a while  
8 ago we've got tornado warnings, not just watches  
9 here.

10 MR. CASE: We have a tornado watch  
11 until 3:00 a.m.

12 MR. RUMLEY: Until 3:00? Okay. But I  
13 do appreciate all of you coming out on a night like  
14 this. Before we go into our prayer and Pledge of  
15 Allegiance, I do want to recognize these people here  
16 and their teacher, Mr. Tom Randolph, and that's the  
17 projects -- if you weren't here during the work  
18 session, they're in front of us and these are really  
19 some special students and during the -- before the  
20 meeting is over, I want to get Mr. Randolph to come  
21 up, just stand up and let the boys come up and be  
22 introduced and all. They're some special, very  
23 smart students and we're proud of them. Go ahead  
24 and just give them a hand.

25 At this time I would like to stand and

1 ask Robert to lead us in prayer and also after that  
2 we'll say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3 (Thereupon, the invocation and  
4 Pledge of Allegiance were given.)

5 MR. RUMLEY: This is the regularly  
6 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Commission  
7 which takes place at the same time on the first  
8 Thursday of every month. Proper notice of this  
9 meeting was given in the legal organ of Dade County  
10 and has been posted in the hallway of the  
11 Administration Building. At this time, I need a  
12 roll call. Mr. Lowery?

13 MR. LOWERY: Here.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

15 MR. CERVELLI: Here.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

17 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

19 MR. GOFF: Here.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Rumley, here. The  
21 reading of the minutes -- excuse me. I've got  
22 pollen or a sore throat tonight. The reading of the  
23 previous minutes of the regular meeting will not be  
24 required since all Commissioners have been furnished  
25 with copies in advance. The minutes are public

1 record and available in our office here, the  
2 Commission Office, and we'll be glad to share them  
3 or give you a copy. The minutes are included in the  
4 consent agenda. At this time, the approval of the  
5 consent agenda -- I do require an approval of the  
6 consent agenda, but before that, I would like for  
7 Mr. Townsend to go through that if you don't mind,  
8 Don.

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. Approval of  
10 previous meeting minutes. Review -- I need to ask,  
11 do you want the review of the employee head count  
12 report on there or just --

13 MR. RUMLEY: No. That was pretty well  
14 cut and dry.

15 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. The North Dade  
16 Fire Department purchase S.P.L.O.S.T equipment, used  
17 hydraulic rescue equipment and E-911 purchase 15  
18 Motorola -- 15 portable radios, Ordinance 04-02-09,  
19 supplement to the code of ordinance, the final  
20 readings and adoption tonight, bid for automation  
21 and control for web based HVAC system upon Bruce  
22 Castleberry's recommendation of McKinney's, Inc.,  
23 for \$24,850. And also, the approval of the  
24 following for the new courthouse site preparation,  
25 Lawson Construction Company at \$67,150 as the low

1 bidder and also approval of the concrete work at the  
2 park for two new restrooms by Shane Avery at \$1,540,  
3 also Hal McKaig, 13,048.74 for electrical work and  
4 Sutton Plumbing, \$16,800 for the plumbing of one  
5 complete restroom and stubbing in of another one.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any questions? We  
7 pretty well covered that pretty thoroughly. At this  
8 time, do I hear a motion to approve the consent  
9 agenda?

10 MR. LOWERY: I make a motion we approve  
11 the consent agenda.

12 MR. PITTMAN: I second.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Let me call a vote.  
14 Mr. Lowery?

15 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

17 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

19 MR. GOFF: Yes.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

21 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

22 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair votes yes.  
23 We'll move down to administrative, district  
24 commissioner committee reports. Mr. Cervelli, do  
25 you want to start there?

1 MR. CERVELLI: Thank you. I'm going to  
2 cover two things, just District IV specific and then  
3 some county-related issues. Just a quick update, as  
4 I mentioned last month, we are having community  
5 meetings in District IV. We've had three so far in  
6 the Piney community, West Brow and New Salem. The  
7 last community meeting will be out in Head River on  
8 April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We'll be having it at one  
9 of the churches, New Bible Church, but it's right on  
10 Gulch Road and Old State Line Road and so that will  
11 be April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Valley Head.

12 One of the things we've learned is that  
13 certainly there's similarities in all the  
14 communities, but really there are different issues  
15 in each one of them. The one in Piney focused a  
16 great deal on issues relating to law enforcement,  
17 which surprised me. It was educational for me. And  
18 we've been able to take care of a few problems in  
19 the communities. We're going to be putting down  
20 some reflectors on Lookout Mountain on some of the  
21 key roads where there are fog issues as a result of  
22 talking to some of the citizens up there. We've  
23 taken care some of litter problems both up there and  
24 in Piney. A new fire hydrant will be going in on  
25 Williams Street in Piney and so some real actual

1 things getting done as a result of these meetings.  
2 It's been very helpful for me and we're going to do  
3 it again in several months and we'll do new topics.  
4 So if you're interested, you'll hear about them.  
5 I'll do a report once I get -- we'll get everybody  
6 in District IV sort of a summary report.

7           The other thing I would like to say is  
8 that you we're making some progress in dealing with  
9 the sewer problems in the Flintstone Community.  
10 We've got a lot of people coming to the table to  
11 deal with that problem. There's a lot more to be  
12 said about it and a lot more that needs to be done  
13 and that ball is moving forward.

14           In terms of County issues, I would like  
15 to spend just a little bit of time on budget related  
16 items. Actually, the budget is -- I mean, people  
17 are managing their budgets. I've looked at all the  
18 variance of all the budget reports for the first  
19 quarter and folks are doing real well. Our biggest  
20 problem is revenue. Our local option sales tax  
21 revenue is down about six percent from last year and  
22 it's down about three percent over what we expected  
23 to happen in the first quarter. So if we take  
24 property tax out, we're off in our total revenue  
25 about five percent at this point, which is not a

1 good thing. People are holding a lot on expenses,  
2 but the revenue side is still a problem, so that's  
3 my report.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Peter. Robert?

5 MR. GOFF: I spent some time with Billy  
6 Massengale again this month just looking over some  
7 roads. With the weather that we're expecting to  
8 come in tonight, I hope -- because of the Public  
9 Works Department since the last rains, heavy rains  
10 in January, that we don't have a whole lot. The  
11 problems we might have had then, but if you know  
12 somebody that's maybe in a flood prone area, if the  
13 rain hits, as the weather people have said that it  
14 may tonight and with the force of the wind and all  
15 that, I just want you to know you've got some great  
16 people that are out there working on it to get you  
17 back. You know, to give you all the help that they  
18 can.

19 Another thing I've been looking at is  
20 just something I'll be talking to the other  
21 commissioners about. In the areas where we have  
22 them, it's not any type of promise that we would do  
23 anything, but going back to the communities with  
24 some of the ball fields such as South Dade, North  
25 Dade, the ones that still have the baseball fields

1 from the old school and what have you, looking at  
2 what we might be able to do to move some of the -- a  
3 little bit of the recreation back to the county.

4 I talked to David Swader yesterday and  
5 asked him how many kids were on those four fields at  
6 any given time. It's almost impossible to know, but  
7 there's 250 to 300 most of the time just on the  
8 baseball fields every night. Because we are  
9 starting them now -- I've got a grandson who started  
10 at four years old and when the fire flies start,  
11 he'll be a lot more interested in that than he will  
12 playing baseball, I'm sure.

13 But, you know, we're fortunate to have  
14 such a place, but just look at the feasibility of at  
15 least opening up some practice fields in some of the  
16 other areas where they have been in the past if it  
17 doesn't take too much to get them back in order.

18 And one more note, if I may,  
19 Mr. Chairman. I will not be here starting next  
20 Friday. We'll be gone for a week. My esteemed  
21 colleague to my left last month said that he was  
22 celebrating his 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So my wife, of  
23 course, wanted to outdo that, so we'll be leaving on  
24 a cruise next Saturday for our 40th anniversary.  
25 I'm usually here, but we will be leaving on the 10th

1 and will not be back until the 19<sup>th</sup>.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Congratulations.

3 MR. CERVELLI: We'll miss you.

4 MR. GOFF: I've put up with a lot.

5 MR. RUMLEY: There won't be any supper  
6 tonight. Mr. Pittman?

7 MR. PITTMAN: Yeah. I'll try to follow  
8 that. Really the only thing that's going on down at  
9 the Transfer Station, I talked with Billy. We're  
10 going to -- we're taking bids probably in the next  
11 week or so. We're going to pour another pad. We're  
12 going to turn the dumpsters around where we can  
13 empty the dumpsters and not interfere with people  
14 coming in and dumping their trash. We'll be picking  
15 them up from the other side, taking them around and  
16 dumping them and we're going to try to get one more  
17 can. That would give us a total of five. So even  
18 when we're dumping one, we'll still have four  
19 operational cans, which is what we've got right now.

20 Everything is going really smooth.  
21 We're still closed on Mondays. We've had a few  
22 complaints, not many. But other than that, I've got  
23 a letter from Ann Brown. She is over the horseshoe  
24 pitching at Family Fest. I'm going to help her out  
25 with that best I can. Lamar chickened out. If

1 anybody wants to play horseshoes, get with Ann. I  
2 think she's got a bunch of these papers to hand out,  
3 Family Fest is Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.  
4 There will be \$10 per team. There will be a first,  
5 second and a third place prize. All proceeds will  
6 go to aid in the care of unwanted animals, so  
7 everybody get involved in that, hope to see all  
8 y'all there. That's all I've got.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Pittman.

10 Lamar?

11 MR. LOWERY: Well, on buildings, I  
12 guess everybody that -- people that weren't here, we  
13 talked about we're fixing to get a couple of  
14 restrooms, at least one, maybe two if our money  
15 holds out and we've awarded the bid on the dirt  
16 contract on the new courthouse, so it's making  
17 progress -- if he would like to.

18 But the prescription drug discount  
19 cards, we do have them here at the County, but  
20 they're not in effect until like April 30th, so at  
21 the next Commission meeting, we will be kicking that  
22 off and passing cards out if anybody is interested  
23 and would like to have one.

24 So Robert and Peter, they've kind of  
25 outdone me here this year. Me and my wife are

1 fixing to celebrate our anniversary April 10<sup>th</sup>.

2 It will be 28 years, but we're not going to have --  
3 we're going to cruise in our CRV down to Savannah  
4 and pay for our son to get married on the 17<sup>th</sup> and  
5 that's the reason I chickened out on the horseshoes  
6 because I won't be in town, but I'm lucky to have  
7 her and appreciate her and I appreciate this  
8 Commission. It's really nice to come when we're  
9 having meetings like this. It's a great feeling.  
10 It's good to be a Commissioner again when you have a  
11 meeting like this.

12 MR. RUMLEY: It's been a pretty busy  
13 month this month. We're trying to put everything  
14 together on this dirt work on the courthouse, but  
15 that's just been a minor thing really. It took some  
16 time, but we've been spending a lot of time on  
17 researching different grants, trying to make sure  
18 we're not left out on this stimulus money that you  
19 keep hearing about. I've attended every possible  
20 committee meeting, RDC. Of course, I attend that  
21 every month, but ARC and, of course, Peter has been  
22 right there with me and Robert, too, but Peter  
23 attended several meetings with me pertaining to  
24 Trenton and we've got a lot of stuff out there that  
25 hopefully we'll get our share.

1           As we talked about in the work session,  
2 being a -- and I didn't realize this until we really  
3 got involved in this. Even back when I was a  
4 Commissioner before, this was never brought up to me  
5 before about the population. They go by so many  
6 things to meet the criteria for the loans -- for the  
7 grants and our population being less than 20,000,  
8 believe it or not, that really hurts us on a lot of  
9 things. We've got a few things that we can actually  
10 put down as being shovel ready. That means ready to  
11 go. If you're awarded the money, some of these  
12 projects, you've got to be ready to go in 60 days,  
13 most of them 180 days. When they say go, that means  
14 the men out there working. So I've been spending a  
15 tremendous amount of time on that and hopefully  
16 we'll have good luck on it.

17           They base that on so many things. They  
18 go by your poverty level. They go by the minorities  
19 in your county, go by single moms. They go by a lot  
20 of things and so just keep Dade County in your  
21 prayers because we need the money. Like Peter said,  
22 the hardest thing right now is actually having money  
23 as the revenue coming in because we've got a couple  
24 of checks there. Was that this morning, Don,  
25 revenue is down?

1 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Of course, we expected it.  
3 Times are not good and people are out of jobs. I'm  
4 sorry for my throat.

5 Other than that though, I just want to  
6 say like Lamar, I know this sounds like -- what was  
7 it someone called us the other day? They said we  
8 were on the honeymoon. Well, I don't know. I guess  
9 they meant that everybody, you know, agrees. Well,  
10 we don't. Behind the doors, we don't really argue,  
11 but we disagree, too, but we agree to disagree I  
12 guess you might say, but we still are human about  
13 it. You know, like on the price increases on the  
14 health department, if you had called it to a vote  
15 tonight, I probably would have voted no. You know,  
16 I just -- after they doctor the figures, that may be  
17 fine, but to me, you know, it's kind of putting the  
18 buck down to the county taxpayer, just like Lamar  
19 mentioned. If you're in that office like I am every  
20 day, you see that happen almost weekly. I mean,  
21 you've got something coming down that they're  
22 expecting you to pay for that normally the State or  
23 Federal Government has paid for all these years.  
24 Even though there's different ways of looking at  
25 that, I just can't see it right now, especially with

1 the recession like it is right now.

2 But saying that, I appreciate these  
3 Commissioners because they're a good bunch.  
4 Honeymoon or no honeymoon, you can say what you  
5 want. You know, I just appreciate them because  
6 these are good workers. We don't always agree,  
7 believe me. I've had Lamar's face red, believe me,  
8 and mine, too. But anyway, I'm not going to go  
9 there.

10 MR. CERVELLI: Mr. Chairman, just one  
11 additional thing. We're in the most dangerous  
12 period in Georgia right now. The last day of the  
13 Georgia Legislature is tomorrow and there are a  
14 bunch of bills down there and it's in crisis mode.  
15 They're trying to get it done. You don't get all  
16 the E-mails I do that keep saying call your  
17 legislator, call your legislator, call your  
18 legislator.

19 But the thing that bothers me the most,  
20 and we'll find out what happens tomorrow in some of  
21 these things, is that down in Atlanta they're making  
22 decisions about what we should do with our money up  
23 here, whether we should raise taxes or lower them.  
24 They're going to make those decisions for us and  
25 there's a bunch of bills right now that would take

1 that authority right out of the Commission here and  
2 so this is the most dangerous time of the year is  
3 tomorrow.

4 MR. RUMLEY: What he means by that is  
5 that the last five days of legislature, the last 40  
6 days is -- a lot of times they'll leave these real  
7 critical bills that normally, you know, give the  
8 Senate and the legislators time to think about it  
9 and a lot of times right there on those last days,  
10 they cut these deals within themselves where they'll  
11 run it through, okay, we'll support that if  
12 you'll -- a lot of them are really serious things.  
13 I didn't realize this until really it was explained  
14 to me, you know, a couple of months ago we were  
15 talking about it and then it was brought to my  
16 attention a couple of weeks ago and you really get  
17 to thinking about it. And there are some things  
18 right now -- there are about four bills right now  
19 that could affect our lives from now on, not just  
20 Dade County, but all counties. Keep those people in  
21 your prayers and hope they make the right decisions.

22 We've sure voiced our opinions because  
23 every morning I know like Peter and all the rest of  
24 it, we get a tremendous amount of E-mails that's  
25 updated daily, you know, that comes in and we've

1 made many calls to voice our opinions. There again,  
2 just keep us in your prayers.

3 MR. LOWERY: What's bad about a lot of  
4 them, too, is they sound good to the public. Like  
5 this assessment freeze that I noticed was being  
6 bragged about this week where they don't tell you  
7 that we're going to have to buy more computers and  
8 have more employees to keep up with those two  
9 separate sets of books and get a bigger -- I'm  
10 trying to think what it was. A lot of them sounds  
11 good. The homestead exemption, they raised the  
12 homestead exemption up. Well, that sounds good, but  
13 all that does is cut revenue out here and then  
14 they're wanting us to come back to the taxpayers to  
15 get it. It's wrong.

16 MR. GOFF: They're asking for maybe up  
17 to \$10,000, not the 2 to 4 that they were, from 2 to  
18 10.

19 MR. LOWERY: So when you cut revenue at  
20 the State like that, it comes back in our pockets  
21 like and the only way we've got -- revenues are down  
22 and that's the only place we've got to turn is to  
23 the taxpayers or cut services and we've cut. I was  
24 proud of this Commission. I'm going to tell you  
25 something. They were actually -- Robert and Peter

1 and Ted, they were actually on the Budget Committee  
2 this year. They were appointed to that committee  
3 before they were sworn in. And we actually cut  
4 about \$600,000 out of the budget this year. Isn't  
5 that right, Don, a little over \$600,000 out of the  
6 budget this year. You know, so that's -- that was a  
7 lot of trimming and I just don't know if there's a  
8 whole lot more trimming we can do. I'm sure we'll  
9 do everything we can.

10 MR. RUMLEY: We'll have to find it.

11 MR. LOWERY: This is serious. I mean,  
12 this is some serious stuff going on. And what's bad  
13 is it sounds good. It sounds good in the paper and,  
14 man, it looks good, but if you know all sides, it's  
15 not as good as it sounds.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Moving down to  
17 appearances, Mayor, City of Trenton?

18 MR. HARRIS: I thought I wasn't going  
19 to make it. My daughter was in a banquet at the  
20 high school for the cheerleaders tonight and I had  
21 to be at two places, but y'all got started late and  
22 that helped me out.

23 But anyway, the City financially is in  
24 what I'm going to call okay shape. We're not  
25 hurting on anything right now. A couple of things I

1 do want to mention this month is Family Fest. It's  
2 done been mentioned about horseshoes and stuff. The  
3 weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>, a couple of weeks away. I  
4 would like to see everybody down, all the  
5 participation we can get and just good community  
6 gathering where everybody can get together and meet  
7 their neighbors and people and see a lot of stuff  
8 and enjoy. I'm sure there's going to be a lot of  
9 stuff there for kids and grandkids. Robert, bring  
10 them down.

11 MR. GOFF: I'll be on that cruise. I  
12 don't think she'll let me cancel that.

13 MR. HARRIS: Did you schedule separate  
14 cabins since you done said something? But anyway,  
15 like I said, the City is doing fine. I'll not take  
16 up any more of your time. I do enjoy watching the  
17 Commission that works well together. The guys have  
18 really done good. And I have made a commitment to  
19 myself and also have been in a couple of times this  
20 week to talk with Ted and let him know that if  
21 there's anything I can do to help him, I'm more than  
22 willing to try to step up to the plate and he's  
23 assured me of the same things. So I'm looking  
24 forward to the County and City doing more things  
25 together.

1           One thing I will mention, our fire  
2 chief has got the new truck that's come in and it's  
3 almost in service. It's 90 percent there, but  
4 you'll see it running around town. It's replacing  
5 an old Crown Vic with about 170,000 miles on it, so  
6 he's tickled to death to have it and it's a good  
7 usable piece of equipment and you'll probably see  
8 some -- a little bit of expansion going on down at  
9 the City over the next I'm going to say six, eight  
10 months. We mentioned a little bit we're going to do  
11 on the fire hall and I talked to -- said something  
12 to Ted about it.

13           We're just busting at the seams. If  
14 you've been through the basement down there where  
15 the Fire Department, Police Department and  
16 everything is, records, we're having to move some  
17 records down there. I mean, they're packed in there  
18 like pack rats, are they not? Hopefully, we'll come  
19 out and do some expansions over the next little bit.  
20 But anyway, I appreciate all of you coming. If  
21 there's anything I can do to help you, holler at me.

22           MR. CERVELLI: If I could just add,  
23 April 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 Family Fest, we're going to have  
24 the group called the Convertibulls, B-U-L-L.  
25 They're '60s and up music. On Saturday night we'll

1 have the group -- remind me. The Beaters, The  
2 Beaters and you'll enjoy them as well. They're at  
3 7:00. So if you can't be there all day, come for  
4 the entertainment portion in the evenings.

5 MR. HARRIS: There's real good  
6 entertainment. One other thing while I'm thinking  
7 about it, because next week the schools are out,  
8 things have changed around a little bit. Normally,  
9 we have our Commission meeting the first Monday  
10 night. We backed it up a week this month because of  
11 school being out. It will be April 13<sup>th</sup>. I'd  
12 like to see y'all there. Thank you.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Mayor. I  
14 appreciate that. Next we have a representative from  
15 the Chamber of Commerce here, Lionel Austin. He's  
16 the CEO of the Chamber this year, president. It's  
17 good to have you.

18 MR. AUSTIN: Debbie has sent y'all  
19 packets and she has sent me a handful of stuff, so  
20 I'm just going to hit the highlights of it because  
21 what we've got -- she reported in January already,  
22 so we just have February and March. But we have  
23 been extremely busy this year already. Economic  
24 Development Committee has been established and we're  
25 meeting -- the Committee is meeting every Monday.

1 We're discussing developing marketing plans,  
2 brochures to promote the County. Anthony Emanuel is  
3 chairman of this committee and they've come up with  
4 a lot of good stuff. We're working hard. Maybe we  
5 can get something going to get some businesses  
6 coming into the county.

7 Okay. The Chamber, Keep Dade Beautiful  
8 program, this is our Great American Cleanup months.  
9 It's April and March. We started in March. The  
10 Chamber, we can come by the Chamber. We have  
11 garbage bags and gloves to furnish to the people.  
12 The only thing we ask is that you keep up with the  
13 number of bags that you collect so that we can  
14 report them to tell what's been done. The cleanup  
15 will finalize in the last of April at the Ag Days at  
16 the Extension Office.

17 April 30<sup>th</sup> is the Dade County  
18 Chamber's annual banquet. This year the banquet  
19 theme is tailgate party and it's going to be at the  
20 South Dade Community Center. Tickets are available  
21 from members or from the Chamber office. They're  
22 \$15 apiece. This is a time when we honor citizens  
23 and businesses in the community that have shown  
24 outstanding service in endeavors to make Dade a  
25 great place to live and I hope everybody that can

1 will show up. And from what the committee, the  
2 Planning Committee has got going, it sounds like  
3 they're going to have a big time. It's just going  
4 to be different. It's going to be different. It's  
5 a tailgate party, so it will be support your  
6 favorite football team, county, school, whatever.

7           The Chamber and the Dade County School  
8 Board, Ms. Patty Priest, went to Atlanta for a  
9 Georgia Partnership of Excellence. The initials are  
10 GLISI and what this was was a meeting where Chamber  
11 representatives and school boards. Dade County was  
12 recognized and asked to give an overview of the  
13 schools implementation and development of high  
14 performing leaders in all levels. Dade County was  
15 one of three in the state that was asked to present  
16 this and we felt it was a great honor and they did a  
17 real good job.

18           The reason I'm here tonight, Debbie has  
19 gone to Macon today. I told her she -- they had a  
20 real good meeting down there that they came at the  
21 last minute and asked her to go. She said, okay,  
22 but you've got to do this and I said, okay. But  
23 anyway, the Chamber, it's the Georgia  
24 Entrepreneurial Friendly Professional Development  
25 Day and that's in Macon today and Mary Ellen McCowan

1 is the director of the Georgia Governor's Program  
2 and she saw the Project Synergy in one of the  
3 newsletters that went out and called Debbie last  
4 week and Debbie and Matt has gone down today to  
5 present the program to them and I'll let Tom -- he's  
6 talked to them since then. I'll let him report of  
7 what they found out down there today, but it's  
8 really exciting, some of the things that's come  
9 about from this program and it's hard to tell, you  
10 know, all of the good things that hopefully will  
11 develop.

12 It was our honor to, you know, sponsor  
13 the program, the Marketplace Synergy, Project  
14 Synergy with promotion proposals, media marketing  
15 both locally to the state of Georgia, individuals  
16 across the country to Volkswagen, Volkswagen  
17 Industries. Peter went with us to the state. We  
18 have a special thanks that we want to give to  
19 Senator Mullis because he made the arrangements at  
20 the state for us to meet with the different  
21 representatives of the state agencies, the  
22 governor's staff, the lieutenant governor's staff,  
23 the Board of Education.

24 MR. CERVELLI: Department of Economic  
25 Development.

1 MR. AUSTIN: And all of these were  
2 really taken away with this project. Special thanks  
3 to Senator Mullis. He -- in sponsoring -- being  
4 responsible for this, he helped to get accommodation  
5 from Governor Sonny Perdue and also introduced State  
6 Resolution 296 which was passed by the State Senate  
7 and it's an effort to connect the worlds of  
8 education, business, government and a celebration of  
9 students' achievements and Tom has got the originals  
10 over here, but we've got copies of the resolution  
11 and the governor's commendation.

12 This Project Synergy is really bringing  
13 in a lot of good advertising. It is showing the  
14 potential of our students and hopefully we'll have a  
15 good out come from it. We'll leave a lot of it to  
16 Tom to explain because he's got a lot of  
17 information. He's gone to a lot of different places  
18 already and I'm thinking they're probably going to a  
19 lot more places. So we'll let him update you on  
20 that. Thank y'all.

21 MR. RANDOLPH: Okay. I'm Tom Randolph  
22 from Dade County Schools, the Middle School, talking  
23 about Project Synergy. This has been an amazing  
24 thing. I've been in public education for 31 years.  
25 I have never seen anything explode like this. We in

1 no way expected it.

2 Basically we came up with the program  
3 called Education Marketplace. Every nine weeks the  
4 kids would do a hands-on creative problem-solving  
5 project. In July when Volkswagen said they were  
6 coming to Chattanooga, we just crossed the wires and  
7 we thought, my gosh, if kids are doing this project,  
8 let's hook this up with Volkswagen. December Shaw  
9 Industry closes down, so we thought, my gosh, we  
10 could try to get kids in public education to bring  
11 jobs to Dade County Schools or Dade County.

12 We called it Project Synergy because  
13 the idea was to get education, business and  
14 government working together. Ultimately this is the  
15 way it's supposed to happen. Amazingly, there is a  
16 humongous disconnect between public education and  
17 the world of business. It's not that the businesses  
18 don't want to be involved. It's not that public  
19 education doesn't, but somehow to get some kind of  
20 practical bridge, some kind of tool that this would  
21 work, so we came up with this Project Synergy. Our  
22 kids were to come up with a way to make a better  
23 Volkswagen Beetle or to market a better Volkswagen  
24 Beetle. What we did, we built it on a U.S. patent  
25 system where they had to apply for a patent, the

1 first one in the school, no one could take their  
2 patent and then there was five parts to the project.  
3 We ended up having 228 inventions how to make a  
4 better Volkswagen Beetle.

5 Now, from the business perspective, you  
6 have to have a competitive advantage and in public  
7 education, we don't think like business people very  
8 much, but then I thought, my gosh, we do a  
9 competitive advantage because we have children and  
10 they see the world very differently from older folks  
11 and all of their imagination -- these will be the  
12 future buyers of Volkswagen, the future employees,  
13 so that is our competitive advantage.

14 We did bring this to Atlanta, talked to  
15 representatives from the governor's office,  
16 lieutenant governor's office, Department of  
17 Education, Economic Development. We've been on  
18 Channel 9, Channel 12. We've been twice in our  
19 local station, the Chattanooga Times and what  
20 happened, this thing exploded. Every time we went  
21 to talk to an organization, we were invited to  
22 another one.

23 I've been in public education 31 years  
24 and in the last two or three months I've talked to  
25 more business people, the Tri-State Economic

1 Development, the Tri-State Chamber of Commerce. It  
2 turns out that Volkswagen, through the Chamber of  
3 Commerce invited us to their Spirit of Innovation.  
4 This is a 1,000 person business luncheon. It's  
5 going to be April 29<sup>th</sup> and this is like the big  
6 people's inventions and they invited our students to  
7 come. They'll be the only students there. This is  
8 just -- just a tremendous explosion.

9           Matt Jelly, my teaching partner, was  
10 down in Macon, Georgia talking to the  
11 entrepreneurial friendly. This thing was a smash  
12 hit. He was just overwhelmed. In fact, the lady  
13 that runs it said that they wanted us back to be the  
14 keynote speaker at the next one. In fact, they had  
15 so many people so interested, she was talking about  
16 having it hosted in Dade County. All this is to say  
17 it's brought tremendous publicity to Dade County and  
18 Dade County Schools, but this would never in a  
19 million years have happened without the Chamber of  
20 Commerce and specifically Debbie Tinker.

21           You know, we did the project inside the  
22 school, but everything that has happened on the  
23 outside has been through the Chamber. This thing  
24 has utterly exploded and probably the reason is the  
25 idea of the business world Chamber working with

1 public education, it is -- I can't tell you how  
2 little it is. I was talking to Scottsboro, Alabama  
3 yesterday, 17 principal superintendent, principal,  
4 president of the Board of Education, people from  
5 Northwest Alabama. This is a true story. The  
6 Chamber of Commerce president said I've been doing  
7 this job for 12 years, he said, this is the first  
8 time the Chamber of Commerce had ever talked with  
9 public education, 12 years. He said it might have  
10 been longer. That's as long as he's been there.

11           You just can't imagine how little  
12 connection it is and that's why this thing has  
13 absolutely exploded. So we're very, very pleased  
14 with that. But again, you know, our Chamber of  
15 Commerce now is our best buddy. This whole idea of  
16 synergy, we've hooked up with the library, so all of  
17 these projects the kids do, rather than trashing  
18 them afterwards, they're displayed at the library  
19 and, again, it's all these connections. Covenant  
20 College, I teach there part time. I talked to the  
21 Dean of Continuing Education. I said, would you  
22 possibly be interested. Man, they jumped on this  
23 like a dog on red meat. They said, absolutely, we  
24 want to get involved.

25           The biggest thing that has come out I

1 can't tell you about because I'm under a gag order,  
2 but it is -- it makes all of this look small.  
3 Hopefully, we'll get a final word on that.

4           One last thing and then I'm going to go  
5 to the kids. The Chamber of Commerce each year has  
6 an international competition. There's four  
7 categories. One of the four is networking where  
8 your Chamber of Commerce is working with many  
9 different organizations, different parts of the  
10 community. This year it's in Indonesia, but we're  
11 hoping the Chamber will agree for us to enter this  
12 competition. I think we've got a good chance of  
13 winning. I mean, this is big, big, big, big stuff.  
14 I've looked at all the past winners and this, of  
15 course, it's business. None of them were doing  
16 anything with public education and what we're doing  
17 is the Chamber and public education.

18           We keep waiting for the thing to die  
19 down and it just gets bigger and bigger. Now,  
20 having said that, let me show you just three  
21 examples of what these kids did. We have a little  
22 sixth grade girl going to Silent Word Ministries  
23 with her mother and the question is can you get a  
24 driver's license in Georgia if you're deaf, yes or  
25 no? Yes, you can. But the little girl said,

1 well -- sixth grade girl now, she said, well, if you  
2 were deaf, how would you hear the ambulance, the  
3 fire truck and everything behind you and the answer  
4 is you couldn't. So her invention was to -- for her  
5 Volkswagen Beetle on the top of the car, there's a  
6 little fin. That's the antenna. She wanted to put  
7 in a little sensor on that that would pick up a  
8 siren and once it picked up the siren, her little  
9 invention. There it goes. The dashboard would  
10 begin to flash so that you would know. If you have  
11 your Ipod buds in there and you've got it cranked  
12 up, you just couldn't hear, but the whole dashboard  
13 would flash and as soon as the siren passed, it  
14 would turn it off, a very simple invention, but a  
15 very practical one.

16 Another invention here, this is kind of  
17 interesting, but when you talk about imagination,  
18 for the older ones, if you'll remember back in the  
19 '60s we had the mood ring. You would wear it and it  
20 would change your emotion. Well, this was a seventh  
21 grade school. She said, well, why doesn't  
22 Volkswagen take the entire steering wheel and make  
23 it a mood ring. So if you're going down and you've  
24 got road rage, your steering wheel begins to turn  
25 red because it can pick up the temperature and the

1 pressure. And then she thought, my gosh, if it can  
2 pick up that, you could hook our Ipod into this and  
3 program your car to play music based on your emotion  
4 based on the steering wheel.

5 Now, over here -- you know, like I  
6 said, we've got 228 of these things. The lady from  
7 Small Business Entrepreneurial, the top person, Don  
8 Townsend in Georgia, she was there. Man, she went  
9 crazy over there. She started E-mailing everybody.  
10 The lady in charge of the north -- Northwest  
11 Economic Development, two times she said, we've got  
12 to get Dade County some of this education stimulus  
13 money. They were so impressed with this.

14 Now, let me bring up my guys here. Oh,  
15 before I do that, the teachers also were getting  
16 involved. Two of our teachers created the world's  
17 only Volkswagen Beetle electric guitar. This thing  
18 really works. So it wasn't just that. Okay. You  
19 guys can come up. They are from our Stars Academy.  
20 If you'll face the audience. Okay. Which one is  
21 talking about Stars Academy? Tell them your name.

22 MR. AARON STEVENS: My name is Aaron  
23 Stevens. I'm part of the Stars Academy at the Dade  
24 Middle School.

25 MR. RANDOLPH: And what is it? What

1 does that mean?

2 MR. AARON STEVENS: It's like an  
3 alternative school, but it's not quite as harsh. We  
4 do a bunch of community stuff as well as washing  
5 cars and cleaning stuff like that.

6 MR. RANDOLPH: Okay. Good. Which one  
7 is talking about the invention? Okay. One of you  
8 are talking about -- let me cut in here. This is  
9 one of the most amazing things we found out. Our  
10 highest academic students were not the most  
11 creative. In fact, it was our alternative school  
12 that won this contest the last two times and our  
13 explanation, probably more right brained and public  
14 education is designed for left brained. If you can  
15 memorize two multiple choice tests, you can do well.

16 But without a doubt -- how to say this.  
17 Our gifted students in general were not the most  
18 creative and what we would consider the less  
19 academically minded students were the most creative.  
20 Also, we invited about nine kids to present tonight.  
21 The only ones that have showed up was the  
22 alternative school. That's an amazing thing.

23 Okay. Tell us about your invention  
24 that won. Tell us the name of it and what it did.

25 MR. EZEKIEL TALKINGTON: Ezekial

1 Talkington. Our project, it was a Bug jack. We  
2 designed it with one of our fellow friends. He's  
3 like our brother and he went home. We discussed  
4 this all, you know. We went through and we got this  
5 little bitty air thing and what happened, we plugged  
6 it up into this air pump and it shot up, so we  
7 thought, hmm, we should make that Bug jack.

8 MR. RANDOLPH: This is the creative  
9 crossing those wires. And so what does your thing  
10 do?

11 MR. EZEKIEL TALKINGTON: It like shoots  
12 up when we plug it up in the air and it's an  
13 automatic jack.

14 MR. RANDOLPH: Basically, they built --  
15 their idea was to build a hydraulic jack into each  
16 of the four wheels so if you have a flat, you just  
17 press the button. The jack would come down and your  
18 car would automatically go up.

19 Okay. Last one. The reason we don't  
20 have that one with us is because it went down to  
21 Macon, Georgia to show all the entrepreneurial  
22 people. Okay. Just tell us about the education  
23 marketplace in the gym with all the displays. Tell  
24 us about that.

25 MR. ZACK HESTER: My name is Zack

1 Hester and we had Volkswagen projects to do and we  
2 won the project, but ours was about you put the lug  
3 jack in your car like if you was on the side of the  
4 highway, you would have to get out your jack and  
5 pump it up, but your hand would automatically do it  
6 when you pushed a button and then you could change  
7 your tire if it was flat.

8 MR. RANDOLPH: Okay. Quickly, in  
9 closing now, again, I want to reiterate. Working  
10 with the Chamber of Commerce has been just about the  
11 best thing we've done in the last ten years in the  
12 Middle School. They have opened the world, really  
13 the world of business to us and so that what kids  
14 learn in school becomes far more relevant. How far  
15 this will go, I don't know, but it continues to  
16 expand.

17 One last thing, you know, Bill Marshall  
18 has been instrumental. If you want to come up and  
19 just say closing words here on your observations.  
20 He's been instrumental in hooking this up with  
21 different organizations.

22 MR. MARSHALL: It's been my pleasure  
23 really. At my age, you're lucky to get to work with  
24 anybody, but to get to work with these kids and all  
25 these things they do is amazing. And having been in

1 economic development, it's the greatest connection.  
2 Getting the school connected to things, it connects  
3 to economic development and jobs and I think that's  
4 the great part of it. Of course, I saw it first at  
5 the Chamber meeting. I went to the Chamber luncheon  
6 and saw it and I really got excited about it.

7 I was going the next week over to a  
8 Tri-State Council meeting of the Work Force  
9 Development, so I called Tom and asked him if there  
10 was any chance he could go with me and he asked the  
11 principal and got permission, so he rode over there  
12 with me. We couldn't get on the program. I called  
13 my friend over there. He couldn't get us on the  
14 program, but he would make sure we were recognized  
15 at the end of the program.

16 So after TVA and all the others that  
17 talked, he got to go up next and some of them were  
18 in the back of the room like now and kind of  
19 leaving, you know, but as soon as they heard him  
20 telling the story, they all came down to the front  
21 and they really just got carried away and there's a  
22 lot of people that got excited and wanted to do it  
23 in their area. And from that, I asked him to go  
24 over to the Tri-State Council of Chambers this week  
25 and one of the guys there was from over at

1       Scottsboro, which is Jackson County, and he asked if  
2       he could come back the next day. So I went with him  
3       and they had 19, I guess it was, principals there  
4       and they all were excited about it and some came up  
5       afterwards and said they wanted to get this in their  
6       school so their kids could pick this idea up.

7                        I like the idea that it's not always  
8       the smartest kids that have the ideas and with  
9       ideas, you can learn to work and learn to do a lot  
10      of things. You can put your mind active in making  
11      money and making a living and I think that's a great  
12      connection to have. I think everybody -- and I  
13      appreciate the Chamber for all they've done.  
14      They've really done all the work, but I've really  
15      enjoyed the two or three times I've been involved  
16      with it. So I just hope we can keep it up. It's  
17      going to be great. It's a good thing. Thank you.

18                      MR. RANDOLPH: Just one last thought.  
19      Actually, our connection with Volkswagen, when we go  
20      to this Spirit Innovation, the keynote speaker is  
21      the president of Volkswagen of North America and I'm  
22      sure we'll get his picture with us. This fall we're  
23      going to do our project that has kind of the spirit  
24      of entrepreneurship. The kids are going to do  
25      projects, what businesses they would like to come to

1 Dade County and if they were an entrepreneur, which  
2 ones would they do? We approached through the state  
3 Georgia Power and they picked us up in one day.  
4 Bam, they said, we'll do this. TVA is going to do  
5 the spring one and so it's just really snowballed.  
6 But we appreciate you very much. Again, we  
7 appreciate the Chamber of Commerce. They have  
8 opened up a whole world to us. Murray County south  
9 of Dalton, they want to imitate what we're doing.  
10 Scottsboro, Jackson County, they want to do the same  
11 thing. Thank you so much. Thank you, gentleman,  
12 for coming tonight.

13 MR. EZEKIEL TALKINGTON: We do take  
14 donations.

15 MR. RANDOLPH: That wasn't the setup.  
16 A businessman knows how to work this angle right  
17 here.

18 MR. MARSHALL: Can I tell you three  
19 guys here, Margaret and I are celebrating our 38<sup>th</sup>  
20 here in a little bit. Come August, I'll celebrate  
21 my 25<sup>th</sup> year of retirement. See, I'm having fun  
22 yet. I would ask all retired people to volunteer  
23 more. It keeps your mind active and keeps you  
24 younger. I've only got about 18 -- no, 14 months  
25 I'll be 80 and I don't feel that way.

1 MR. RUMLEY: We really appreciate that.  
2 That's a special, special presentation right there.

3 MR. STEPHENS: Tell them to see if  
4 Volkswagen will let them have a plant down here.

5 MR. RANDOLPH: Well, part of this was  
6 to get businesses to come and get that attention and  
7 we sure got the attention.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Moving right along, Don,  
9 we haven't forgot you. I'm sorry. This has been  
10 great. This has kind of -- it puts a breath of  
11 fresh air into a meeting like this. It also puts a  
12 lump in your throat, too. But at this time, Don,  
13 would you give us our monthly financial report,  
14 please?

15 MR. TOWNSEND: I can't believe I have  
16 to follow the Middle School, especially Randolph  
17 because he's really exciting.

18 Okay. As you can see, we finally have  
19 some visual aid here. General fund, 1,093,688;  
20 federal asset fund, U.S. Treasury, \$2,293; special  
21 sheriff's fund, \$12,861; drug abuse education fund,  
22 16,996; supplemental juvenile services fund, 13,999;  
23 victim assistance fund, \$2,598; jail fund, 34,064;  
24 federal asset fund, Department of Justice, 2,253;  
25 payroll account, 94,434. 2004 S.P.L.O.S.T funds

1 total amount we have under P&I, \$1,746,344 and also  
2 in the capital bonds, 772,823. The reason we have,  
3 it seems like, a little bit more right now in the  
4 P&I funds balance is because we have just recently  
5 paid our interest payment and we actually -- I'm in  
6 contact with Wachovia to see if there's any benefit  
7 to paying off the note early. We're going to have  
8 to pay it in the fall anyway. So if there's any  
9 benefit, we may go ahead and cut that check and be  
10 done with our final bond payment for the 2004  
11 S.P.L.O.S.T, which would be a good thing to get that  
12 finished with.

13 Below you see the 2009 S.P.L.O.S.T  
14 funds. There's nothing yet in the projects account.  
15 The proceeds account is 142,643 and at the end of  
16 this month, we'll be making our first interest only  
17 payment for our new bonding of the S.P.L.O.S.T, 2009  
18 S.P.L.O.S.T and the amount is right at that,  
19 142,000, so we won't have a whole lot left. That is  
20 capitalized interest that we put into our bonds.

21 Construction account, 2,316,976 along  
22 with some investments of 583,048, right at \$2.9  
23 million and total available for S.P.L.O.S.T funds is  
24 a little over 3 million. You see the fire  
25 departments, what they currently have in the new

1 S.P.L.O.S.T. I'll point this one out. I think  
2 North Dade is here tonight seeking funds. For  
3 instance, their balance remaining is 167,603. Most  
4 fire departments do have a little bit there. Most  
5 have several dollars left.

6 New Home has used most of their money  
7 this past month with purchasing the tanker truck and  
8 the mini-pumper truck and I believe the County is --  
9 we have both of those. I think Billy has finally  
10 seen both of those trucks. So also some  
11 communications turn out here, as well as North Dade,  
12 I believe, some purchase from Bennett Fire Products  
13 here. Then below are the different investments that  
14 we have.

15 This is our current S.P.L.O.S.T that  
16 you see listed here now and I'm not sure where I am  
17 in the packet. It's too hard to navigate and read  
18 the packet at the same time. You see estimated  
19 funds remaining. We have remaining funds for the  
20 City of Trenton, courthouse renovation, the justice  
21 building, of course, the library and county roads  
22 and bridges. However, it's a high likelihood we  
23 will not collect enough funds to fund all of those  
24 remaining projects. This is again the current  
25 S.P.L.O.S.T we're talking about. There you see the

1 major one, estimated funds remaining of 1,657,000  
2 and that is primarily the courthouse. We have  
3 approximately 177,000 left for roads and 412 for the  
4 City of Trenton and 203, I think, was the old  
5 courthouse and as we said last time, the library,  
6 however, we probably will not be able to collect all  
7 this. And the remaining below you see the amount  
8 owed is 1,244,956 on our current old bond, but we  
9 have -- probably will go ahead and pay that off  
10 fairly soon.

11 As Peter alluded to earlier,  
12 Commissioner Cervelli, you see -- we're looking  
13 right now at the L.O.S.T, local option sales tax,  
14 and we can see the -- what came in for the month of  
15 March was representative of what was spent in  
16 January and it was 130,638. Looking at March last  
17 year, March last year was 132,000, so you kind of  
18 want to believe that's not too bad. If you go back  
19 to 2007, it was 154,000 and if you go back to 2006,  
20 it was 185,000, so it's definitely down.

21 What we're collecting here is -- on  
22 average is not too bad compared to last year, but I  
23 believe what he referenced earlier is the first  
24 three months added together. It's about five to  
25 six percent lower than what we had budgeted and had

1 hoped and actually those budget numbers were even  
2 very conservative. So we're still very much in a  
3 recession as well, just like the rest of the  
4 country. Same thing holds true for S.P.L.O.S.T. We  
5 were looking at local option sales tax. The  
6 S.P.L.O.S.T funds are here and you can see we  
7 collected last month \$163,947.49. Again, last year,  
8 very relatively close to what it was, but then going  
9 back to '06 and '07, it's down quite a bit.

10           And the last thing we'll look at, I'm  
11 trying to keep up with you, Randolph. It's hard.  
12 Commissioner Cervelli and I put together a  
13 S.P.L.O.S.T fund projection worksheet and this is  
14 just to help us determine, you know, with the new  
15 S.P.L.O.S.T, approximately -- it looks very  
16 confusing here. I don't want -- but we're hoping  
17 with the money we begin collecting in September to  
18 kind of better track that and watch how we spend it  
19 over here. If you'll look at the very far right,  
20 you can see these numbers, 45,154 and 104, those are  
21 things that we already know some expenses. I'm  
22 sorry, 20,000, 149,028 and 66,000. Some are things  
23 that we already know about such as the \$200,000  
24 would be -- I don't see Alex here, but that's the  
25 fire trucks that we're committed to paying, 20,000

1 for library and so on.

2 If you look at your packet --

3 MR. RUMLEY: Scottie says your five  
4 minutes are up.

5 MR. TOWNSEND: I know. If you'll turn  
6 under -- Commissioners, if you'll turn under tab  
7 number one, it's the Scottie Pittman addition, the  
8 one page budget, fund balance sheet as well as the  
9 revenue. You see that 25 percent of the year  
10 attained -- revenues so far attained is 34 percent.  
11 That sounds great, but budget wise we are still  
12 short about five percent.

13 MR. CERVELLI: The problem with that  
14 number is that there's a normal -- a lot of property  
15 tax in there which skews the number higher than what  
16 it really is. If you take property tax out --

17 MR. TOWNSEND: And expenses attained at  
18 this point is 20.54 percent, so that's a good thing.  
19 I mean, we are holding our own as far as expenses,  
20 but revenue is down. It will become increasingly  
21 hard here very soon because we've probably posted  
22 our last large property tax check until probably  
23 December of this year.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Okay.

25 MR. TOWNSEND: The following is just

1 the remainder of the financial statement you can  
2 look at, the variance reports and such.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions pertaining  
4 to that report? I think we all -- we keep up with  
5 it daily. It's not new news to any us because we do  
6 stay on top of this. We appreciate what  
7 Mr. Townsend does. He does a good job. We should  
8 be proud to have him.

9 Mr. Cervelli, I should have explained  
10 this. Most of you know, but we do have different --  
11 we call them committees or people that are liaisons  
12 between the Commission. Mr. Cervelli is actually on  
13 our finance committee with myself and, of course,  
14 each commissioner has their own job, parks and  
15 recreation and buildings, so I just want to commend  
16 all of them because they really do a good job. It  
17 keeps everybody informed, not just you, but the  
18 other Commissioners that we have. We appreciate  
19 them. At this time, if you don't have any  
20 questions, I'll entertain a motion to approve.

21 MR. CERVELLI: I make a motion to  
22 approval the financial report.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I do have a motion  
24 to approve the financial report. Do I hear a  
25 second?

1 MR. GOFF: I'll second.

2 MR. RUMLEY: We have a second. I'll  
3 call a vote. Mr. Lowery?

4 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

6 MR. GOFF: Yes.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

8 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

10 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

11 MR. RUMLEY: And Mr. Rumley votes yes.

12 Okay. Let's move down to legal  
13 matters. Robin, do you have anything to talk to us  
14 about?

15 MR. ROGERS: No, no.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Unfinished  
17 business, don't know of anything other than the --  
18 of course, what we discussed about the health  
19 department. They can report back to us and we can  
20 make a decision on that next week as far as the  
21 unfinished business.

22 Under new business, I've got something  
23 here I want to go over with you. This is -- I  
24 talked to the mayor today. He came up and visited  
25 us and we both -- I think it's going to be the

1 16<sup>th</sup> of this month. I'm pretty sure that's what  
2 they said and I want all of y'all to make sure  
3 you're on board with me doing this, you know. It's  
4 a proclamation and it's actually pertaining to the  
5 Confederate History and Heritage month as being  
6 April.

7 MR. HARRIS: It will be May, Ted.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Is it May? Okay. I knew  
9 I was really busy with some figures when he was  
10 talking to us. It will be in May. But the mayor  
11 and I, we feel honored in doing this. I know I do.  
12 I'm sure you do, as doing a proclamation and that  
13 would -- of course, that will be in the paper when  
14 we do this presentation, providing my fellow  
15 Commissioners are on board with me and feel the same  
16 and I think all of them do.

17 MR. CERVELLI: When are we going to do  
18 the Union one?

19 MR. RUMLEY: I knew this New Yorker  
20 would say something. I knew that was coming. I'll  
21 put that on unfinished business. Seriously, it's  
22 good thing and you will be updated on that in the  
23 paper.

24 MR. HARRIS: Ted, one other thing you  
25 might mention, the City has purchased flags of all

1 the services, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine's,  
2 Coast Guard, also MIAs that we're going to be  
3 displaying with our other flags we normally do  
4 during May. That's Memorial -- the week of the  
5 Memorial celebration is when all this happens.

6 One thing I mentioned to you today and  
7 anything here might hear, we're looking also for  
8 some three-quarter inch conduit, rigid conduit for  
9 poles for these flags if you know of anybody they'll  
10 sell cheap or wants to donate, they can contact me  
11 or the Legion Hall about -- so we'll have some  
12 permanent flag poles for these extra flags that  
13 we've got, need about 35 or 40.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Three-quarter inch  
15 conduit, steel conduit.

16 MR. HARRIS: Steel.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Let's move on down  
18 to the citizen participation. I'll give you five  
19 minutes. Anyone who wants to come up and talk to  
20 us, come on up and say what's on your mind. I  
21 appreciate anyone coming up. Let's see, I don't see  
22 anyone.

23 MR. BALL: I told you I would be here.  
24 I'm Gary Ball.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Good to see you here. I

1 kid you a lot, but Gary does a lot in the community.

2 MR. BALL: I just wanted to follow-up  
3 on the Assessor's Board. There's a lot of stuff  
4 that doesn't get published and the one thing that I  
5 keep hearing over and over is the Assessor's Board  
6 is appointed so it stays away from the political  
7 arena, but what I find almost comical about that is  
8 the three letters of reference for the woman that is  
9 no longer on the board were written by politicians.  
10 It's public record and one of them is sitting right  
11 up here. And I just think it's kind of comical for  
12 people to say there's not politics in an appointed  
13 board when the very people that are trying to keep  
14 something going are politicians. So I just -- I  
15 appreciate you raising your hand, Lamar. Luckily, I  
16 went over there looking for the letters to make sure  
17 I had the names right and they weren't in the public  
18 record, but they are now because somebody went over  
19 there looking for them, so they are part of the  
20 public records.

21 I hope that the appointment this time  
22 will do his training so that maybe the lady doesn't  
23 get appointed again because that's how she got  
24 reappointed the last time, the person didn't do  
25 their training. So that's the one thing I wanted to

1 mention.

2           The other thing is I'm afraid that you  
3 gentlemen may be headed down a real slippery slope  
4 on this construction and I just want you to know  
5 that the citizens of the County will be hoping that  
6 you don't make any mistakes because the one  
7 gentleman that will benefit from not requiring  
8 performance and payment bonds will be that guy right  
9 over there, Robin, because he's the one that will  
10 have to defend you. He's the one that will have to  
11 work out all the uncompleted work at all of our  
12 expense. And I know you're trying to help people in  
13 the county and I appreciate it, but I've done work  
14 for the federal government, done work for the state  
15 government, done work for the county government,  
16 done work for city government and I haven't seen  
17 anybody do large contract work, any of those kind of  
18 entities, without performance and payment.

19           Having somebody make some cash deposit  
20 down at a bank for some who knows what sum of money  
21 because you guys didn't set anything yet is not  
22 guaranteeing performance and you might -- you might  
23 not get bit the first time, but once you've set the  
24 precedent tonight, so everybody that comes in here  
25 with a price on whatever packages you all have got,

1 expects and should get the same consideration and I  
2 just want y'all to realize that. Some of you know  
3 construction. Some of you, I think, know better  
4 than doing what you're doing because you have no  
5 protection for completion. You have no protection  
6 for quality. You have no way to make an  
7 unperforming or a nonperforming contractor complete  
8 the work. All they can do is walk on you.

9           And so just remember that as you put  
10 out these other packages, you're going to have to  
11 offer the same people the same consideration or  
12 you're probably looking at discriminating, so thank  
13 you.

14           MR. RUMLEY: Appreciate it. To start  
15 with, Mr. Ball was one of the bidders. You know, he  
16 was one of the bidders that bid on the project and  
17 we do, we will require either a performance bond or  
18 a certified guarantee from a bank for that full job  
19 amount, which is 63, 64,000 and that contractor will  
20 be required to be insured. So, you know, everything  
21 is up and above. And as far as the guarantee goes  
22 of the pad, we will have a certified testing  
23 contractor in Chattanooga, preferably -- maybe not  
24 Chattanooga, but whoever winds up with the bid and  
25 they will test daily. And as far as the performance

1 of the contractor, the guy was Lawson Construction,  
2 David Lawson Construction and I'm as sure of him  
3 doing this job as I would be Gary Ball doing it.  
4 So, you know, that to me, I think that we've got  
5 things under control and in hand and I appreciate  
6 Mr. Ball's opinion, but I just disagree with most of  
7 it. I appreciate him sharing that with us though.

8 Okay. I don't think we need -- okay.  
9 Let me ask if there's anybody else that wants to  
10 comment before we go any further?

11 MR. STEPHENS: Talking about that  
12 packing, David is a friend of mine and -- you know,  
13 that used to be the Golden Gallon. He built that  
14 pad where the Krystal is and it had to be so so.

15 MR. RUMLEY: He did this slide up here  
16 on the mountain. But anyway, if there's no one  
17 else, I don't think we need to go into executive  
18 session unless you've got something up your sleeve,  
19 Peter. If not, I need a motion to adjourn.

20 MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we  
21 adjourn.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Do I hear a second?

23 MR. GOFF: I'll second.

24 MR. RUMLEY: All right. Mr. Lowery?

25 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

1

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

2

MR. GOFF: Yes.

3

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

4

MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

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MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

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MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

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MR. RUMLEY: And Mr. Rumley votes yes.

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END OF MEETING

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## 1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF TENNESSEE )  
3 COUNTY OF HAMILTON )

4  
5 I, Erin M. Flatt, Court Reporter and  
6 Notary Public, in and for Hamilton County and the  
7 State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that  
8 I reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had  
9 in the above-styled cause on the 2nd day of  
10 April, 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 1st day of May, 2009.

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