

MINUTES
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 3, 2006
6:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Vice Chairman Samuel F. Hart, Sr., Commissioner Bert Bivins, III, Commissioner Elmo A. Richardson Jr., and Commissioner Joe O. Allen.

Staff present: Mr. Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Mr. Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Mr. Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Mr. Tony Rousey, Information & Technology Services; Mr. Tommy Brown, Human Resources Director; Mr. Sam Kitchens, Assistant Director of Buildings & Property; Mrs. Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board; Mrs. Janice Ross, Board of Commissioners; Mrs. Barbara Wood, Public Affairs; Mrs. Bel Wall, Human Resources and Ms. Latoya Belgrave, Risk Management.

News Media: None.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Chairman Bishop recognized Reverend James L. Bumpus, Pastor, Tremont Temple Baptist Church for the Prayer for the Day.

Chairman Bishop asked everyone to remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bishop announced that there will be a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the South Bibb County Library on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. on Houston Road, across from Heard Elementary School. Everyone is invited to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, the Minutes of the Regular meeting of September 19, 2006 were approved as written.

At this time, Chairman Bishop stated that because there was an item on the Agenda tonight that has to be voted on by all Commissioners, he needed to deviate from the normal order of the Agenda so that Commissioner Allen could be excused to deal with some urgent family business.

With that, Chairman Bishop called on the Clerk of the Board for the reading of the Board Agenda.

REFERRALS: None.

RECORD AND INFORMATION:

1. Monthly departmental reports and agency activities received for record: None

ACTION:

1. Ratification of Resolution congratulating the Memorial Baptist Church upon its 82nd Anniversary celebrated on Sunday, September 24, 2006.
2. Ratification of Resolution recognizing Dr. Patricia Bath as the 2006 recipient of The Shelia Award presented by the Tubman African American Museum on Saturday, September 30, 2006.
3. Ratification of Resolution congratulating the Bibb Distributing Company upon its 50th Anniversary on Sunday, October 1, 2006.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, items 1-3 were ratified.

4. Ratification of Resolution requesting a performance review of the Macon-Bibb County Board of Tax Assessors.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned Resolution was ratified.

5. Ratification of Unanimous Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Bibb County, Georgia regarding its mutual agreement with the Board of Commissioners of Monroe County on the placement of the Bibb/Monroe County Boundary Line.

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned Resolution was ratified.

6. Resolution of Bibb County adopting the Bibb County Five-Year Short-Term Work Program Update and Capital Improvements Element Update for Fiscal Years 2006-2011.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried, the before mentioned Resolution was ratified.

Next, Chairman Bishop called for the Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE, TAX AND REVENUE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Hart reported the following:

1. The Finance committee recommends approval of authorization of a Supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$112, 500.00 to the FY2007 General Fund budget for the funding of Crisis Services at the Medical Center through River Edge Behavioral Health Center.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Bishop stated that with this request coming in as late as it did and because there have been some concerns voiced since that time, he wonders how crucial it is that it be voted on by the Board tonight since it happened back in July. He stated that he would like more time to actually see what the County's obligation is under the law because the County does have a contract with River Edge which relates to rent and how the County funds different items. It was noted that the letter was received in the Commissioners' Office late Monday afternoon.

Vice Chairman Hart stated that the contract ends on October 15th, if it does not go into affect. He stated that it was his understanding that the lateness was due to the fact that they had tried to secure a grant that was not awarded.

Commissioner Bivins stated that earlier today, some of the Commissioners expressed the opinion that they really didn't like dealing with stuff that comes in at the last minute but also, that this was one of those things that the County needs to do and that he doesn't see how it has anything to do with the contract with River Edge. He added that River Edge seems to be the one that's urging the County to take up part of the cost.

Chairman Bishop stated that it's actually an unfunded mandate by the State of Georgia and he's not sure what the State's or the County's obligation is.

Commissioner Bivins stated that it doesn't necessarily have to do with obligation, but it's just a matter of whether they want to take care of a situation that can cause this County a lot of problems.

Commissioner Allen stated that he totally agrees with Commissioner Bivins and he thinks, in talking with the Sheriff today, he expressed the same concerns that the Board did, that the mental health issues that we have in this area, especially with the State cutting back, the County will have to come up to the plate on this issue and he'd like to ask that the Board go ahead and vote on matter because he wants to vote in the affirmative.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he was going to vote no on the motion primarily because of the way in which it was handled. He stated that he expressed his feelings this morning in the committee meeting that if it's run in to them at the very last minute, adding that he only had an opportunity to look at it for about five minutes before the

meeting; he was going to vote no on the motion.

Commissioner Allen asked the Chairman to call for the vote.

Chairman Bishop stated again that he doesn't know if the County has a financial obligation and they are looking at some other costs that were taken off the Agenda today of approximately \$300,000.00 increased in other healthcare costs. He added that you're talking about \$500,000.00 of the taxpayers' money that they would be committing on a short notice. With that, he stated that he would call for vote.

Vice Chairman Hart stated that whether they have an obligation or not, there's a consequence that they aren't willing to face and he thinks they were concerned that a lot of mentally ill people would possibly be put back on the street or in the jail without any kind of a review by a competent medical group, and this would delay and probably cause us to not have those services for an entire year. He further stated that they are concerned about the consequences and while there is concern about the public's money, there is also concern about adequate services to the public and to make sure they are safe. He added that if it costs \$112,000.00 for this community to be safe, he's for it.

Chairman Bishop added that he doesn't disagree with Commissioner but the first time he heard about it was when he walked into the meeting today and that apparently, the matter has been discussed with select members of the Board.

Commissioner Hart stated that he didn't think that was totally true and that his conversation came after he received the letter. He stated that after such time, he talked with the Sheriff and that he called the Medical Center to make sure that the Board did its due diligence as it relates to this issue. And for that reason, he feels that the Board should do it.

Commissioner Bivins stated that the first time he heard about it was at the meeting today, but there was some discussion of it and even though he doesn't like the fact that it came up at the last minute, he thinks there was enough logic around the whole situation to dictate that this is something that needs to be done.

Chairman Bishop stated that since it happened in July and was just brought to their attention today, he stated that he pointed out that in order to add an item to the agenda it takes the unanimous consent of the Board of Commissioners. With that, Chairman Bishop stated that he would call for the vote but he wasn't sure that it meets the guidelines to be placed on the agenda for passage anyway and he asked that a ruling be given on this at a later date by the County Attorney, unless he wanted to do so now.

Virgil Adams, County Attorney, responded that he would do it at a later date.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation passed by a three-to-two (3-2) vote with Chairman Bishop and Commissioner Richardson casting the dissenting votes.

2. Finance Committee recommends authorizing Chairman Bishop to sign the contract with Brittain, Thompson, Bray, Brown for architectural services for the Farmer's Market Tag Office Expansion.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

3. The Finance Committee recommends approval of authorization for chairman Bishop to sign the contract with ADT for Board of Elections security.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

4. The Finance Committee recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY2007 Fire Fund Budget in the amount of \$47,880.00.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

5. The Finance Committee recommends awarding the bid for a Firearm Training Simulator to Interactive Image Systems in the amount of \$21,462.50.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

6. The Finance Committee recommends approval of authorization for Chairman Bishop to sign the H.E.A.T. grant.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

7. The Finance Committee recommends approval of authorization for Chairman Bishop to sign the contract renewal with Polk City Directories.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

8. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the purchase of a new Payroll Check Printer and the transfer of \$1,216.00 from Maintenance and Repair and \$1,634.00 from Capital Outlay Contingency.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Hart reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of the modifications to the policy on the "Use of County-owned Vehicles."

The Committee also recommends acceptance of the Updated County Vehicle listing.

On motion of Commissioner Hart and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

At this time, Commissioner Bivins asked if the Board could have a called meeting about the public health issue discussed earlier because it is a timed matter. He stated that they might be right at or a day or so past the deadline if they wait until the next meeting.

Commissioner Allen stated that he thought the matter has passed.

Commissioner Bivins stated that he didn't know since the County Attorney had been asked to give a ruling.

Commissioner Allen then stated that the Board had voted 3-2 on the matter and that it passed. He then turned to the County Attorney to confirm whether the matter has passed.

County Attorney Adams responded in the affirmative.

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Bivins reported the following:

1. License and Tax Committee recommends that the request from Mr. Harold Tessendorf regarding the property at 4226 Worsham Avenue be referred to the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE –Committee Chairman Bivins reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends that the petition to pave Level Acres Drive Southwest be approved on an assessment basis with the property owners incurring 2/3 of the cost and the County incurring the remaining 1/3. The committee further recommends that construction begin when prior commitments have been fulfilled and monies become available.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

2. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign the agreement between Bibb County and the town of Payne City outlining assistance to be given Payne City in meeting their Phase II Stormwater requirements with EPD. The Committee further recommends that the agreement be for a one-year period.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

3. The Committee reports that a petition to register Bay Arbor Lane as a public road has been received from Ms. Lucy Gibson, Gibson-Carey Development, Inc. along with a bond to ensure proper maintenance for a one-year period ending on July 26, 2007.

The Committee recommends that the petition be approved and that said road be placed on the Official Road Register for maintenance by County forces.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

4. The Committee recommends that the request from the Georgia Department of Transportation to access the south Bibb dirt pit for the purpose of hauling stockpiled material to repair roads in northern Houston and Peach Counties be respectfully denied.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

5. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign the contract between Bibb County and the Department of Transportation for the Stadium Drive Roadway Relocation Project PR000-S009-00(346).

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

At this time, Commissioner Bivins asked if an item could be placed on the next Finance Committee Agenda with regard to the appropriation of funds for the Pandemic Flu.

Chairman Bishop consented to the matter being handled accordingly.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Richardson reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends that the salary range for the CAO's position be set at \$110,000.00 to \$144,000.00.

The Committee recommends that the Human Resources Director and Attorney Brown Dennis conduct a study of CAOs salary and benefits (i.e. in comparable counties) and to consult with ACCG on a retirement package for CAOs and to report back to the Human Resources & Information Services Committee as early as possible.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

2. The Human Resources and Information Services Committee recommends the approval of a Temporary Secretary for the Custodial Services and Buildings and Properties Department for up to six (6) months.

Note: Funding will be transferred form the Custodial Services existing salary budget to the Temporary Service Account.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

3. The Human Resources and Information Services committee accepts the recommendation of the Tobesofkee Director to reorganize by eliminating one (1) Law Enforcement Ranger position and creating a Senior Utility Worker position for maintenance assignments. This change in utilization will be a savings for the County.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned item was approved by a four-to-one (4-1) vote with Commissioner Allen casting the dissenting vote.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Richardson reported the following:

1. The Properties Committee recommends the transfer of the property located at 239 Clinton Street to the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority.

Committee Richardson added that this was in conjunction with the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

2. The Properties Committee recommends that Bibb County accepts by Quit Claim the .8 of an acre located on New Forsyth Road from Bass at Riverside LLC.

The Committee recommends that the County construct a driveway to the proposed fire station located on New Forsyth Road at a cost not to exceed \$92,000.00.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

3. The Properties Committee recommends acquiring the Jordan property under the Georgia Land Conservation Program and that this item be referred to Finance for appropriation of funding.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned item was approved as presented.

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – No Report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – No Report.

Commissioner Allen addressed the audience by stating that he knows their plight and why they were present tonight. He apologized for having to leave but stated that he has had a death in this family and the wake was taking place tonight. He promised to follow-up with the other Commissioners about the matter and he wanted them to know that he was not just walking away from the situation. He asked everyone to keep his family in their prayers. With that, Commissioner Allen asked to be excused from the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed the following visitors:

Lake Tobesofkee

Development:

Arthur Grady
Thomas R. Stevens
Arthur Gray

Others:

Donald H. Richardson, Jr.
Colleen M. Giffin
Hazel Giddens
Brenda Shreve
Sunny Redmond

Forest Hill Rd.

Development:

Lindsay Holliday
David Israel
Alice Boyd
Red Boyd

Kings Park:

Fernella Cabey
Yvette Cabey
Nettie L. Thomas
Clifford Johnson

From HARPS:

Phyllis Powers
Brenda McAnally
Mary Waller
Michele Swafford

Friends of Macon Dog Park:

Ms. Anne Meconey

Heart of Ga. Humane Society:

Carol Lentz
Donna Conaway

All About Animals:

Ann Parman

Save A Pet:

Rita Smith
Wendy King
Tiffany Smallwood
Nona Davis
Jennie Cox
Frank Cox
Lucia Carr
Patricia Scarbary
Pam Charbonneau
Patricia Corley
Dawn Kennedy
Faye Dunlap
Cathy S. Hackle
Deborah Hanson
Linda Brown
Mary H. Jones

Other interested parties:

Ginger Martin
Kristin Reid
Wendy Sherlock
Millie C. Stuvant
Roz Goudeau
Happy Wyatt
Stephanie Mauldin
Amy Bell
Margie Daniels
Nancy Warlick
Leigh Little
Lindsay Abernethy
Amy Stone
Mary Kay Heard
Katie Durkee
Joseph O'Berry
Angie Barnes
Halie White
Leslie Littlepage

Chairman Bishop stated that he has received numerous emails regarding the animal cruelty issue and that he has forwarded them to Captain Davis, Deputy Chief Allen or directly to Sheriff Modena. He advised them that the Board of Commissioners share their concerns about animal cruelty issues and that they want to hear what they have to say. He also stated that he wanted them to know that there was an opportunity for them to register a complaint through the Sheriff's Department by way of a form that they use.

The first speaker was Phyllis Powers. Ms. Powers' comments were as follows:

"Hello, everyone, my name is Phyllis Powers and I reside at 160 Apple Valley Road in Macon. I have recently been fostering some dogs through HARPS and I have never done it before and I had some strays come up and took an interest in them and decided to go pick them up from animal control once they were picked

up and adopt them to try to help them find homes by carrying them to Pet Smart every weekend. There was a trap set by animal control the week before the 24th. Sunday was the 24th, the day that the dog we're talking about died. Prior to that, I would say Monday or Tuesday, it was probably Monday that a trap was set in my neighbor's backyard because the animals I was fostering, I was having a hard time keeping them in my yard. I found someone else to take the animals because it was problem and on Tuesday, the week before, this animal passed away on Sunday, I found someone else to foster these dogs. The trap was set for those dogs; I feel that when the dogs that were the problem were relocated, the trap should have been removed at that time. The trap was not removed; it was kept set with a can of dog food in it through the whole week and through the weekend. I was awoke on Saturday night, early Sunday morning between 1:30 and 2:00 a.m. by dogs' cries. It was a definite distress call; it wasn't just barking, it was crying. I went outside, I couldn't see. I knew it was dog caught in that trap but I couldn't see and I wasn't going in my neighbor's yard. When daylight came, I went out to see and it was a dog in there. I went in and called animal control and they were closed. I called the Sheriff because I knew that animal control would not be out until the next day; this dog was sitting out in the middle of the yard with no trees for shade; it was right out in the middle of the sun. There was no water in there; the dog had been in there, like I said, since somewhere between 1:30 and 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning. This was around 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning when I got up. I called the Sheriff. Two sheriffs came out and I asked them if they could assist me because I knew this dog was in trouble. She couldn't stay out in that heat all day; she definitely couldn't stay in that little bitty trap til the next morning til animal control went to work Monday morning. The sheriffs came out; they went next door to talk to the gentleman that had the trap in this yard and told him that I would be responsible for the animal if he'd let me pull the trap into my yard; I had plenty of shade. I'm familiar with animals; I know how to take care of them; I had dog food and plus I found out that she had puppies somewhere. The man refused to let me take care of the dog; he said the dog was going to stay in the trap until Monday morning. She sheriffs would not assist in any way. There was nothing, they said, they could do. This animal went through, excuse my expression, but hell, from 1:30 or 2:00, when it was trapped, until around 3:00 or 4:00 when it passed away. She was not given any water from the time she was caught at 1:30 til 2:00 a.m. until when I called the Sheriff and made a point to tell them that the dog needed water. That was around 10:00 til 10:30. She finally got a little, small bowl of water. I went to church and out to eat and came home around 3:00 p.m. and I went outside to see that the dog was laying there motionless. I clapped my hands, hollered, the dog didn't move and went ahead and walked over in the yard and saw that there were flies all over her. The bowl of water that they had put out there was around this size, very shallow and there was no water in it; she had drank whatever little bit of water they had given her and there was no more put back in there. If she had lived, it was blinding rain storm Sunday night that she would have been out in with no shelter. This has highly upset me; I tried to get help from the Sheriff; I couldn't get animal control to do anything; I couldn't get the neighbor to let me help the dog and, in my opinion, it is cruelty what went on. That was pure cruelty what that dog went through and it could have been avoided. Thank you."

The next speaker was Ms. Rita Smith. Ms. Smith's comments were as follows:

“I’m Rita Smith; I’m a resident of Bibb County and just wanted to express my hope and my encouragement that we will take a closer look at animal control policies. Obviously, what’s in place, not just this incident, but others as a volunteer with several animal rescue groups, this happens all too often; it’s a real problem and we obviously need to do something more than what we’re doing. And so I hope that ya’ll take a look at that and consider it and actually, I think it will end up saving the County money in the long run; it’s a problem right now; there are homeless, stray animals breeding all over the place and people do get frustrated and do set traps and then incidents like this are the result. So, I hope that we’ll take a comprehensive look at this policy. There are programs that have worked in other counties, other places that are actually saving them money. So, I hope that we’ll think about that in the future. Thank you.”

The next speaker was Ms. Brenda McAnally. Ms. McAnally’s comments were as follows:

“I’m with HARPS (*Homeless Animal Rescue Placement Services*). We work 24/7 to try to save these animals and I feel like it is an atrocity that an officer, an animal control officer that is sworn to protect the animals and protect the public would let this happen. To start with, the trap was not supposed to be let out over the weekend and when are they supposed to check the traps – just whenever they feel like it? This has happened before in Bibb County. One was left all day out at Macon State and people calling all day trying to get somebody to pick the dog up, and the dog was in there. This dog, Sunday the 24th, was in 92 degree weather with a heat index of 97. Which one of you people would like to be out in the burning sun, in a trap in 97 degree weather with no food or water? She had puppies. Animal control, you know, set the trap for her, she got caught in it. They didn’t go out to look for her puppies. Private citizens went and looked for these puppies and the woods were so dense, we didn’t find them. So, not only is the trap responsible for this mother’s death, it’s responsible for the puppies’ death. This has happened before in Bibb County. When I spoke to Captain Davis, he said that it was a mistake. The bottom line is – when human beings make mistakes, animals pay the price. This cannot happen again; this is going to national headlines; this cannot happen again in Bibb County. We adopt a lot of animals to Bibb County and it would just really, really appall me to think that some animal, your animal, Chairman Bishop, got out, wondered across somebody’s yard, a trap sitting there waiting for it and it died hours later in the trap. If you all have dogs you know sometimes they do get out. And animal control can’t go on like this; I don’t know what the solution is but we will be following up on it and if we had done this, anyone of us, as a private citizen and had been reported to the Sheriff’s Department, we would have been charged with felony animal abuse; we would be in jail if we couldn’t make bond. Why hasn’t something been done with this animal control officer? The deputies go there. They’re not going to render aid to the dog. What is going to convince us that these two deputies, if they’re driving down the street and see somebody beating a dog over the head with an ax, are they going to stop them? They wouldn’t help this dog. Where does the education come; Where does the disciplinary action come – it’s only a stray, it’s only a dog. This dog was a living, breathing creature before animal set that trap. And we do need some follow-up on this.”

The next speaker was Ms. Wendy King. Ms. King’s comments were as follows:

“Good evening, gentlemen. My name is Wendy King; I’m a resident of Bibb County and also with Save A Pet, Inc. We are a shelter organization based out of Forsyth, Georgia. We take animals from all of Middle Georgia, primarily from the Monroe County Animal Control, the animal control we support. Commissioners, as a resident of Bibb County, I am shocked and appalled by the conduct of our public servants. Their blatant disregard for the Georgia Animal Protection Act of 2000 and our local laws is inexcusable. When police officials in branches of our County Government can no longer be trusted to enforce the laws of the State of Georgia and of Bibb County, the fabric of our judicial and social systems will slowly begin to unravel. As a human being in support of animal rights, I’ve got to say, I am horrified and outraged by the cruel actions of the Bibb County Sheriff’s deputies and the animal control officer. If you fail to take action to punish or prevent such egregious actions by our public servants, each of you are responsible; your complacency will make you no less culpable than the deputies who forced Phyllis to watch that dog die in an animal control cage. I thank you for your time and I beseech each of you, please, do not turn a blind eye to the cause of this dog’s death; you can make a difference for the citizens who are here, who elected you and we expect you to, please. Thank you.”

The next speaker was Ms. Ann Parman. Ms. Parman’s comments were as follows:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. We do, all, thank each and every one of you for giving us the opportunity to be here and speak to you because this is very near and dear to our hearts. And my name is Ann Parman and I am at the time the acting President of All About Animals. We are a nonprofit Macon-based animal shelter. We at All About Animals would like to make a statement and we are shocked and absolutely deeply saddened by the acts of animal cruelty that were perpetrated. And it wasn’t just a dog, it’s a life. And if we don’t respect life for a dog, life is life. As I think Brenda said life is life. Now the acts signify a willful and wanton disregard for life. We do not want Macon-Bibb County, Georgia to have any type of reputation for that because I don’t believe Macon-Bibb County, Georgia is about that; I don’t think it wants to signify that. This community should stand strong and steadfast against the perpetration of any animal cruelty and I remember that Sunday well because I talked to this young lady and she was distraught. She said, Ann, the dog was thrashing; the dog was yelping; the dog was crying; the dog was scratching at the cage frantically trying to get out. The humidity was horrible that day; it was out in the sun, in the heat without food and water and we had human beings standing besides letting this happen. We don’t want this to ever happen again. Thank you.”

At this time, Chairman Bishop thanked all of the guests who were present in the interest of the animal cruelty issue and expressed that the Board shares the same concerns that they do. He suggested that the lady who lives next door to where the incident occurred arrange to meet with Captain Davis and give him a detail account of the incident. He added that he believes Captain Davis would look into the matter fully. Chairman Bishop also stated that he thinks the Commissioners are willing to review ---and that he doesn’t know without reading the policy what it says about traps. He stated that he didn’t know that they use traps for anything except cats. He stated that the Commission has no jurisdiction and that this comes under the Sheriff and that’s the reason Captain Davis is present tonight. He stated that what the Commission could do, however, is look at our

animal control ordinance and particularly, if a trap is going to be set, they may, in working in coordination with the Sheriff Department to review their policies, is pass an ordinance. He added that if the ordinance is good and the procedure was bad, then that's an issue for the Sheriff's Department but if there's a problem with the ordinance, then the Commission can pass an ordinance as the legislative body. He stated that the Sheriff's Department enforces the law. He further stated that they will do everything they can to make sure that a mistake, if it is a mistake, doesn't happen like this again.

Commissioners Bivins stated that it seems that there is a fairly easy solution, adding that if the Sheriffs came out, if they could have contacted one of the animal organizations which could have helped them. He added that it seems to him that cage and the dog were the responsibility of Bibb County once it was caught? He continued that it doesn't seem that guy should have been allowed to make a decision and say the dog had to stay where it was if somebody was willing to help it. He stated that he thinks there are some easy solutions to this situation.

At this time, Chairman Bishop recognized Captain David Davis of the Sheriff's Department for comments:

“On behalf of Sheriff Modena, this was far the exception rather than the rule on how we do animal control. This was a tragic incident and it's brought something to light that it has caused us to reassess some of our procedures and policies. Don't think that nothing will come from this. Sheriff Modena has directed that we look at our animal control procedures as well as look at the way we treat the animals once they are in our custody, you might say, or while they're being taken to the shelter or either turned over to some animal help agency. So, please know that we try to do our job. Our animal control and the animal control officer, who is involved in this particular case has been on the job for 25 years, and he always try to do his job in a humane and professional way and there has not been a situation like this before and I've been at the Sheriff's Office for almost 30 years and I cannot ever remember a situation like this. But, when a situation like this does happen, you're foolish to not try to learn from it and assess what may have caused it happen to start with. So, Sheriff Modena has directed us to look at those procedures and to look at every action, both from the animal control officer's standpoint as well as the deputies who responded. Now, I will say, it is also an exception rather than a rule for a trap to be set on the weekends just for situations like this. So, we're not out setting traps on Friday afternoons and letting them stay out over the weekends. That was a case where there were some circumstances in this particular incident that caused the animal control officer to feel like it was appropriate to leave a trap over the weekend. Well, we see now that there was some tragic result from that, so, we'll reassess that, but it is not every weekend that there are traps set out. So, as I said before, these concerns, and we appreciate all of you coming in, and I've gotten a lot of calls as well as Chairman Bishop as well as Sheriff Modena. We're sympathetic, we have an ear to your concerns and we will learn from this and we'll do everything we can to continue to doing our job in a humane and professional manner. And we're open to comment and help because as Commissioner Bivins said, there may be times when we can contact a representative from one of the animal groups that will be glad to assist us and maybe this will help to create a bond between the Sheriff's Office, the County and some of the local animal rights groups. And if there's something good to come from this, well it won't be for naught.”

At this time, Chairman Bishop allowed concerned citizens to pose questions to Captain Davis. Said questions are not a part of this transcript.

Chairman Bishop interrupted to say that, in the interest of time and because there were other people present to speak on other topics, it's very important that the citizens' questions are answered but in fairness to Captain Davis, he was trying to answer questions that he is probably not fully prepared to answer at this time. He stated that he would like to give the citizens time to go to the Sheriff's Department and make their complaint and give Captain Davis time to do an investigation and then come back and answer their questions. He reiterated that he shares the same concerns that they do and that they won't find anybody, who, if they looked at the pictures, wouldn't be disturbed by the pictures, but by the same token he would like to give Captain Davis time to address their concerns at a more appropriate time.

Chairman Bishop thanked the citizens for coming and for their comments and invited those to stay for the remainder of the meeting if they so desired.

At this time, Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed Mr. Thomas Stevens for some comments. Mr. Stevens' comments were as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, I'm Tom Stevens. I live at 387 Hamrick Road in Macon, Georgia, Bibb County. That is on Lake Tobesofkee. For reference, it's off Moseley-Dixon north side of the lake. I'm here on behalf of the neighbors in an area commonly referred to as Dogwood Estates. That's Canwood Drive, Maryanne Drive and Hamrick Road. We got a lot of things going out there but I want to talk about the whole lake because as you all know, there's a lot of activity planned for or being proposed for new developments around Lake Tobesofkee. Some of them right on the lake and some of them not far from the lake. We're experiencing some things right now with home builders that we think are very critical and need to be addressed now because as this building expands and it's going to expand rapidly, I'm sure, these types of problems are going to become more evident and are going to do more damage to our environment and to Lake Tobesofkee. Specifically, I'd like to share two stories with you: Number one addresses a drainage ditch across property on Maryanne Drive that's probably been there since the beginning of time and certainly been platted for quite some time. A home builder wanted to build a home there called County Engineering, I guess and said I want to build a home on this lot but I got a little bit of a water problem; I want to put pipe down at the road. Didn't say anything about covering the drainage, I want to put a pipe at the road to catch the water to flow it under Maryanne Drive and subsequently to Lake Tobesofkee. The engineer told me that he's a good builder; I believe what he said; I told him to go ahead and do it. Well, he did it, he covered the lot, he's built the house, he put some fill dirt on it, by the way, the house isn't sold yet. And the last rains or the first rains after the fill dirt was put there, that ---literally washed off all of that lot, down halfway across the road and went into a pipe and subsequently came out at Lake Tobesofkee as a mud silt that extended out from the point of entry in that cove about 600 feet. Talking to the County and said how could it happen? Well, we're sorry it happened. I said did you look at the plat, did you see the easements? Oh, we don't do that. Well how does? Well, Permitting. Talked to Permitting. We don't do that, that's Engineering. I think that's somewhat indicative of what's going on

in this County and we've been doing quite a bit of research on some proposed projects plus these type of existing problems and that's the runaround we get. Nobody is watching the store. It's going to get worse, I'm pretty confident as these other projects which I'm sure some of you are aware of on the east end of the lake and up on the west end of the lake, I believe we're talking about possibly another 500 or 700 residents. Cluster homes, there are zoning changes coming forward and so on. All of these are on areas that drain into Lake Tobesofkee. One other story: that same home builder wanted to cut some trees down to give a better view to a home he had acquired and updated a little bit and he's selling it, also to a home he's building for himself. He called County Engineering and Engineering said all you got to do is put up a silt barrier if you're going to disturb the ground and cut the trees. Nobody asked where the 369 line was. Subsequently, about an acre of trees on the 369 line, County property has been removed. There was large stand of young pine there, white oak, large white oak and they were hauled off on a truck to a sawmill, I assume, or down here to one of the chipping mills. And it just happened when I brought it to an engineer's attention, which happened to be visiting my property because I had an issue I wanted to work with on my land; I had to bring it to the committee. I said, how does that happen? Oh, he said I don't know, he talked to another engineer, he didn't talk to me. I did ask that engineer and he did not ask about the 369 line. I said what do we do now, all of these trees are gone? Too late, I suggest to you that if we don't stop this, too late now, it's going to be too late later. Now, I know ya'll are very concerned about what's goes on on Lake Tobesofkee at the 369 line and below. I highly recommend that we find out what's going on above that line and what's coming in to Lake Tobesofkee because I firmly believe Tobesofkee is one of the best assets this County has; it is a real jewel. You often hear it referred to that way, but I suggest to you that it is a great risk if somebody in this County doesn't take ownership of these issues, possibly the Commission could do it. I would think, as with much authority as you have at the 369 line, because the County does indeed own that lake, that you would also have some authority and responsibility over what comes into the lake, and all of that land off of the lake now and above the 369 line that is not currently developed, I'm here to tell you gentlemen and all of you in the County that developers are moving in. Cluster homes, condos are next, probably high rises, it's going to happen. Tranquility of the lake, the environment, the habitat, the wildlife we have out there is at great risk. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman."

The next speaker was Mr. Arthur Grady. His comments were as follows:

"My name is Art Grady. I live at 270 Maryanne Drive on Lake Tobesofkee. And I'd like to follow with some specific examples of Mr. Stevens is talking about. Could I approach the bench and give you some photographs to look at? The top one is a planned development; I'm sure you heard of in the past a project called, The Reserve. Because of objections from the community, it is been redesigned and what you have now is called, The Arboretum at Lake Tobesofkee. To make a point of the blue on here is the 360 line which is the lake level. The upper edge of the light green where the red line is called the 369 line. The County's Lake Tobesofkee Committee manages that property in between. As you can see up in the tip of this cove there is a long distance in there. That is a natural habitat for deer, red fox (a very few) hawks, bald eagles, king fishers, and in the water in this cove is a breeding ground for all kinds of fish. And why is this cove so

important? There's over 140 acres of land surface area that drains into this cove. This property here, called the Arboretum is being developed, and if you'll look at this line here, called 215 Maryanne Drive, that is only one issue of drainage that comes into this cove. Across the Arboretum property here, there are lots of other ones. It has not been walked; it has not been looked at, but it's headed for approval. Where this driveway is located down through here, it is 60 feet uphill from that driveway to either side of this or to Moseley-Dixon Road. So, we have a big bowl here. That big bowl has been cut over time as a drainage. We're not doing anything to protect that drainage. I might point out a few other things to you. If you would go look at what's called 225 Maryanne Drive, there are two light blue lines that go across that lot. That's an extension of, if you'd look on the next page, two County codes which are for any cul-de-sac is more than 800 feet, and it is from Moseley-Dixon Road to Maryanne Drive. The developer has to make a right of way to meet the standard. The developer did do that, but somebody in the County gave a construction permit to allow a house to be built on that lot. What that blue line represents there goes all the way over into Canwood and into the other subdivision as a right of way given by the developer for the construction of a street to comply with these two codes you see back here. Both of those were violated; the County is apparently not going to meet their own code requirement; somebody gave the permit for the construction on that lot that had a right of way on it. That happened. We now have before us this issue of development of the Arboretum which, if you will go to the back page I gave you, I made copies of this in color so you can see that road right of way there. And you can see the drainage line coming across there and I would submit to you there are many other drainages in that whole property, none of which has been looked at. So, the frustrations we experience are trying to protect Lake Tobesofkee, trying to get organizations within the County Administration to live up to its own rules and come and do proper due diligence before approving such a development. We love Lake Tobesofkee and we want to protect it and such a development as this and a violation of your own County ordinances and a violation of national EPA and US Corps of Engineers laws that allow drainages to be covered up, filled in and messed with. So, thank you for letting us talk to you. Our concern is about in general, we want to see Lake Tobesofkee protected and here is a specific example of violations – nobody monitoring. So that's our story, sir. I'll be happy to answer any questions."

Chairman Bishop responded that, for one thing, I think we'll have to have, if we've got a violation going on out there, our engineer look at that. He stated that it is a zoning issue and he would advise Mr. Grady and Mr. Stevens to do what residents normally do in opposition to something, that is to go down to the hearing and voice their opinion. He also advised them that they could rest assured that all of the Commissioners are concerned about the purity or not silting in the lake and about any development to make sure that it doesn't erode the tax base. He stated that by the same token, they have to comply with whatever Planning and Zoning comes down with to a point. He added that's why it's so important to voice this issue with Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Richardson stated that this past year, the County revised its Soil Erosion Control Ordinance where a home builder, if he has a problem with erosion taking place and washing down across the road and into the lake, he is subject to a \$500.00 a day fine until he corrects that problem. He added that if the County has an enforcement problem and didn't enforce it like they should have, then that's up to the County

Engineer.

The next speaker was Mr. David Israel. His comments were as follows:

"I'm David Israel, for you guys that don't know me. I was born and raised on Forest Hill Road; I have relatives there that have been there 75-85 years. Hilda Reagan, just to name one. T.L. Strong, Jr. We know that there's going to be a project on Forest Hill Road. We're not stupid. The guys came through and they painted all the trees that are going to be cut down; they're exactly 77' from the centerline of the project. If you go down Forest Hill Road, today, you'll see that the road is canopied with trees because this is a neighborhood; this is where people grow children and we like those trees because people would come down the road and come off the road. We pray they'd hit a tree before they hit one of our children. Those trees need to be there. The right of way is going to take away a man's front porch but they are going to acquire his home. And I don't mean just a little bit of his front porch, I mean it's coming up to his doorway, Rodney Crutchfield, who lives in the 500 block of Forest Hill Road. Where does Forest Hill Road go? It doesn't go anywhere; It goes to Forsyth Road and then it goes to nowhere else. You turn around and go in the other direction, there's no place to go. No significance business is on Forest Hill Road. Why do we need five lanes? We don't have but three lanes on Vineville Avenue which is the feeder. That's where people turn off to go home. 90% of them head on out Forsyth Road; We don't need this and the residents there, my kin folk, my neighbors, my friends, we're very upset that this is going to take place and there's no need for it. I don't know what can be done today. I do know that it's never too late to do the right thing. The right thing is to stop this project, at least the way it is designed. We have a very unsightly modification. I don't know why we need to go down into people's yards and cut trees that have been there since before this country was founded. Other trees in my wife's front yard, my father in law's front yard is over five feet in diameter. How long does it take to grow a tree like that? They are going to come down into his yard; it's not even near the proposed road. They're going down almost to his house which is in a ravine and are going to take small trees and his azaleas. Huge, Huge area. I've never seen a drainage plan. Where do you take the water from five lanes; where does it go? We don't have storm sewage out there; we don't have detention ponds; there's no place for this storm water to go. We're going to put in curb and gutter in a street that, when I was born, the pavement ended at Ed Knapp's house. And we had barbed wire fence post from that point down, all the way down to Doc Holliday's house. This is a historic neighborhood of very old homes. The Hicks family, Ms. Boyd was born there. I won't tell you how many years ago but I'm 55 and she's older than I am. Historic homes, slate roofs and we're going to come through and take out their fence, beautiful crepe myrtles that have been growing there for, I know, 55 years. Gorgeous homes are just going to be ravaged. There's no direction here. They're trespassing on people's property. They haven't acquired this property and they're coming on there painting trees. At least politeness would tell you to come to the door and knock and say, I'm going to survey your property but no, they just charge in there and paint up the trees. That's what has gotten people so upset. That's why I'm here. That's people have been calling me, obviously not you, asking me, can't you do something. I told them I can go speak, that's all I know. I do appreciate this as a forum for people who love their county and love their city and love what we do here. And I know that you're not at fault, but I do know that

you have ultimate power to stop this, to change it. We don't have anywhere to go on Forest Hill Road. We're going to Forsyth Road when we leave our house or Vineville Avenue, it changes right about there. There's no where for us to go. One of the DOT guys or one of the engineer fellows said it's going to be a corridor right out to the Bass Pro Shops. No way! You can't go out Forest Hill Road and get to the Bass Pro Shops. It ain't going to be a way. Anybody in his right mind will out Riverside Drive which I might add is only three lanes wide. We've got a Federal highway that's three lanes wide and we're going to take a neighborhood street and make it five. It doesn't make a lot of sense. Unsightly! I go down Northside Drive which just suffered the same abuse. There are weeds literally three feet high. People don't own that property anymore. You want your homeowners to come out there and maintain it but they're not going to because they don't own it; they didn't want it; it's now city-county property. City on one side, County on the other. Nobody wants it. Ya'll don't want to pay for somebody to maintain it. You don't want to enforce the law and make somebody maintain it. That's how this road is going to be. Nobody is going to want to take care of the City's property for them. We don't want to take care of that highway. There is just absolutely no need for it. Not observing your own zoning laws about setbacks. We have setbacks in this County. You can't put a street up to somebody's back door, front door in this case. They're coming within people's property and getting so close to their front door that it is indecent. That's why we have these laws. I'd ask you to do what's right, try to stop it. If not, try to get control of it. Make it where it's still a good neighborhood for us to live and grow our families in. I don't know who this is for, it's not for us. Thank you."

The next speaker was Mrs. Alice Boyd. Mrs. Boyd's comments were as follows:

"I'm just going to give you a little bit of my history. I moved to Forest Hill Road when I was four years old. That was in 1931. So, you can do the addition; I'm now 79 years old. At that time, it was a dirt road. My dad had actually been selling real estate for Murphey, Taylor and Ellis and in 1931 that wasn't too good a job to have, but anyway, he bought 16 acres out there and we ended up in an old frame house and we had ice wagons that came up the road. And we jumped on, you know and begged for a piece of ice, that's how long it's been. And by the way, that's been about 75 years and I'm wondering how long we have to live there, to have to squat there to get squatters rights. You think you might be able to give us a little extra on that? But, any way, the year after we moved there, our house burned to the ground. That's just a little landmark; we rebuilt it. That house is there now. The next year, Alexander IV school opened and I started to school in February which we did in those years. That's just to take you back a little bit from where we started off. In the early 40's and then later on, they paved the street down to Wimbish Road and then later on the street was paved down past our house. And that was progress and we were glad of that. And then, probably in the 60's we got --- and Wood forest and Forest Hill Terrace and some other streets, and later on came Hill Place and Normandy Road and some of those, and we were glad of that. And sometimes, I think in the late 60's, we had McKibben Lane school to be built and we were happy about that. I say that to say we like progress when we feel like it is for our good, but to talk about the situation as it is today, I go out of my driveway everyday. I live in the old section, the second house past the Wimbish Road intersection, if you can sort of picture where that is. I turn right to go up to Forsyth Road or Vineville Avenue and left to

go down to CVS and Northside Drive. I don't have any trouble getting out of my driveway. I mean, I don't know if we're doing this because we have a traffic problem or not, but honestly, as God is my witness, I don't see a traffic problem out there. Now, probably between 7:30 and 8:30 in the morning, maybe from 5:30 to 6:30 in the afternoon, there will be more traffic, but honestly when I go down to shop on Northside Drive, I very seldom ever even have to put a break on. A lot of times, I don't even see a car. Practically, never do I see a car coming out of Old Lundy onto Forest Hill Road, but those are just some of the things that I've observed. I don't know how many of you have actually been out and spent any time on Forest Hill Road; I know you probably ride up and down it occasionally, but I would you to come spend the day with me and let me take you every hour up and down the road and let you see that there is not a traffic problem on Forest Hill Road. There just isn't. I'm not too good at talking, but the meetings that we've had, to me, have not been real satisfactory with DOT because most of the time we were really not allowed to give our own opinion and that's sort of like when you use the telephone and you just get a mechanical man that says, punch this and punch that and you never get to talk to a person, and we want to talk to a person; we want you to talk to us and tell us why it is that we are doing this. To begin with, we were told we had to have an access to go to the Mall. Well, we don't need to go to the Mall. We've got Zebulon Road, we've got Northside Drive. We don't need to go to the Mall; I hadn't been to the Mall in three or four years, myself. I don't know about other people in the neighborhood. As far as I'm concerned, if you would give us a turning lane at Ridge Avenue, a turning lane at Wimbish Road and let us go, we would be happy as anything, but in all probability, you're not going to do that. What we see happening is the destruction of Forest Hill Road. That's what we see. What you see is that you are helping us, that it is something that's going to be good. We need to understand how that works; we were told at the DOT meetings, I live in an area that's just going to have one more lane. We'd hardly know the difference; it would take so little property. Well, I have got blue ribbons around my trees that are just as far as I am from Mr. Bishop from my front door. That is about 60' from the road. What are they doing way up there! I don't get that. Somebody said they were measuring 77' from the median. I don't know why, but there won't be anything left of your yard and we had a pretty good front yard, and we still do. And nobody has ever addressed and David touched on it, the problem of what's going to happen to the traffic. The traffic is going to increase if we do what we're saying we're going to do. Where is it going when it gets to Ridge Avenue? That's a two-lane highway, peppered with middle income homes all up and down, and certainly nobody is going to do anything to widen that road, I would hope not. And then we get to Vineville Avenue, which is a problem all the way because it's got that one lane, you know, that you go north on it sometimes or you go south on it sometimes according to the time of the day, and that's done nothing but create problems and I don't see how more traffic is going to do anything but just add problems to that. You are making decisions for us; they are major decisions in our lives; they are life-changing decisions; they are heartbreaking for some of us. I know they are for me. We have trusted you to make decisions that will be good for us, not just me personally, but our community. We've trusted you with that; we did that with our vote; that was a vote of trust; we consider it a sacred trust and I just hope that you do too. I pray that you will give it more thought and at least try to meet us halfway. Thank you."

Chairman Bishop responded that this project was one of the first projects or one of the projects voted on when the one cent sales tax was passed. He stated that this was done a long time before he became a commissioner and before any of the current members of the Board were commissioners. He stated that it was listed as an initial project on a East-West Connector. He then asked if this was the East-West Connector that's slated to run from Northside Drive all the way to Eisenhower Parkway. He pointed out that Tucker Road was another connector. He stated that it was slated to be four-laned or five-laned for the entire route initially, as I understand it. He then asked if it was four-lane with a turn lane or four lanes.

Ken Sheets stated that he thinks it was four lanes with a turning lane, initially.

Chairman Bishop added that it was to go all the way out to Northside Drive where it terminates. He stated that the other end of Forest Hill Road has already been widened.

Ken Sheets stated that both sides of Northside Drive have been done.

Chairman Bishop continued that former Commissioner Calder Clay was instrumental in getting some revision made to the original plan. He stated that the problem is that the downsizing only took affect from the intersection of Wimbish Road out. He stated that there were some questions at the time and whether or not it should have been four-laned completely all the way out. He stated that at that point, Calder was effective in getting it downsized to what it is now. He stated that he doesn't know about the trees and how they've been marked, adding that he heard this morning that they had marked a bunch of trees between Wimbish and Forest Hill, where is slated to be four lanes.

Chairman Bishop advised Mr. and Mrs. Boyd that in their particular area, it was downsized and in the area above them where Calder lives, they kept it four lanes with a turn lane.

Mrs. Boyd added, with a median. She then asked why was it necessary to have a median when they are going to cut down all of those gorgeous trees.

Chairman Bishop responded that, if he was not mistaken, the median was a result of one of the designers that went out there after one of the neighborhood meetings.

Ken Sheets confirmed this.

Chairman Bishop continued that when Calder got them to downsize it to the three lanes from four, at that time, it was their understanding that they'd accomplish something and that they'd done something to help those people out there. He stated that it was against the advice of the people that were working on the design of the road. He stated that they still recommended the four lanes all the way.

Doc Holliday chimed in that, "Ya'll need to get this straight." He stated that it was three lanes with one sidewalk at the vote in 1994. He stated that he has the documents. He then said, "Ken Sheets, you know that's true; you've got the documents too." He then asked Ken if it was or was not true. Ken Sheets responded, "I don't have any idea, Doc Holliday." Doc Holliday then stated the project was not downsized. Chairman Bishop said that it was downsized. Doc Holliday stated there were three lanes and one sidewalk, and now it's three lanes and two sidewalks. He also stated that it's wider now

than when the vote was taken and nobody has downsized it and that it is larger. He added that he wanted to get that fact straight.

Chairman Bishop then stated that, according to some people on Forest Hill Road, they do have a problem getting out of their driveway, particularly in the morning when the school buses are there. He added that the problems they are faced with as County Commissioners is that they have to rely on the expertise of Georgia DOT and engineers. He stated that they were engineers themselves. He stated that he's tried to do what he thinks is best for everybody. He stated that it has gotten to point now that they have spent all of the money they had in this road program or overspent trying to downsize, contrary to what Doc Holliday said. He stated that they spent \$1 million over trying to redesign that road to try to appease different people. He stated that he was only going by what he knows has happened since he has been on the Board. He further stated that he thinks have been as good of stewards as they can in this situation. He stated that DOT has the money to acquire right of way. Chairman Bishop stated that he doesn't understand if there's somebody with a house and the porch is gone, that it was not coshure. He stated that there is some recourse in that situation.

Chairman Bishop continued that as they listened to everybody, trying to satisfy everybody; everybody has got a different concern and there's a lot of people living in that area that don't live on the road that travel that road. He stated that while the Board cares what they think, there's only so much they can do in a situation like this. He then nixed the notion that this has anything to do with Bass Pro Shops because Bass Pro wasn't a figment of anybody's imagination at the time that road design was done. He stated, too, that he doesn't know what the answer is but all they can do was rely on the engineers.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he has heard a couple of references to marking trees back to 77' from the centerline of the road. He stated that he doesn't know why, but he will certainly be glad to look into that to find out why that has been done. He stated that he travels Forest Hill Road quite extensively, quite a lot because his office is out on Riverside Drive. He stated that he comes up Hall Road to Forest Hill Road and follow Forest Hill Road all the way to Vineville Avenue when he's going to the Vineville Avenue/Forsyth Road area. And he added that he travels it at different times of the day. He stated that the traffic does vary, adding that between 9:30 - 11:00, there's very little traffic on the road. He further stated that earlier than that there's extensive traffic on the road, say 7:15 - 9:00, there's a lot of traffic on that road. He added that about 4:00, traffic does start picking up until about 6:30, so there is a lot of traffic during that period of time.

Commissioner Richardson stated that if you say you only travel Forest Hill Road to go to Vineville Avenue, that's wrong because there are a lot of people out in the Riverside area that are coming up Hall Road and up Forest Hill to get to the Vineville/Forsyth Road area. He stated that it is used quite extensively.

Chairman Bishop stated that he doesn't see this project being stopped at this point in time and that he was being as honest as he could. He added that he doesn't think they have the votes to stop it.

The final speaker of the evening was Doc Holliday but he agreed to defer his comments until the next meeting but he advised the Board that at that time, he them to be ready to play a two-minute DVD on Roundabouts from the National Institute on Highway Safety.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board