

DADE COUNTY COMMISSION
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2014

1 MR. RUMLEY: Let's go ahead and call
2 the work session to order. Has everyone had a
3 chance to look at the agenda? Any comments or
4 changes? The previous minutes -- meeting minutes, I
5 know y'all have had those for a while. Any changes
6 or any comments on those?

7 MR. TOWNSEND: We need to add
8 intergovernmental agreement with the City of
9 Trenton. It's number 12.

10 MR. RUMLEY: On the agenda. All right.
11 Any other changes? Is everybody fine with that?

12 Okay. We'll move down to number three,
13 head count. I know we have had a change in public
14 transportation there. We had someone retire and
15 they moved Jessica Parker up to take his place,
16 Annette's group. Any questions pertaining to the
17 employee head count? None? Okay. We'll move down
18 here to number four, board appointments and
19 proclamations. We do have a proclamation, American
20 Heart Month. We do that every year. Everyone on
21 board with that. Also, the Georgia Arbor Day, which
22 is February 15th. And we do have a reappointment
23 to the county Board of Assessors, Laura Holder. If
24 you look there on C, 4C. That's for a three-year
25 term. Is everyone fine with that? Laura, she's

1 done a good job. She's our south Dade
2 representative. She does a good job. I believe
3 she's the chairman, isn't she? Right? She's also
4 chairman of the board. Okay. If everyone is fine
5 with that, I'll put it on the consent agenda.

6 Approval of S.P.L.O.S.T capital
7 equipment. We only have -- we did discuss this at
8 our last commission meeting, trying -- Mountain
9 Rescue, they have found -- we did agree to let them
10 purchase up to a certain amount. We did locate a
11 truck. It's 5A. Actually, the truck was little bit
12 more than this. They're supplementing some money
13 that they had with it. I think it was --

14 MR. TOWNSEND: Thirty-eight.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah. They are
16 supplementing the other. The truck only has -- I
17 think they said it had 9,000 miles on it. After
18 looking online, doing some comparatives myself, it's
19 a good deal on the truck. They just updated to the
20 newer model truck.

21 MR. ROGERS: That's going to be titled
22 with the name of the County?

23 MR. RUMLEY: Dade County, yeah. It
24 will belong to Dade County. Any questions on that?

25 Okay. Jason, come up and talk to us

1 here. This is our auditor, one of our auditors,
2 CPA, Jason Martin and he's going to give us an
3 overview of our financial status after the audit.
4 We'll turn it over to you, Jason.

5 MR. JASON MARTIN: All right. As
6 always, it's a real pleasure to work with Dade every
7 year. We've been doing the audit now for 20 years
8 and I always enjoy coming down and working with the
9 staff here. This year's audit went well.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Talk into the mic there.

11 MR. JASON MARTIN: This year's audit
12 went very well. The staff was very cooperative.
13 Morale seems to be up in the accounting department
14 here. We got everything we needed when we asked for
15 it. Nothing was withheld from us, so we were
16 excited about that. Mary is new to the county, but
17 she's been a great addition to the finance
18 department here, HR department which allows Don to
19 kind of focus on some other things. She's just been
20 a good fit for the county as a whole. That's our
21 opinion and all. But to go over the actual audit
22 report with you, first and foremost, you guys
23 received a clean opinion, so the financial
24 statements are accurate. We didn't make any
25 material adjustment to your financial records, which

1 means that you guys are keeping pretty good records
2 here.

3 The second thing that Don would like me
4 to mention -- I'm not going to say he paid me real
5 well. I have this microphone in front of me. You
6 guys didn't have any findings this year. For the
7 past several years, we've always felt as if you
8 don't have enough people to segregate duties,
9 knowledgeable people to segregate all the duties
10 needed. In the past, there's always been an issue
11 where someone could come in, one of the accounting
12 staff, they could make an adjustment to the records
13 and nobody else would use it before it posts and
14 things of that nature. Well, they've corrected that
15 now and implemented controls to where one person
16 can't find an error, correct it, review and store it
17 away. Now it has to go through multiple levels and
18 somebody has to post it. Somebody has to review it,
19 so that's good. So you --

20 MR. RUMLEY: Actually, multiple people
21 review it. It's not just -- multiple people.

22 MR. JASON MARTIN: Right. Right. And
23 part of that is just having the capable people in
24 place to be able to do it. We felt comfortable that
25 no one could really circumvent that control, so

1 that's been a great thing, so no findings this year.

2 Now, if you all will turn with me to
3 page 16, I'll go over the actual fund financial
4 statements and these are really near cash financial
5 statements. So the total assets in your general
6 fund, I'll focus on that investment fund that you
7 all operate out of. Your total assets for the
8 general fund was around \$1.3 million and total
9 liabilities were a million dollars roughly, so you
10 had a fund balance of \$289,000. But that fund
11 balance has been trending downward over the past
12 years and so the only way to alleviate that is just
13 like in a personal household. You have to cut
14 expenses or increase revenue in some kind of way to
15 get that back up. You have to make more than you
16 spend. And so, you know, we suggest trying to
17 implement some measures to have that number trend
18 back upward over the next few years or so.

19 MR. RUMLEY: He's talking about a tax
20 increase. He's just beating around the bush.

21 MR. JASON MARTIN: I'm an auditor, so I
22 can't --

23 MR. RUMLEY: You can say that. It's in
24 reality. You know, we went seven years here, you
25 know, almost seven years without a tax increase and,

1 you know, it's something that we're trying to
2 explain to people throughout the months here, expect
3 it. It's something -- we've got to take care of
4 business, you know. I don't like that word any more
5 than anybody else. You know, you just can't -- it's
6 similar to a business, you know, but go ahead. I
7 didn't mean to interrupt. I just wanted to clarify
8 what you were talking about. We're cutting
9 practically monthly when we review, we do and we've
10 cut for years. You know, you can only go so far,
11 you know, without really disrupting services in the
12 county. You've got to have certain services. Go
13 ahead though. I'm sorry.

14 MR. JASON MARTIN: So that's how you
15 all ended this year. Now, on page 19 of the report,
16 it's kind of like a profit and loss, what came in
17 and what went out this year and your general fund,
18 I'll focus on that because that's how you all
19 operate. The capital projects fund, that's
20 S.P.L.O.S.T. Citizens vote on that money to be
21 spent and so you guys really don't have discretion
22 at all. The citizens, they control where that money
23 goes for the projects and all.

24 But your general fund this year, you
25 actually ended up with a loss this year of around

1 300,000. That's what I was talking about, trying to
2 reverse that trend to have that trending upward in
3 the next year or so. So that's how you all
4 operated. Your tax revenues, property tax revenues
5 were right at \$2.6 million for the year. Your funds
6 and fees that come from the courts, that was
7 \$600,000. And so far, the total expenditures for
8 this year was \$8.1 million. And just to put that in
9 perspective, the State recommends having a fund
10 balance within three to six months of that total.
11 You guys, in my opinion, probably need to be on the
12 higher end because just in the past five years
13 you've had tornadoes. You've had natural disasters.
14 So you're going to need a few more resources than
15 other governments that don't live in those type
16 areas. So that's just where you guys are in terms
17 of your fund balance.

18 And so your budget, the biggest deal
19 with your budget that begins on page 22 is the State
20 does not want any department overrunning their
21 budget in excess of three percent. If you do so,
22 they're going to have a problem with you and so you
23 guys may -- you operated within your budget within
24 that three percent, so that's a good thing.

25 MR. RUMLEY: And when you say that --

1 what Jason is saying is not just Dade County
2 Commission. We are stewards of the money, but
3 department has come in under that. So any
4 department, whether it's sheriff's department or
5 jail, they're all staying with that.

6 MR. JASON MARTIN: Right.

7 MR. RUMLEY: So it's a good thing. Not
8 putting all the glory on us. It's everyone, you
9 know, every department. It's a good thing. A lot
10 of counties --

11 MR. JASON MARTIN: I mean, you're
12 holding department heads accountable and it shows.
13 They have to operate within what you appropriate
14 for.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Right.

16 MR. JASON MARTIN: That's the big
17 pieces of this year's audit operationally. You
18 know, everything went well from an audit
19 perspective. We got rid of that finding and
20 hopefully things will continue to get better here.
21 You know, you have your fund balance you're trying
22 to increase, so hopefully you all will be able to
23 improve that, but we don't have any gripes at all
24 with how things went this year from the audit's
25 perspective. The most important thing is you have a

1 clean opinion, so this report will be issued to the
2 State and they shouldn't have a problem with our
3 clean opinion either. So any questions from
4 anybody?

5 MR. RUMLEY: We appreciate you coming
6 tonight and we'll try to get the fund balance up
7 next year. Hopefully, we can get -- like I said, we
8 won't have three to five to six months, but, you
9 know, if we can just show a positive, it will be the
10 first time in years that we would actually show real
11 money there. So hopefully we can turn that around.
12 Any questions, last call?

13 MR. GOFF: Thank you, Jason.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you. We appreciate
15 it. Next year maybe you can give us a discount
16 since you see, you know, our fund balance so low,
17 maybe about 30 percent off.

18 Okay. Move down to number seven, the
19 grant application for Public Transportation. That's
20 just a yearly -- I'll let you go ahead and explain
21 it, Don.

22 MR. TOWNSEND: This is for the FY2015,
23 53-11, rural public transportation and this is just
24 the resolution approving the application. It's not
25 actually approving the grant yet. We apply for it

1 and then if we're approved, then they'll bring it
2 back to us. This is the first step. It usually
3 traditionally comes around this time of year in
4 February and Annette Cash is the director of public
5 transportation and submitted this to the Board for
6 their approval.

7 If you look under tab seven on about
8 the second page on the back, you'll see that
9 currently the budget, total budget is 306,000. Now,
10 we're -- it's a federal match of \$167,195, state
11 match of 4,626 and then the local match is 134,811
12 and that also includes a total of, I believe, one
13 van for 2015. We are currently seeking -- I think
14 we're currently eligible for two vans this year and
15 one van next year. I know we'll get one van this
16 year for sure, but possibly two for replacements.
17 The DOT owns the vans. We just agree to pay the
18 insurance on the vans. We basically get a van for
19 \$4,626. You can't beat that. \$44,000 van brand
20 new.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any questions?
22 Okay. Put that on the consent agenda. Move down to
23 number eight, R-09-14, Transit Alliance Group
24 agreement. We'll go into that.

25 MR. TOWNSEND: Also, Annette Cash has

1 provided this for the Commission's approval. A
2 resolution authorizing the filing of application for
3 what's called Transit Alliance Group contract with
4 Georgia Department of Human Resources -- I'm sorry,
5 Human Services. Basically, when someone that's
6 elderly and eligible for any kind of Medicaid
7 discounts or rebates or whatever, they can get a
8 free ride on our public transportation. This group
9 provides that dollar for that one-way trip. It's
10 basically a supplement. Lookout Mountain Community
11 Services has always provided this in the past, but
12 they've gotten out of that type of business and
13 turned it over to Transit Alliance Group. Transit
14 Alliance Group had to go through a bidding process
15 with the Department of Human Services in Georgia and
16 they won that bidding process. So they're the new
17 contractor. And now we have to submit an
18 application to them -- through them to the
19 Department of Human Services and that's what this
20 is. This is the actual application, again, for
21 FY2015.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Any questions? Okay.
23 Move down to Resolution R-09-14 -- I'm sorry,
24 R-10-14. That's a memorandum of understanding as
25 between -- or with Dade, Walker, Catoosa and

1 Chattooga, four counties. Don, I'll let you go
2 ahead and explain it.

3 MR. TOWNSEND: We used the same format
4 we did last year. We received a request from Family
5 Crisis Center of Walker, Dade, Catoosa and Chattooga
6 County, Inc. It's a nonprofit tax exempt
7 organization under the laws of the State of Georgia
8 and the rules and regulations of the Internal
9 Revenue Code. They have submitted a memorandum of
10 understanding to us last year and we tweaked it,
11 kind of tweaked it down a little bit and so what I
12 did was actually used last year's version and am
13 resubmitting that to them this year upon your
14 approval.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any questions?

16 MR. TOWNSEND: They do submit this also
17 to the Department of Family and Children's Services
18 and they actually do 90-plus percent of what they're
19 requesting they do for us and that's part of the
20 supplement that we pay the department downstairs
21 for. We may not have a direct association with
22 them, but we do through the department and that's
23 why we need to approve it for their tax status.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Everyone fine with that?
25 Okay. Pretty well cut and dry.

1 Move down to number ten. This is our
2 agreement between the GDOT pertaining to our Local
3 Maintenance and Improvement grant, which we call
4 LMIG money. This is a very critical important
5 document here. I did just get notified today we
6 were approved for our LMIG this year. We'll do that
7 in the report, but actually this year, we'll receive
8 \$227,901.32 for paving from LMIG. Last year it was
9 about 252, I think, 252-something. It's down a
10 little bit, but still that's a tremendous help.
11 That's a lot more than we used to get on the LARP,
12 what we used to call the old LARP. Go ahead and
13 explain that. It's self-explanatory.

14 MR. TOWNSEND: LMIG, as we call it, is
15 the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant offered by
16 the Georgia Department of Transportation annually to
17 local governments. I believe even the City of
18 Trenton has the opportunity to apply for this. And
19 it's basically we certify and understand the rules
20 and regulations for the planning act and all this
21 stuff and we do what they tell us to do and if we
22 match that proceeds of what, 30 percent or 35?

23 MR. RUMLEY: Thirty.

24 MR. TOWNSEND: Thirty percent, then we
25 qualify to receive this money. It's a very simple

1 application.

2 MR. RUMLEY: There's legislation right
3 now trying to eliminate the 30 percent and go back
4 like we were with LARP because, you know, the
5 counties that have actually passed the
6 T.S.P.L.O.S.T, these districts, they do not --
7 that's our penalized -- we're penalized 30 percent
8 because our district didn't pass it. That's where
9 the 30 percent comes from and a lot of the counties,
10 they think that's unfair, so there is a bill that
11 hopefully we'll introduce and pass that will take
12 that 30 percent away from us next year, so it will
13 be 30 percent more money that we can get. So LMIG
14 is good. It's really a good thing. It really helps
15 us a lot. Any questions pertaining to that?

16 Okay. Move down to number 11, this is
17 the Resolution R-12-14, 2015 S.P.L.O.S.T
18 intergovernmental agreement. This is something
19 we're probably going to have to actually call a
20 special meeting on toward the end of next week or
21 the middle of the next. Our partners that work with
22 us on this, legal advisors, if he had another
23 probably couple of hours, two-and-a-half, three
24 hours we might have got this where we could present
25 it tonight, but there's no way.

1 Don, I'll let you and Robin, if you
2 want to touch on it. Man, we've been working on
3 this for days and days and days. And what happened,
4 we were going to have it on the ballot in July and
5 we knew that, but now they've changed the election
6 to May and so we're having to really speed things
7 up, you know, to get all the actual advertisements
8 and all the legalities taken care of where we can
9 have it on the May ballot. So, Don, I'll let you
10 comment on it if you want to, or Robin.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: S.P.L.O.S.T votes occur
12 twice a year these days, usually in March and then
13 November and they did move the March election this
14 year to May because of the general primary election
15 will be held at the same time. So there's normally
16 a 90-day waiting -- well, 90-day period to call an
17 election and if that were the case, we would
18 actually -- it would be too late for us. But on
19 January 21st, 2014, Governor Deal signed it in
20 law, Act 343, House Bill 310, which changed the date
21 of the general primary to July 15th, 2014 to May
22 28th, 2014. This change is the result of the 2013
23 U.S. District which mandated Georgia Federal primary
24 elections date be moved up to allow for enough time
25 for overseas ballots for runoff election to be sent

1 to and received by military personnel overseas and
2 others. In addition, Act 343 changed the call date.
3 That's what I was referring to earlier, the 2014
4 election to 60-day call. Special election is held
5 in conjunction with the general primary, the general
6 election, the called election needs to be published
7 not less than 60 days.

8 So because that happened, it now allows
9 us to do that. If we fail to approve it before --
10 if we were to wait until November and it's approved
11 in November, that would be great. But if it failed,
12 we would have to wait a year and our S.P.L.O.S.T
13 ends June 30, 2015. So because it ends June 30,
14 2015, if we go ahead in May and hold an election and
15 referendum and it passes, then there will be no
16 interruption in the S.P.L.O.S.T. If we're not
17 adding or taking away, it just stays the same and
18 that's what we want to do.

19 If you recall, I think, a couple of
20 years ago, the School Board got in a situation where
21 they lost three months' worth of revenue because of
22 just timing. So it's really a positive thing that
23 he's changed this for counties and allowing counties
24 to have this election in May. We would have had it
25 in March if we could have, but we knew that that was

1 probably getting changed, but we just didn't have
2 any details until late because this was just signed
3 in January. We worked tirelessly in the last 24
4 hours.

5 MR. RUMLEY: Well, we've got a lot of
6 work to do. It's not just the last 24 hours.

7 MR. TOWNSEND: No. It's been going on
8 since January.

9 MR. RUMLEY: But it's something that
10 really -- all of y'all know what S.P.L.O.S.T is.
11 It's just a very important tool that we have that we
12 can use to keep your property taxes down really. I
13 mean, really there's so much that comes out of
14 S.P.L.O.S.T. You know, the sheriff's department
15 cars, the road maintenance, just a tremendous
16 amount. So we will have to have a called meeting
17 though. Hopefully, we can do it next Thursday, but
18 we'll know more about that Monday. Of course, just
19 watch the papers and we'll keep you informed on
20 that.

21 MR. TOWNSEND: I will say this, over
22 the last 53 months in Dade County, which is hard to
23 believe, we've collected \$10,408,151. That's sales
24 tax. That's a penny that comes off of groceries or
25 whatever you're buying. But better than that,

1 someone from Nebraska driving through is paying us
2 money. So it's been a very helpful tool in Georgia
3 and I hope that we can continue to do that because
4 \$10 million is impossible for us to come up with
5 through the general fund. I mean, it's just
6 impossible. But that's an average of 196 -- right
7 at 200,000 a month over the last 53 months.

8 Projecting forward, we hope that that's
9 around 13.6 million. We really were actually
10 looking at 12.5, but to be safe at zero percent
11 growth rate, zero percent growth rate is 13.6. As
12 you recall, our growth rate a few years ago in 2008
13 was -- it had projected -- actually up to
14 \$23 million that we would collect. The great
15 recession or whatever you want to call it and the
16 bottom dropped out and we saw a 20 percent drop in
17 2009 from the prior year. So that really hit us
18 hard on our historical growth rate, so this --
19 hopefully projected growth rate of zero is a whole
20 lot more conservative than it was in 2009.

21 So we feel pretty safe that 13.6 is the
22 number. That's what we're going to try to start
23 projecting all of our projects out of. It is
24 nowhere near 18 million like we had before. We are
25 still, of course, collecting information, developing

1 the projects list and -- but 13 versus 18 is a big
2 difference. So it's not going to be as easy to fit
3 everything in that we need, that we really need,
4 need and want. There's not going to be as much want
5 as there is need.

6 MR. RUMLEY: That's what I was going to
7 say. There's going to be very little want. It's
8 going to be need. Robin, do you want to put -- say
9 anything? I mean, you've been right beside us here
10 on this.

11 MR. ROGERS: No. I would say there's a
12 lot of moving parts to try to put this together and
13 we have met with a lot of the other entities
14 involved, the City, the IDA and Water Authority. So
15 a tremendous amount of work has been done and we're
16 close to having something put together. Hopefully,
17 we'll --

18 MR. RUMLEY: You know, the City has
19 really been good. I met with the mayor yesterday
20 and actually we talked about it week before last. I
21 mean, we've talked off and on and he's real
22 comfortable. We did get the -- well, the IGA we
23 got, it was for the City that they delivered here to
24 us.

25 MR. TOWNSEND: That's for election.

1 MR. RUMLEY: That's one step that
2 they've already got ahead. But we'll keep everyone
3 informed and hopefully we can advertise our meeting
4 and have it Thursday or Friday of next week.

5 Any comments? Do y'all have any
6 questions or anything? If not, we'll go ahead and
7 we will adjourn the work session.

8 MR. TOWNSEND: We have one more item.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Do we? Oh, yeah, we added
10 on. I'm sorry.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: This is the
12 intergovernmental agreement with the City of
13 Trenton. This is basically for the Board of
14 Elections. I believe Robin found one small issue on
15 page two. Basically, the Board of Elections has
16 been doing the City election and I think they've got
17 a special election coming up; is that correct?
18 Okay. So I don't think anyone from the Board of
19 Elections is here tonight, but they contract, the
20 County, a lot of Georgia cities and municipalities
21 across the state are doing this, especially smaller
22 cities where they are using the resources of the
23 county and just contracting. It's a lot cheaper on
24 them. It benefits everyone all the way around as
25 far as taxpayers, so that's what this is for.

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MR. ROGERS: The only revision I saw was a very slight one on the duration. That should be -- it says March 14, 2014. It should be March 18.

MR. RUMLEY: Any questions? Everyone fine. Okay. Put that on the consent agenda.

MR. SMITH: There's actually two S.P.L.O.S.T that needs to be changed.

MR. RUMLEY: Okay. If there's nothing further, we'll take about a five-minute break here and we'll go into our regular meeting.

(Thereupon, the work session was adjourned.)

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MR. RUMLEY: We'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. It's February 6th, 2014. We appreciate you all being here, staying with us tonight. As always, before we actually start the meeting, I would like to ask Robert to lead in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance of the flag.

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

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

MR. BRADFORD: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

MR. GOFF: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

MR. PITTMAN: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: Here.

MR. RUMLEY: The chair is the present.

1 Okay. Mitchell, do you want to start with your
2 district report?

3 MR. SMITH: I was going to mention this
4 last month. We got the reflectors on Morganville
5 Ridge Road and part of Slygo Road going up
6 Burkhalter -- not Burkhalter, Hales Gap. Wrong
7 mountain. A lot of people thanks us for that, but
8 one in particular would like the reflectors to go
9 the other direction and Billy knows who I'm talking
10 about. He hears from her quite often and I do, too.
11 But that's pretty much it.

12 I would just like to thank those that
13 got out and helped during the storm this past week,
14 when it took place and happened. Sort of thankful
15 that we're not in Atlanta and went on. You know,
16 one thing I'm thankful. Like a big crowd, everybody
17 was getting out at the same time where the people
18 can't get out to work on the highways. That's all
19 I've got.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Scottie?

21 MR. PITTMAN: I talked to Stacy
22 Stephens earlier. He said they have been doing some
23 more cosmetic work down at the parks. They had a
24 water leak -- water line actually bust and they had
25 to fix that and had to do some repairs to the

1 parking lot where the water line busted. So you
2 never want a water line to bust, but at least it was
3 during one of the off seasons. They got that fixed
4 and taken care of.

5 Mitchell touched on it, the road crews,
6 Ted, they've been out all hours of the night putting
7 salt, gravel, cutting trees off of the road
8 right-of-ways and for the most part Dade County
9 roads were passable. I know we were out of school
10 for three days because of the snow, but for the most
11 part the roads were passable. I went back and forth
12 to Chattanooga all three of those days that the
13 schools were out. So I would like to thank Billy
14 and the road crew and like Mitchell said, anybody
15 else that got out and helped.

16 On a sadder note, Robert mentioned that
17 Jessie Buffington did pass away January 23rd.
18 Jessie run JB's Variety Store. If you've ever been
19 in JB's, you always saw him. He had a big smile on
20 his face. I've known Jessie since I was a junior in
21 high school, probably 26, 27 years ago. I graduated
22 with his oldest daughter, Robert's oldest son. So
23 that tells you Robert is quite a bit older than I
24 am. He's old.

25 MR. GOFF: It's been fun getting here

1 though.

2 MR. PITTMAN: We would go to Jessie's
3 house after school. I hung out with his daughter
4 quite a bit. He always welcomed the kids in, had
5 something to snack on, eat and that was long before
6 JB's. He was actually collecting aluminum cans in
7 his back yard. People would bring them in while we
8 would be sitting at the picnic table eating. A big
9 truck would come in with a load of aluminum cans.
10 He would get up from dinner and go back and weigh
11 them, pay the guy, come back and finish eating. He
12 was a really good guy, really good Christian man and
13 a good role model. So I really thought a lot of
14 Jessie. I actually called him my second dad. So he
15 will be missed. His family, good family, three
16 daughters, wife Sue. They're all -- all of them are
17 good people. So Jessie will be missed. That's all
18 I've got.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Robert?

20 MR. GOFF: I would have never said this
21 if Scottie hadn't, but it was just so comical if you
22 were at that funeral. It described Jessie. A lady
23 that worked for him for a long time said she was
24 always brought up thinking there were two precious
25 metals, gold and silver, except once she threw an

1 aluminum can in the garbage. She said with Jessie,
2 there was three. Aluminum was a precious metal. So
3 it was a very -- it was. It was sad, but it was
4 such a sweet funeral if you can say that, just
5 things about him.

6 First of all, to talk about S.P.L.O.S.T
7 and L.O.S.T. just a little bit. On a good note,
8 they're not where we wish they were, but they are up
9 over last month, a total of about 14,000, the
10 L.O.S.T. is up 6,000 and S.P.L.O.S.T is up 8,000, so
11 that's a little better and hope those trends
12 continue. Again, they're not where they were a year
13 ago, but they're up over the month ahead. Anything
14 up has been good, seems like here lately.

15 And I will say, Ted and I went to the
16 legislative conference and I was just telling Allan
17 a few minutes ago, it was the same -- sometimes the
18 same dog and pony show, but there are some -- we
19 keep being told by the governor that the revenues
20 are up and staying up in Georgia and they have been
21 on that trend and if you've been looking in the
22 paper, especially lately with what's been going on
23 in our county and the discussion going on, that he
24 has found about half a billion dollars, I think, to
25 go into education and to different places there. So

1 some good things looking up in the State, but I will
2 tell everybody again that -- go on ACCG website and
3 look because right now you can see bills that are
4 being discussed in the legislature, not this minute,
5 but will be tomorrow and the next day and they're
6 nearing the halfway point in the legislature. They
7 go 40 days. The difference is this time, it's kind
8 of strange. They bragged -- well, I won't say
9 bragged. One of the speakers that got up and spoke
10 said we've already passed our short budget. Well,
11 you see, they've got to do one thing in legislature.
12 They've got to pass the budget. That's it. Then
13 they can mosey around.

14 MR. RUMLEY: They've got to pass a
15 budget.

16 MR. GOFF: Well, they did it on day
17 number nine and they're thinking, boy, we've really
18 done something. Well, what they're trying to do and
19 Don talked about it earlier, you know, the federal
20 judges say we've got to change our election days.
21 So if anybody is thinking about running or whatever,
22 the primaries will be much earlier this year.
23 Qualifying will actually be March 4th through the
24 7th, I think, are the days, which is only a month
25 away. And then the election, the primary will be in

1 May instead of July. So due to the fact that the
2 State changed to go along with the Federal so that
3 we didn't have an election for commissioners and
4 school board members here, then have to turn right
5 around or have one of our -- say, U.S. Congress and
6 Senators, that, Governor and then turn right around
7 and have another one for local people, they brought
8 it back to the same day. Well, they cannot get out
9 and -- cannot raise money during their 40 days in
10 the Capitol. So bottom line is they want to get out
11 of there as soon as they can. They want to be out
12 of Atlanta so they can get back on the campaign
13 trail and that's the reality of it. I'm not saying
14 that's a good thing or bad thing. But that's the
15 reason they're in such a hurry.

16 But there's a lot of bills that are up.
17 I've talked with the probate judge, a couple of them
18 that are going to affect their offices if passed.
19 The title ad valorem tax here in the Tax
20 Commissioner on vehicles, it's already back up for
21 more changes, changes, changes, maybe good changes,
22 but they never got it right and they're having to
23 work on it over and over and over, kind of like
24 Ms. Pelosi said, this is not a party statement. She
25 said now that we've passed the Health Care Act, we

1 can see what's in it.

2 So now that they passed that ad valorem
3 tax, they'll see what's in it. And I'm telling you,
4 Ted may can mention it, but there's a lot of people
5 coming in kind of upset about -- but it is the law
6 and it's not our law. It's the State law.

7 Go on ACCG. Look at the bills that are
8 up -- that are going on right now and see some of
9 the things that are being talked about, ask
10 questions about them. You can read the entire
11 bills, because that's the things that are going to
12 affect us as a local government, city government,
13 school boards and whatever because we are the bottom
14 and everything comes down on top of us.

15 But all and all, things are looking
16 better. I hope they tend to trend that way and keep
17 going and just thankful that everybody come through
18 the weather and everything that we've had. And
19 Happy Valentine's Day next week. That's it.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Thank you, Robert.

21 MR. PITTMAN: Is that all?

22 MR. GOFF: I had another one, but...

23 MR. BRADFORD: Maybe someday they'll
24 start on this end.

25 MR. RUMLEY: I'll start next time by if

1 you want.

2 MR. BRADFORD: They get down here and
3 there's not anything left. But I would like to
4 thank Billy also and his road crew for the job that
5 they've done with all these storms we've been going
6 through. Again, Jessie Buffington will definitely
7 be missed in this county and this city. He was a
8 good man.

9 The next thing is the transfer station
10 is doing great. But, again, somebody shot one of
11 our lights out at top of Burkhalter. And I don't
12 know who is doing this, but I don't know if they
13 realize this, but there's a home right behind there
14 with a man and his wife and they have some children.
15 If they ever missed that, they could hit his house.
16 And we've offered \$1,000 reward to anyone that will
17 tell us who done that and have them convicted.

18 I went out last night and the night
19 before and talked to a lot of people in West Brow
20 and a lot of people are really upset about it,
21 people that live out there. That really helps when
22 you go up to the top of the mountain. We have so
23 much fog. If you live out there, you know how foggy
24 it is and it's very helpful for the elderly people
25 especially and I've had a lot of people tell me

1 different things and I think somebody is going to
2 tell on somebody before it's all over. We just put
3 that up about two or three weeks ago, I think,
4 wasn't it, Ted?

5 MR. RUMLEY: Two weeks.

6 MR. BRADFORD: And they've already shot
7 it down again.

8 MR. RUMLEY: That light cost a little
9 over \$800.

10 MR. BRADFORD: That's about \$1,600 for
11 two lights that we put up. I think we're going to
12 have to wait a while before we put another one up
13 until we can figure out what's going on and who is
14 doing this. It's uncalled for and it's just costing
15 all the taxpayers. I hear these people talk like in
16 Head River on State Line Road, people really
17 appreciate that light when they come up there. If
18 you drive in Head River, it's the foggiest place in
19 the world. I mean, you can't even see the road in
20 the daylight. So in the nighttime you can imagine
21 what it's like.

22 Again, that's the same thing we were
23 talking about last time. I hate to harp on that,
24 but we need to find out who is doing this and I
25 think somebody out there knows and somebody is going

1 to talk because I talked to a lot of people in West
2 Brow. Like I said, there's a sign on each store of
3 \$1,000 reward if somebody wants to turn them in.
4 That's really all I have.

5 MR. RUMLEY: It may sound like
6 something minor, but actually that's two lights
7 that's 1,600, but it looked like the same bullet
8 they shot out a yellow light, which is right up from
9 it, same light, different colors. That's another
10 750, \$800. We can't keep putting lights there.
11 We've got to find these people or the person.

12 MR. BRADFORD: You know, you've got
13 the --

14 MR. RUMLEY: Yeah. And it's going
15 to -- somebody that's used to it, it's going to cost
16 them their life. They're going to come up there
17 looking for the light on a foggy night, there's
18 going to be an accident. So it's serious. It
19 sounds small, but it's serious. If you know
20 anything about it or know of anyone -- I mean, like
21 Allan said, we'll gladly pay \$1,000 reward for
22 information for these people or person, whoever.

23 It's been a busy month for all of us,
24 all the commissioners, Don. As Robert said, we did
25 go to Atlanta this week and it was informative.

1 Robert, he sat in on finance -- what was it called,
2 finance and --

3 MR. GOFF: Auditing process.

4 MR. RUMLEY: I went directly for the
5 public roads update, different moneys that are
6 available, different moneys that are not available
7 as it used to be, but I had already been working on
8 this LMIG most of the month. Spent most of the time
9 on that between a guy named Perry Gable and David
10 Huff, they're the people that actually are in
11 Atlanta that govern this and decide, you know, how
12 much money you're going to get and whether you're
13 qualified and if all your roads qualify because it's
14 always been strict, but it's really strict now.
15 You've got to prove the right-of-way. You've got to
16 give them a map, GIS of the roads, show proof of
17 ownership, show how many times the road has been
18 worked on in the past year. We really came out
19 good. We were just notified today, like I said at
20 the work session. We're going to be getting about
21 \$227,901 to go on paving. That means we've
22 submitted a list. I think it had about 22, 25 roads
23 on it. Out of that, we'll be able to complete those
24 roads with this money, and with some of our general
25 fund money, we'll be able to do more than that.

1 The reason being is because we did buy
2 a paver a couple of years ago. That sounds crazy,
3 but we normally would be paying out a little over
4 \$100,000 a mile for paving. That's pretty much --
5 that's because some roads are worse than others
6 before you can actually put the topping on it, but
7 that's an average. We're averaging it costing us
8 around -- about 46,000, a little bit less than that
9 a mile. So we're getting double the roads for our
10 money. The paver already paid for itself really.
11 It's a good thing.

12 The park, I do want to touch on that.
13 Hopefully, by spring -- I've had several calls on
14 the playground equipment. To some of you, that's
15 not a big deal, but to a lot of people it is because
16 a lot of people use that park, our four fields down
17 there. Hopefully, we can have some equipment put
18 back in there. We did have to pull up most of our
19 old equipment because it was noncompliant with
20 federal government and it was just an accident or a
21 lawsuit waiting to happen. So hopefully we can --
22 you know, we've been talking about this a month.
23 Scottie is right in there with us. He is actually
24 the commissioner that is the liaison to the park and
25 we're doing everything we can to actually -- because

1 it's not something you just go to Chattanooga and
2 buy. I've said this many times. You can spend 20,
3 \$30,000 on that stuff and not even have a little
4 area half big as this room, so it's very expensive.

5 But the S.P.L.O.S.T., that's something
6 else we've really been working on this month or the
7 last few weeks. Don and Robin has been great.
8 We've got Gabe in Atlanta that has helped us for
9 years and Jim, they've really helped us a lot on it
10 and hopefully we'll have a list put together. We've
11 had some people ask me about, well, what's going to
12 be -- it's going to be a real conservative list. As
13 Don said, it will be our needs instead of wants so
14 much, you know, this time and hopefully -- you're
15 not going to please everybody with the list and a
16 lot of people are anti-S.P.L.O.S.T because it is a
17 tax, but, you know, it's -- if there was ever a fair
18 tax, S.P.L.O.S.T is fair. We're not asking for
19 another penny. We're just asking to keep going like
20 we're going and collecting and hopefully people will
21 see that and there's a lot of things on the list
22 you'll see that's not been on there. Some things
23 that -- more community-oriented, you know. We've
24 got some things we want to do, not just one
25 community center, but several that we legally can do

1 that's needed. We've got some walking tracks on
2 there that will happen out of it.

3 We've got hopefully -- I don't know how
4 many we can actually build out of this, but we hope
5 that we could build some safe places in some parts
6 of the county that if we do have tornadoes or any
7 disaster, it will be a safe place for people that
8 live in houses without basements or mobile homes.
9 At least they'll know in their mind where they can
10 go if they get that warning.

11 I've got a meeting with Jackson County
12 officials next week with some people down there.
13 They've actually built several. I think in excess
14 of 20 throughout their county and I want to get a
15 dollar figure on that just to see what we're looking
16 at. Maybe we can't do it. I feel we can because
17 from what I've talked, they're not spending that
18 much money.

19 But we will keep you informed. Any
20 questions, as always, my door is always open. My
21 cell number, everybody knows it, 667-8999. Just
22 feel free to come in our office and not just talk
23 about S.P.L.O.S.T, but about anything. You know
24 that. But now that S.P.L.O.S.T is coming up, if
25 you've got anybody -- if you hear somebody on the

1 street, you know, tell them to come talk to us.

2 You know, I was talking to Rex back
3 there just now, we're as open as ever in our office.
4 Even if it's Sunday after church, call me. We'll
5 sit down and talk about it.

6 Do y'all have anything you want to add?
7 Okay. I'll move on. I could sit here and talk all
8 night. But I figured Robert had another hour to
9 talk about the Atlanta trip. It was a good trip
10 though. It was really an informative trip.

11 MR. GOFF: It's always good.

12 MR. RUMLEY: On traveling, most of you
13 know I don't travel a lot. I don't like leaving the
14 county. You know, I get a feeling sometimes you --
15 you know, you could go to a meeting every day if you
16 wanted to. There's something that a commissioner or
17 county chairman could be at, but you have to be
18 selective and you've got -- the way I like to feel
19 is when I get to the meeting and I'm sitting there,
20 it's something that I can bring back to the county
21 that I'm kind of earning my money.

22 I have been to them, you know,
23 especially a few years ago, so much that, you go and
24 just feel like you're wasting time, you're wasting
25 the county's time and money. That's why we're so

1 selective on what we do. If you look at our travel
2 expense, we don't -- but you can bet when we go and
3 we do go to these things, it's productive for the
4 County.

5 We'll move right on down to
6 appearances. It looks like Ms. Marshanna Sharp, the
7 floor is yours.

8 MRS. SHARP: I had the packet that I
9 put up there for y'all. This is our statistics for
10 the same time last year. This is kind of apples to
11 apples because we've been in the building for a
12 year. So in the past, they've been in different
13 locations, but we have been -- so if y'all have any
14 questions about any of those. There are two I want
15 to bring out.

16 Everybody talks about E-books and
17 things like that, as you can see, we've had 110 on
18 our E-book check out, but we still have 15 percent
19 increase on paper books. So people are still
20 reading print material, too.

21 And if you'll notice the registration
22 is down. And what they did is we always had this
23 question they asked, are these true people who are
24 registered that uses their library card. So we put
25 the question out to the State and they went and

1 purged the system. If the cards have not been
2 activated or not been used within a certain amount
3 of time, they took all of those out and made them
4 inactive. So this is active patrons we have, so
5 that's why that number is down, but that number is
6 active patrons.

7 And after that, you'll see the budget
8 and we're pretty close on everything. A couple of
9 things are off, but on the equipment, we have a
10 grant coming back from the State to reimburse that.
11 But you'll also notice at the end where we have a
12 \$22,000 deficit, but we have raised -- the Friends
13 have gone and we've raised \$22,800, so we are --
14 we've got that taken care of and we're halfway
15 through. So they did a lot of work to raise that
16 money and the citizens, you know, they donated.
17 Thank y'all because we couldn't have done it if they
18 hadn't done that.

19 Everybody has been calling and asking
20 about tax papers. They are in. All the federal
21 forms are in. We will not be getting state this
22 year. No one will be. You have to call and get a
23 form or they want you to do it online, but we do
24 have our federal books in, the federal -- all the
25 forms. We have pretty much all of them. The AARP

1 are over there doing taxes. They had, I think, ten
2 people come today. You have to call for an
3 appointment. They're there on Tuesdays and
4 Thursdays from 10:00 to 4:00 and we have the phone
5 number at the library if you need it.

6 We do have a book sale going on and we
7 have the regular family movie night every month and
8 we're doing Ready to Read and quilting classes,
9 knitting classes and I have started an after-school
10 program. January was the first one and it was on
11 the snow day, so we had like ten show up.
12 Hopefully, this month there will be more to show up.

13 We have a lot of people ask us --
14 they'll come in and say, I didn't know you fax or I
15 didn't know you could do that. So I thought, you
16 know, we think everybody knows. So we started a
17 campaign and we have the bookmarkers that have a
18 list of most of the things. We notice every day we
19 missed something, but it has a list of things that
20 you can check out, download and that you have access
21 to.

22 And a lot of people don't know that we
23 have the Georgia State park pass and we used to have
24 two. We have four now. So they can check them out
25 for a week and go to Cloudland. You put the park

1 pass in, you don't have to pay and it's any parks in
2 Georgia and you can check those out for a week and
3 we have four that are available. We have the
4 Atlanta Zoo pass and you can check it out and you
5 get two adult and two children for free. We have a
6 lot of people that use that. Does anybody have any
7 questions?

8 MR. GOFF: AARP, they just do taxes for
9 seniors?

10 MRS. SHARP: It's geared toward that,
11 but they'll do them as long as you have a simple
12 form. They don't go into the long forms. But you
13 do have to call and make an appointment with them.

14 MR. RUMLEY: And you've got the number?
15 Just call the library.

16 MRS. SHARP: We do. They can just call
17 the library and we give it to them. They're there
18 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 4:00.

19 MR. RUMLEY: We appreciate all you do.

20 Okay. Everybody is wondering what that
21 big barrel of moonshine is sitting here tonight.
22 You're the lady with the answers.

23 MS. HAMMOND: And I'll get to that.
24 I'm Katie Hammond. I'm the ag and 4H agent here in
25 Dade County. I want to start with a little update

1 on the extension, what we've been doing there. In
2 January with 4H, we sent in two portfolios for
3 Junior-Senior Project Achievement competition. So
4 that means in March Cody Doyle and Seth Brown will
5 go to the state competition for their age group and
6 compete.

7 The second week of the month we had our
8 4H in-class club meetings and on that Thursday we
9 had community club for those that can't attend the
10 meetings in class due to scheduling conflicts and we
11 had a good turnout for that. Our robotics club met
12 on the 15th of the month and on the 25th, we
13 went to Cloverleaf Project Achievement in Rome,
14 Georgia. We took 18 fifth and sixth graders, their
15 families, three team leaders, two volunteers and all
16 of the extension staff. At the end of the day,
17 three of our participants came home with first place
18 in their category and three came home with third
19 place. And two of the ones, Sam Kimball and Vanessa
20 McCowan who placed first in their category, we took
21 to the Optimist Club meeting Tuesday and they
22 presented their project that they did. That was
23 really nice to see.

24 The end of the month, we had to
25 reschedule some activities because of the inclement

1 weather. One of those was BB and shotgun
2 registration. We had that Tuesday night. We have
3 24 BB signed up to shoot and 17 people registered
4 for shotgun, so it looks like we'll have good teams.

5 This barrel, our 55-gallon barrel is a
6 result of our rain barrel workshop we had today.
7 4Hers constructed twenty of these. We're selling
8 them to the community for \$50 each and it's a
9 fundraiser for 4H. So we accept cash and check. It
10 makes a great addition to your house.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Tell them what you do with
12 them. A lot of people out there --

13 MS. HAMMOND: Sorry. I didn't even
14 think about that. They're perfect to put -- even if
15 you don't have gutters, just in the area where all
16 the rain collects and runs off your roof because the
17 rain collects on top here and runs in. If you
18 wanted to connect it to your gutter, you could get
19 an elbow joint and connect and run it straight in.
20 At the bottom, you'll see a hookup for a garden
21 hose. It is gravity flow so you can raise it up a
22 little bit on some concrete blocks and run your hose
23 to your flowers, your garden. And here you have an
24 overflow drain, but you can also use it to hook up a
25 soaker hose and then run it through your flower beds

1 and that's a nice way for your flowers not to get
2 bombarded with rain and get a drizzle. We didn't
3 have to worry about it this summer, but we can
4 always be prepared for next summer.

5 As far as my activity last month, I'm
6 on the committee to review and vote on southern
7 sustainable agricultural research and education
8 grant. So I reviewed eight of those and voted on
9 them. I participated in two herd workdays in
10 Calhoun. I was a moderator at the Southeast Fruit
11 and Vegetable Conference in Savannah and I attended
12 winter school. So if anyone noticed a lot of agents
13 were missing for three days, we all had to go to
14 Rock Eagle and attend classes, but that only happens
15 every other year, so I won't have to do that again
16 for a while.

17 Upcoming events, this Saturday we will
18 be meeting with Limestone Valley RC&D over at
19 Sittons Mill in Lookout Valley to help them plant
20 some trees. We have some flyers back there because
21 we welcome all volunteers. We start at 10:00.
22 Dress warm. We're going to pray that it doesn't
23 rain hard.

24 We will host the dairy, hog and
25 heifer -- I'm sorry, dairy, heifer and hog show on

1 the 15th over at the Ag Center. We'll also have
2 the TriState Cattlemen's Association Junior Steer
3 and Heifer Show on the 17th. So we've got some
4 back-to-back shows if any of you are interested.
5 And then we'll have four exhibitors go down to the
6 Georgia Junior National Livestock Show in Perry.
7 Brett Dyer, Seth Brown, Noah Brown and my daughter,
8 Caroline Cash. That's all I've got.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Sounds like you've been
10 busy.

11 MS. HAMMOND: We've been very busy.

12 MR. RUMLEY: A lot going on for winter.
13 Any questions for her?

14 MR. GOFF: I just want to say thank you
15 to her and everybody involved. And we did put in a
16 good word with your new boss the other day.

17 MS. HAMMOND: Yes. My new boss, he
18 came all the way to Dade County. He was very
19 impressed. We walked right in to Mr. Rumley's open
20 door. He said that does not happen in any other
21 counties he's been in.

22 MR. GOFF: But a lot of the kids that
23 are participating in what y'all are doing are not
24 necessarily kids that are or want to be athletes.
25 And there's -- there's a lot of kids involved with

1 it and there's things -- you know, when you get in
2 livestock and planting and that, that's what's going
3 to sustain us for a long time. You can love those
4 other things, but thank y'all for what you do with
5 those kids that are taking that as a hobby and as an
6 interest that they do because it's something that's
7 going to last a long time with them. Thank you.

8 MR. RUMLEY: Rich, do you have anything
9 you want to say? It sounds like she said it all.

10 MR. LAVELLA: No.

11 MR. RUMLEY: Where she's talking about
12 on the creek, it's not Lookout valley. It's Lookout
13 Creek.

14 MS. HAMMOND: I'm sorry.

15 MR. RUMLEY: Is that an all-day event?

16 MS. HAMMOND: No. We hope to do it in
17 about two hours. We have 300 seedlings. If you
18 come, please bring a shovel.

19 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Chris, Chris
20 Musser. He's with our Chamber, executive director.

21 MR. MUSSER: Good evening, gentlemen.
22 I'll be brief this evening. The 911 tourism project
23 that we had scheduled for the 29th of this
24 month --

25 MR. RUMLEY: She can't hear. Speak

1 louder and get closer to the mic. She gets off that
2 mountain and her hearing just goes. I mean, out on
3 the mountain, she can hear a pin drop. It's the
4 thin air.

5 MR. MUSSER: I'll be careful to speak
6 as close to this mic as I can. And if I can't hear
7 myself, I'll question myself. So the 911 tourism
8 project had to be rescheduled, unfortunately, due to
9 the weather. They were very graciously willing to
10 take us around in a van and up to the last minute,
11 he was willing to do it and it had to be Atlanta who
12 canceled, so we played chicken and they bailed
13 before us.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Good thing they did
15 because they were all coming out of Atlanta. We
16 might have had to put them up in a motel room. It
17 would have been expensive.

18 MR. MUSSER: Exactly. So we'll be
19 rescheduling that and talking with them now about
20 finding a date in the spring when there will be less
21 risks of having to cancel again.

22 Now, for those of you who don't know,
23 the 911 tourism project is a team from Atlanta from
24 the Georgia Department of Economic Development and
25 would come up here and do a tourism analysis of Dade

1 County to find out where our strengths are, our
2 weaknesses, the opportunities we have and the
3 threats we may be facing, essentially to help us
4 grow our local tourism industry. We'll be getting
5 the word out as soon as we reschedule that. We'd
6 love to have as much community input as possible in
7 that analysis.

8 Secondly, we are officially going to be
9 moving forward with an intern working at the
10 Chamber. So there will be a Covenant College intern
11 starting tomorrow morning at 8:30 and this intern
12 will be doing a variety of things. One will be
13 working with the Covenant students who will be
14 coming down to distribute surveys in the community
15 and to do a feasibility study as we've discussed on
16 certain types of businesses. So this intern will be
17 also producing several different documents that
18 we've discussed and hopefully that will be a
19 contribution to the business community and make
20 those public as soon as we have them and be working
21 with those to attract more business and support our
22 local businesses. So we'll keep you updated on how
23 that progresses.

24 We're also still searching for a
25 secretary, administrative assistant. We're working

1 on that with the board to whittle through a lot of
2 the resumes. We've got a lot of applications and
3 we'll be getting back to those who applied as soon
4 as we sift through those and choose the candidates
5 we'll interview.

6 We've had a strategic planning session
7 on last Saturday. So February 1st, we had the
8 2014 strategic planning session where we set goals
9 for the Chamber for the next year. Will Garrett,
10 the owners of Guthrie's, kindly brought Guthrie's
11 chicken for everyone, which made us a lot more
12 productive than we otherwise could have been. So we
13 set some good goals. We'll be publishing those in
14 the future as soon as the board comes together and
15 votes on those and decides exactly how we want to
16 attack those goals.

17 I've been personally meeting with
18 different business owners, different organizations
19 to work together to partner to provide more value to
20 our Chamber members and generate the businesses in
21 Dade County. We really want to provide some
22 valuable services that would really have an impact
23 on their business sort of bottom line.

24 I attended the Georgia Academy for
25 Economic Development this past Tuesday in Rome. I

1 spent the whole day there with Robert Schlegger, one
2 of our new board members learning all about how to
3 work with you all and work with the organizations in
4 town. So enjoyed that very much, had some good
5 networking opportunities and looking forward to
6 going back there next month.

7 And finally, as a matter of
8 transparency, if you will, and to inform the
9 community on the board of director's shift, we have
10 six new board members on our of board of directors
11 and I'll name them for you now. James Cantrell, who
12 works with the school system; Kit Martin, who works
13 at the Flight Park on Lookout Mountain; PJ Nardy at
14 the Lineman School; Robert Schlegger with Accellent;
15 Peter Cervelli, as we all know, he's been
16 re-elected; and Kenneth Shepherd with Georgia Power.
17 So I look forward to working with them. A lot of
18 candidates and these were elected and we're very
19 glad to work with them. So that concludes my report
20 for this month. Any questions?

21 MR. RUMLEY: Appreciate all the work.
22 You stay busy. We appreciate it. Also, I might
23 mention, we had -- you probably saw this in the
24 paper, but it was a pretty big event to be such a
25 cold day, but we did have a ribbon cutting, the

1 Chamber did, down at the Case Hardware. For some of
2 you that don't know that, they're moving. It will
3 be several months. Hopefully by mid summer they'll
4 be able to move into their new place, but it's down
5 just south of Trenton there on the right where the
6 old -- well, we used to call it Johnson's
7 Subdivision, Johnson's Apartments. So we wish them
8 well and it's going to be really a nice facility.
9 It will be something we can all be proud of.

10 Let's see who else we've got here
11 tonight. Have we got anyone from our IDA? I don't
12 think so. Anyone from the City of Trenton to talk
13 to us tonight? Okay. I see the mayor of Rising
14 Fawn and the mayor of New Salem back there. Have
15 y'all got anything you want to say to us tonight?
16 Roger Woodyard and Rodney Ross, we're glad to have
17 you here tonight. I thought I saw a city
18 representative a while ago. I don't guess I did.

19 All right. Audrey Jeffrey, have you
20 got anything you want to say tonight, give us an
21 update on the telephone or the actual fiber?
22 Anything changed on that as far as what direction
23 you're going?

24 MRS. CLARK: Well, we've been able to
25 supply fiber in the Windy Acres, Slygo, that part of

1 Slygo and over on the Harris Road side, which Don
2 Townsend is very aware of. And we just launched our
3 photo contest for the cover of the phone book for
4 this coming year. We started that this week. The
5 cutoff date for any applications or any photos to be
6 put into the contest will be March 15th and our
7 new phone book will come out in August. The winner
8 of that will receive a 19-inch flat screen TV this
9 year.

10 We have somewhat finalized our plans as
11 far as our distribution areas for 2014 and it looks
12 like we'll be concentrating from 136 south on 11 to
13 probably the four fields area perhaps and Mason Road
14 area, some more of Rising Fawn. That looks to be
15 the game plan so far.

16 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Good. So your
17 photo date is the 15th of March? That's the
18 cutoff for the entries?

19 MRS. CLARK: That's the cutoff. In the
20 newspapers, both of them, there's information about
21 how to register and our one big rule is it has to be
22 a photo or photos made somewhere in Dade County.
23 That's the only thing. And finally, with the photos
24 from last year, the Chamber -- with our new website
25 and the Chamber's new website, we're using some of

1 the photos on that new website as well.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Thank you.

3 Appreciate you. I appreciate you coming to our
4 meetings, too. You and Lionel, it seems like you
5 come to all of them and we appreciate that.

6 Something else I did want to mention,
7 too, that last night, we do have a Dade Countian
8 that actually has got his own reality series. A lot
9 of people think this guy is from Chattanooga, but he
10 lives here in Dade County. Corky Corker -- did I
11 pronounce that right?

12 MR. SMITH: Coker.

13 MR. RUMLEY: Coker. You know, they've
14 been in the tire business forever in Chattanooga for
15 years and years, but on the Travel Channel last
16 night, they've got a new reality series and he's
17 actually the star or the host of it. And if you --
18 I'm not sure what the -- if it's going to come on
19 every week or whatever, but it's pretty interesting
20 because everywhere that they travel, he goes around
21 and finds, you know, older cars and whatever and
22 trades and buys. And it's interesting because
23 everywhere he went last night I've been and you
24 have, too. You've traveled these roads and you can
25 say look and say there's so-and-so. So it's pretty

1 interesting. If you can get a schedule on Travel
2 Channel, I think it's going to start coming on every
3 week. It's a good show. It's worth watching. It's
4 different.

5 All right. Let's move down -- in fact,
6 I thought I seen Don Townsend's picture on there
7 last night with his mother. It was just quick. Was
8 there anything to that, Don?

9 MR. TOWNSEND: Yes, there is.

10 MR. RUMLEY: That's what I thought. I
11 mean, I seen your mother out there going like this.

12 MR. TOWNSEND: Oh, yes.

13 MR. RUMLEY: I thought that was Don's
14 mother, you know. Anyway, I'll turn it over to you
15 for the monthly finance report.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: We were quite the
17 rednecks that night or that day.

18 MR. RUMLEY: Well, what will that be?
19 Will you be on one of --

20 MR. TOWNSEND: We are an episode, so
21 that's going to be quite interesting. My
22 grandfather bought a 1956 Willis Jeep and so anyway,
23 my dad inherited it and I inherited it. It's been
24 in the barn just run down, four flat tires, beehive
25 built in the back of the seat. It was in bad shape

1 and they did a whole episode on that. I don't know
2 when it's going to air, but it's going to be on
3 Wednesday nights at 9:30 on the Travel Channel.
4 Trenton Telephone sponsors that great channel in HD.
5 Give you a commercial there.

6 MR. RUMLEY: It's really good. It's
7 quality. I mean, really it's --

8 MR. TOWNSEND: Financial report.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Don, monthly financial
10 report, Don Townsend.

11 MR. TOWNSEND: As of January 31st,
12 2014, the general fund had a balance of \$558,041.
13 Federal Asset Fund, U.S. Treasury, \$288; Sheriff's
14 Special Fund, \$19,469; Drug Abuse Education Fund,
15 \$64,172; Supplemental Juvenile Services Fund,
16 \$22,746; Victim Assistance Fund, \$265; Jail Fund,
17 \$24,035. Federal Asset Fund, Department of Justice,
18 \$742. Employee flexible spending account, \$6,148.
19 Payroll account, \$115,123.

20 The 2009 S.P.L.O.S.T funds for the
21 construction account has a balance of \$14,412.
22 Project account of \$23,172. Proceeds account of
23 \$445,963.

24 There's a new section at the bottom
25 entitled Series 2013 Bonds and for the Dade -- I'm

1 sorry, the IDA County Construction Series B, that
2 has a balance of \$1,880,377. And then that's -- the
3 two other accounts are debt service accounts for
4 Series A and B which has no funds in them presently.

5 The next page is the financial report
6 for the income statement. This is as of
7 December 31st, 2013. Under revenues for
8 December 31st, we see a balance -- revenues taken in
9 \$2,181,428. Budgeted was \$1,903,000, so we were
10 doing well. We were in excess of revenues of
11 \$277,532 for the year, year-to-date, six months
12 ending. That would be at 50 percent of the year
13 completed, we had brought in \$6,095,344. Budgeted
14 was \$6,055,890. So again, we were in excess of
15 \$39,459.

16 At that point, December 31st, we
17 collected at 61.72 percent, which is, of course,
18 above -- 11.72 percent above, which is a good thing.
19 At the bottom, you see the actual for December 31st.
20 For the month, we budgeted only 1,051,954. It says
21 we have 2 million -- spent 2,136,808. That's a
22 problem. It says 1,804,854 is the problem up there
23 and unfortunately that's also listed under
24 governmental financial construction. But what
25 happened is the budget portion of that got put in

1 another month when we paid our S.P.L.O.S.T -- paid
2 our tax anticipation note. I believe that's what it
3 is.

4 So if you look over, the good news
5 is -- that's the bad news. The good news is you see
6 that really for the year-to-date, we were --
7 administration was only off 16,000, which is a whole
8 lot better than 1.1 million. So looking at
9 year-to-date spending is -- \$5,636,101 was the
10 actual year-to-date figure and then budgeted was
11 \$5,539,882, so it is over budget. I say only
12 \$97,018, however, that's better than 1.1 million.

13 Expenses attained through that date was
14 57.07 percent. Revenues less expense for December
15 was, again, 44,619. Budgeted was 851,000. So over
16 807, but again that's because of the anomaly of
17 budgeted the wrong month. Revenues less expenses
18 year-to-date is 459,242 out of a budgeted 516,000.
19 So we are over budget 57,565.

20 Looking at the next page, I don't
21 normally get into this. I won't go into great,
22 great detail, but I do want to show you. We don't
23 look at the variance report a lot. At least I don't
24 point it out a lot in the meetings, but if you ever
25 have time to go down through there, you can see

1 there's pluses and minuses I put over there under
2 the year-to-date column. For instance, if you look
3 at insurance premium tax for the year, it came in at
4 attainment of 102 percent already, which means we've
5 collected everything we're going to collect, plus
6 we've collected some more. This is the revenue, so
7 we've actually collected 2.4 percent more than what
8 we anticipated, which is why it's a plus of 15,605.

9 Same thing down under intangible tax.
10 At this point year-to-date we've collected -- we
11 should have only collected 22,700. We've collected
12 28,855, which means a little over \$6,000. Sometimes
13 when you look at the intangible tax and you start
14 looking at the electrical permits, those are signs
15 and symptoms of our economy, our local economy, and
16 anytime you see an intangible tax increase, that's a
17 good thing. That means people is transferring
18 property and more property is being bought and sold.
19 That may be a good point there, looking at a
20 six-month increase.

21 Looking down, though, under Local
22 Option Sales Tax, you see there's a negative. We've
23 not collected \$34,810. That means we're not ever
24 going to collect \$34,810. We budgeted 949,998,
25 basically \$950,000. We only collected 915,000. So

1 that's something to really watch.

2 And I believe we did a budget amendment
3 last month. It's not reflected in this report, but
4 unfortunately had to reduce that budget. Malt
5 beverage license you can see is up \$6,500. One big
6 reason there is because most of it is due
7 December 31st, so it's collected at this point for
8 the year and I'll let y'all go on down. I just
9 wanted to point those out, the pluses and minuses
10 there.

11 If you go to the next page, which is
12 page 406 under expenses, building repairs, for
13 instance, we budgeted 16,500 and actually, we've
14 only spent \$3,766. What's Hugh doing? He must not
15 be spending any money, right? Well, one reason
16 that's only 11 percent for the year and it should be
17 50 percent in a normal year is we've hired a man,
18 Mike Avery, who does HVAC work and we're not
19 contracting that out anymore. So that's why
20 contracted services under our building repairs has
21 been reduced so significantly because he's taking
22 care of the units. He's doing a lot of daily and
23 weekly operational-type preventative maintenance and
24 it's really paid off. So that's -- you know, at
25 this point, we're \$12,000 to the good. And so on

1 and so forth. I don't want to bore you with this.
2 I just wanted to point these things out.

3 For instance, travel listed in there at
4 \$7,513 under budget, which is, again, a good thing.
5 That just means that a lot of the departments have
6 chose not to travel this past year for whatever
7 reason. Many of those departments have budgeted --
8 budgets were cut more than half, so that's even in
9 addition to those budgets -- 75,900 is a great
10 savings. Anyway, I just wanted to point that out to
11 you and let you take a look at that at some point.

12 The next part of this is the Local
13 Option Sales for the month of January was
14 \$142,223.41. Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax
15 for January is \$177,778.92. Then you have the
16 reports there for 2004 S.P.L.O.S.T, period back to
17 September 2004. That's actually collections
18 starting in July of 2004. But anyway, you can look
19 at that. That's how much we've collected each year.

20 Final reports to review is the
21 year-to-date tax collection for the tax
22 commissioner's office that we've been reviewing.
23 This is the report from July 1st, 2013, through
24 December 31st, 2013. And at this point here, she
25 had already collected 77.56. Again, budget amount

1 of 50 percent, that's excellent. She has collected
2 200 -- actual \$2,889,854 and out of a total budget
3 of 3 million, so she's well on her way. I've looked
4 at the entry today, so it's well over -- almost
5 85 percent. So to be working on 90 percent, she's
6 still got four months to go. That is a really good
7 thing that tax collections have come in well this
8 year. And I say that, the bad of that is there
9 won't be as much interest and penalty, but that's a
10 good thing. Bad in one sense, but good in another
11 sense. That's the report.

12 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any questions for
13 Don? Thank you, Don. If there's no questions, I
14 will entertain a motion to approve our financial
15 statement as presented by Mr. Townsend. Do I hear a
16 motion?

17 MR. GOFF: I make a motion we approve
18 this financial statement as read by the clerk.

19 MR. BRADFORD: Second.

20 MR. RUMLEY: I do have a second. I'll
21 call a vote. Mr. Bradford?

22 MR. BRADFORD: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

24 MR. GOFF: Yes.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

1 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

2 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

3 MR. SMITH: Yes.

4 MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

5 Robin, do you have anything you want to talk to us
6 about tonight, any legal mumbo jumbo we've got going
7 on here that you might want to talk to the County
8 about?

9 MR. ROGERS: I really do not. It's
10 been a busy month, in particular the last week has
11 been especially heavy. I think those items that
12 we've addressed have already been touched on, so I
13 really have nothing else to report.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. We appreciate you.
15 Unfinished business, I think we've -- no new
16 business.

17 The reading of the minutes of last
18 month's regular meeting and any special-called
19 meeting will not be required since all Commissioners
20 have been furnished copies in advance. The minutes
21 are public record and available for review in the
22 County Commission office. The minutes are included
23 in our consent agenda. At this time I would like to
24 ask Mr. Townsend to go over the consent agenda and I
25 will entertain a motion to approve. So

1 Mr. Townsend?

2 MR. TOWNSEND: Okay. The approval of
3 the agenda as amended to add the intergovernmental
4 agreement with the City of Trenton for election
5 services through the Board of Elections, the
6 approval of previous meeting minutes, the review of
7 the employee head count report, approval of
8 proclamation for American Heart Month for the month
9 of February 2014. The proclamation for Georgia
10 Arbor Day, which will be held on February 15th,
11 Resolution R-07-14, which is the reappointment of a
12 member to the Dade County Board of Assessors, which
13 is Ms. Laura holder for a three-year term. That
14 will expire on December 31st, 2016.

15 We have the approval of the fiscal year
16 2013 financial statement by Mr. Jason Martin
17 representing Henderson, Hutcherson & McCullough, the
18 CPA firm of Chattanooga, Tennessee, which reported a
19 clean audit opinion with no findings for FY13.
20 Resolution R-08-14, FY 2015 DOT Section 53-11 grant
21 application for public transportation. Also,
22 Resolution R-09-14, Transit Alliance Group agreement
23 for the Georgia Department of Human Services for
24 consumer trips. Resolution R-10-14, memorandum of
25 understanding with the Family Crisis Center of

1 Walker, Dade, Catoosa Counties, Inc. and Resolution
2 R-11-14, Georgia Department of Transportation
3 agreement, local maintenance and improvement grant.
4 And also two items added, the intergovernmental
5 agreement with the City of Trenton for -- by Dade
6 County and the Board of Elections and registration
7 to hold a special election for the City. That was
8 approved.

9 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Any comments?
10 Okay. Anything? Do I hear a motion to approve the
11 consent agenda as presented by Mr. Townsend?

12 MR. PITTMAN: I make a motion we
13 approve the consent agenda as read.

14 MR. RUMLEY: Do I have a second?

15 MR. SMITH: Second.

16 MR. BRADFORD: Second.

17 MR. GOFF: Okay. Two seconds. That's
18 good. I'll call a vote. Mr. Bradford?

19 MR. BRADFORD: Yes.

20 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

21 MR. GOFF: Yes.

22 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

23 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

24 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

25 MR. SMITH: Yes.

1 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Anyone want to come
2 up and talk to us tonight? Come up and say whatever
3 you want to. Now is the time to put it on the air.
4 I appreciate all of y'all being here tonight. I
5 know it's a cold night. Audrey?

6 MRS. CLARK: I do have one thing to
7 add. We're in the process of adding Evan's local
8 channel to our lineup. So we're hoping -- we're in
9 the process of doing that.

10 MR. STONE: Hopefully in the next 30
11 days.

12 MRS. CLARK: Hopefully, in the next 30
13 days, we'll have the local one in our lineup as
14 well. We're trying to move some things around so we
15 can have it on Channel 7 on our lineup.

16 MR. RUMLEY: That would be great.
17 People in Dade County, I mentioned the Travel
18 Channel, Evan, when you do receive that and the ones
19 that do receive it, we do have a local reality show.
20 Wood Walkers, is that right? It's a movie about the
21 lineman school here. They have a reality show
22 there. It's pretty interesting to watch. It's
23 different.

24 MR. STONE: It's on national also. We
25 don't get it in the greater Chattanooga area. It's

1 on Tuff TV.

2 MR. RUMLEY: On what now?

3 MR. STONE: Tuff TV, which is a
4 national broadcast channel, but we're airing it here
5 locally.

6 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. I didn't realize
7 that.

8 MR. STONE: Marion, Jackson and Dade
9 County. But it's nationwide on Tuff TV.

10 MR. RUMLEY: Okay. Anyone else want to
11 come up? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn
12 if y'all don't have anything else you want to add.

13 MR. BRADFORD: I make a motion we
14 adjourn.

15 MR. RUMLEY: All right. Do I have a
16 second?

17 MR. PITTMAN: Second.

18 MR. RUMLEY: I'm going to call a vote
19 on that. Mr. Bradford?

20 MR. BRADFORD: Yes.

21 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Goff?

22 MR. GOFF: Yes.

23 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Pittman?

24 MR. PITTMAN: Yes.

25 MR. RUMLEY: Mr. Smith?

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MR. SMITH: Yes.

MR. RUMLEY: The chair votes yes.

Thank you all for coming tonight.

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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 69 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 February, 2014.

Erin M. Flatt

Erin M. Flatt, LCR #307
Expiration Date: 6/30/2014
Notary Public Commission
Expires: December 21, 2014.

