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DADE COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2010

1 MR. RUMLEY: We'll go ahead and call
2 the meeting to order. I appreciate all of you being
3 here on this beautiful evening. I know you have a
4 lot of other things you'd rather be doing, but we do
5 appreciate it. I would like to ask Robert Goff
6 tonight if he would lead us in prayer and also the
7 Pledge of Allegiance.

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

10 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. This is the
11 regularly scheduled meeting of the Dade County
12 Commission which takes place at the same time on the
13 first Thursday of every month. Proper notice of the
14 meeting was given to the legal organ of Dade County
15 and has been posted in the hallway. At this time I
16 need a roll call. Mr. Lowery?

17 MR. LOWERY: Here.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

19 MR. CERVELLI: Here.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman is not here
21 tonight. His wife is sick. Mr. Goff?

22 MR. GOFF: Here.

23 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair is present.
24 At this time I'd entertain a motion to approve the
25 consent agenda after our clerk has went through the

1 items discussed at our work session just a few
2 minutes ago. Don?

3 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. We have the
4 approval of the previous month's minutes. We have
5 Respect for Law Week in May, which is a
6 proclamation. We have the approval of a S.P.L.O.S.T
7 purchase of a tar truck to be replaced for the
8 amount of at or around \$45,000 and I needed
9 clarification on if we're going to go ahead and do
10 the proclamation for the State of Dade Heritage
11 Festival week. Do you want to go ahead and approve
12 that as well tonight or wait until May?

13 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah.

14 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. Proclamation for
15 the week of May 17th through the 23rd, recognizing
16 it as State of Dade Heritage Festival Week.

17 MR. CERVELLI: I make a motion we
18 accept the agenda, consent agenda as read.

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

21 MR. GOFF: I'll second.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I'll call a vote.
23 Mr. Cervelli?

24 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

1 MR. GOFF: Yes.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman is absent.

3 Mr. Lowery?

4 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

5 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

6 We'll actually, if you want to, can read a copy of
7 this proclamation. This is a proclamation Respect
8 for Law, Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. Whereas
9 the Trenton, Dade Optimist Club recognizes a need to
10 honor the sacrifice and service for our Georgia
11 State Troopers, Dade County Sheriff's deputies and
12 Trenton Police Department. Whereas, the law
13 enforcement personnel provide essential protection
14 for businesses, families and individuals who work
15 and live in the surrounding area. Whereas from
16 arresting illegal drug dealers who would poison our
17 children to patrolling our city and county streets.
18 These professionals willingly put themselves in
19 harm's way every day and whereas, the courageous
20 actions of all law enforcement personnel, the safety
21 and security of all citizens of Dade County and the
22 City of Trenton who professionally demonstrate each
23 day. Now therefore be it resolved that we, the
24 Board of Commissioners of Dade County, Georgia
25 hereby proclaim May 3rd through the 9th, 2010, Law

1 Enforcement Appreciation Week. Adopted this first
2 day of April 2010. So we're proud to do that. That
3 says a lot really.

4 MR. LOWERY: Do you want to tell them
5 about that gathering down here?

6 MR. RUMLEY: The day of the gathering,
7 Don, when is that?

8 MR. TOWNSEND: That will be Tuesday,
9 May 4th, 12:00 noon out at the gazebo and if it
10 rains, they're just going to hold it here in the
11 commission room.

12 MR. LOWERY: That's my birthday.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Is it really?
14 Twenty-nine.

15 MR. LOWERY: I'll be 29 again.

16 MR. RUMLEY: You wish. All right.
17 We'll move right here to the district commissioner's
18 reports. We'll start with Lamar.

19 MR. LOWERY: Okay. Me and Scottie, we
20 took a tour yesterday through the new courthouse and
21 it's really coming along good. I know Ted told me
22 that they're kind of holding us up on the roof and
23 it's kind of holding up on the heating and air a
24 little bit. So I think he's going to build a fire
25 under them to get that going.

1 We talked about the Water Board changes
2 last week and the House Bill 1468 has made it to the
3 Senate. It's not been -- it hasn't been voted on
4 yet is the way I understand it. It has made it
5 through the House. This is all about accountability
6 to the citizens of Dade County. It's not trying to
7 take control of the Water Board. So I've had
8 nothing but good compliments from it, that it should
9 have been done a long time ago. I appreciate that.
10 I talked with Doug Anderton, met with him. Doug
11 seems to be okay with it now.

12 I reported last week that there were
13 some fire hydrants in the area that I live in that
14 were low pressure that had never been brought up to
15 the six-inch line, but I was talking to Doug. He
16 said it, in fact, had been fixed. So me and the
17 fire department one evening, we went around and
18 tested fire plugs and indeed it was. It filled up a
19 1,500-gallon tanker in four minutes and 15 seconds,
20 so that's pretty good pressure. That's -- they were
21 tickled. Of course, I'm tickled, too. I hate that
22 I said that if it wasn't true, but then Doug
23 straightened it out and I told him I would be sure
24 to make a correction tonight, which I have.

25 MR. RUMLEY: So that evening that y'all

1 checked it, if y'all's showers went off that evening,
2 you'll know what happened. That's a lot of water.
3 I'll tell you right now.

4 MR. LOWERY: But it wasn't even slowing
5 down. There's a lid on those fire trucks. I don't
6 know if you've ever seen one of them get filled up,
7 but there's so much air coming out of that fire
8 truck, that lid is popping up and down until that
9 water raises on top of it.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah, it's amazing.

11 MR. LOWERY: It was amazing to me to
12 see it. Fifteen hundred gallons in four minutes,
13 that's a lot of water moving in there. I was really
14 tickled.

15 The last thing I've got is the -- we
16 got a little note in our box from Jim Management.
17 Evidently they have the Mountainview Apartments here
18 in Trenton. It's a rural development grant that
19 they work under and they're targeting low to
20 moderate income tenants if anybody is interested in
21 that. They also have places for persons with
22 disabilities, too. It's right here in Trenton. I
23 think it's over behind Moore Funeral on Glenview
24 Drive. So if anybody is interested in this or know
25 anybody that would, you can contact us or contact

1 them. The number is up here on this. That's all I
2 have tonight.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Mr. Goff?

4 MR. GOFF: All right. I'm going to
5 talk about, again, some things. As far as the four
6 fields and all that's going on down there, that's
7 getting underway. They do a very good job keeping
8 those up as anybody knows, but that's underway. The
9 restroom doors are being -- I think have finished
10 being installed and some things we were looking for
11 down there.

12 But this month has been a busy month in
13 some ways. Some may not understand. We've been to
14 Atlanta several times, some on actual business of
15 the county and some promoting Dade County. We were
16 there back earlier this -- not too many days ago
17 with a young lady here from Dade County that
18 everybody knows, Ashley Houts. If you don't know,
19 she is a special young lady, but she is a lady
20 bulldog with the University of Georgia. This is her
21 senior year and we went down, some of us did with
22 her and her parents, her coach from the high school
23 over here, her senior year coach as well as Coach
24 Landers from the University of Georgia and she was
25 honored there before the House and the Senate that

1 day. You would just have to see what it means for
2 Dade County to be recognized or any county. But we
3 sometimes feel like we're left out up here where
4 this mountain gets in the way of everything, but
5 we're making that known, not just the business, but
6 the promotion of Dade County and what we're doing
7 and those are the kind of things that we should be
8 doing.

9 And then yesterday I was privileged to
10 go down with a couple of folks from our middle
11 school, Tom Randolph and Matt Jelly were honored
12 before the House of Representatives. Then Matt
13 Jelly also was honored as being the teacher of the
14 year for Dade Middle School and, again, with Project
15 Synergy, they may say some more -- the Chamber
16 representatives may say some more, but this is
17 really big and just to be represented and we kind
18 of -- or at least I did. I know Lamar made a
19 statement some time ago that we needed to try to be
20 down there as often as we could and it's just great
21 to be able to represent Dade County in so many ways.

22 So if you see any of these people, Tom
23 Randolph, Matt Jelly, any of the teachers, thank
24 them because what happens is there's enough bad that
25 goes on. We all know that. There's bad that goes

1 on everywhere, but when something good is happening,
2 they need to know that we've noticed and that we're
3 really taking it to heart.

4 And one other thing, there's three
5 young men in our high school, Nick Griffith,
6 Nathaniel Daniels and Dex Wooten, they have won the
7 FBLA state championship and that was done by
8 submitting a 15-page business plan to some judges in
9 Atlanta and they will go on to Nashville to the
10 national competition and when we talk about economy
11 and we talk about things coming into the county,
12 this is the kind of thing that helps generate it.
13 These are our future business leaders. These are
14 the people that are going to be working, we hope,
15 that will graduate, go to college, come back to Dade
16 County and be a part of Dade County and help bring
17 business and run business here. So my hat off to
18 these young men and those who help them as far as
19 the tutoring.

20 And then finally, the -- as Lamar said,
21 you can look out back and see that's beginning to
22 look much more like a building than it did just a
23 few days ago. The new courthouse is really coming
24 along. And I'll say something for Scottie since
25 he's not here and he usually reports on the transfer

1 station, Billy was able to get a refurbished,
2 another refurbished bailer for the transfer station
3 because there's a lot of -- really there's a lot of
4 people who do recycle and the bailer was in some
5 need of repair, the old one and they were able to
6 get a new one. It's down there. It will be up and
7 running and help out on that end. So a lot of good
8 things that are happening. So we just thank you for
9 being here and thank you for remembering us when you
10 do.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Goff. Good
12 job. Okay, Peter?

13 MR. CERVELLI: I'm going to have a hard
14 time following that. It's a little bit drier, less
15 interesting than some of those things that Robert
16 Goff talked about, but we'll talk about the finances
17 again for the County. Our local option sales tax
18 collections was \$157,700. This is an improvement
19 from last month, the previous month where we
20 collected 130,000 -- excuse me. It's an improvement
21 from the same month last year. So if you look at
22 last year's March and this year's March, last year
23 we collected 130,000. This year we collected
24 157,000. The three-month moving average that I used
25 to see if there are really any real differences in

1 sales tax collection just keep saying we've reached
2 the bottom. The numbers are not significantly
3 higher, but they're not going down. If we look at
4 the last 12 months versus the previous 12 months,
5 we're still 12 percent down year-over-year. That's
6 a slight improvement actually, but, you know, it's
7 not something you would want to take to the bank and
8 say sales tax collections are going to turn around,
9 but it looks like they've bottomed out and that's a
10 good thing. We've collected \$197,000 in S.P.L.O.S.T
11 tax. We budget, as I said, about \$210,000 a month,
12 which we hope to collect that, so we're off 13,000.
13 In the seven months we've been collecting
14 S.P.L.O.S.T, we're off about \$150,000 off of our
15 projections, so that's just a reality of the
16 numbers.

17 We looked at the budget for 2010
18 February and since it's a six-year -- six-month
19 budget, that's 33 percent of our six-month year.
20 It's a transition budget. As you all may recollect,
21 we're going to a new fiscal year which starts in
22 June of 2010 and ends in July of 2011. So this six
23 months is a transition budget and that matters. If
24 we look at our expenses, we're at 29, 30 percent, so
25 we're doing okay compared to 33 percent of the year.

1 If we look at our revenues however, they're
2 21 percent versus 33 percent. That number needs to
3 be understood a little bit. It's not going to get
4 any better actually over the next several months.
5 It will get worse. We collect our taxes, our
6 primary taxes, our property taxes in December. All
7 that was booked for the 12-month period of last
8 year.

9 We're not collecting much taxes in this
10 six months, so those numbers, our revenue numbers
11 are going to look pretty bad for this six months,
12 but once we start our 12-month calendar again
13 starting in June, we're now back to a 12-month
14 period where we have taxes included in it. So if
15 you took a hard look at the budget and say, my gosh,
16 what's happened to our revenue. It's an anomaly,
17 but it's going to look pretty bad over the next
18 several months. But the cash is in the bank, so
19 we've got the difference between cash and financial
20 accounting. The cash is there, but when we look at
21 how we have to account for revenue, it looks bad,
22 but the money is in the bank, so that's the
23 important part. And if you have any more questions
24 about that, see Don. He'll be able to explain it.

25 We've started a new budget process and

1 Ted will probably say more about that for the next
2 12-month period, so I'll let -- Ted has spent a lot
3 of time on that.

4 The only other comment I want to make
5 is we're in the spring. The roads are -- look
6 pretty bad in some cases. If you have potholes,
7 other cracking up in the road -- the winters have
8 been bad all over the northeast. If you've driven
9 anywhere, roads are bad and every state has got a
10 challenge, so just let us know if you've got some
11 problems as a result of winter weather and roads
12 falling apart and I'm sure we'll take care of them.
13 That's all I have.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Good job, Peter.

15 As Peter was explaining, our revenues
16 seem to be declining and this month, what I have to
17 report and what Don and I are working on and it will
18 go on through this month is budget and it's a real
19 important time of year. That's when you have your
20 county officials, of course, come in and you meet
21 one on one and they show you what they have and you
22 tell them what they're going to get and that's just
23 what it amounts to. And so right now, it's
24 something that's real important.

25 As Peter said, we're going through the

1 six-month cycle. You know, we had to do a six-month
2 before we go into our year. On paper accounting, as
3 he said, it's -- it won't look right. It won't add
4 up really until after the -- the real year begins
5 and we go into this cycle. Of course, that was
6 explained to us and that was expected to happen.
7 When you actually change your year-end and change
8 the whole cycle because it's a serious change and as
9 Peter said, if you've got any questions, just call
10 Don because he --

11 MR. TOWNSEND: Thanks.

12 MR. RUMLEY: But anyway, it's been a
13 real busy month and we're probably halfway through,
14 I guess, aren't we, Don?

15 MR. TOWNSEND: About, yeah.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Somewhere in there. We've
17 got budget hearings set up every day next week. It
18 takes time, you know, especially on your larger
19 budgets like the sheriff, Jane Moreland, any of our
20 public officials, but we're getting there and
21 hopefully we'll be finished and be able to give a
22 report, a full report at the end of this month.

23 Also, as Robert touched base with you,
24 we went to Atlanta since we talked to you last time,
25 since we had our last meeting. We've been down

1 there two or three times and Robert has been a
2 couple of extra times. He's really been spending a
3 lot of time with our children, our school children
4 and the Chamber.

5 We've got -- I met a couple of people
6 last week to look at the -- this is something we've
7 got to fix this summer is Lookout Lake Dam repair.
8 That's going to hit us probably in July or August
9 when the water -- when we can actually drop the
10 water on it and I've been trying to get some figures
11 together on it in what reality it's going to cost to
12 fix this because it's not if we're going to fix it.
13 We've got to fix it because it's already in the Safe
14 Dams people in the State of Georgia and federal
15 people is involved in it, too. So anyway, that's
16 something that's going to come up.

17 Other than that, you know, we're just
18 trying to keep things in the road and trying to keep
19 expenditures down. Everyone is doing a good job of
20 it. Out county-elected officials, I pat them on the
21 back because they've been watching and counting
22 their pennies. So far they've been -- the budgets
23 that we went through, we've probably got maybe two
24 or three that we've got to go back to second round
25 with. We've got to do a little fine tuning. I'll

1 have to hand it to them, they know times are hard.
2 So if you see them, tell them you appreciate them.

3 But other than that, you know, as I
4 said, we're just trying to do our promise to you and
5 be real conservative with your money, your tax money
6 that you pay and there's not a commissioner here
7 right now that -- I guarantee you I would pat
8 everyone on the back because they're about as tight
9 a bunch as I've worked with and that's good. That's
10 a good thing. Other than that, that's all I have to
11 report.

12 Is the mayor here tonight, anyone from
13 the City? Everything must be running pretty smooth
14 in the City. Glad for that.

15 Don, we'll move down to you on the
16 monthly financial report, Mr. Don Townsend.

17 MR. TOWNSEND: All right. The balances
18 as of March 31st, 2010, for general fund was
19 \$1,143,236; federal asset fund for U.S. Treasury was
20 \$4,389; special sheriff's fund, 13,393; drug abuse
21 education fund, 39,246; supplemental juvenile
22 services fund, 14,929; victim assistance fund,
23 2,654; jail fund, \$15,086; federal asset fund,
24 Department of Justice, 9,326; payroll account,
25 60,485.

1 Total S.P.L.O.S.T funds for 2004, this
2 is the old S.P.L.O.S.T. We're still getting through
3 to some of those, 992,972 and 118,495 for those
4 funds in the capital and principal and interest fund
5 balance. 2009 S.P.L.O.S.T for the projects account
6 including investments is 264,395. Proceeds and
7 investments total 645,916. Construction funds and
8 investments total 1,590,305 for a total under the
9 new S.P.L.O.S.T of 2.5 million available S.P.L.O.S.T
10 funds.

11 Fire departments, we still have three
12 departments with bond money remaining, Davis, North
13 Dade and West Brow as New Home has used their money.
14 As Commissioner Cervelli noted, the total revenues
15 less expenses for February was short \$145,546.94 and
16 revenues less expenses year-to-date was down
17 379,202. In the budget attained through
18 February 28th, since it's a six-month year is
19 33.33 percent. Revenue attained, 21 percent,
20 expenses attained was 30 percent.

21 Just for the record, again, the local
22 option sales tax collections for March was
23 \$158,571.10. The special purpose local option sales
24 tax for March was \$198,205.86.

25 For the commissioners, you'll see

1 behind tab number one right in front of tab number
2 two, there is some detailed S.P.L.O.S.T reporting
3 there for you this month showing all the details of
4 checks that have been cut this year and the
5 different funds as well as some graphed out data for
6 your review. That's all.

7 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you, Don.
8 Good job. Any questions for Mr. Townsend from any
9 of the commissioners? Lamar, any questions? At
10 this time I will entertain a motion to approve our
11 financial -- monthly financial report.

12 MR. GOFF: I make a motion we approve
13 it as read.

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

16 MR. LOWERY: I second.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Mr. Lowery, thank
18 you. I'll call a vote. Mr. Cervelli?

19 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

21 MR. GOFF: Yes.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman is absent.
23 Mr. Lowery?

24 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

25 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

1 Okay. Robin, have you got anything you need to talk
2 about? Do you have a report on the Rex Blevins
3 lawsuit?

4 MR. ROGERS: The only thing new that
5 has happened on that is this week I received notice
6 that the case has been docketed with the Supreme
7 Court for the June calendar. What that means is
8 once the case is docketed, there's several deadlines
9 that begin running. A briefing schedule is put in
10 place and that sort of thing. So as far as the
11 precise date of when it might be scheduled for oral
12 argument, we don't know that yet, but nevertheless
13 we could probably look for it sometime in the month
14 of June I would think.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Do you think the actual
16 case will come up in June?

17 MR. ROGERS: I think so.

18 MR. CERVELLI: Is that a one-day event
19 when it occurs?

20 MR. ROGERS: Yes, it is.

21 MR. RUMLEY: That will be in Atlanta, I
22 guess?

23 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I would like to
25 post it in the paper when it -- because there's some

1 people that have actually shown interest in going,
2 actually driving down and listening to it. We'll be
3 sure to keep you informed on it when that does
4 happen, give you maybe a week's notice.

5 All right. Unfinished business, I
6 don't think we've got any unfinished that I know of.
7 New business we've already went through.

8 Okay. Okay. Anyone out there that
9 wants to -- okay. Mr. Marshall? Mr. Bill Marshall
10 wants to say about 30 seconds of --

11 MR. MARSHALL: I suppose I should talk
12 from here so they can hear me. My name is Bill
13 Marshall and I've done every job in Dade County that
14 doesn't pay anything. That's my title. But I like
15 to hear the things you talk about. I'm sorry I
16 haven't been around for a while. I've been busy, I
17 guess, but I would like to cover a few things. One
18 question I've been asked a lot in the last few days,
19 when is the theater opening. It's opening tomorrow
20 night and the thing about the theater that reminds
21 me of what you talked about about we like to go to
22 Atlanta and hear good things about Dade County and
23 that's what's happened a little bit at the theater.
24 I want to just take a minute and tell you some of
25 it.

1 This one couple had a couple of kids
2 and the parents couldn't get along and they argued
3 all the time and they thought they would just divide
4 up and maybe work it out and maybe get back
5 together. They said, well, let's do something with
6 the kids in the meantime. Well, they went to the
7 theater and pitched their frisbees and done all
8 their things and had a big time and went home and
9 got back to Don and said, we had such a good time,
10 we've decided to stay together and work it out.
11 What he didn't point out in there, the fact was he
12 was playing with his kids probably for the first
13 time in a long time. So family -- I heard the other
14 day that the Today Show has got a lot of things on
15 it now about family friendly communities and I'm
16 going to get that information to them and see if
17 they'll get it on there because that is something
18 that not everybody has. There's a lot of adults
19 there. It gets a lot of publicity. But anyway, I'm
20 not here to give publicity for that.

21 We do have the Historic High Country,
22 which is the travel association for the 17 northwest
23 counties and they're going to be here May 12th and
24 we're going to hold the meeting at the Wilderness
25 Outdoor Movie Theater, so that will give us a little

1 more propaganda for all those people that work in
2 tourism in that area.

3 But probably the biggest thing I'm
4 really here for is something that I've kind of
5 fallen in love with since they told me that there
6 was such a thing as 150th Sesquicentennial Civil War
7 and that's -- really starting this next year is
8 really about four years. It's probably going to be
9 a major tourism thing because everybody all over the
10 county is interested in it, even people in other
11 countries. We've been in it now for a couple of
12 years and we've managed to be in the top class and
13 it's on the thing there how many pay. If you get
14 down to Dade County, you notice it says co-op. You
15 know, that impresses them that we work together well
16 enough to do it as a co-op because they know that
17 Dade Economic Improvement pays 300 of it and we hope
18 the County again will pay 300. We'll get the City
19 to pay 300 and then the Sons of the Confederate
20 Veterans 100 and that gets us our \$1,000, but
21 they're impressed that we work as a cooperative.
22 That means we're all kind of interested in what's
23 going on. I think that's a good point. But if you
24 can see your way clear to do that, I would
25 appreciate that. That's the one thing I'm here to

1 ask for help on. The other things I have is just
2 information. Do you want to decide on that now?

3 MR. LOWERY: Let's make that plain.
4 That can't be taxpayer money. That's got to come
5 from --

6 MR. RUMLEY: From us. That will be our
7 money.

8 MR. MARSHALL: Oh, okay. Because we
9 are a 501C3.

10 MR. RUMLEY: I don't have a problem
11 with it, I mean, myself. I'll give you 100 of it.

12 MR. CERVELLI: We'll get you 300.
13 Robert will write most of it, but we'll --

14 MR. RUMLEY: That's what we did last
15 year.

16 MR. MARSHALL: Yeah, same thing. And
17 there's a lot of people involved in it. Every time
18 we meet, there's more people. We're all the way
19 down to Atlanta now and through Alabama and in
20 Tennessee. We're spreading it out. It's really
21 tri-state, you know.

22 Some of the other things I've got here
23 that might be of interest, but the first thing
24 coming up in May is the U.S. 11 Antique Alley, which
25 is May 13 through the 16th. You may know, it's

1 always the weekend after Mother's Day and Thursday
2 through Sunday.

3 MR. RUMLEY: You need to write that on
4 your calendars. Those of you who have never been,
5 it's amazing. It's a lot of junk.

6 MR. MARSHALL: We have a website, which
7 is US11antiquealley.com and we're learning things as
8 we go. It's our 13th year and it starts on the
9 13th. That will be easy to remember both of those.
10 But we've learned every year a little bit. Of
11 course, we have a website and we try to tell people
12 as much as they want to know and we put on what the
13 county will pay us to put on it, you know. But we
14 found one thing that a lady wanted to know where she
15 could set up. She called me from Florida. I said,
16 well, just anywhere you can find a spot, you know.
17 So she came to Fort Payne, called me and said, I'm
18 on my way, I'll tell you when I find something. She
19 called me back. She was in Cleveland, Tennessee.
20 She said, I didn't find a thing. I said, well, it
21 don't start for two days. And, of course, nobody
22 has anything out ahead of time. So we found out
23 what was important is to tell them where vendor
24 space is available on the website with a phone
25 number and they can call that and make arrangements

1 where to go. Butch could tell you. He's got a lot
2 of people that comes from Florida and sets up with
3 him every year.

4 But anyway, on the Lookout Mountain
5 Parkway thing this summer, I found out something
6 else -- last fall, excuse me, that we were trying to
7 get more people back up there. They were kind of
8 dodging us going down through the valley on the
9 other side. So I went down through there and got 12
10 people that I knew had had space before and they all
11 agreed to put their name and phone number in the
12 website for people to call them. I know one guy is
13 thinking I really did a hot job because I got the
14 first one down there at Cloudland coming north and
15 before I got back home from doing those, I got a
16 call from a lady in Atlanta that didn't want to go
17 to Signal Mountain anymore and she wanted to know if
18 I had a place down here and I told her to call this
19 guy at that first place I stopped and she called him
20 and said, boy, that worked fast, you know.

21 But anyway, what happened was it
22 surprised us. It wasn't just telling them a place
23 to call and find a place to set up, but seeing the
24 website and seeing all those places you can find
25 vendors, that that's a hot place, we better go that

1 way, so our traffic picked up, too. So it's a good
2 thing. We're going to try to do that more on the
3 Antique Alley this time.

4 I don't know if you've got any
5 questions about it or not, but it is a nice thing to
6 do and it's our 13th year. One thing I would like
7 to ask you to help me with. I know I have to ask
8 across the street about the parking lot, but we
9 would like to use the center portion and the one row
10 outside the center for vendors so we can keep some
11 people downtown. You know, they can find places
12 outside of town, but if they come through town and
13 there's no place to stop, they don't see much. They
14 go right through, so that would help us stop them.
15 I'm going to have another little thing. I think I'm
16 going to do it at Brock's. Don't tell anybody yet
17 because they don't know it.

18 MR. CERVELLI: Tell them not to listen.

19 MR. MARSHALL: Yeah, don't listen.

20 Actually, I found out what cush is and that's one of
21 the famous foods during the Civil War and we're
22 going to advertise that you can get a great Civil
23 War meal at Brock's Restaurant next to the square in
24 Trenton, Georgia. We'll do anything to get people
25 to stop in town.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Now, this is during the
2 Antique Alley?

3 MR. MARSHALL: Antique Alley, yeah. It
4 will be that four days and I'll have to work with
5 the insurance guy because I did this one time
6 several years ago and he run through the tape and
7 said he paid the rent on this place, so I'll make
8 sure I'm all right with him if you guys agree to it.

9 MR. RUMLEY: You need to get with us in
10 the office and the way we work that is through --
11 make sure that Jan Ellison, she schedules weddings
12 and stuff, but there's not a problem with it.

13 MR. MARSHALL: Yeah. I haven't talked
14 to her yet. I thought since I was here I would just
15 mention it. I think it's going to be a good year
16 and we're going to do some advertising. Also, we're
17 going to put a sign right as you enter from the
18 courthouse, come back next week for the festival,
19 you know, and a story about it. We might as well
20 help them. It's all helping us, too, you know. So
21 we'll make that all work good.

22 What else did I have? You talked about
23 things that excite you and I'm in so many things
24 that all excite me and that's getting tough on me.
25 I haven't gained any weight though because I eat

1 three vegetables and drink water, but unfortunately
2 I'm built different. I'm not as slim as I used to
3 be. I weigh the same now as I did out of basic
4 training 45 years ago. But guess what, I've had the
5 furniture disease. Have you ever had that?

6 MR. RUMLEY: Chest of drawers disease.

7 MR. MARSHALL: That's where your chest
8 falls into your drawers. I had that.

9 But the -- I went to Kiwanis today at
10 noon and we had a gal come -- a teacher from the
11 high school. Her name is Jennifer Taylor and she's
12 been the president of the Key Club, which is
13 sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and she came and
14 brought two little Key Club members with her and she
15 went through all the things they've done over there,
16 ten or 12 things they've done this year. It's
17 amazing how many things. I don't have them with me
18 to tell you, but it will be in the paper next week.
19 So if you get a chance to look at the picture, read
20 about how many things they've done because it's
21 really interesting. It makes what we do seem
22 worthwhile, you know.

23 I really about told you everything I
24 need except I didn't tell you the State of Dade
25 Heritage, we're going to be helping them with that

1 and the Historical Society, which I chair, we're
2 going to be out there selling our new books and I
3 was going to bring you one in here tonight. You
4 probably know we reprinted the '81, 1981 book. We
5 put -- we did improve it by we put an index it in
6 now so you don't have to read the whole book to find
7 your relatives. That's probably a good step. A lot
8 of people wanted one and there wasn't any available
9 anymore. But we took Peter's advice and we have put
10 it online. When we ordered one from it, it cost
11 \$50, but we found out we could have 100 of them
12 printed and sell them for 25.

13 MR. RUMLEY: How do you go online? How
14 can you tell people to go online?

15 MR. MARSHALL: It's a blurb. I'll have
16 to put it -- does anybody read my articles in the
17 paper? I'm your correspondent for the Free Press.
18 You probably know that. What's interesting about
19 this, I have to turn it on Monday morning and it
20 doesn't come out until Saturday, so it means I can't
21 write about this week. I've got to write about last
22 week and next week.

23 MR. LOWERY: It used to be there on
24 Fridays and I liked it better on Friday. They
25 messed it up when they moved it.

1 MR. MARSHALL: I know it. They put all
2 of North Georgia on Saturday actually. I enjoy
3 doing it. It's interesting what you learn from it
4 and I try to be very positive. I don't badmouth
5 anybody. I just get ninety words though and that's
6 hard to squeeze a lot in there.

7 MR. RUMLEY: This book he's talking
8 about is pretty interesting. For those of you who
9 have never really seen a copy of it, it's real
10 informative. It goes back during the Allison
11 Blevins days of our sheriff and it goes on well
12 beyond that, but it's really an interesting book.
13 If you live here in Dade County or if you just moved
14 here, it's something pretty interesting.

15 MR. MARSHALL: We've got them for sale
16 now. They're at both banks and also at the Chamber
17 of Commerce and the bookstore around on the corner
18 going up toward the interstate. So you can buy them
19 at any of those places. Margaret is waving to me.
20 Does that mean it's time to quit?

21 MR. RUMLEY: She's giving you the
22 signal. I've been pushing this buzzer when five
23 minutes is up. We appreciate you.

24 MR. MARSHALL: If you don't see any
25 problem with the parking, I'll talk to them over

1 there.

2 MR. RUMLEY: No. Talk to Jan and get
3 with Melissa to make sure. They've got it reserved.
4 It won't be a problem.

5 MR. MARSHALL: I appreciate your
6 cooperation because all this helps me do these
7 things.

8 MR. LOWERY: And who do we need to
9 contact to make sure there's space? Because the
10 North Dade Community Center down there, we rent
11 space down there at it.

12 MR. MARSHALL: Yeah. We put that on
13 there, yeah. I talked to the guy that's over that
14 every year to make sure.

15 MR. LOWERY: Wayne Lynn.

16 MR. MARSHALL: Yeah, Wayne Lynn. He's
17 my neighbor, too. Yeah. It's going to be good.
18 It's a lot of work to stay ahead of it. We did
19 finally change, brought it up to the year's dates.
20 Thanks a lot.

21 MR. RUMLEY: I appreciate it. Anyone
22 else want to speak to us tonight? I knew Debbie.
23 We have our Chamber executive here that wants to
24 give us an update.

25 MS. TINKER: Robert told you about our

1 day yesterday at the Capital and they've been
2 telling you about the Heritage Festival and Butch is
3 going to tell you a little bit more about that when
4 I get through, but I did want to mention that the
5 Great American Cleanup is going on right now. We
6 have the supplies at the Chamber. We would love
7 everybody to come over and get them and help clean
8 up Dade County because it really needs it,
9 especially before Antique Alley and the festival.

10 Also, we're asking for pictures. This
11 year our photo contest under the Keep Dade Beautiful
12 Program, they're wanting pictures of historic
13 buildings. It can even be old buildings, fields,
14 scenery, but someplace you think they might like for
15 a movie site that could be used because the state of
16 Georgia brings a lot of movie companies in here
17 through their incentive packages and we're hoping to
18 get some of that revenue here in Dade County.

19 Also, through the Department of Human
20 Resources, the DFACS office -- the DFACS office is
21 not here in Dade County, so don't be calling there.
22 There is the Georgia Teen Work Program and they are
23 asking everyone that would like a job that's a
24 teenager between the ages of 14 and 18 or if you're
25 an employer in the county to go online to

1 www.georgiateen.org. The youth can work up to 35
2 hours per week and make 8.50 an hour and those wages
3 are paid by the State, not by the employer. Last
4 year the Chamber actually had a little girl work for
5 us under that program and it worked very well. She
6 was able to help us input things into the computer
7 system and it was also a learning experience for
8 her, too.

9 This spring we will be attending
10 Historic High Country and Georgia on My Mind Days is
11 part of our regional welcome center program. We
12 have to do this to keep our status as a regional
13 visitor's center. I think y'all mostly know
14 everything that we have been doing this quarter. If
15 not, I have four pages back here. You can look at
16 it and pick you one up and take it with you. I've
17 been making the articles in the newspaper, so I'm
18 not going to go over all of those things. But now
19 this past weekend the Chattanooga Now that came out,
20 I hope everyone got a copy because there was an
21 article, a section on Dade County and the Chamber
22 did help supply quite a bit of that information to
23 them and we got the festival -- we were able to get
24 the festival and Antique Alley in it and everything.
25 Now, some of the outdoor activities I won't take

1 credit for all of that because we have the hiking
2 and the biking and somehow they got kayaking and I
3 didn't do that.

4 MR. CERVELLI: Well, I'm going to kayak
5 down Lookout Creek.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Peter will take care of
7 that.

8 MS. TINKER: Where they got that, I was
9 not really sure, you know, and everything. Project
10 Synergy Earth Day will be April 16th. Georgia
11 Power called and asked that they partner and the
12 County has agreed to support this and the City and
13 the Chamber businesses and that's just everybody try
14 to conserve -- use energy that day, but conserve it
15 in a reasonable way and Georgia Power will be
16 furnishing T-shirts and the things for the children.
17 And then Project Synergy TVA will be this spring and
18 it is on the 19th and the 20th, two days before the
19 festival and we want anyone in the community that
20 possibly can to come out and be a judge for this
21 Project Synergy event and, as I said, it's being
22 sponsored by the Chamber and the Tennessee Valley
23 Authority and, of course, the community and the
24 government of Dade County. We're all partners in
25 this. And then the next two days will be the

1 festival. So, Butch, do you want to take it from
2 here?

3 MR. RAPER: Now that I know your button
4 is tore up, I want the same amount of time that Bill
5 Marshall got. When you feel passionate about
6 something, you spend your time.

7 MR. RUMLEY: You go ahead. We're all
8 right.

9 MR. RAPER: I just wanted to kind of
10 explain to everybody the State of Dade Heritage
11 Festival. It's basically celebrating the history of
12 Dade County. It's focused on the myth and the truth
13 of Dade County threatening to secede from Georgia
14 and the recognition by President Truman of Dade
15 County returning to the Union on July 4th, 1945.
16 The event will be subtitled Come See the History
17 Behind the Myth of the Independent State of Dade.
18 The big thing that we are promoting is making it a
19 larger festival.

20 To just to mention, you know, a few of
21 the things that are going on is the radio
22 reenactment of leaving and returning to the union.
23 We have a 60-piece Army National Guard concert band
24 that will be playing. We also have a military brass
25 band, several other music groups and singers will be

1 here as well in different locations. We've got a
2 carnival for the kids. We have a horse encampment,
3 antique car show, motorcycle show, antique tractor
4 viewing. We've got several different types of
5 vendors as far as artists all the way from
6 woodworking, actual artists, our sculpture people.
7 There will be also food concessions set up in one
8 large place kind of in the center of the festival.
9 We have a Civil War encampment, Indian encampment
10 and also a horse encampment. We have the parade
11 that will be starting at Moore's Funeral Home coming
12 through town and dispersing after they leave by the
13 Dade Bank.

14 There's a large group of civic groups
15 that are involved in this as well and it's going to
16 take, as I said earlier, just the whole community,
17 you know, to make this be what we hope it will be.
18 But we're in need of everybody talking about getting
19 any of our talented artists, craft people, anybody
20 that wants to participate, any church groups that
21 want to put on an activity during it, fire
22 departments. So anybody you talk to, please have
23 them to either become a friend on Facebook or send
24 an email or contact myself at (706) 657-2953 or
25 check the paper. There's also many other ways to

1 contact other people that are working on the
2 festival and we just hope everybody comes out and
3 enjoys it and just remember we are having parking at
4 the high school and a shuttle service, you know, to
5 be able to transport you up here to keep you from
6 fighting traffic. Thank you for your time.

7 MR. LOWERY: That was 2953?

8 MR. RAPER: And our annual Chamber
9 banquet will be April 22nd. It's actually going to
10 be held down at our RV park. The theme this year is
11 April showers. We will be having entertainment.
12 Randy Allen Wade, which is a comedian singing
13 entertainer will be there. The good thing is having
14 steak, baked potato, salad. We'll be having a
15 chocolate fountain for dessert. Everybody kind of
16 self-serve, but I hope everybody comes out. Also,
17 buy your tickets and come on out and enjoys
18 themselves at the banquet.

19 MR. RUMLEY: How much are the tickets?

20 MR. RAPER: Tickets are \$20 and they
21 will be -- they're on sale with any of the board
22 members or if you need them, you know, just stop by
23 the Chamber and Debbie will be happy to help you
24 with those.

25 MR. CERVELLI: I should let my wife

1 know we're committed to going.

2 MR. LOWERY: Yeah. Well, my wife paid
3 for ours, so I know she knows.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you. We appreciate
5 it. Anyone else want to talk to us tonight? I
6 appreciate all of y'all being here. Have you got
7 anything else?

8 MR. LOWERY: I would just like to say
9 thank you to the Chamber and everybody that's
10 working with them because I think we've really seen
11 a lot of difference in the last year or so and I
12 appreciate what you're doing. I know a lot of you
13 are doing stuff, especially Debbie. I know she does
14 a lot of stuff after hours that she doesn't get paid
15 for and there's a lot of stuff.

16 MS. TINKER: They do as much.

17 MR. LOWERY: I know. I shouldn't be
18 mentioning anybody because I know there's a lot of
19 y'all. We do appreciate it. I just want you to
20 know that.

21 MR. TINKER: Yeah. I want to thank you
22 for the coffee and donuts. I'm on a budget. Every
23 month when we have this meeting, I get to eat and
24 drink.

25 MR. RUMLEY: I have to eat at least one

1 donut. We appreciate all of you coming.

2 MR. GOFF: I just have a couple of
3 items I think people may be interested in it. Most
4 of you know by now, I'm sure, that Nathan Deal
5 resigned his seat on U.S. Congress. We're going to
6 have -- with the rest of the Ninth District, we're
7 going to have to have a special election. Just to
8 show you how things can happen when you least need
9 them, which means there's going to be a special
10 election. I think it's May 11th, is that -- May
11 11th. It's already been moved from April 27th to
12 May 11 because of military or mail-in votes. We've
13 got to pay for that. But no one probably in the
14 Ninth District expected to have to spend any money
15 on elections until the primary in July, which would
16 have come under the one-year budget. So just so you
17 know, that's some money that, you know, the whole
18 Ninth District, not just Dade County. It will
19 affect us, but certainly not as much as even some of
20 the larger counties with more precincts.

21 MR. LOWERY: We're about guaranteed a
22 runoff, too.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Probably be a runoff.

24 MR. GOFF: Probably be a runoff from it
25 because so many are running in this special

1 election. So that's just something that might be of
2 interest to you. I know it is to us.

3 MR. LOWERY: About a \$14,000 election.

4 MR. RUMLEY: It costs us about 7,000,
5 \$7,500 to have an election. So if we spend that and
6 then there's probably -- as many as is running,
7 there will be a runoff, so you're looking at
8 probably around 14, \$15,000 of unbudgeted, your tax
9 money that it's going to cost. That's just our
10 county. You can imagine what the larger counties
11 will be.

12 MS. REYNOLDS: Can't you have the
13 runoff on the 20th of July? Never mind.

14 MR. RUMLEY: No. Believe me, that was
15 brought up. That's not something you change. The
16 governor could have actually took it in his hands,
17 but he didn't.

18 MR. GOFF: I think this fell totally in
19 the lap of Governor Perdue to do it instead of
20 waiting. I think it could have waited actually
21 until the -- the first primary this year is July
22 20th and it could have waited, but he saw fit to do
23 it otherwise, so we really -- the other thing
24 that -- the census, I know we've talked about that
25 and it's already been -- some of you have not

1 received your forms. Well, rest -- be at ease, I
2 received two. I'm not saying it's --

3 MR. AUSTIN: We've got them over at the
4 Chamber.

5 MR. GOFF: Do you? I think they're
6 saying if you have not received it and you're
7 interested in it, don't panic until the 12th or the
8 14th of April. But right now I get a report and
9 it's just a percentage, but Dade County is doing
10 very well with the surrounding counties on the
11 numbers that are being sent back in the percentage.
12 The last one I got, and I don't think I receiving
13 one today in my E-mail from Wilma Kreuger, but we
14 were at 42 percent. We started out like --

15 MR. CERVELLI: We're at 55.

16 MR. RUMLEY: We were 50 day before
17 yesterday.

18 MR. GOFF: It's coming along very well
19 and we're actually ahead of some of the counties
20 that were way out ahead of us. So it's working and
21 it's real -- it's a real interest to any county, any
22 small county, small towns especially. So I want to
23 thank you for getting those back in and the
24 concern -- I've had phone calls wanting to know
25 where mine is at, so hopefully those will get out in

1 the mail in the next few days.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I appreciate,
3 again, all of you being here. I don't know how many
4 of you got -- I've got one thing. Today is
5 April 1st, of course, April Fool's. I don't know
6 how many of you actually got April fooled today.

7 MR. CERVELLI: Well, this meeting
8 didn't really occur.

9 MR. RUMLEY: I came in this morning
10 and, of course, in the morning I check my E-mails
11 and I start returning calls and the phone starts
12 ringing and I had already had a couple of really
13 stressful calls and different -- you know. The
14 phone rang and this friend of mine in Atlanta, he
15 said, Ted, have you read the paper this morning? I
16 said, no, I haven't. He said, there's been a plane
17 crash and we've lost one of our senators. I said,
18 really. I said, what happened? He said, it seems
19 there was a Leer jet on its way to Macon and it had
20 one of our senators on there and a Georgia Tech
21 student and had an old farmer, he was going back
22 home and they got just about five minutes into the
23 flight and one of the engines caught on fire and
24 about three minutes later the other engine caught on
25 fire. Well, they were up into 4,000, 5,000 feet.

1 The pilot -- co-pilot came back and said, people, I
2 hate to tell you this, but the plane is crashing,
3 it's going down. He said, the bad news is we've got
4 three parachutes on this plane. He said, the pilot
5 and myself, we've got ours, they're built into our
6 uniform. He said, you know, we hate it, but y'all
7 do what you've got to do, so they just jumped out of
8 the plane. The plane went on, you know, just
9 seconds went by. Well, the politician got up, the
10 senator got up and he went over and he grabbed the
11 other parachute. He said, now, let me tell you, he
12 told them who he was, identified himself. He said,
13 I'm a state senator. He said, I've got a tremendous
14 amount of things going on, we've got legislation, he
15 said, it's critical to this state that I live and he
16 just turned around and jumped out. Well, there they
17 were, you know. The old farmer was looking right at
18 the student and he said, son, let me tell you
19 something, before you say one word, he said, I'm 95
20 years old, he said, I lost my wife last year and
21 I've lived a good life, he said, you take that chute
22 and don't you even think anything about it and the
23 boy looked at him, he said, hey, don't worry about
24 it. He said, don't worry about it. He said, that
25 politician, he grabbed my book bag when he jumped.

1 So anyway, April Fools. Because I
2 was -- I was taking that pretty serious until I
3 realized what he was saying. Y'all have a good
4 April Fools and we appreciate it. Okay.

5 MR. CERVELLI: I make a motion.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I make a motion to
7 adjourn.

8 MR. GOFF: I second.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Mr. Lowery?

10 MR. LOWERY: Yes.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

12 MR. GOFF: Yes.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Cervelli?

14 MR. CERVELLI: Yes.

15 MR. RUMLEY: And I vote yes.

16
17 END OF MEETING
18
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22
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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 1st day of
10 April, 2010;

11 That the said proceedings were
12 reduced to typewriting under my personal supervision;
13 and that the foregoing is a transcript of said
14 proceedings.

15 This the 3rd day of May, 2010.

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.