

DADE COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

1 MR. RUMLEY: We'll go ahead and call
2 the meeting to order. It's November 7th, 2013.
3 As always before we start our meeting, I'll ask
4 Robert Goff to lead us in prayer and also the Pledge
5 of Allegiance.

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

8 MR. RUMLEY: This is the regularly
9 scheduled meeting of the Dade County Board of
10 Commissioners which takes place at the same time on
11 the first Thursday of every month. Proper notice of
12 this meeting was given to our legal organ of the
13 Dade County Sentinel and has been posted in the
14 hallway of the Administrative Building. At this
15 time, I do need a roll call. Mr. Bradford?

16 MR. BRADFORD: Here.

17 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

18 MR. GOFF: Here.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

20 MR. PITTMAN: Here.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

22 MR. SMITH: Here.

23 MR. RUMLEY: The chair is present.
24 Mitchell, I'll start with you on the district
25 commissioner committee.

1 MR. SMITH: I would like to remind
2 everybody in the communities of Wildwood, Hooker,
3 Slygo and even our neighbors in Whiteside,
4 Tennessee, that there will be an informational
5 meeting Tuesday, December 3rd, from 5:00 to 7:00
6 at the North Georgia Worship Center. Some of us
7 know it as Hooker Church of God from years gone
8 back, located on Bishop Road in Hooker concerning
9 the bridge work on Highway 299 at Interstate 24.

10 I have asked and he's somewhat agreed,
11 Rex Harrison to be there and attend and come back
12 and give a report at the next meeting because I
13 won't be able to attend that meeting. So I figure
14 the mayor of Hooker would be as good as anybody to
15 attend.

16 MR. RUMLEY: I guarantee you. Scottie?

17 MR. PITTMAN: I don't have anything.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Robert Goff?

19 MR. GOFF: Well, I missed the last
20 meeting, so I've got a lot of catching up to do.
21 Thank you, Scottie, for yielding your time to the
22 one on the left. Really I would like to just take a
23 moment to kind of send congratulations out to our
24 girls' softball team. They did not bring home the
25 state championship this year as they did last year,

1 but they did make it in the elite eight. They were
2 in the top eight teams to play in seven -- or AA in
3 the state of Georgia.

4 Also, tomorrow night -- and of course
5 this is something -- I do want to say before I go
6 ahead, one of my good buddies and my boss is here.
7 If you've ever heard me talk about Magic, if you
8 don't know Magic, Magic hold your hand up. That's
9 my Friday night boss. Now, Magic has done water for
10 the Dade County football team for some, what, 26
11 years or more. I tell him every week when they win,
12 I say, if it hadn't been for that water, they would
13 have never made it through July and August. Magic
14 has done a great job and I asked him to come tonight
15 and he did.

16 But tomorrow night, we will play our
17 last regular season game against Model. If we win
18 this game, we're automatically in the playoffs. I
19 think we would become number two in 7AA region. If
20 we do not win Monday night in Calhoun, will be a
21 mini playoff between three schools. It will be Dade
22 County, Coosa and Pepperell to find out who is
23 number three and four because Model would remain
24 number two and the top four teams get to go onto the
25 State playoffs. So if you get an opportunity

1 tomorrow night to come out to the high school, it is
2 a home game, come and support them. These are good
3 things for our kids. It's a good thing for our
4 school. Mr. Tobin is here. These are the kind of
5 things that just make it easier to go to school, I
6 guess, if you're these kids and the recognition. If
7 you get a chance, go out and thank these guys for
8 all that they do.

9 We have had a lot of good things
10 happening. I know Ted will probably cover some of
11 it here in just a few minutes with a chert pit and
12 the things we've talked about over the last year
13 here in these meetings and things that we see coming
14 to happen that are very bog. We talked about the
15 IDA just a little bit a few minutes ago and the
16 successes that we hope that they're having in
17 recruiting places to Dade County as a place to come
18 and offer employment to our people. So there's a
19 lot of good things happening in every facet.

20 We do have the Veteran's Day parade
21 coming up this Saturday. Of course, Veteran's Day
22 being Monday. So if you get a chance, come out and
23 if you don't have other things that you're involved
24 with maybe on Saturday, come out and wave at a
25 veteran and thank them for the job they've done.

1 Again, as I said in my prayer, made it possible for
2 us to do this that we're doing here tonight without
3 any fear because somebody gave us this freedom. So
4 thank those vets and my thanks to all of them, you
5 that are here tonight as well as others who are not.
6 Thank you for attending our meeting tonight and I
7 hope it's informative and just continue to do so.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Robert. Allan?

10 MR. BRADFORD: After Robert, I don't
11 have a whole lot to talk about. I would like to
12 mention about Newsome Gap Road, they've done a lot
13 of work down there. It's been a really tough job.
14 They put tiles in it and it looks really good. So
15 anybody that travels up and down that road, you're
16 going to notice a new road. It's like a different
17 world up there. That's all I really have.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you, Allan.
19 Also, we're going to move from there and go Sulfur
20 Springs Gap. They're not very well traveled roads,
21 but Newsome Gap is a mail route. So Billy, we made
22 the decision to go ahead and take some of the
23 grindings that we got off the interstate and they've
24 actually -- because every time you turn around, we
25 were spending money on rock up there. So that's

1 going to really help.

2 MR. BRADFORD: Yeah, help immensely.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Like Robert said, there's
4 quite a bit happened this month. We've been working
5 with our engineer and the actual DNR and the EPD on
6 the permitting of our chert over there that we've
7 been pulling out of Back Valley. We've been hauling
8 out of there, many loads out of there on emergency
9 kind of a waiver for the -- when Burkhalter actually
10 dropped, but it's been a long process. But we did
11 just this past week get our permit for that and it's
12 good for like 33 years. It's a 33-year permit and
13 it's -- really it's a surface mining permit is what
14 it amounts to and they're really hard to get and we
15 were real fortunate in getting that for the County
16 for our future to keep from actually buying chert
17 anymore or dirt, road chert.

18 The -- I attended a meeting in
19 Lafayette last week pertaining to our juvenile
20 justice, DJJ. And as always, it seems like your
21 state and federal people, it seems like almost
22 weekly, monthly if not weekly, they're always -- it
23 seems like there's mandates that they're putting
24 down to our county people, county taxpayers and it
25 was a lengthy meeting, you know. Our juvenile

1 judge, you know, he did a good job. He explained
2 some things that the state were no longer doing and
3 it looks like -- Robin, you can correct me if I'm
4 wrong, but they're insinuating that we need a public
5 defender for our juveniles, correct?

6 MR. ROGERS: That's correct.

7 MR. RUMLEY: That's what it's actually
8 coming down to. And, of course, with no funding
9 from the State. And so we've got a long road on
10 that, fighting that, because some of the things that
11 they've discussed at that meeting, it's just -- it
12 could really get expensive. So as a Commission, we
13 are -- we try to be good stewards of your tax money
14 and this is something here that's being handed down
15 to us that's not a small ticket. It's going to be
16 some money that's involved in it. Everything from
17 now they're saying, well, if a juvenile is picked up
18 in Florida and they've been gone 24 hours, who is
19 going to pay to pick that person up if the family is
20 indigent, you know. So there's a lot of things
21 that's going to be discussed in the next few months.
22 I'll report back at the next meeting and, you know,
23 give you an update on that. There's a lot of
24 things.

25 I had a couple of meetings -- well,

1 actually three meetings with the people up on 299
2 that Mitchell was talking about. Well, the State
3 people. It's going to be kind of -- well, I guess
4 it would be one of the first bridges in the
5 southeastern United States, the first in Georgia for
6 sure that will be built like this. They are saying
7 that they're going to shut that exit down at
8 approximately 4:00 on a Friday evening and they're
9 going to demo that bridge and have two new sections
10 of bridge in and the traffic turned back on that
11 bridge at 299, which is one of our busiest exits, by
12 Monday morning at 9:00. And, you know, when they
13 told me that over the phone, I thought he was kind
14 of kidding me because I've been around some bridge
15 building in my life. Just to demo a bridge like
16 that, you know, it could take weeks because you do
17 have traffic. They can't stop traffic on 59. It
18 really will be dangerous.

19 But evidently they've actually -- out
20 in Idaho and some of the western states, they've got
21 companies that have done this, you know, and they're
22 actually -- the last group I met with up there,
23 they're going to build the bridge itself in
24 sections, two sections in an area there on the
25 interstate where the cloverleaf is at. They've

1 stockpiled some stuff there before, but that's going
2 to be their staging area and they're going to have
3 all the cranes and everything set up. Of course,
4 they'll work all through the weekend, but
5 supposedly, Rex, they're going to have it shut down
6 just for the weekend.

7 It's going to be an informative meeting
8 there when we meet December 3rd because they're
9 going to have everything laid out there, you know,
10 what they can do and can't do and they're going to
11 tell us and all of you people on that side of the
12 bridge how you're going to get to Chattanooga and
13 what the detours and all that is going to be. It's
14 going to be interesting to see.

15 Of course, this will not happen,
16 according to what he told me, the bids will go out
17 this coming -- in 2014 and probably the construction
18 of that will not happen until the latter part of '14
19 or '15, the early part of '15. So anyway, it may
20 not be big to a lot of the county, but the 299 area
21 and north, it's going to inconvenience some people
22 there.

23 Anyway, had a good outing there. I'm
24 sure the Chamber will mention this on the Halloween
25 on the square. That was really well attended.

1 Cloudland Canyon this week, this Saturday had an
2 event up there, the first annual arts show and it
3 really -- I went up there and participated in that.
4 It was really something. It amazed me the people
5 that came through there for the first event.

6 On the landfill, we've got -- for
7 years, you know, back in Ben's days and right on up,
8 we've been handed down -- we've been trying to close
9 our landfill, which was our old dumping area over in
10 Back Valley. We have our engineering firms out of
11 Chattanooga. Robert and I, we've been down to
12 Atlanta several times and presented our case. You
13 know, why can't we close? It's costing us about
14 25,000 a year. Actually, last year it cost a little
15 more than that. We had to put a pump in over there.
16 We're meeting with them again hopefully next week
17 and we'll probably have to go back to Atlanta, but
18 we're trying to get -- persuade them that, you know,
19 in today's time there's not that many people in that
20 area anyway that's on wells and that's their whole
21 concern. And the actual product that's in the water
22 is cobalt and cobalt is in all water from what they
23 say. They can't really prove, from what I
24 understand, from our landfill area. So anyway,
25 we're doing our best to try to do that. Hopefully,

1 by spring we can have something good to report on
2 that. It may not sound big, but to Dade County of
3 25,000, 30,000, that's a lot of money for us. Plus,
4 it's an ongoing thing. You know, it's just
5 continuous. It's never-ending it seems like.

6 We did meet also with -- Robert went
7 with me over to Egypt Hollow. There is -- we have
8 four houses over there. I mentioned that last week
9 and that we were going to meet. We did meet with
10 those people. They're asking for city water to be
11 ran over there. And as far as Dade County and Dade
12 County Water Authority, there's not hardly any way
13 practical that we could do that. It's going to have
14 to come through Tennessee for a mile and a half and
15 actually come up into the center of the road. It
16 will be probably half a million dollar project.

17 So what we did do, we've actually
18 met -- set up a couple of meetings with Marion
19 County and the Water Authority will actually make a
20 tap over there right at the Georgia/Tennessee line
21 and we'll actually sell water to Marion County if
22 they want to do the project and come back up and
23 then they can sell water to the three or four houses
24 there. Right now that's what's in the works for the
25 Egypt Hollow people.

1 You say, well, you know, three or four
2 houses. I didn't realize where they were getting
3 their water, but most of the people there are
4 getting it out of the creek there. They've got a
5 pump that goes into the creek that runs down through
6 there. Well, Robert, you saw it. It's just a pump
7 that -- it's hard to believe, but they're actually
8 not only bathing and washing dishes, but they're
9 drinking it, too. It is a problem and hopefully,
10 Marion County -- I know there is some ARC money
11 hopefully that will be available to help Tennessee
12 and maybe some money to help get that line ran in
13 there because all of Tennessee -- from what I
14 understand, there's about 30 houses before you get
15 to them in Egypt Hollow are customers and they're
16 going door to door, Marion County to see if those
17 people will sign on.

18 But anyone else got anything? Okay.
19 There was one other thing I wanted to touch on. I
20 can't remember. Robert and I, we had went -- where
21 else did we go this month, Robert? I know we
22 attended a couple of things. I'll think of it
23 before the meeting is out. It was just something I
24 wanted to --

25 MR. GOFF: I'm old. I can't remember

1 stuff like I used to.

2 MR. RUMLEY: I know. Anyway, okay. If
3 y'all don't have anything to add to that, let's move
4 down to number three. Marshanna, do you want to
5 give us a report tonight?

6 MS. SHARP: I've given all of y'all the
7 statistics for the last three months and if y'all
8 have any questions about them or anything. Most of
9 them are up. You can see the genealogy, the reason
10 it's up so high is because we didn't have our
11 genealogy until recently, so that's why that one is
12 so high. We did participate in the trick-or-treat
13 on the square and like Ted said, it was well
14 attended. We did have McLibrary night Monday night
15 and we raised \$1,400, so our total is up to 10,000
16 that we've been trying to raise. We're up to
17 10,000.

18 November 12th, we're going to do an
19 introductory to Ancestral.com. So if anybody is
20 interested in doing any genealogy research, Linda is
21 going to do a class on that. And November 19th
22 we're going to do family movie night. Of course,
23 we'll be closed the 28th and 29th for
24 Thanksgiving. Do y'all have any questions or
25 anything about any of the statistics?

1 MR. RUMLEY: No. Chamber, do you have
2 anything you want to give us an update on?

3 MR. MUSSER: Trick-or-treat alley was a
4 success as you all said. The board is super
5 helpful, very happy about it. We've got the
6 Christmas parade coming up on December 14th.
7 We're looking for vendors, for floats, anybody who
8 wants to be a part of that is obviously welcome.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you. Any questions
10 for the Chamber?

11 Okay. All right. Anyone here from the
12 City of Trenton? Okay. I think I'll go ahead and,
13 you know, is there anyone who wants to come up and
14 talk to us tonight? I know we've got a crowd here
15 tonight. John Deffenbaugh was supposed to be here
16 tonight. He did cancel yesterday or day before
17 yesterday. Do you want to come up, Ben?

18 MR. BRANDON: My name is Ben Brandon.
19 I'm from Rising Fawn and since leaving office in the
20 center chair that Ted is in, I have tried not to be
21 involved in politics or political issues simply
22 because I know how difficult the things that they do
23 are, but sometimes things are so important that you
24 can't ignore them and you have to say something.

25 Those of you who know me, know also

1 that I'm a big fan of the founding fathers and the
2 wisdom that they imparted to us because I think they
3 got it right. We talked about the freedom of
4 liberty that we have in the country or that we're
5 supposed to have that they made sacrifices for. And
6 one of my favorite quotes from a founding father is
7 a man named Thomas Paine and he wrote a pamphlet
8 called Common Sense. I want to give you a quote
9 that he put in there and I want to come back to it
10 in a little while and tell you why it's relevant to
11 today.

12 He said a long habit of not thinking a
13 thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of
14 being right and raises at first a formidable outcry
15 in defense of custom, but the tumult soon subsides.
16 Time makes more converts than reason. One of the
17 things that I've done since leaving office here is
18 I've gotten involved in a thing called Project
19 Appleseed where we teach -- do rifle clinics on the
20 weekend and we teach the heritage and history of the
21 country and we talk about the incredible sacrifices
22 that were made for us, that give us this country.
23 We talk about the principles upon which the country
24 was founded.

25 One of the stories we talk about is a

1 man name Isaac Davis who was actually the first --
2 the first American officer killed in the
3 Revolutionary War. And if you ever see the little
4 patch that we have or if you ever see the Minuteman
5 logo, he's the model for the Minuteman logo. He was
6 the model for that because he was a citizen. He was
7 the captain of the Acton militia in Acton,
8 Massachusetts right outside of Concord and that
9 warning when the alert riders came to tell them that
10 the British were coming out to disarm the colonists
11 so they could further oppress them, he left a wife
12 with no support and four critically ill children who
13 had scarlet fever to go out knowing that he probably
14 wouldn't come back or there was a good chance that
15 he wouldn't come back.

16 In fact, he was the first officer
17 killed that day at the North Bridge in Concord. He
18 was shot through the heart at the first battle from
19 the British there at the North Bridge. After the
20 war was over, Congress tried on two separate
21 occasions to compensate his family for this
22 incredible sacrifice that this incredibly brave man
23 had made for the country because he had given
24 everything he had to give. He put his family at
25 risk because he went off and left them with sick

1 children to go out and ensure that we have freedom
2 of liberty.

3 On two occasions Congress tried to pass
4 a bill to compensate his family and give them some
5 kind of financial compensation for their loss and
6 both times it was voted down for one reason because
7 people appropriately pointed out there was nothing
8 in the law that gave the government the authority to
9 take something from one person which they had earned
10 and give it to another who had not earned it.

11 Fast forward from that principle where
12 they wouldn't even compensate the family of a man
13 who had created this country to today where nothing
14 that the government wants to do is considered off
15 limits and nothing is beyond the pale or beyond
16 reason, as is evidenced by a lot of things going on
17 in Washington today.

18 When I talked -- when I ran for office
19 in 2004, I ran as the third-party candidate and I
20 had to get signatures to get on the ballot. And as
21 I went around, I took the opportunity to ask people
22 what's on your mind, what's important to you, what
23 are your complaints, what could I fix if I got
24 elected? Everybody who had a complaint pretty much
25 had a complaint about taxes. Of all the people who

1 complained about taxes, I can only remember one of
2 them who complained about the county's tax, but they
3 all complained about school taxes, all of them.

4 Most of the people who complained most
5 vocally are the seniors because they said, you know,
6 we're retired, I'm on a fixed income, I haven't had
7 children in school for 40 years, why do I have to
8 pay the school system. So at that point, I started
9 doing some research and I decided to do what other
10 counties had done in Georgia, over 20 other counties
11 have done what we did and that is to exempt senior
12 citizens from having to pay taxes on their house and
13 five acres of property. And I made the decision at
14 that time not to put a cap on it because I don't
15 think you ought to punish people because they've
16 been successful. I don't want somebody punishing me
17 because I live in a big metal building and I don't
18 want to punish somebody else because they've got a
19 million dollar house in West Brow. It's just not
20 right. It's not fair.

21 So if you're off the tax rolls, if
22 you're 65, if you qualify, you're off. It's just
23 that's the way it is. When I did that, I told
24 people that two things would happen. I told them
25 that our grandparents and some of us, I'm not

1 qualified yet, but some of us would get a break on
2 fixed income would have more money to spend and
3 wouldn't have to make a decision between paying our
4 taxes or buying food or medicine and that happened.
5 The other thing I predicted was -- this also
6 happened is that I said a lot of people will come in
7 here and start building a lot of really nice houses
8 and they'll retire here because -- and that has also
9 happened. All you have to do is drive up and down
10 Brow Road up here and look at the houses that are
11 built and that has happened. Those people have
12 moved here. They've made life decisions to move
13 here. Some of them based strictly on that premise
14 alone that they wouldn't have to pay taxes on their
15 home to the school system. They've moved here.
16 They brought their money. They've put it in the
17 bank. They shop locally if there's something to
18 buy, so it's been good for the economy.

19 Now, since this passed, there's been a
20 constant drumbeat from Rex Blevins who has cost us
21 hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to overturn
22 the freeze that we voted in back in the '90s. This
23 constant drumbeat about, well, this is not fair,
24 this is not fair. Well, if you listen to the --
25 some of the arguments that are being made recently

1 from the people arguing that we should overturn this
2 or modify it some way, you hear some unusual
3 language. You'll hear people say that this -- that
4 the exemption cost the school system money, that it
5 costs them a million dollars a year. Now, if I go
6 up to church Sunday morning and go up to Robert and
7 I've got a new car, he's going to look at it and go,
8 wow, what did that thing cost because he would know
9 that if I bought a car, that I came out of pocket
10 and bought the car, that the cost was to me because
11 it was my money that I spent.

12 But for a government entity to say that
13 something cost them money to let you keep your own
14 money, that's fairly arrogant. That implies to me
15 that they think they have a higher claim on your
16 income, your life, liberty and property than you do
17 and that by letting you keep it, it's costing them
18 money. Well, I disagree with that. That's not a
19 founding principle. That's something more akin to
20 from each according to his ability, to each
21 according to his need. You know where that comes
22 from? That's the basic tenant of Communism. That
23 says that if you have something that somebody else
24 doesn't have, then you have too much and they need
25 to get that, they have a claim on your property

1 because you have too much. That's Communism and
2 Socialism and that's not the American way. That's
3 not a founding principle that the founding fathers
4 would have recognized.

5 Saying that something cost them is not
6 true anyway because right now the school system's
7 millage rate is only at 15.17 mills. It's up
8 significantly from when I took office because at the
9 time when I took office, it was around 11 mills. So
10 it's gone up a lot. Everything costs more.
11 Everybody knows that. And in fairness to the school
12 system, a lot of the stuff that they have to
13 implement they don't have any control over. But
14 still, they have plenty of room before they hit
15 twenty mills, which is the limit in Georgia, before
16 they're topped out on what they can raise the
17 millage rate to. Now, it's just very disappointing
18 to hear people arguing that they have a higher claim
19 on your money than they do.

20 Now, I brought two documents with me
21 tonight and I'll be glad to show them to you and
22 I'll be glad to provide these to anybody that wants
23 to look at them in case they think I'm not telling
24 the truth. The first one is a notice from my
25 insurance company, Humana Insurance. When I left

1 office here, I had to get insurance since I wasn't
2 covered by the County anymore. And so since 2009,
3 I've had a policy that's run me, my wife and my
4 daughter about \$472 a month for a \$7,500 deductible.
5 That's not unreasonable. That's pretty reasonable
6 because it's what I wanted. This letter from them
7 dated 10/30/2013 says that my new premium on
8 January 1st, 2014 will be \$1,343.20. So it's
9 going from 472 to 1,343. Now, why would a policy go
10 up like that because as the President said, if you
11 like your policy, you can keep your policy, right?
12 Didn't he say that? It's because the government has
13 passed a law where they're telling you that they
14 know better than you do what you ought to have and
15 what you need.

16 Okay. Now, I've got -- the reason it
17 went up so much is because I'm having to pay to
18 cover people that aren't covered. I'm having to pay
19 somebody else's healthcare bill. Plus, they want me
20 to have coverage that they think I ought to have,
21 like for hair plugs, which are covered under the new
22 policy. Contraception, which is flattering to me
23 that they think that we would still need that and
24 maternity coverage. It covers abortion on demand in
25 there. And the one that everybody has been

1 clambering for which is sex change operations for
2 illegal aliens or anybody that's covered that wants
3 one. So for that, my insurance rate is going from
4 472 to 1,343 a month because the government thinks
5 that they know better than I do what I ought to
6 have.

7 Now, my option on this, because I do
8 have an option on this since it's a tax, right? My
9 option on this is that I can just not get insurance
10 and pay a fine because if you don't have insurance,
11 they fine you. The fine for my family of three
12 would be about \$300 a year. So let me see, \$1,343 a
13 month or \$300 a year. Hmmm, I'll have to think
14 about that one for a minute. But that's an option,
15 isn't it?

16 The other document I have here is my
17 property tax bill from Dade County. This is a bill
18 that's due on 12/20 of 2013 for 2,165.48. Of this
19 bill, \$1,509 of it or 70 percent is for something
20 that I also don't want, don't need and if I had the
21 option, wouldn't buy. It's for school taxes. Now,
22 the State of Georgia long ago decided that every
23 child would have a free education at taxpayers'
24 expense and the way we fund that is by property
25 taxes and money coming back from the State,

1 40 percent of which their revenue now comes from the
2 federal government by the way. But this is my tax
3 bill for something else I don't want. There's
4 fundamentally no difference between these two
5 programs. They both require me to buy something I
6 don't want. Okay. If I had my choice that I
7 wouldn't take.

8 Now, on this one, my option is less
9 because if I don't pay this one, sooner or later,
10 Dade County will send armed people to my property to
11 remove me from my property and if I resist, which I
12 would, they will shoot me. So that option is not as
13 attractive. And before you start saying, oh, no,
14 they wouldn't do that, yes, they would. Because the
15 only way to enforce that is to forcibly remove
16 somebody if you sell the property out from under
17 them for tax sale and we know they do that. So my
18 options aren't as good on that one.

19 But these two programs from the
20 government are essentially the same because they
21 both require me to do something I don't want to do
22 with my money because they think they know better
23 than I do what should happen with my money.

24 I recently heard a man named Dinesh
25 D'Souza say that you don't get any moral credit for

1 taking something from someone at the point of a gun
2 and giving them to someone else to help them
3 regardless of how noble a need you think they have
4 because it's still just theft. It may be legalized
5 theft, but it's still theft.

6 We're seeing in this country something
7 that -- this argument that we have to do this
8 because it's for the common welfare. Everything
9 that you hear these days is for the common welfare
10 because they determined that it is because they're
11 so much smarter than we are and because that's just
12 not working because it's going to lead to a
13 collapse. This whole healthcare thing is going to
14 collapse and it's going to cause the economy to
15 collapse.

16 But what I'm here about tonight is the
17 School Board is trying to make an end run around the
18 taxing authority of Dade County. When we brought
19 this up originally, it was brought up by the taxing
20 authority, the Commission, and it was put on the
21 ballot and that's how it got onto the ballot.

22 People have made life decisions, as I
23 said before, about moving here based on this
24 exemption. It is patently unfair and is
25 unconscionable that we would now snatch this back

1 away, saying, hey, we fooled you, we were only
2 kidding, you really screwed up, you trusted us.
3 It's just not right. This gets back to the quote
4 that I gave early on that says a long history of not
5 thinking a thing wrong gives it the superficial
6 appearance of being right. We've been doing this.
7 We bought into socialism a hundred years ago this
8 month when the country ratified the 16th
9 Amendment. That put the income tax into effect and
10 it's only gotten worse since then. By the way,
11 that's the same year the Federal Reserve was started
12 and a dollar then is only worth three cents now. So
13 this is getting worse and worse and it's because the
14 government at every level is out of control.

15 Now, I realize that the Commission
16 doesn't have control over anything that the school
17 system does. They don't have to worry about whether
18 to give people raises like y'all do because their
19 raises are all dictated by the State. A lot of
20 things that they can't control are dictated by the
21 federal government and they can't control that.

22 We've learned the hard way that the
23 Commission can't tell them no because in the times
24 we tried to tell them no in 2007, they threatened to
25 sue us if we didn't approve their millage rate, so

1 we had to approve it. So you can't tell them no.
2 You can't turn the millage rate down. This is one
3 thing that you can tell them no on though.

4 The Dade County Commission, as the
5 taxing authority in the county, needs to take
6 ownership of this issue. You need to get in touch
7 with John Deffenbaugh and Jeff Mullis and tell them
8 that if this gets put back on the ballot, the
9 recommendation will come from the Commission, the
10 taxing authority, and not from the school board. I
11 don't know what it is that they put in the water on
12 the school board that they drink at the meetings
13 that causes rational people who are elected over
14 there to slowly but surely turn to a point where
15 they can't tell the superintendent no. I don't know
16 what it is. It happens about every eight years and
17 then we have an election and replace a bunch of
18 school board members. We get a new superintendent
19 and we end up right back in the same spot we were in
20 before. I don't know how that goes. We've got to
21 check into that.

22 But what I'm asking you here is to take
23 a small stand for real American values, not
24 socialist ones like Obamacare and letting the
25 government tell you what's best for you and the five

1 of you take back ownership of this issue and if it
2 needs to be put back on there, you do it. Don't let
3 the school board take an end run around you and tell
4 the school system if they have to live within their
5 budget. Yes, it's tight. Things are getting tight
6 all over and it's going to get much, much, much
7 worse, but it's unconscionable in this time with
8 tight resources to tell people who haven't had to
9 pay school tax that, oh yeah, we think that it's
10 only fair that you should have to pay it again, so
11 we're going to put it back on the ballot and vote on
12 it again. But stand up for Dade seniors and I'm
13 sure that they'll remember you and stand up for you
14 at the next election. I appreciate it. Thank you.

15 MR. GOFF: Thank you, Ben.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Ben, I'll ask you one
17 question. You touched on the insurance, you know,
18 and you said the fine would be \$300. You know, you
19 said it would be -- that's a no-brainer, but is
20 there not a company that would insure you or your
21 family, just like my family, whatever, and you could
22 pay that 300 and still -- because from what I'm
23 understanding from you, the government is the reason
24 that the price has happened because of the actual --
25 they've come down on these insurance companies and

1 actually what you're doing. Is that right?

2 MR. BRANDON: Every policy has to
3 comply with the ACA. Yours will, too, if it hasn't
4 already. This gets back to them telling you -- I
5 don't need maternity coverage. We don't need
6 contraceptive coverage. We don't need sex change
7 operation benefits in case we decide to have one.
8 We don't want that, but every policy has to cover
9 all those things and it's got to cover it not just
10 for people who can pay it, but for people who can't
11 pay it. So no, you'll pay a fine, but I'll just be
12 a scofflaw, I guess, and pay the fine.

13 MR. RUMLEY: With no insurance.

14 MR. BRANDON: No. They can't refuse to
15 cover you. They can't refuse to treat you if you
16 can find a doctor. Doctors are quitting, too.

17 MR. RUMLEY: That's right.

18 MR. BRANDON: So if you can find a
19 doctor, they can't refuse to treat you. Again,
20 thanks for thinking of me, though.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Appreciate it. Anyone
22 else want to talk to us tonight? We have Lynn
23 Hartman here from Lookout Mountain.

24 MS. HARTMAN: I have a paper that came
25 out last Wednesday. It was the Times Free Press

1 paper and in it, the -- there was a section about
2 the senior tax exemption revision and the quote from
3 it is quoting that I am concerned about is
4 Superintendent Tobin who doesn't think it fair for
5 seniors who live in new homes on Lookout Mountain, 4
6 or \$500,000 homes to avoid paying school taxes.
7 Now, I don't know who gave him the authority to
8 think like this, but it's creating geographical
9 warfare and it's socialist for him to think that he
10 can decide what I should live in.

11 So I just want to point that out that
12 this is a creating a conflict in the county and I
13 think it's a bad precedence to start and it just
14 astounds me that anyone would say a statement like
15 that. There are all kinds of beautiful places in
16 this county that are in that price range, but to
17 single out one particular neighborhood on Lookout
18 Mountain is wrong.

19 MR. TOBIN: So there's not a time
20 limit?

21 MR. RUMLEY: Not in this session. If
22 you want to talk, we just want to listen to you.
23 The time limit is something that --

24 MR. BRANDON: Is there a time limit
25 when you come to the school board to speak?

1 MR. TOBIN: Yes, there actually is,
2 yes. All right. Ben had some great quotes. I'm
3 just going to give you a generic one. This one
4 actually comes from Oliver Wendell Holmes, one of
5 the Supreme Court justices. He said, taxes are the
6 prices we pay for a civilized society. Also, from
7 Franklin Delano Roosevelt, he said everybody wants a
8 civilized society at a rebate cost.

9 You know, every day when I go to
10 school, I look at a picture. When I look at this
11 picture, I think of Dade County and I think of some
12 of these students. Some of these students are
13 either 80 years of age or they're 100 years of age.
14 And the reality is people who are elderly paid for
15 the children to go to school. For almost 100 years
16 people have been taxes for the young kids. My idea
17 is we need a civilized society and I sincerely
18 believe sometimes things get exaggerated.

19 What the resolution was that was passed
20 was basically saying if you own a \$125,000 home and
21 less than five acres of land, you don't pay any
22 school property taxes. As I look out at the
23 audience tonight, I would almost guarantee unless
24 you went to a private school, your parents no matter
25 what state they lived in, they paid for young

1 children. I'm a sincere believer that we need to
2 take care of our elderly and we need to take care of
3 our young kids. I've had some people say to me
4 before, hey, we voted on it. However, it was put
5 forward, quote, it would not cost the school system
6 more than \$120,000. It is mentioned in here
7 tonight, it doesn't cost you anything. The reality
8 is it does. For a civilized Dade County school
9 system, when you have over 1,672 who have signed up
10 for the exemption and if we said each person paid
11 \$500, we're talking close to a million dollars. So
12 I want everyone to understand, our intent -- if we
13 voted, a lot of young people -- I'm 51 years of age,
14 maybe not so young. But when I talk to a lot of
15 young people, if they had the opportunity to vote to
16 do away with social security and invest in their own
17 bank accounts, they would do the exact same thing.
18 I think that's wrong. It's the same philosophy,
19 taking care of the elderly and taking care of the
20 very young kids. If we want Dade County School
21 System to be a better place, the reality is the
22 funding has to be there.

23 Ben had mentioned a few minutes, you
24 know, 15 mills, so I guess the solution is for the
25 young people, now we're supposed to raise your

1 property taxes at the same time we cut more
2 programs. Many of you probably don't have children
3 in school right now is my guess. The reality is I
4 have a \$16 million budget. Some people would say
5 that is a huge budget. Fourteen million goes toward
6 salaries and benefits. Some people would say, well,
7 what you need to do is you need to cut your waste.
8 I'm operating at 88 percent of my staff. Central
9 office, sometimes you'll hear people mention, hey,
10 there's too many people at the central office. We
11 have people Race to the Top, not from local taxpayer
12 money. The rest is a special education coordinator
13 and secretaries. We are operating at bare minimum.
14 So I've got \$14 million to spend on 88 percent of
15 staff we used to have for our kids for the future to
16 take care of us in the United States of America.

17 America was not a Communist country, in
18 my point, a hundred years ago, but apparently it was
19 to some people. The other thing is some people say
20 you have \$2 million that remain in your budget.
21 That's still a ton of money. The reality is when
22 you've got electrical costs of \$500,000. You've got
23 recreation department and us working together,
24 basketball games going on, us paying the
25 electricity. You've got school supplies. You've

1 got water. You've got electricity, garage pickup.
2 That \$1.9 million evaporates extremely quick. So
3 what has happened in the last three years, if you
4 are under the age of 65, your property taxes have
5 gone up two and a quarter mills. Why? Because just
6 keep raising the taxes on the younger people. So
7 what's happened is what is the school system doing,
8 as I mentioned earlier, 88 percent we're operating
9 now is staff members.

10 Many people got upset because we
11 weren't contributing money to the public library.
12 Many people got upset we ended driver's education
13 program. Many people got upset because we don't
14 have an agricultural program. Many people got upset
15 that the paraprofessionals don't show up on the same
16 day.

17 When most of you went to school, many
18 of you went to school 180 days. Our kids are going
19 to school 168 days. So from my standpoint as a
20 citizen of the United States, as a U.S. military
21 veteran, somebody who looking around here, many of
22 you are probably veterans, there's not a harm with
23 the people voting on it. I mean, this isn't some
24 conspiracy. It's pretty simple. If you own a
25 \$300,000 home, you knock off 125,000, it's 175,000

1 and then you take 40 percent, what the State would
2 say for excess, you're taxed on \$70,000. So, again,
3 when people were sold last time on this great bill
4 that wouldn't cost more than \$120,000, that's not
5 the truth. And again, we go from 600 people signed
6 up to over 1,672, that brochure that was mentioned
7 on the news was now we are advertising come to Dade
8 County where you don't have to pay school property
9 taxes.

10 Seventy-five percent of your taxes are
11 basically school property taxes. The idea when it
12 was set up in the United States of America, the
13 country that I defended and other veterans as well
14 was we're going to take care of our future and our
15 young kids.

16 So again, when I look at this picture
17 and I think about the people in Dade County who
18 probably rallied around to take care of these kids,
19 probably building the school, people paying taxes.
20 Then all of a sudden we say for 100 years and then
21 seven years we change the law and all of a sudden,
22 it became, you know what, I've paid taxes my entire
23 life. When I think of my grandmother, 94 years of
24 age, that paid taxes until she died and she thought
25 it was the right thing to do. She said, Shawn,

1 somebody paid for my taxes that was elderly once
2 upon a time. That's all I have to say.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Shawn. Anyone
4 else? As far as the time limit, that's something
5 that we don't enforce here. That's what we are here
6 for. You know, you are our bosses. That's what
7 we're here to do is listen to you. I don't know
8 that I ever called a time limit except on Robert a
9 couple of times.

10 MR. GOFF: Yeah, just me.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Anyone else want to talk
12 to us? Feel free to come up. Okay. Don, it looks
13 like you're on the seat there, son. Financial
14 report, Don Townsend.

15 MR. TOWNSEND: Under tab one, it says
16 September 30th. That should be October 31st.
17 These are the balances as of October 31st, 2013.
18 General Fund had a balance of \$576,160; Federal
19 Asset Fund, U.S. Treasury, \$288; Sheriff's Special
20 Fund, \$30,768; Drug Abuse Education Fund, \$51,217;
21 Supplemental Juvenile Services Fund, \$22,462; Victim
22 Assistance Fund, \$2,161; Jail Fund, \$21,585; Federal
23 Asset Fund, Department of Justice, \$742.
24 Payroll account, \$119,341. You see the
25 S.P.L.O.S.T funds there. Construction account

1 maintains a balance of \$14,400. Projects account
2 for S.P.L.O.S.T was \$20,209 and proceeds account was
3 \$282,950. You may note that the proceeds account
4 dropped tremendously from last month, but we had our
5 bond payment that was due on November 1st.

6 The next page over is the general fund
7 revenue for the month, as of September 30th on
8 these reports. For the month of September, the
9 actual revenue was \$820,508. Budget was 674, so we
10 actually did well, \$145,750 in excess of what was
11 budgeted. Year-to-date was 2,044,000 and we see
12 year-to-date budgeted was 1.8 million. So, again, a
13 little in excess for revenues, which is a good
14 thing, 190,000.

15 Expenses for the month of September is
16 \$577,871. Budgeted was 642,456. So the same is
17 true as revenues. This is under budget 64,584 and
18 for year-to-date, 1.9 -- 1,903,000 out of 1,929 that
19 was budgeted. So again, under budget 26,276.
20 That's good to report under budget for a change. So
21 budget attained, of course, with three months gone,
22 that's 25 percent of the budget. But revenues
23 attained was 20.7 percent. Expenses obtained is
24 19.27 percent.

25 For the month, local option sales tax

1 was, again, one of the lowest that we've seen in a
2 long time. It was only 142,824. We would love to
3 see that closer to 200,000, but it hasn't been there
4 in a while. S.P.L.O.S.T, special purpose local
5 option sales tax, October was \$178,538. Again,
6 down. We would like to see that around 220,000 per
7 month. Although, we did budget for it to be down
8 and I think we like to budget that.

9 The next report is just a coverage of
10 S.P.L.O.S.T. Next page over is from the Tax
11 Commissioner's office, specifically through -- I
12 think this report is actually through
13 September 30th, 2013. And at that point, we had
14 only 10.2 percent collection overall what was
15 budgeted for the year. However, I believe we took a
16 check in today from the tax commissioner for October
17 reporting and it was over a quarter of a million
18 dollars, so that's a good thing. And then November
19 will be up and then December, of course, will be
20 bringing in most of the revenue for the year. I
21 believe that is it.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any questions for
23 Don? If no questions, I'll entertain a motion to --

24 MR. BRANDON: May I ask a question?

25 MR. RUMLEY: Yes, go ahead.

1 MR. BRANDON: You said that the sales
2 taxes and the S.P.L.O.S.T. collections were all a
3 lot lower than they had ever been, I guess. Why is
4 that?

5 MR. RUMLEY: See, the blame, we went
6 around and around with the State, you know, as far
7 as -- no one can really -- you know, because most of
8 our S.P.L.O.S.T comes from the traveler coming
9 through on the interstate.

10 MR. BRANDON: It's probably though
11 because people aren't buying enough because maybe
12 they don't have the money to spend.

13 MR. RUMLEY: That's one big reason.
14 There's no doubt.

15 MR. BRANDON: And if you increase the
16 taxes on the most vulnerable party, I'm trying to
17 make a point here, then maybe that's going to impact
18 them the most. Anyway --

19 MR. RUMLEY: No, that's true. That's
20 one reason we've went as many years as we've went
21 without raising taxes because, you know, when you
22 mentioned the person, whether it be the lady or the
23 man, I've been to Ponder's. I've been to the
24 drugstore this last week and I saw a lady that had
25 to cut her heart medicine \$340, you know, and cut it

1 in half because she was trying to figure out how she
2 was going to buy her groceries and I know this lady
3 is a taxpayer. I mean, she owns a house, you know.
4 When you mentioned that, I know where you're coming
5 from.

6 Anyway, any questions for Don?

7 MR. GOFF: Well, the only thing, on our
8 expenses and revenues, just as -- I mean, we're
9 looking at just two numbers, but when we look at our
10 employee head count, we have 12 vacancies in there.
11 That is 12 people that may be needed and some will
12 probably be higher and that makes that number, you
13 know, go up immediately if you put somebody on
14 payroll. So just to kind of keep things in
15 perspective that it does look good and I'm glad that
16 it is looking a little better except for L.O.S.T.
17 and S.P.L.O.S.T, but there are 12 vacancies in the
18 County, meaning two things. We're not paying that
19 revenue or that employee's benefits and a check, but
20 also we're working with a lot less people than what
21 we could be working with.

22 MR. RUMLEY: The County is.

23 MR. GOFF: The County is, right.

24 MR. RUMLEY: But, you know, touching on
25 that, then you look at our unemployment rate and

1 we're one of the better counties, you know, as far
2 as our employment rate. But what you've got to look
3 at there is, yeah, there's people that's back to
4 work, but there's people working at jobs that ten
5 years ago they wouldn't even think about doing. You
6 know, they were terminated or whatever from the
7 Spinning Mill shutdown. So it looks good on paper,
8 but things are still not good in Dade County. I'll
9 tell you that right now. We've still got poverty
10 here that you wouldn't believe and they are working.
11 I don't know.

12 MR. RAPER: How many people are buying
13 outside the county, too, because our fuel prices
14 here in Dade County are ridiculous on our
15 interstates. We have two that are cheaper, but
16 everything in Tennessee and everything in Alabama is
17 cheaper than here in Georgia. So everybody is
18 stopping before they get here and stopping after.

19 MR. RUMLEY: That's another reason that
20 goes right along with -- but anyway, do I hear a
21 motion to approve our financial statement as
22 presented by Don Townsend.

23 MR. SMITH: Motion to approve.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Do I have a second?

25 MR. GOFF: Second.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I'll call a vote.
2 Mr. Bradford?

3 MR. BRADFORD: Yes.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

5 MR. GOFF: Yes.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman.

7 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

9 MR. SMITH: Yes.

10 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

11 Robin, do you have anything you want to
12 talk about tonight on the legal? Anything? I did
13 want to mention that I did -- that was the other
14 thing I was going to say. Davenport with the Land
15 Trust, I talked to him last week and they're coming
16 -- you know, it's coming to a head, so hopefully by
17 the 15th of this month, from what I understand.
18 Have you heard anything different?

19 MR. ROGERS: I have not.

20 MR. RUMLEY: We'll be able to maybe
21 close on that and get the money from the sale down
22 there.

23 Okay. The reading of the minutes of
24 last months' regular meeting and any special-called
25 will not required since all Commissioners have been

1 furnished copies in advance. The minutes are public
2 record and available for review in the County
3 Commission office. The minutes are included in the
4 consent agenda. At this time, Don, I would like for
5 you to go over the consent agenda.

6 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. We have approval
7 of the previous meeting minutes, approval of the
8 employee head count report, the appointment of
9 Mr. Barry Page to the Industrial Development
10 Authority for a term beginning January 1st, 2014,
11 expiring 12/31/2019. And that is a statutory
12 appointment for six years.

13 We have Resolution R-56-13, adoption of
14 tax exempt tax credit post issuance compliance
15 policy and procedure. And Resolution R-57-13, sale
16 of surplus property, namely a 1996 Chevrolet van and
17 a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria, 2002 Ford -- another --
18 well, let's start over, 2002 Ford Crown Victoria,
19 last VIN 4668, unit 110, also a 2002 Ford Crown
20 Victoria last four digits of the VIN 4667, unit 118
21 and a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, last four of the VIN
22 8539, unit 153. That's it.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any questions?
24 Okay. If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve
25 the consent agenda as presented. Do I hear a

1 motion?

2 MR. GOFF: I so move.

3 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff. Do I hear a
4 second?

5 MR. PITTMAN: Second.

6 MR. RUMLEY: I'll call a vote.

7 Mr. Bradford?

8 MR. BRADFORD: Yes.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

10 MR. GOFF: Yes.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

12 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

14 MR. SMITH: Yes.

15 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair votes yes.

16 No executive session. If there's nothing further, I
17 will entertain a motion to adjourn. Do y'all have
18 anything else you want to add?

19 MR. PITTMAN: Robert, you don't want to
20 talk some more?

21 MR. GOFF: No.

22 MR. BRADFORD: I make a motion we
23 adjourn.

24 MR. RUMLEY: All right. Second?

25 MR. PITTMAN: Second.

1 MR. RUMLEY: All right. I'm going to
2 call a vote on it. Mr. Bradford?

3 MR. BRADFORD: Yes.

4 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

5 MR. GOFF: Yes.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

7 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

9 MR. SMITH: Yes.

10 MR. RUMLEY: And the chair votes yes.
11 I appreciate all of your attendance tonight. We do
12 have, I know, some refreshments left.

13

14

END OF MEETING

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TENNESSEE:

COUNTY OF HAMILTON:

I, Erin M. Flatt, LCR #307, CCR, licensed court reporter and notary public, in and for the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that the above meeting was reported by me and that the foregoing 57 pages of the transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability.

I further certify that I am not related to nor an employee of counsel or any of the parties to the action, nor am I in any way financially interested in the outcome of this case.

I further certify that I am duly licensed by the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting as a Licensed Court Reporter as evidenced by the LCR number and expiration date following my name below.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 25th of November, 2013.

Erin M. Flatt

Erin M. Flatt, LCR #307
Expiration Date: 6/20/2014
Notary Public Commission
Expires: December 21, 2014.

