

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in a Special Called Budget Meeting on Thursday June 10, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference room in Suite 100 at the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Greg Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells, Vice Chair
Herb Frady
Peter Pfeifer
A.G. VanLandingham

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris W. Cofty, County Administrator
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant
Mark Pullium, Director of Finance
Mary Holland, Assistant Director of Finance
Tom Sawyer, Budget Officer
Peggy Butler, Chief Deputy Clerk

Chairman Dunn remarked that this was a special called meeting to discuss the County's budget for fiscal year 2005.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2005 BUDGET:

PROBATE COURT:

Judge Martha Stephenson from the Probate Court said she had tried to put this request off for another year. The Probate Court has had three clerks for the last three or four years. She presented a hand-out which showed that the work had doubled in some areas and almost tripled in many areas. She said two of the three existing clerks could retire in the next four years which would leave only one experienced clerk.

Chairman Dunn asked what the 2004 numbers looked like. Judge Stephenson said she did not count those because she did not decide to do this until this morning.

Commissioner Wells said it was very difficult to ascertain the real impact that these numbers had because of the technology that helped. Judge Stephenson said she was not sure that technology did not enable you to work quicker but not better. She said everything had at least doubled and the law had gotten more complicated.

Judge Stephenson said they did their own filming of documents and sent them to a company who put them into books. She said the filming now took a day a week to complete.

Commissioner Wells asked could not that be outsourced.

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Judge Stephenson said the company not only put the information in books and returned to them but they also made a microfilm of the information that they send to the state archive which was a permanent record in case something happened to their records.

Judge Stephenson said the people who came into their office took a lot of time to help. She said what they did to help was more of a personal nature and took longer to complete. She said they could not rush people out because they did not just take their paperwork and file it.

Commissioner Wells said last year when Judge Stephenson came to the budget session she indicated that everything was great. Judge Stephenson said that it was then but all of a sudden it got to the point where they could not cope any longer.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he did not have any way to determine if there were spurts between 1993 and 2003, if it was a gradual increase, or what. He said running through some figures, over a ten year period the highest increase was in death certificates and he did not know how long it took to process a death certificate. He said that was the largest increase which was 41%. Judge Stephenson said that was because of the hospital.

Judge Stephenson said when there was a major crime in the County there was a drastic increase in the number of gun permits. She said they were doing twice as much work.

She said during her first term they had four clerks with one of the clerks being a traffic clerk. She said this clerk had gone with the state court. She said that took away from their help because the traffic clerk did other duties as well.

Chairman Dunn asked if last year they got by OK. Judge Stephenson replied that they did. Chairman Dunn asked if there was a backlog. Judge Stephenson replied that there was not. She said they could not have a backlog.

Chairman Dunn said the problem they had as commissioners was trying to get the job done right with as little taxpayer money involved as possible. He reconfirmed that last year was OK, there was no backlog and they were still getting by.

Judge Stephenson said the goal here was not to have a backlog. She said most of everything they did needed to be done promptly. She said things were about to get ahead of them.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked Judge Stephenson if she had any knowledge of the TANIF program. She said that she did not. Commissioner VanLandingham explained that it was a group of personnel that the state provided the County. He said they were individuals who were receiving temporary assistance. He said the County was beginning

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to use these people. He said he saw two places at the Probate Office where there was no sensitivity so the TANIF workers should be of help. He said these people were trainable, some were already trained. He said they were people who had lost jobs. He said she would have to train them to suit her needs but they would not cost her anything. He said they could not keep getting state funds if they do not work. He said what they were looking at was if these people were already in the system and trained and we were at a point where we needed to hire someone, we would look at these people first.

Commissioner Wells said the reason she was struggling with this was because when the budget went out there was a form with it that requested it to be filled out to justify additional personnel. She said there was not a completed form from the Probate Court.

Judge Stephenson admitted she did not fill out that form. She said she had planned to wait another year.

Commissioner Wells said this put them in a situation because they had denied several departments new positions because they had not been able to justify according the form for justification. She said she just did not see how they could say yes to Judge Stephenson when they had denied several other people.

Commissioner Wells said the fairer way to do this was for Judge Stephenson to explore the TANIF people and if it did not work out to come back in January and give the Board the necessary justification.

Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Cofty how many TANIF people had been placed in the County. Mr. Cofty replied that right now there were seven or eight working for the County. Mr. Cofty said for the most part they had worked out very well. He said there was a lady working in Human Resources that seemed to be doing a very good job.

Judge Stephenson said she thought the Board would see from these numbers and the fact that the Probate Court had not increased its personnel in twenty-five to thirty years that they needed more help.

Chairman Dunn said that this was a case of suffering by their own good work. He said they had increased in every category, still getting the job done and no backlog. He said if she did not want to use the TANIF personnel, he said she could come back and try to justify her need to hire personnel in January. He said he would be comfortable with doing a midyear review on this.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked Judge Stephenson if she would be willing to explore the TANIF employment situation. He said he thought she would be pleasantly surprised at the quality of the workforce.

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Mr. Cofty said he would be glad to work with Judge Stephenson and help her with the TANIF hiring.

Judge Stephenson said she would try it, but it was not her first choice.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham, to approve the Probate Court budget as printed. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer. Motion carried 5-0.

CONFISCATED PROPERTY - STATE:

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had a question about uniforms. He said they were buying uniforms again for \$4,000 out of this fund.

Chairman Dunn said they should not be buying uniforms out of this fund. He said they should re-budget uniforms in the County fund.

Commissioner Wells said they did every year.

Commissioner VanLandingham said they were paying \$15,500 for replacement for undercover vehicles. He asked what kind of vehicle could you get for \$15,000. He said we just approved specialized firearms and they were asking \$2,000 more for this.

Commissioner Wells said she did not think we had any latitude on this.

Chairman Dunn asked if they went through Purchasing for these items.

Finance Director, Mark Pullium said they did not. He said the Sheriff's Office was not using the County's Purchasing Department.

Mark Pullium said he needed to run a report in order to answer several of the questions asked by the Commissioners.

It was the consensus of the Board to pick this discussion up after the Board of Commissioners Meeting. The time to resume the Budget Workshop was 8:00 p.m.

COUNTY EXTENSION:

Mark Pullium said staff recommended \$710 for computer supplies, left the \$350 for 4H supplies and added mileage back in the amount of \$500.

Chairman Dunn asked if Sheldon was going to use the county car. Mr. Pullium said yes.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the County Extension budget as corrected. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wells. Motion carried 5-0.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

Mark Pullium said he had handouts from the District Attorney's office because they had sent a supplemental budget.

Mark Pullium said the budget in the book said that the District Attorney had asked for \$317,705. He said the District Attorney sent Finance a package which requested \$332,681. He said the first request included two attorneys and a secretary, and the second request included an additional attorney. Mr. Pullium said it would be an increase from what Finance recommended in the amount of \$14,976.

Mr. Pullium said in reference to the land building rental, there was \$1,080 for storing records off site because of the confidential nature. Mr. Pullium said he had a discussion with them and told them that if a suitable place could be found within the County property for this storage, it would result in the savings of the \$1,080. He said they would agree to that with the agreement that they had limited access to the storage area due to the nature of the records.

Commissioner Wells reconfirmed that the District Attorney was asking for \$14,976 to add the third attorney to handle the Juvenile Court. She said the county would be receiving \$30,000 back from the Superior Court's budget to help offset the fees of the new ADA. She said the reason was the lady that was handling this was no longer going to be doing it because they were only paying \$30,000 a year for a person to cover the entire circuit. She said they went back to Judge English and said they would take this back on but they needed a person to do it and Judge English agreed that the \$30,000 budgeted go into the DA's budget to help offset the fees.

Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Pullium what he was recommending.

Mr. Pullium said he agreed with Commissioner Wells that two attorneys and one secretary were sufficient with one handling the juvenile function and one taking up the additional work of the judicial circuit. He said that would bring it to the budgeted amount of \$317,705. He said staff was recommending no change.

Commissioner Wells said he asked for two and then for one more when he found out the Juvenile Court was going to be included.

Chairman Dunn asked if we would be cutting back.

Mr. Pullium confirmed that the total budget was \$322,635. He said if they went with the two attorneys and the secretary, as opposed to the three attorneys and secretary, the budget stayed at \$322,635, no change. He said what was recommended was sufficient funding.

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Chairman Dunn asked what would change?

Commissioner VanLandingham said he did not see a new program or a new hire anywhere.

Mr. Pullium said it was not listed as a new program. He said staff entered the data for the District Attorney's office and the staff only entered the Fayette County portion. He said the \$317,705 included the amount needed to fund two attorneys and a secretary. He said alternatively there was going to be three attorneys and a secretary and the number on that line item would be \$332,681 and the total would then be \$322,635.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he did not want to approve a budget that was not listed.

Commissioner Wells said it was listed. She said to look on page 103 where it said "The requested budget line item represents a 19.74% increase or \$52,317 increase over the budget for FY2004. This budget includes the addition of two attorneys and one secretary and the increase of the District Attorney's supplement by 35.72% to \$19,000". She said it was listed already, it was inclusive. She said it was listed differently from what was done for some of the other accounts.

Chairman Dunn asked how much was the supplement increase. Mr. Pullium answered \$5,000 for the District Attorney. Chairman Dunn asked why we did that?

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if it was done to bring him in line with the judges.

Chairman Dunn said we only paid a percentage of these. He said we were not hiring someone for the county, we were only paying our fair share for the district.

Chairman Dunn said the supplement concerned him. He said we throw supplements out. He said why did we need a \$5,000 supplement for Bill McBroom.

Commissioner Wells said Bill McBroom came on board before this Board of Commissioners. She said he said he was waiving the supplement that he was eligible for at that time to keep the budget inline. She said he waived the supplement for a couple of years. She said it was a supplement that they have gotten that was in line with the superior court judges, but the superior court judges top out at \$24,000, and Bill will top out at \$19,000 with his supplement. She said the supplement was circuit wide and our percent was 35.72%.

Chairman Dunn asked Commissioner Wells if she was recommending this budget. Commissioner Wells said she was recommending the budget with two new ADAs with one

of them designated for juvenile court so that the money could be recouped from superior court.

Chairman Dunn asked if Bill McBroom was understanding of that. Commissioner Wells said yes.

Commissioner VanLandingham reaffirmed that the budget was not going to increase. He said he would have had a lot easier time with this if it had been broken out like the rest of the accounts.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to approve the District Attorney's budget with two new ADAs, one of them to be designated for Juvenile Court, recouping \$30,000 from the Superior Court's budget that was budgeted for the Juvenile Court ADA, and authorization of one new secretary and the absorption of the Board's percentage of the supplement, and otherwise adopt this budget as recommended by staff. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT AND EDUCATION:

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had a question. He said on page 26 the last item, Other Supplies, they were doing the county fair, Wings over Dixie Air Show and fall festival. He said he thought this was a school program.

Mr. Pullium said what had happened in the past was that it was a joint effort between the DARE officers and the Fayette County Board of Education.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if that was what gave it the flavor of school programs.

Mr. Pullium said one of the major problems they saw was that if it was a drug abuse and treatment education fund then the idea would be to educate students in the school system and that was where the money should go. He said another issue was the revenues to support this funding and the available fund balance were diminishing because there was not as many surcharges being accessed and recovered. He said they were also concerned about the nature of the duplications in several areas. He said there appeared to be supplies being bought by the DARE program, by the Sheriff's office and by the Fayette County Board of Education.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if the Board of Education was recommending what they spent their money on.

Commissioner Wells said it showed there were approximately 1500 students in the core DARE program. She said we were paying \$15,557 just for PR and departmental

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promotional items. She said that was a lot of money for 1500 students and she said she was all for cutting that tremendously.

Mr. Pullium said these funds were special purpose funds that had to be used toward drug abuse education. He said they could not be used for any other purpose as outlined in the Georgia code.

Commissioner Wells said it looked as if there was duplication of payment in many areas and she did not feel comfortable with it at all.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if we had to put M and O money in it. Mark Pullium said we did not.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he thought it was excessive.

Chairman Dunn asked if the Board of Education funded any of this.

Mr. Pullium said it was not coming from the Board of Education. Commissioner Wells said it was coming from the fine and penalty money.

Commissioner Wells asked Mr. Pullium to find out what was meant by duty leave cost.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to set the Drug Abuse Treatment and Education budget limit at \$35,000 and let them decide where they wanted to distribute the money. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wells.

Chairman Dunn asked who made the decisions on the distribution of the money. Commissioner Wells responded that Tommy Nations would make that decision.

Motion carried 5-0.

ELECTIONS:

Mark Pullium said he had talked with Carolyn Combs in Elections. He said he had agreed to put back the \$3,000 for the vans.

Commissioner Wells said you take the very expensive machines and put them in the sun or a rock flies up and hits one there would be a fiasco when trying to get the machines up and running. She said for \$3,000 let's protect them from the beginning.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he agreed.

Chairman Dunn asked what were they not funding. Mr. Pullium said they had asked for a full-time clerk and were told no.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Elections budget as discussed. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer. Motion carried 5-0.

ENGINEERING:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Engineering Department budget with the addition of \$500 under Other Supplies. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Family and Children Services budget as presented by staff. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

FLEET MAINTENANCE:

Assistant Finance Director Mary Holland said staff had added two additional mechanics.

Chairman Dunn said they would probably need a mid-year update on this account.

Mary Holland said staff had an additional recommendation for a change on this budget. She said the category was Tires. She said they had originally asked for \$1,025 and the recommendation was \$400. She said after additional information was provided staff wanted to re-recommend \$1,025.

Chairman Dunn clarified that would increase the budget by \$625. Mr. Pullium said that was correct.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked about the last item on page 294, \$6,100 for a tire balancer. He wanted to know if they could put \$6,100 in capital. Mary Holland said they could. Commissioner VanLandingham asked if this balancer worked on smaller tires. Mr. Pullium said they had one for smaller tires and this one was for the larger tires. Commissioner VanLandingham asked if it would work with the smaller ones. Mr. Pullium said he did not have that answer.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to accept the Fleet Maintenance budget with the correction on tires to \$1,025. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer. Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE:

Mark Pullium, Director of Finance, said there were four promotion requests in the budget. He said the promotions were based on the addition of job responsibilities that were specific

to the pertinent job duties to assure timely delivery of quality financial accounting and reporting. He said in addition to the job responsibilities added to each of the requested positions, there was an increase in the expected level of performance to a higher demand from the staff. He said before 2004 the Finance Department did not have stated goals and objectives that would result in improved financial operations. He said as a result of these changes in job staffing responsibilities, the department had become more efficient and effective in delivering financial functions necessary to make informed decisions. He said several of the job promotions requested were partly supported by an issue of fairness and equity. He said the two requested accountant promotions and the one senior accounting technician promotion were necessary to assure that all employees were performing like duties and responsibilities were compensated fairly and in a consistent manner.

Mr. Pullium said part of the rationale and necessity for these was a result of incorporating the Water System accounting functions into the County Finance accounting functions. He said as they did that they found there were qualified staff members from the Water System that had the ability to perform higher level, high judgment type of work. He said these staff members had to be able to understand governmental accounting standards and requirements being added to the department on a regular basis. He said the structure they were trying to establish was an executive level core, a professional level of accountants that could perform and back each other up, and then a level of workers to be characterized as paraprofessional workers which could interchange with each other. He said he had listed for the Commissioners' review for each position the job description before and after the recommendation and the additional job descriptions being assigned.

Chairman Dunn asked when additional job responsibilities were listed for these slots, would they see reduction of those responsibilities from other slots. He said new requirements were not being created, just shifting the work load around.

Mr. Pullium said in one respect they had already reduced the responsibilities for one person on the staff.

Commissioner Wells commented that that person was not able to handle the job.

Chairman Dunn asked if that person was receiving less pay.

Mr. Pullium said that was correct. He said he was told at the time he did not have the leeway to promote someone into that position. He said they did need people performing at that level. He said with the absence of the supervisory function he would recommend that Mary Holland, the Assistant Finance Director, assume the supervisory responsibilities which she was now doing. This would mean he would not need the supervisory responsibilities from other staff members.

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Chairman Dunn said they were jumping up two and three grades at a time. He said just a year and a half ago a survey was done that said how much they thought a job was worth. He said now they were moving people up and they were worth more in addition to the normal raises.

Mr. Pullium said he would challenge this because they had employees that were classified significantly on the scale that were performing the duties and responsibilities at a higher level than the person at that other level. He said it was an issue in fairness because they were asking someone that worked side by side, doing more responsibility, to take less pay when they were doing more and higher level duties.

Chairman Dunn said the only change he could see was they brought two people in from the Water Department but they still have to do the Water Department job as their primary function. He said unless there were new missions and functions in the office and you were giving them more to do then you must be giving other people less to do. He said if we were going to move these people up we ought to be doing something on the other side.

Mr. Pullium said he did move one down. Chairman Dunn said that did not compensate for all of these.

Commissioner Wells commented he moved one down but wanted to move four up.

Mr. Pullium said they had the assistant finance director who has assumed the supervisory roll of the accounting function. He said in addition to the supervising of the accounting function, she had more staff with the addition of the Water System.

He said in terms of the change in job responsibilities and the pay of one position in the office subsequent to this reorganization they had to reassign those duties to other individuals. He said to the issue of fairness and equity, we were paying one person six scales above what these people were doing now. He said it was a division of responsibilities, not as much on one individual, but these two individuals were performing at a higher level than the one we had.

Chairman Dunn said performance was different than job description and requirements.

Mr. Pullium said in regards to their job description it was equal to or greater in terms of their work and responsibility than the one that was several grades higher.

Chairman Dunn said this was a personnel issue.

He said Human Resources had evaluated these job descriptions and had sent these through to an outside firm and they had classified properly with the recommended promotions.

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Chairman Dunn said the point was they took two people from the Water Department and they came under your supervision. He asked what was the person doing now that was supervising them?

Mr. Pullium said there had been additional, significant job responsibilities and professional level job responsibilities added to these individuals and as a matter of fairness and equity these individuals needed to be compensated.

Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Pullium when he did this a year and a half ago why he did not evaluate what he needed. He said you said to pay at that level. He said he was talking about the pay study. Mr. Pullium said there had been a significant change since that pay study. He said that change was of the job responsibilities the individuals had.

Chairman Dunn said he was still paying everyone else at or above where they were then and kicking these people up two or three grades because they were given part of the other person's job to do.

Commissioner Wells said this was the same discussion they had last night with Chief Krakeel. She said they did not see any reason to kick them up. She said the Board did not authorize the increase.

Chairman Dunn agreed these people were working hard and were wonderful. He said maybe they needed to compensate for that by getting rid of another job. He said what we had now was they were still paying everyone whether they were good or bad, and because they were not so good their responsibilities were given to two people who were, and now wanted to elevate them and still pay the other person.

Mr. Pullium said they took the pay from that person. Chairman Dunn said that did not compensate for these four people.

Mr. Pullium said at the time that happened he was told that even though there was a vacant spot he could not promote someone to that because it needed to be brought up and discussed at the budget.

Commissioner Wells said we were talking three other people not just one.

Chairman Dunn said one of the problems here was being consistent with the entire workforce. He said Chief Krakeel came in just as compassionate, saying job requirements were increasing and staff did not recommend an increase. Mr. Pullium said he did not not recommend that increase.

Commissioner Wells said she could support the promotion of the one person to the position that was now vacant because of the lateral transfer. She said she could support

Mary, but she could not support the other two in order to be equitable across the board with what was done with Chief Krakeel, Chris Venice, and other departments. She said they had to be careful not to create the idea that certain departments got what they wanted because they were the favorite departments.

Mr. Pullium said he could make that structure work.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he would not support \$25,000 to \$32,000 whatever that was. He said that was too much at one time.

Mr. Pullium said something different from that had been suggested.

Mr. Pullium said in terms of the pay it was only going up 10%. He said irrespective that was the maximum we could increase someone's pay.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Finance Budget with the changes of promoting the assistant finance director to controller and the existing vacancy be filled from within. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham.

Commissioner VanLandingham clarified that they were not adding a new position.

Chairman Dunn asked who paid the salaries of the two people who were water accountants. Mr. Pullium said they had calculated an indirect cost allocation back to the Water System so that the Water System paid a portion of the function of finance based on the relative usage in the Finance Department.

Motion carried 5-0.

FLETCHER SAMS - STATE COURT JUDGE'S OFFICE:

Chairman Dunn said Judge Sams wanted to talk to the Board about developing an in-house probation department where county employees handled all probation. He said now they contracted out to Maximus who bought out the original company. He said he and Judge Sams and talked about this six or seven months ago and Judge Sams said he was thrilled to have this outsourced and they (Maximus) were doing a great job. When Maximus took over, like any merging, some people got dropped by the wayside. He said some of the favored people in the old company were no longer there. He said now Judge Sams wanted those people hired on here and run an internal probation service which would be much more costly to the County.

Commissioner Wells said the person coming in with Judge Sams was with the old company and now was starting her own company.

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Judge Sams said he had two issues he wanted to discuss with the Board. He said one was the budget which had already been recommended. He said in regards to indigent defense, he did not know what was going to happen. He said the State Court was not a part of the public defender office. He said the new public defender had contacted him and was going to present a proposal to him to contract his services.

Chairman Dunn said they did not have to use the Public Defender for the State Court but did have to use him for the Superior Court.

Judge Sams said he thought that was the coming trend. He said they were going to be bound by the new standards and the downside would be certain state powers to be would target those courts that had not contracted with public defenders.

Chairman Dunn said since they had to do it for the Superior Court they would probably do it for all of the courts. He said the guy that was going to do that was coming tonight. He said he did not know what was going to happen.

Judge Sams said the other issue he wanted to present concerned probation services. He introduced Stephanie Wells. He said when he was elected in 1996 he was scrambling to get ready for the court opening in 1997. He said at that time Stephanie came to see him and she was selling the services of community corrections. He said he contracted with them as approved by the County Commission. He said at that time Stephanie came and had us up and running by day one. He said her background was as an accountant with the Administrative Office of Courts, and employed by BI and Maximus. He said she created and set up a new probation department for the City of Newnan. He said when he found out that Stephanie left Maximus he called her and asked her to come and see him. He said if he had his wishes he would rather have a County Probation Office instead of a private probation company. He said Stephanie has helped put together some numbers and projections he wished to share tonight.

Judge Sams said his philosophy on this was that this was traditionally a government service and not a product that the county was buying. He said the law changed back in the 90's and the state probation office was overwhelmed and to cut costs they dropped misdemeanors as a cost savings and authorized the privatization of probation supervision for misdemeanors. He said they contracted with Community Corrections. He said Stephanie ran this office and operated on a 50% profit margin. He said all the profits were going to the corporate shareholders. He said his problem with that was less regulation of probationers. He said with the County taking over this it would be self-sufficient, no tax burden and more county employees, but that cost was more than compensated for. He said he was just opposed to privatization of probation services.

He said the private probation industry was getting more and more competitive and more and more cost cutting which resulted in lost services. He said a corporation was a legal

entity and the goal of any corporation was to hold their first allegiance to the shareholders. He said that conflicted with the government's philosophy of providing the best supervision possible for probations.

Judge Sams said he and Stephanie had gone through the numbers and could safely say approximately \$200,000 a year was being sent to corporate shareholders out of state. He said these funds could be diverted to decrease cost to the probationers, to subsidize treatment programs and domestic violence counseling. He said he felt with the county maintaining this it would add stability and increase morale for the staff. He said it would allow all the judges and the courts to more easily enhance and modify programs.

Judge Sams said county probation should be self-supporting with the main emphasis on the quality of service.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked how many employees were they looking at. Judge Sams said at this time he was proposing seven employees.

Judge Sams said the number would grow as the case load grew.

Chairman Dunn told Judge Sams he knew he was very pleased with BI and their work and now that Maximus had taken over he wanted to know if they were any better or worse. Judge Sams answered that there were rumblings against the industry.

Chairman Dunn said the trend was to privatize. He said most of the world had determined that no rehabilitation was happening. He said probation and parole had been an albatross around every government's neck. He said there were very few good programs. He said if we were able to move people through the system and account for them we had helped them.

Chairman Dunn said it was a very difficult concept to transition. He said we had been very fortunate here that the companies had done a very good job for us. He said they were asking the Board to take a whole different approach, to bring it back into the government as a taxpayer funded business, if funding became necessary. He said they would have to do a cost benefit analysis.

Commissioner Wells said this budget was misleading from the way they would be working.

Commissioner Wells asked who provided over site for this and evaluation.

Judge Sams said the largest salary would be the Chief Probation Officer and he would be the department head and be accountable to the judge, the court and the county commissioners.

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Chairman Dunn said they had no reason to believe that government employees would be better at this than corporate employees.

Judge Sams said the beauty of this was that you kept count of the number of employees being supervised and did not add another person until those numbers were justified by fine collections and overloading and supervision. He said he wanted to state his philosophy was not to run the court as a collection agency and that was not his primary goal. He said the goal was to rehabilitate these people.

Mr. Pullium said he took the information Judge Sams had provided and applied the county's benefit package to that information and by doing so the salary projections went from \$300,000 per year to an estimated \$453,000 assuming they were at the top of the scale.

Chairman Dunn asked Judge Sams if they had had any problems with Maximus. Judge Sams said he would rather not discuss that at this time but would be glad to discuss in private.

The meeting ended at 6:50 p.m. due to the Board of Commissioners Meeting which was to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Dunn called the Budget Workshop Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Arthur English, the public defender for the Griffin judicial circuit, introduced himself. He said he would take office July 1 of this year. He said as of January 1, 2005 his office would be responsible for handling court appointed indigent defense for the Griffin judicial circuit in the Superior Court and Juvenile Court delinquent cases.

Chairman Dunn said the Finance Director had recommended \$77,000 and said it was up to Mr. English to convince the Board as to how much he needed.

Mr. English said \$77,000 was just to handle the Superior Court and the Juvenile Court delinquency cases. He said that was based on a pro rata shared case by case load with Fayette County supporting about 26.9% of the caseload. He said he was in agreement with this proposal. He said he was not asking for any additional lawyer spots. He said five assistant public defenders were recommended and he was content with that number but was asking to tweak the classifications of some of those people. He said he has been able to recruit some very experienced criminal lawyers from this circuit. He said he was not trying to get any salary for himself.

Mr. English told the Board if they wanted him to handle all of the courts and get them into complete compliance he could do this based on annual figures for about \$70,000 less than last year and provide service in all counts in compliance with the new laws. He said the

only difference he was asking in regards to what was proposed was \$90,541.80. He said that would get him three support positions that were not included.

Chairman Dunn clarified that was for one-half of a year. Mr. English said yes.

Mr. English said when he said he could save \$70,000 he was figuring that savings based on 12 months. He said if he served all courts over one-half of the year the total would be \$192,997 for six months. He said based on what you spent last year it was a \$70,000 savings and you would be getting more service with more qualified people and would be in complete compliance with the new state statutes.

Commissioner Wells asked what if the numbers for people needing indigent defense turned out to be far higher than what they had anticipated. She asked how that was going to effect the dollar amount.

Mr. English said it would not for this year. He said he had figured this in based on the 6 months from January 1 to July of next year. He said he would have a much better idea at this time next year when they were talking about next year's fiscal year budget. He said he hoped they would have more state positions next year that hopefully would take some of the burden off of the counties.

Commissioner Wells said the bottom line was as the request for indigent assistance goes up so would the costs. Mr. English said that was correct. He said it could be expected that more people would apply. He said the qualifications for indigence were going to go up significantly as of January 1. He said right now they were using the federal poverty guidelines to determine indigents based on the number of people in the family unit. He said it was now \$356 a week, but on January 1 the amount would increase to \$708/week for a family to qualify.

Mr. Pullium asked what guidelines the public defender would use so that Fayette County was not paying for indigence from other counties. Mr. English said the pro rata depends on case load not population. He said he supported that and thought that was the way it should continue to be done.

Mr. Pullium asked if they were talking about cases the public defender represented or case loads in the circuit as a whole. Mr. English said they were talking about indigent caseloads that his office would represent.

Mr. English said he could save the County a substantial amount of money and get them in compliance in compared to what had been done the previous twelve months.

Commissioner VanLandingham said Mr. English had said two things that scared him. Number one was that he was going to save the County a lot of money. He said every time

a past legislation was going to save the County money it ended up costing the County money. He said the second statement was "as long as they leave it the way it was they would be all right". Commissioner VanLandingham said he knew they had no choice up to a point but it seemed that there was a trend adopted by the state to put as much back into the counties as they possibly could as far as paying out. He said they were doing this every legislative session and he felt this was another way they were doing it. He said if they went all out on this program they would wind up getting hurt.

Mr. English said he was not asking the Commissioners to go all out, but he believed there was an agreement between the County Commissioners Association and the Indigent Defense Council that the counties would be prepared to spend the same amount of funds this coming year as they spent last year. He said he was doing everything he could to keep this as cost effective as possible. He said he did not ask for any more lawyers. He said he did ask for one more secretary and two more investigators, but it only brought the figure up \$13,000 because he agreed to reduce the mid-range salaries that were recommended.

He said he wanted everyone to understand his two primary goals were that he wanted this office to fit into the court system. He said he wanted to be a team player and work with everyone. He said the second thing was if he could find a way to save the counties money he was going to do it. He said circuit wide he was going to be able to save the circuit \$200,000 over what they spent last year. Fayette County will save \$70,000.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he did not think the state was going to let Fayette County save \$70,000.

Commissioner Wells asked how was he going to determine the eligibility. Mr. English said if there was any cause to question their eligibility it would be investigated. He said he would have investigators on his staff. He said they would continue to have to sign an affidavit plus they were going to do independent investigations.

Mr. English said there was another money saving aspect to this that he wanted to bring to the Board's attention. He said with the manpower he had requested, even if it was decided to go with the Superior Court and Juvenile Court delinquency cases, he would have enough people so that he would have someone at the jail every business day. He said this business of people sitting in jail, eating up taxpayers resources by getting fed and medical care was over.

Chairman Dunn asked if he was authorized by the state to have seven people. Mr. English said that was correct. Chairman Dunn asked what that was suppose to take care of. Mr. English said almost nothing. Chairman Dunn said this was an unfunded mandate. Mr. English said it was a constitutional mandate. He said the duty to provide council was a fundamental principle of the United States and Georgia Constitution.

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Commissioner Wells asked if they Board decided to have the public defender represent all of the courts how many people was he asking for and what would be the total budget. Mr. English said he was asking Fayette County to split pro rata five attorneys, one investigator and one secretary. He said the total would be \$192,977.60 for six months for indigent care for every court in Fayette County.

Chairman Dunn asked what the State was paying. Mr. English said the state would pay about \$600,000.

Commissioner Wells asked about benefits. Mr. English said that was figured into his cost.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked about vehicles. Mr. English said they would not have vehicles. He said they used their own and collected mileage from the State. He would make all his employees state merit employees.

Chairman Dunn said since they had to do Superior Court he would like to do all the courts the same way.

Mr. Pullium said in terms of what had already been paid to date in indigent defense in all the courts, the current figure was \$452,754.

Mr. Pullium said they received Mr. English's request and entered it. He said based on the information staff have heard, it was the recommendation of the staff to address all courts and provide the funds Mr. English had requested. He said they felt this would save the County money.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham, to approve the Public Defender's budget in the amount of \$192,977.60. Motion carried 5-0.

FORESTRY COMMISSION:

Motion was made by Commissioner Frady, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to approve the Forestry budget as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Chairman Dunn asked why Human Resources needed \$12,000 more for Public Relations. Mr. Pullium said that was for a the Mystery Shopper program. Mr. Cofty said that was a good program. He said the County use to do this through the Carl Vinson Institute but they did not offer it any more. He said this was an independent company. He said it was beneficial last time.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked why the Legal Expenses were doubled. Mr. Pullium said it was an ongoing program. He said one reason for the increase was the need for

revision of the County Policies and Procedures that would need review from the legal team to make sure that we were in compliance with the laws and regulations.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked about an item under Training and Education which was an increase for typing training. Mr. Pullium said the \$60 program was a software package for employees who needed to use a computer and type to enhance their ability.

Chairman Dunn asked in regards to the Market Study if it was implied that it would be done every two years. Mr. Pullium said the existing County Policy called for it to be done every two years. He said it may be more appropriate to do the study every five years.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Human Resources as discussed with no changes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

Mr. Pullium said there was two line items that was taken out that needed to be put back. He said under Office Equipment the Smart Net Maintenance with the amount of \$19,006 should be \$19,146. He said under the Maintenance Contract for the MIC Box they were still using the MIC Box to support the Tax Assessor's Office and other important functions there fore that needed to be restored in the amount of \$2,900 bringing the total to \$22,046.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn, to approve the Information Systems Budget as discussed. Motion carried 5-0.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION SURCHARGE:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn, to approve the Jail Construction Surcharge budget as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

JUVENILE COURT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham, to adopt the Juvenile Court Budget as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

JUVENILE SUPERVISION:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn, to adopt the Juvenile Supervision Budget as presented by Staff. Motion carried 5-0.

LAW LIBRARY:

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Motion was made by Commissioner Frady, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to approve the Law Library Budget. Motion carried 5-0.

LIBRARY:

Commissioner Wells said she had a question regarding the item of Public Relations. She said this budget item had been overspent of the appropriated amount. She asked if this was a problem and if it was how was it being addressed. Mr. Pullium responded that this was addressed in a previous meeting with the Division Director. He said the Director took the necessary steps to correct the deficiency.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer, to adopt the Library Budget as presented by staff. Motion carried 5-0.

LIBRARY SPLOST:

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Library SPLOST as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

MARSHAL'S OFFICE:

Commissioner Wells said she had a question under Safety Supplies. She said it stated that annually this department used 4,800 rounds, 48 boxes of shot gun shells and 19 targets to train and qualify personnel. She said if you looked at the number the Sheriff's Department used for a much larger department you would note that they were not shooting that many rounds. She said they only had eight marshal employees.

Chairman Dunn asked how often the Sheriff's Department qualified. He was told they qualified annually. Chairman Dunn noted that the Marshal's Office qualified four times a year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Marshal's Office budget with the correction of \$1,200 for safety supplies and otherwise as submitted by staff. Motion seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion carried 5-0.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Commissioner Wells said she had a question under New Programs. She asked about the amount of \$3,120.00 increase to fund half the cost of a certified family violence group facilitator. She said she knew they were also funding this in the Solicitor's Budget and Battered Women were also supplying a support group and they did not charge for it. She said she did not see any reason for the Board to fund this if this was one they were charging for.

Commissioner Wells also asked about the \$40,000 requested for the Fayette Community Options formally during business as Fayette Developmental Disabilities. She said this was

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suppose to be the budget for the Mental Health Association. She asked when was it switched to Fayette Developmental Disabilities. Mary Holland said they were previously budgeted together and now were split to better track them.

Commissioner Wells then asked about the new program asking for \$13,171 to fund two new supported employment slots for consumers with no other funding. She said she felt they were getting too far from mental health. She said this was suppose to be for counseling for people who had drug addictions and mental problems.

Commissioner Wells said she would not have a problem with this if most of this was not a state program. She said the Mental Health Center was under the McIntosh Trail and was funded by the state.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to adopt the Mental Health Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion was carried 3-2 with Chairman Dunn and Commissioner Wells voting in opposition.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL:

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to adopt the Non-departmental Budgets as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wells. Motion carried 5-0.

PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Permits and Inspections Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Chairman Dunn. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Public Safety Administration Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Public Works Administration Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Chairman Dunn. Motion carried 5-0.

PURCHASING:

Commissioner Wells said she had a question about the amount of legal services. Mr. Pullium said it was the bids and contracts.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to adopt the Purchasing Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion carried 5-0.

RECREATION:

Commissioner Wells said she wanted to take out the \$60,000 that went to Community Schools. Chris Cofty said this was for the use of the school gymnasiums for volley ball, badminton, etc. Carol Chandler said they partner on a lot of programs.

Commissioner Wells said she did not know that.

Commissioner Frady said that everyone talks about being consistent but he said it was not consistent because Tyrone deserved to have as much money per capita as Peachtree City.

Commissioner Pfeifer said he would be more comfortable if the Tyrone recreation people were working with the Fayette County recreation people so that the Board could get a handle as to what was going on. He said they ought to also be doing this with Peachtree City.

Motion was made by Commissioner Frady to pay a fee to Tyrone Recreation, based on per capita, for use of their recreational facilities. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 2 -3 with Chairman Dunn, Commissioner Pfeifer and Commissioner Wells voting in opposition.

Commissioner Wells asked what was a Therapeutic Instructor. Tom Sawyer answered the instructor was used with the Special Olympic clients.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked about the \$150,000 that was given to Peachtree City each year for all Fayette County citizens to use the recreation facilities. He said there was an article in the paper stating that would change and county citizens could not use their facilities.

Chairman Dunn said if their Board voted to deny use to Fayette County citizens the Board of Commissioners would immediately stop the \$150,000 payment.

Mark Pullium said the next payment of \$150,000 was due to Peachtree City on July 1, 2004. Commissioner Wells suggested that the amount be prorated and paid on a monthly basis.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Recreation Budget with the change of sending money to Peachtree City on a monthly basis rather than a lump sum. Motion was seconded by Chairman Dunn. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Dunn asked Chris Cofty to send a letter to the City Manager of Peachtree City advising him of the change in the way payment would be made of the \$150,000.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Senior Citizens Center budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion carried 5-0.

SHERIFF JAIL:

Commissioner Wells asked about the recommendation promotions. Mark Pullium said this was in regards to the detention officers being promoted to deputy sheriffs. He said this was a training ground where they started in the jails and were promoted to the field.

Chairman Dunn said that was true, they started in the jail. He said there was no reason to promote them to deputy sheriff until they were moved and there should be a policy that when they were moved they would be paid. Chairman Dunn asked if they could put that policy in place.

Mark Pullium said yes. He said this would be similar to what they did before. He said they would put this money in reserve and when someone was promoted to a deputy sheriff and moved to a patrol they would get the increase in pay. He said in order to accomplish this objective they should move the promotion money into a reserve and when they were moved out onto patrol the money would be moved into the promotion fund.

Chairman Dunn said they needed to send a letter to the Sheriff explaining this procedure. He said they needed to say they were not objecting to this process but they would pay it when the time came. He asked Chris Cofty to write and send this letter.

It was the consensus of the Board for Chris Cofty to proceed in preparing and sending the letter to the Sheriff.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had a question about Operating Equipment. He said they had not had lawn mowers for over a year but they were asking for \$2,500 to repair lawnmowers and weed eaters. Commissioner VanLandingham said last year the Sheriff's Department said they would not use trustees to cut the grass but instead they wanted to use a lawn service.

Chairman Dunn asked the Board if they wanted to take out this amount. Commissioner VanLandingham suggested they reduce the amount to \$1,000. It was the consensus of the Board to reduce the amount from \$2,500 to \$1,000.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had a question about Radio Repair, a new program. He said it stated this was inadvertently left out last year. He asked if it was left out last year how did they get by for a year without the radios.

Commissioner VanLandingham said the last question he had was the consummation of the contract at the jail. He said he knew for a fact that the sheriff contracted with a phone

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company. He said they contracted with the food service business, we did not do that. He said they also contracted with the medical person.

Commissioner Wells commented that they were not legally authorized to do that.

Commissioner VanLandingham commented that they built them a half-million dollar kitchen and they opted not to use it. Chairman Dunn said that was correct.

Chairman Dunn said that was why they were told that by July 1 they have to go through the Purchasing Department and handle all contracts through that department.

Chris Cofty asked if we were going to send out a letter notifying the vendors of this change.

Commissioner Wells responded yes do it now. She said she thought it had already been done.

Chris Cofty asked the commissioners to tell him to send the letter. Commissioner Wells replied that he was told.

Commissioner Wells said she wanted to be sure they took out the promotions and five new positions.

Commissioner Wells said the changes they had made were to take the Operating Equipment to \$1,000 and take out radio repair of \$822.

Chairman Dunn clarified that they did not give the Jail any new people. Commissioner Wells said that was correct. She said they also did not approve promotions of anybody.

Mark Pullium said the Board had taken out \$70,000 so far from the budget requested.

Commissioner Pfeifer asked about \$6,750 for mileage and parking to travel to and from training classes. He said the amount was reduced to \$10.00.

Commissioner Pfeifer said they asked for \$28,411 for seminars and dues and staff recommended \$500. He said \$18,000 was for training and implementation of the CERT team which was not approved.

Commissioner Wells asked what was done with the Safety Equipment. Chairman Dunn said staff recommended \$1,000.

Commissioner Wells asked about the firearms. Commissioner VanLandingham said all of that came out.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Sheriff Jail Budget with changes as discussed. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Solid Waste Management budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

STATE COURT JUDGE:

Mark Pullium said he was asking to go back and adjust the indigent fees for the State Court, Juvenile Court and Magistrate Court since it was agreed to let the public defender's office handle those.

Motion was made by Commissioner Frady to adjust the indigent fees in the State Court, Juvenile Court and Magistrate Court. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the State Court Judge Budget as presented by staff. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

STATE COURT SOLICITOR-GENERAL:

Chairman Dunn asked if it was decided how many solicitors were in the court. Commissioner Frady said there were two. Mark Pullium said there were 4.6 people in the state court solicitor's office and under victim assistance there were three people.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the State Court Solicitor-General Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Chairman Dunn. Motion carried 5-0.

STREET LIGHTS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Street Lights Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion carried 5-0.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, COURT REPORTS, BAILIFFS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Superior Court Judge, Court Reports and Bailiffs Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion carried 5-0.

TAX ASSESSOR:

Commissioner Wells asked what was the new program recommended. Mark Pullium said staff recommended \$2,500 for the GIS Mapping.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Tax Assessor's Budget as discussed. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer. Motion carried 5-0.

TRANSFERS:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Transfers Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Chairman Dunn. Motion carried 5-0.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE ADVOCATE:

Mark Pullium said there was a mistake on the Lodging and Meals. He said it needed to be changed to read \$1,000.

Chairman Dunn said they were also deducting \$10,000 from Battered Women/Domestic Violence.

Commissioner Wells recommended reducing the Victims Assistance account from \$2,500 to \$250 based on the fact that they had only spent approximately \$20 so far this year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells with the changes as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer. Motion carried 5-0.

YOUTH PROTECTION HOME:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Youth Protection Home Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

ZONING:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Zoning Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

WATER SYSTEM:

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Water System Budgets as presented by staff. Motion seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

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Peggy Butler, Chief Deputy Clerk

Gregory M. Dunn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 4th day of August, 2004.

Peggy Butler, Chief Deputy Clerk