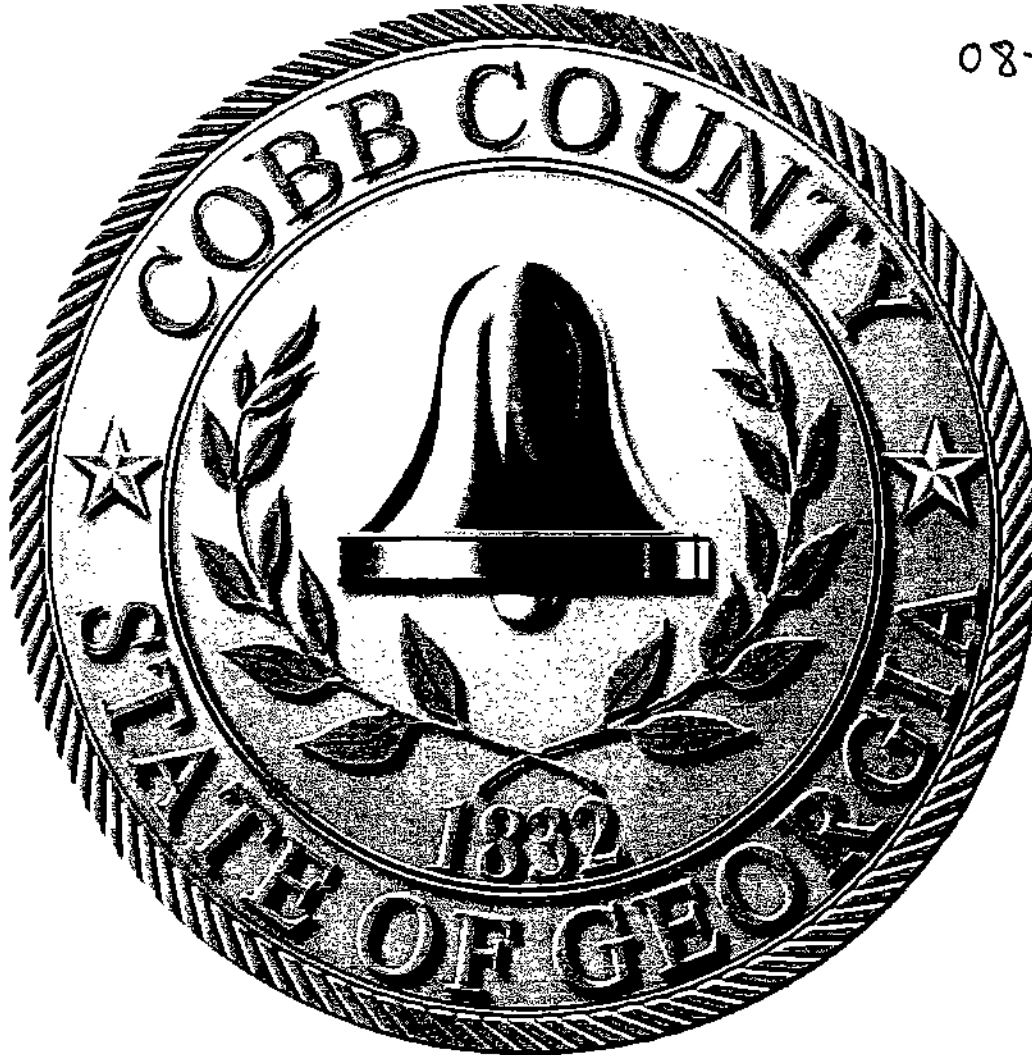


08-1-01297-99



**GENERAL PRESENTMENTS
of the
MARCH/APRIL 2008
GRAND JURY
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**JOI DANIELLE CALLOWAY, FOREPERSON
PRINCE ERVIN DELL, ASSISTANT FOREPERSON
SUSAN G. PLASTER, CLERK**

Jay C. Stephenson
Jay C. Stephenson
Clerk of Superior Court Cobb County

Filed In Office May-09-2008 08:27:10
FD# 2008-0066468-CV
Page 1

GEORGIA, COBB COUNTY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THE WITHIN AND FOREGOING TO BE A
TRUE AND CORRECT AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE
ORIGINAL THAT APPEARS OF RECORD

CASE No 08-1-01297 IN THIS OFFICE
THIS 9th DAY OF May 2008
Susan G. Plaster
DEPUTY CLERK, COBB COUNTY
COURT, COBB COUNTY GEORGIA

March/April 2008 Term of the Cobb County Grand Jury

Consisted of the Following Panel Members:

**William Allan Bishop
Jason Edward Brown
Thomas J. Bray
Barry Kenneth Christensen
Kenneth Leldon Colston
Scott Howard Creel
Cynthia J. Fields
JoAnn H. Flesner
Thomas H. Gregory
Felisa Johnson
Allen Larry Jones
Leonard Jason Nichols**

**William O. Nisbet, Jr.
Beau Michael O'Dell
Catherine Greening O'Tyson
Ingrid Marie Peters
Robert B. Ray
Betty Lou Cobb
Karen Ellen Rosen
Anne Rene Shipp
Anna M. Smith
Ashley Cotton Wicks**

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

We, the Grand Jury, selected and sworn for the March/April 2008 Term, respectfully make the following presentments:

This Grand Jury has acted on **350 Indictments**, returning **339 True Bills** and **11 No Bills** during the term.

COBB COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORTS

Findings from the Inspections of:

Cobb County Adult Detention Center

Sheriff Neil Warren hosted this term's Grand Jury to the Cobb County Jail located at 1825 County Services Parkway. The 21 year old facility is currently in the midst of a **SPLOST**-funded \$110M expansion, slated for completion in 2009. The jury was privileged to see the internal affairs of the 11 acre facility, as well as a glimpse into the *Administrative, Operative and Detention* aspects of this county's jail. These three divisions of the Sheriff's Office, the 745 employees and the 2000 inmates are the primary focus of this Jury's report to the public.

The Administrative Division of the Sheriff's Office is responsible for all internal affairs within the jail. Dealing with budgets, certification of personnel, policy and procedures are only some of this division's liabilities. The Sheriff's Office \$59M *total budget* for the 2008 fiscal year is comprised of an Operations Budget of \$18.7 M and a Detention Budget of \$40.5M.

The Operations Division focuses on court security, civil process, and the 67,000 civil warrants and 26,000 criminal warrants filed annually in Cobb County. Sheriff Warren and his staff maintain strict and appropriate security for the Cobb County Jail.

The Detention Division was the primary focus of this Jury's attention. Colonel Lewis Alder led the Jury on a multi-faceted, in-depth tour of the facility and its pods, discussing basic care, movement of inmates, as well as staff training. Col. Alder emphasized a recurring theme during the tour: empathetic respect for the inmates, which leads to stable and *functioning* staff and inmate relationships. Even though the jail is the operation and size of a small city, the staff is well-trained to each inmate's classification. His or her inmate history, criminal history, and behavioral history helps the jail staff maintain accord, prevent harassment and preserve valuable bed space.

Basic care and needs assessment for the Cobb County Jail population is a top priority for Sheriff Warren and his staff. Medical costs, as well as room and board constitute \$40M last year. The facilities are clean, well-maintained and appropriately conservative. In a cooperative agreement with Wellstar, the Sheriff's Office maintains an excellent standard of care while keeping costs to under \$6M in 2007. Staff includes one physician, physician's assistant, nurse manager, registered nurses, one dentist and dental hygienist, one psychiatrist and four psychologists. The overwhelming majority of the inmates have some degree of addiction or

mental illness. Although the medical and jail staff are challenged by this inmate population, they remain vigilant in their duties. The medical staff maintains exemplary mental health training to exceed standard care with respect to universal precautions, airborne and blood borne pathogens, as well as prevention of self-injury.

Inmate movement is another primary concern for the Sheriff and his team, as this provides the greatest opportunity for the loss of inmate control. To combat this, employees are cross-trained to understand all duties in an effort to maintain high security standards. Security measures observed by this Jury include work-practice and engineering controls.

Perhaps the most community beneficial program implemented by the Cobb County Jail is the Work-Release program. This program enables the county to reduce overcrowding at the jail, while at the same time providing a tangible and financial benefaction to the community. Inmate workers in the Work-Release program have the ability to pay restitution, child support and the county in return for varying degrees of employment or county work detail.

Because of the empathetic and sympathetic staff of Sheriff Warren, the Cobb County Jail seems to be functioning efficiently and humanely, while at the same time causing no undue burden on the community.

Kennesaw City Jail

On March 25, 2008 the Penal Committee of the March/April Term Grand Jury was greeted by Acting Chief William Westenberger and Jail Administrator Lt. W.C. Graydon. Currently, this non-smoking facility has 26 beds and under emergency circumstances can hold a capacity of 50 inmates. The staff consists of 14 personnel, 2 supervisors, 10 detention officers, and a kitchen staff. Kennesaw Jail inmates are pre-trial and sentenced misdemeanor offenders. Approximately 2300 prisoners are processed yearly. Average daily inmate population is 15. 9 of 10 inmates jailed have a stay less than 24 hours, probably 12 hours.

The walk through started in the kitchen. Approximate cost per meal is \$1.90. Prepared meal count yearly is 20,000, staff and inmate. Inmate nutrition is monitored by a certified nutritionist. In house inmates receive 2 hot meals per day and inmate workers receive 3 hot meals per day. The delivery area doors were closed and doors leaving this area to the jail are on a manual locking system. Security cameras were installed throughout the jail and are monitored via operations with 6 month retention for review. The booking area supplied digital photo aid record management, restraint chair, bonding sources, phone call access in holding area, and male and females are kept separate. Due to the high turn-over and small capacity inmate jail services such as non emergency/emergency including mental health, AA meetings, religious and chaplain services, recreation (reading, cards and 30 minutes outside) and an inmate work program (community service) are all provided on call, per request, as sentenced, and as needed. Trustee pods have a shower inside which needs to be maintained better. Inmates/trustees clean the jail themselves. They eat in their cells. Cells need painting in some areas. The sprinklers have dust on them. Inmates provide their own laundry services. They get visitation for 30 minutes. The temperature is maintained at 69-72 degrees. Officers receive POST certification. Guns are secured before entering cell areas, pepper spray is allowed. There

are 2 female officers on staff, if none is present for duty a female officer is called in to assist. A back-up power generator is available for use in an emergency.

Recommendations:

1. A higher standard of cell and shower cleanliness should be set for inmates/trustees and monitored on a daily basis or before release.
2. Have some inmates on work program paint jail cells, small areas at a time.

Cobb County 911 Center

The 2008 Spring term Grand Jury visited the Cobb County 911 Center (hereinafter referred to as "the Center") on 3/14/08.

Anne Flynn, the Assistant Director of the Center, was our tour guide. Ms. Flynn informed us to the following:

The Center is a high stress environment that is completely self-funded. The annual operating budget is approximately \$8.5-\$9.5 million. Funding comes from telephone usage in the county.

The Center answers about 1000 to 1200 emergency telephone calls and 1500 non-emergency telephone calls daily; totaling 1 million telephone calls per year. There are four shifts of 12 hours each. Employees work 14 days each month, for no more that 3 consecutive days. The training period is 7-8 months long. A full staff consists of 115 employees. At the time of our tour there were 2 openings for 911 operators. Trainees are currently paid \$16.72 per hour upon successful completion of the training program, with an opportunity for increases over time. Over 50% of the operators have been at the Center for more than 10 years. Retention of the majority of operators, for more than a decade speaks volumes as to the dedication of the staff to its mission.

Cobb County 911 dispatches units for the Cobb County Police and Fire Departments, Marietta Police and Fire and the Powder Springs Police Department. The cities of Austell and Smyrna have their own 911 Centers.

The Center has a new \$35M radio system, which allows integration among all 911 Centers in the metropolitan counties.

Cobb County 911 subscribes to the AT & T language line which can translate over 140 languages; it is normally accessed by using three-way calling to a 1-800 number. Approximately 94% of the calls into the language line are from people that speak Spanish; that is approximately 1000 calls per month. Approximately 2%-3% of the calls are from people who speak Portuguese. The language line operates at a cost of \$7000/month.

The people that staff the 911 Center are the "unsung heroes" of the County. The 911 Center heroes help to save lives on a daily basis. The second week of April is Appreciation Week at the

Center. Please take the time to recognize the good work that occurs in the Center. It was clear during our visit, that all functions of the Center are performed with great care and pride.

Recommendations

Develop a bonus system for completing the greatest number of accurate calls. A system tied to performance may help with longer retention periods.

Cobb County Tax Commissioner

Background

Gail Downing, Tax Commissioner and Tori Steele, Deputy Tax Commissioner, provided us with a guided tour of the Tax Commissioner's Office facility. The Tax Commissioner is responsible for sending out tax bills, collecting tax payments and making monetary disbursements to government entities that are funded by property taxes. The Tax Commissioner collects real estate property tax and other taxable property: boats and airplanes, business assets, motor vehicles, timber, and mobile homes. They operate on a \$7.5M budget that is approved by the Board of Commissioners. Approximately 99.8% of the taxes are paid in full. The late collection process is used to collect from delinquent or non-payers.

The Tax Commissioner's Office is located at 736 Whitlock Avenue, Suite 100, Marietta, GA 30064. The office has a property tax vault containing property tax records, but it is being phased out because it is being put online.

They service approximately 250,000 property tax payers. Approximately 6000 taxpayers pay online. Taxpayers can also pay by electronic check for no fee. This method of payment is used by approximately 25% of the taxpayers.

Delinquent Collections

The Tax Commissioner does not track the transactional cost of collecting from late/delinquent or non-payers. They do not send bills out if the total is less than \$3.00. There is a collection process that is in place that involves legal procedures prescribed by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) when levying property. When collecting from delinquent payers, they follow a priority order such as delinquents that owe large dollar amounts and multiple property owners. Sometimes payments are made by mortgage companies or others with a vested interest in the property. Sometimes delinquent tax payers can be put on a payment program in the case of financial hardship. Delinquent tax payers can be assessed late fees, interest, liens on property and the sale of their property. Ultimately property can end up being auctioned off on the courthouse steps if property tax payments are not made.

Physical Security

The building is physically secured. Camera surveillance is in use on the property. Police Officers are sometimes onsite during periods of high payment volumes, such as October 15th, when most property taxes are due. Mobile home property taxes run from February 1st to May 1st.

Cash Management

Beth Williams is the Tax Division Manager. She is responsible for the Cash Book and Execution Docket. The Cash Book is a record of inbound and outbound cash flows. Weekly and monthly payments are made by the Tax Commissioner to the Cobb County School District and other government entities that are the beneficiaries of the money collected by the Tax Commissioner. The Execution Docket is a list of delinquent property tax payers.

Records Management

The Tax Commissioner follows a record management/retention schedule. They have Cintas as their vendor for hardcopy record destruction. The Cintas secure trash receptacles are located throughout the facility. There is no data classification method employed by the Tax Commissioner to guide data handling. Generally any data that contains a Social Security Number (SSN) is discarded using the secure trash receptacles. The destruction method of confidential electronic documents is undefined.

Online Payments

The online payment system is active from August to October 15th and provides a way for tax payers to pay using a credit card. Official Payments Corporation (OPC) is the vendor that processes online credit card payments. They provide the Tax Commissioner with reports regarding payment-processing activity. This online payment system was put into place in 2002. There has been a steady increase in online payments since the system began with approximately 6000 tax payers using the system. There is a 2.49% service/convenience fee for paying online. This convenience fee is collected by the payment processing vendor and the vendor retains these proceeds. OPC is responsible for protecting the credit card data and personal information provided to them by tax payers per the contract agreement with the Tax Commissioner.

Recommendations

1. Conduct a 3rd party audit of the credit card processors data security practices and data protection obligations per the contract agreement.
2. Develop a data classification methodology and corresponding data handling procedure for each of the classifications. Train new employees on the data classification procedures upon hiring and existing employees on a yearly basis.
3. Develop a method for the secure destruction of confidential electronic documents.

Cobb County McCollum Airport Committee

Members: Kenneth Colston, Jason Nichols, Tom Gregory, Prince Dell, Allan Bishop, Joi Calloway, Catherine O'Tyson, and Tom Bray

Purpose: The Airport Committee of the Grand Jury met with Karl Von Hagel, the Cobb County Airport Manager on March 24, 2008 to review the facilities and assess the financial condition and economic impact on Cobb County. Mr. Von Hagel explained the operation of the airport as the committee toured the premises.

Airport Operations

The Airport Manager is a full time Cobb County employee. He has access to other County agencies for needed services, such as facilities maintenance.

Cobb County owns the land bounding the airport, 320 acres, and contracts long-term leases of the grounds to two main lessees. The lessees are Preferred Jet Center and Northside Aviation; Preferred Jet Center is on the south side of the airport, and Northside Aviation is on the north side of the airport. These two lessees then sub-lease office, hangar space, and tie-down space to individuals and businesses. There are a total of 18 businesses at the airport and around 350 aircraft owned by the businesses and individuals. The two main lessees are responsible for building and maintaining hangars, office space and other capital improvements as part of their leases. They are also responsible, in conjunction with the Airport Manager, for controlling access to the secure areas on their side of the airport. At the end of the lease the buildings revert to Cobb County unless another lease is negotiated. This new lease usually includes further capital improvements required of the lessee-updated hangars, buildings, etc.

The Georgia State Patrol maintains a hangar for several of their aircraft, and pays the county a nominal fee for their space and hangar. Their presence at the airport enhances the security of the property.

There is a Control Tower responsible for the flow of aircraft. The controllers are employed by a private company contracted through the Federal Aviation Administration. The tower operates from 7:00AM until 11:00PM. The airport remains open when the tower is closed. Tower facilities are maintained by the County.

Grounds beautification and maintenance is a joint effort between businesses at the airport and Cobb County.

Current Finances

The Airport receives Federal funding, and must therefore follow rules and procedures established by the Department of Transportation. Of the funds received from the US Government, Cobb County usually provides about two and one-half percent for airport operations and improvement, the State of Georgia two and one-half percent, with 95% coming from the US Government. Expenses are approximately \$800,000 and these expenses are essentially offset by lease revenue. It is significant to note that the economic impact of the airport is estimated to be around \$75,000,000, a six-fold increase in the last twelve years. Fuel usage at the airport has gone from 1 million gallons in 2001 to 3 million gallons in 2007. The County receives revenue from the sale of fuel.

McCollum Airport has one runway, accommodating aircraft operations 24 hours per day. Air traffic operations make it the third to fifth busiest public airport in the State. The runway is 75 feet wide, approximately 25 feet narrower than runways at comparable airports. As of this date, storm drainage improvements and grounds leveling are being accomplished to enhance the safety for aircraft adjacent to the runway.

Security

The Airport Manager and the two main lessees are responsible for establishing security policies and procedures concerning access to airport operations areas. These procedures follow the Transport Security Agency (TSA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines for General Aviation airports. Airport management and the airport businesses receive periodic inspection by the TSA and FAA concerning security procedures. The two lessees are on opposite sides of the airport; however, it is of concern of some members that there are two separate entities (the two main lessees) with administrative control and responsibilities for access to the areas of the airport.

Future Enhancements

The airport has solicited bids for needed runway improvements. While the asphalt is now in good condition, the runway needs to be widened 25 feet and resurfaced to accommodate future operations, and three proposals have been offered. The resurfacing will be either asphalt or concrete. The asphalt is estimated to cost \$6M and concrete is estimated to cost \$10M. The Federal Aviation Administration prefers concrete. Concrete is much more durable, and would allow more operations and a longer life for the runway. The bids include **three alternatives** for the improvements:

1. The airport would be closed for 42 days while the improvements are completed.
2. The airport would be closed for nine days a month until improvements are completed.
3. The airport would be closed from 8:00 PM until 6:00 AM until the improvements are done.

Airport property available for other enhancements is limited. Arrival and departure corridors for aircraft takeoff and landings must meet Federal Aviation requirements, creating difficulties for capital improvement on property on the east and west sides of the airport. The extreme east-northeastern side of the airport has marginal capability for expansion, but improvement of this area is being considered. A stone quarry borders the northeastern property, and will be in use for approximately 30 more years. There are six acres available for development adjacent to McCollum Parkway on the north side of the airport, and has been leased for capital improvement to an aircraft charter company.

Recommendations

1. **Concerning the bids for runway enhancements:** The committee **recommends the third alternative** (8:00PM until 6:00AM airport closure) to reduce the economic impact on the County and businesses that operate at the airport.

2. **Runway Resurfacing:** The committee **recommends the use of concrete** for the resurfacing of the runway. While this is more expensive, long-term durability and maintenance compared to asphalt is compelling.
3. **Air Traffic Control Tower:** The Air Traffic Controllers expressed dissatisfaction with the environmental (air conditioning and heating) system in the tower. They indicated the temperature is extremely difficult to control, creating discomfort and distraction during their shift. The committee was present when the system was faulty. As the controllers are responsible for operational safety of the airspace on and around McCollum the Grand Jury Committee **recommends the heating and air conditioning system be repaired or replaced.**

Cobb County Purchasing Committee

The Cobb County Purchasing Department is the central procurement organization responsible for buying equipment, materials, and supplies for all departments under the jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. The Purchasing Department also facilitates the selection of professional services for the county. Their primary functions include value analysis, supplier selection, and contract management and compliance. The department is composed of 9 purchasing professionals overseeing an annualized spend of approximately \$120 M. The department director has over 30 years of local government experience. The purchasing division manager has over 20 years experience within private sector and government procurement that requires a high level of fiduciary responsibility and transparency. There is an organizational culture that promotes continuous employee improvement through industry certification and/or advanced degrees. The operating budget extracting labor is approximately \$50,000 annually.

Cobb County Purchasing utilize many procurement best practices. There is due diligence to use diversity suppliers when possible. They have created contingency plans for fuel outages and other commodities. They use an enterprise resource planning system that incorporates purchasing, finance, and accounting into a scalable software platform. Cobb County utilizes purchasing consortiums that leverage its economies of scale for the best price on maintenance, repair, and operational items. Purchasing employees monitor supplier performance and are creating more long term, cost saving strategic partnerships.

The Grand Jury committee was impressed by the processes and fiscal controls managed by the purchasing department. We would like to thank them for their time and have only the following two recommendations:

- Incorporate inventory management on key categories into their ERP. Carrying cost associated with holding inventory can greatly diminish cost savings.
- Increasing wages for personnel to attract and retain purchasing experts. A purchasing analyst must exhibit strong ethics, maintain positive supplier relationships, represent the County in its interaction with the public and be knowledgeable of law and safety practices.

Cobb County Disaster Preparedness/Plan Committee

Lanita A. Lloyd, Deputy Director, Cobb County Emergency Management Agency (CCEMA) gave an overview of this agency and preparedness plan for the county. Begun in 1983, CCEMA currently is made up of 6 persons and Director, David Hankerson, County Manager. The is located at 140 N. Marietta Pkwy., Marietta, GA. Their web-site is [ema.cobbcounty, ga.gov](http://ema.cobbcounty.ga.gov).

CCEMA has four phases of disaster planning:

- 1. Preparedness-** enabling individuals and organizations to avoid the major effects of disasters.
- 2. Mitigation-** ways to prevent disasters from affecting people in the county.
- 3. Response-** the initial 24-48 hours after a disaster has struck.
- 4. Recovery-** the month or years to get back to normal. CCEMA primarily coordinates the planning among county organizations with drills and "what if" scenarios that provide a common knowledge base of what each agency can do and will do and enables gaps in planning to be identified and corrected. Citizens can sign up for a "web alert" online.

CCEMA has examined 50 years of disasters in Cobb County in a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. Experience has shown that the disasters of the past (tornados, floods, hazardous waste spills) repeat themselves. New areas for planning involve terrorism and pandemic events. CCEMA also reacts when disasters in neighboring counties or states spillover into Cobb County. Also, online is the Local Emergency Operations Plan that identifies the 15 emergency support functions that the federal and state governments use. In Cobb County 74 local sirens can be sounded to warn persons outside, NOAA radios are recommended for every home. Warnings are triggered by the National Weather Center.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) is 5 years old in Cobb County. Currently there are 713 individuals who have completed the 20 hours of training in disaster preparedness and response. Each individual goes through a background check and is issued a county ID badge. These individuals either (1) self-activate in a crisis where they live going door-to-door or (2) CCEMA can call them out to a particular disaster site. Only 30 of 159 counties in Georgia have CERT and Cobb County's program is the largest in the State.

CCEMA has instituted a "Special Needs/Population at Risk" program, 12 % of the county's citizens qualify. These persons may register their special needs (medical, mobility, elderly). In the near future the 911 Call Center will have a "reverse" call capability to warn these citizens of potential emergencies.

CCEMA has a Director, Deputy Director, Officers on loan from the Fire and Police Departments, CERT Coordinator, Administrative Specialist, Intern and a Grants Administrator-part time).

This committee was very impressed with CCEMA, its professionalism and commitment to the safety of Cobb County citizens. We applaud the County Commissioners for their support.

Recommendations

1. It is clear that disaster preparedness begins with individual citizens. We recommend that CCEMA and the county continue its planning and preparedness activities with a special emphasis on “getting the word out” in the most effective ways that will insure a majority of individual citizens are well prepared before disaster strikes.

CCEMA should set a goal of saturation of the County with preparedness information to the point that an independent poll would identify that 51% of the citizens were aware of emergency preparedness activities suggested by CCEMA.

2. CCEMA should set a goal of training 0.5 % of the citizens of the County, (1 for every 200 citizens) as CERT responders.

Cobb County School Committee

Members of the Grand Jury School Committee made an impromptu visit to three Cobb County Schools on April 15, 2008. The first visit was to the Fair Oaks Elementary School which has been operating for the past 50 years; we were welcomed by one of the school counselors in the Principal’s absence-the counselor gave us a tour of the facility and answered our questions regarding various aspects of the school’s activities. The school serves to educate a primarily Hispanic group of students (70%) and therefore student communications, homework and progress reports are sent to parents in both English and Spanish print. A kindergarten class may contain up to 25 students with two full-time teachers and first grade ratios are 1 teacher to 15 students. Up until recent years, the school employed one Para-pro to every teacher/class but due to funding issues only one Para-pro is shared between two classes now. The school currently utilizes the Georgia’s Choice curriculum (a spin off from America’s Choice curriculum) which requires a separate hour each day for reading, writing, and math. A reading recovery program is offered to those students needing additional help-this program requires additional training for the teacher involved and is scheduled as a one-on-one time for the student (scheduling is worked out with the student’s teacher to ensure the student is not missing out on other valuable teaching instruction time). School counselors are involved day-to-day with all the students rather than waiting for crisis management needs to occur. Good touch/bad touch lessons are no longer taught in a curriculum setting; however, stranger and safety (including Internet safety) awareness is taught in class. Teachers are mandated by the state to be trained to observe signs of sexual or physical abuse. The school is working on plans to create and operate small outside gardens for each class to utilize as part of their learning experience; however, more funding is needed to help with this extra-curricular school project. The school’s wish list would be to receive more basic school supplies for the classrooms and more community partners as they work to educate their students toward greater achievement. The only area of concern was the condition of the boy’s restroom visited- the commodes were clogged and it was apparent that the clogs were not from recent use—the facility was unusable, foul smelling and unsanitary.

Recommendations:

1. Reinstate good touch/bad touch awareness programs
2. Implement routine restroom checks throughout each day to ensure conditions are usable and sanitary.

The next school visited was Harrison High School where we were immediately welcomed by the Principal. He first answered our questions and then led us on a tour of the facility which is about 17 years old. The Principal was extremely knowledgeable about the history of the school and all areas of public education. During our discussion with the Principal, he clarified that rumors regarding campus drug activities were inaccurate. He advised that there were never any drugs found on the campus, nor had there been any finding that drugs were ever sold on campus. The Principal was proud to report that on the morning of our visit, the school band has been invited to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in 2009—the Band Booster Club will fund this event. There was a thorough discussion of student safety and security. There are about 2650 students currently attending and class sizes range anywhere between 20-30 students (a number below state maximum). The school has a Sheriff's Deputy on campus, but encourages the involvement of students, parents, and teachers to help keep the school safe. Students are encouraged that "it's o.k. to tell" in an anonymous way; the PTA is also involved in safety awareness.

To educate parents about situations today's students are facing, the school offers a "Parent Connect" series of night classes such as drug (legal and illegal), alcohol and bullying. The school has monthly tornado, fire and lockdown drills, but an evacuation plan is not currently in place due to the uncertainty that surrounds such a situation. The principal indicated that he would like to implement training for the faculty and staff on such situations so they are more prepared to lead the students should the need arise. New teachers to the school are mentored by veteran teachers and club-like settings are set up for high performing students to tutor other students.

There are many special needs students in the school and the teachers work hard to incorporate them into the general population where appropriate by having special needs teachers in the same class to assist these students directly. We were impressed with by the Coffee Shop program, which was highlighted by the principal and is operated primarily by special needs students with the assistance of teachers.

The principal stated that the bar could be raised in elementary and middle school years to give students more skills which would enable them to excel through high school rather than merely trying to catch up. Study skills, note taking and organizational skills should be taught in the earlier years to prepare the student for high school studies and to improve learning capabilities. Specifically, the Principal would like to obtain an additional allotment of math, science, and special education teachers so that he could effectively reduce class sizes and specialize the course of study for the students (especially those entering 9th grade level).

Recommendations:

1. None

The last school visited was Lost Mountain Middle School. The Principal was initially unavailable and the Assistant Principal's advised us they were unable to communicate with us. The school is about 17 years old and has 1105 students currently enrolled (the enrollment figure dropped recently due to the new Lovinggood and McClure Middle Schools that opened in the past two years). The school did experience a loss of teacher allotment due to the new middle

schools and redistribution of student population. Peer tutoring/mentoring programs are established by the JR BETA Club primarily for math assistance and teachers are sometimes available the hour prior to school start. High school language (Latin) is offered at Harrison High during "o" period before start of the middle school day and students receive high school credit for this class. Currently, while there is no curriculum specifically geared to teach students effective note taking and study skills, most teachers incorporate these skills in their daily instructions as part of their routine. Special ED students are incorporated into the appropriate class setting that fits their skills and requirements—the school currently has two openings for Special ED teachers as their special education student population has recently increased. Teachers are encouraged to attend continued education courses to learn new methods and skills for teaching. We were impressed that the 8th grade students are allowed outside travel between wings of the school for class changes. The Principal explained that this was a way to help make the students feel more responsible and to give a privilege that served as a positive example for the younger students regarding earning privileges as students prepare to transition to high school.

Recommendation:


1. Assistant Principals should be empowered to make decisions in the Principal's absence. The Principal should clearly communicate to staff the appropriate protocol for effectively handling unusual situations in his absence.
2. Remove 24 hour visitation notification requirement—parents should be allowed to make unannounced visits to observe their students in the class environment—after providing the required security identification.

General Observations:

Overall, the kitchen and restroom facilities of all three schools were found to be in sanitary condition (with the exception of the one restroom at Fair Oaks Elementary); media facilities were reasonably well-stocked with books and computer equipment. Cobb County residents can be proud of the condition of the school system which appears to be providing students with quality education taught by excellent and committed teachers within a safe, clean and secure environment.

General Reports

The March/April 2008 Term Grand Jury has inspected the reports of receipts and disbursements of the Clerk of Superior Court, the County Treasurer, Probate Court and the Sheriff of Cobb County and found them to be in order.



Joi Danielle Calloway, Foreperson

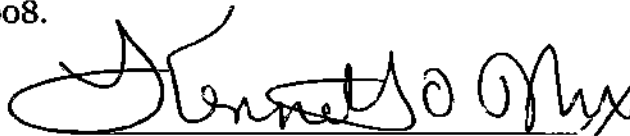
Georgia, Cobb County
Cobb County Superior Court
Cobb Judicial Circuit

ORDER

Read and Considered, Let the Same Be Filed.

It is hereby ordered; that the within Presentments be published in the official organ of Cobb County within fifteen (15) days from the date.

So Ordered, this the 8th day of May, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth O. Nix", written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth O. Nix
Judge, Superior Court
Cobb Judicial Circuit

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF COBB

RETURN TO THE COBB COUNTY
GRAND JURY FOR MARCH - APRIL 2008

DATE:

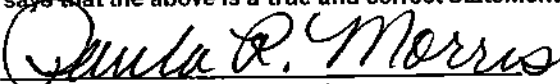
In compliance with the provision of Georgia Code 36-1-7, I submit for your examination the following true and just statement of the funds which I have collected and paid into the county General Fund on behalf of Cobb County for the period of January 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008.

To the Honorable Members of the Grand Jury for the period of January 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008:

FINES AND FORFEITURES Collected and paid into the Superior and State Courts of Cobb County	\$10,211.99
FEES COLLECTED RECORDS AND ID Fees for processing applicant fingerprints and sale of photos paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$19,459.60
CIVIL COSTS Collected and paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$57,286.00
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES Collected and paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$9,292.99
BOND FORFEITURES Collected and paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$135,814.09
JAIL BOND SURCHARGE Collected and paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$13,601.83
BOND DOCUMENT FEE Collected and paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$39,078.00
JAIL SUBSIDY Collected and paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$18,742.00
WORK RELEASE PER DEIM Collected and paid into the Cobb County General Fund	\$37,933.02
TOTAL	<u>\$331,207.53</u>


Neil Warren, SHERIFF
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

Personally appeared before me, Neil Warren, Sheriff of Cobb County, Georgia, who on oath deposed and says that the above is a true and correct statement to the best of his knowledge.


Notary Public, State of Georgia

**COBB COUNTY PROBATE COURT
COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FINANCIAL REPORT**

MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2008- GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

<u>DEPOSITS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Deposit 2/08/08	\$11,326.75
Deposit 2/13/08	\$13,383.00
Deposit 2/22/08	\$33,032.25
Deposit 2/29/08	\$19,290.15
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$77,032.15

MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2008- GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Law Library	\$ 1,150.00
Department of Human Resources	\$ 1,212.00
Judge's Retirement Fund	\$ 4,164.60
Cobb County General Fund	\$60,084.55
Superior Ct Clerk's Authority	\$10,421.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$77,032.15

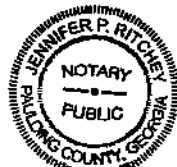
I do hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.



David A. Dodd, Judge of the Probate Court

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this 17th day of March, 2008.


Notary Public



My Commission Expires
May 22, 2010

This certifies that the undersigned clerk delivered by intra-county mail to the District Attorney or to responsible persons in his office the information for the return to the grand jury pertaining to the month of February, 2008.

This 18th day of March, 2008.



Clerk of Probate Court

**COBB COUNTY PROBATE COURT
COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FINANCIAL REPORT**

MONTH OF MARCH, 2008- GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

<u>DEPOSITS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Deposit 3/14/08	\$27,140.00
Deposit 3/26/08	\$38,445.65
Deposit 3/31/08	\$16,515.75
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$82,101.40

MONTH OF MARCH, 2008- GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

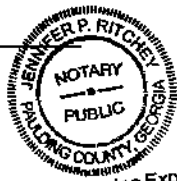
<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Law Library	\$ 800.00
Department of Human Resources	\$ 1,467.00
Judge's Retirement Fund	\$ 4,183.00
Cobb County General Fund	\$65,566.40
Superior Ct Clerk's Authority	\$10,085.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$82,101.40

I do hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.

David A. Dodd
David A. Dodd, Judge of the Probate Court

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this 2nd day of April, 2008.

Jennifer P. Ritchey
Notary Public



My Commission Expires
May 22, 2010

This certifies that the undersigned clerk delivered by intra-county mail to the District Attorney or to responsible persons in his office the information for the return to the grand jury pertaining to the month of March, 2008.

This 3rd day of April, 2008.



Clerk of Probate Court

COBB COUNTY PROBATE COURT
COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
FINANCIAL REPORT


MONTH OF APRIL, 2008- GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

<u>DEPOSITS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Deposit 4/02/08	\$ 4,379.50
Deposit 4/16/08	\$40,427.75
Deposit 4/18/08	\$12,849.50
Deposit 4/30/08	\$39,265.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$60,521.75

MONTH OF APRIL, 2008- GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

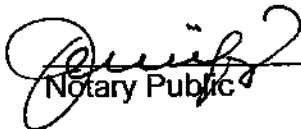
<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Law Library	\$ 1,027.00
Department of Human Resources	\$ 1,521.00
Judge's Retirement Fund	\$ 6,693.00
Cobb County General Fund	\$35,980.75
Superior Ct Clerk's Authority	\$15,300.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$60,521.75

I do hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.

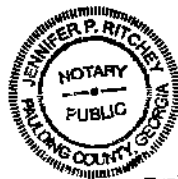


David A. Dodd, Judge of the Probate Court

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this 5th day of May, 2008.



Notary Public



My Commission Expires
May 22, 2010

This certifies that the undersigned clerk delivered by intra-county mail to the District Attorney or to responsible persons in his office the information for the return to the grand jury pertaining to the month of April, 2008.

This 6th day of May, 2008.



Clerk of Probate Court

STATE, SUPERIOR, JUVENILE, MAGISTRATE
DEPARTMENTS 040, 160, 165, 185, 190, 200 & 220
FINES AND FORFEITURES
OCTOBER, 2007 TO FEBRUARY, 2008

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-FEB	VARIANCE
Bond Forfeiture	\$ 123,004.00	\$ 67,951.00	\$ (55,053.00)
Drug Treatment/Ed.	487,569.00	59,334.26	(428,234.74)
Court Fines	1,351,198.00	514,072.69	(837,125.31)
County Jail Fund*	0.00	777.02	777.02
Other Fines/Forfeiture	11,250,291.00	3,818,344.87	(7,431,946.13)
Victim Assistance Prog. Fine	164,523.00	220,104.83	55,581.83
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 13,376,585.00	\$ 4,680,584.67	\$ (8,696,000.33)

<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-FEB	VARIANCE
Personal Services			
Salaries	\$ 16,648,603.00	\$ 6,795,844.61	\$ 9,852,758.39
Fringes	6,335,540.00	2,682,695.10	3,652,844.90
Total Personal Services	22,984,143.00	9,478,539.71	13,505,603.29
Operating			
Office Materials/Supplies	\$ 299,876.00	\$ 132,061.31	\$ 167,814.69
Legal/Professional Fees	432,230.00	190,679.30	241,550.70
Juror-Witness	315,050.00	90,925.00	224,125.00
Court Reporting	70,317.00	21,326.95	48,990.05
Other	513,689.00	150,515.88	363,173.12
Total Operating	1,631,162.00	585,508.44	1,045,653.56
Capital	\$ 369,494.00	\$ 3,416.11	\$ 366,077.89
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 24,984,799.00	\$ 10,067,464.26	\$ 14,917,334.74

*County Jail Fund - \$489,287.91 was collected and transferred to the Debt Service Fund for payments on the Detention Facility.


Brad Bowers, Finance Director/Comptroller

**FINES AND FORFEITURES
OCTOBER, 2007 TO FEBRUARY, 2008
FOR STATE COURT (DEPTS 160 & 200) ONLY**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-FEB	VARIANCE
Other Fines/Forfeiture	\$ 11,250,291.00	\$ 3,818,327.87	\$ (7,431,963.13)
Victim Assistance Prog. Fine	<u>153,377.00</u>	<u>203,714.67</u>	<u>50,337.67</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 11,403,668.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,022,042.54</u>	<u>\$ (7,381,625.46)</u>

<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-FEB	VARIANCE
Personal Services			
Salaries	\$ 4,102,502.00	\$ 1,621,420.49	\$ 2,481,081.51
Fringes	<u>1,319,624.00</u>	<u>632,192.22</u>	<u>687,431.78</u>
Total Personal Services	5,422,126.00	2,253,612.71	3,168,513.29
Operating	\$ 278,106.00	\$ 100,085.98	\$ 178,020.02
Capital	<u>6,729.00</u>	<u>1,315.85</u>	<u>5,413.15</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 5,706,961.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,355,014.54</u>	<u>\$ 3,351,946.46</u>

*County Jail Fund - \$417,456.13 was collected and transferred to the Debt Service Fund for payments on the Detention Facility.



Brad Bowers, Finance Director/Comptroller

STATE, SUPERIOR, JUVENILE, MAGISTRATE
DEPARTMENTS 040, 160, 165, 185, 190, 200 & 220
FINES AND FORFEITURES
OCTOBER, 2007 TO MARCH, 2008

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-MAR	VARIANCE
Bond Forfeiture	\$ 123,004.00	\$ 99,558.00	\$ (23,446.00)
Drug Treatment/Ed.	487,569.00	81,115.33	(406,453.67)
Court Fines	1,351,198.00	670,808.37	(680,389.63)
County Jail Fund*	0.00	496.46	496.46
Other Fines/Forfeiture	11,250,291.00	4,965,053.67	(6,285,237.33)
Victim Assistance Prog. Fine	220,105.00	224,446.04	4,341.04
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 13,432,167.00	\$ 6,041,477.87	\$ (7,390,689.13)

<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-MAR	VARIANCE
Personal Services			
Salaries	\$ 16,454,941.00	\$ 8,109,551.07	\$ 8,345,389.93
Fringes	6,525,343.00	3,186,964.93	3,338,378.07
Total Personal Services	22,980,284.00	11,296,516.00	11,683,768.00
Operating			
Office Materials/Supplies	\$ 306,010.00	\$ 149,849.35	\$ 156,160.65
Legal/Professional Fees	445,464.00	232,825.84	212,638.16
Juror-Witness	309,050.00	111,075.00	197,975.00
Court Reporting	70,317.00	30,000.33	40,316.67
Other	514,485.00	176,306.14	338,178.86
Total Operating	1,645,326.00	700,056.66	945,269.34
Capital	\$ 417,755.00	\$ 4,196.43	\$ 413,558.57
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 25,043,365.00	\$ 12,000,769.09	\$ 13,042,595.91

*County Jail Fund - \$637,868.24 was collected and transferred to the Debt Service Fund for payments on the Detention Facility.


Brad Bowers, Finance Director/Comptroller

**FINES AND FORFEITURES
OCTOBER, 2007 TO MARCH, 2008
FOR STATE COURT (DEPTS 160 & 200) ONLY**

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-MAR	VARIANCE
Other Fines/Forfeiture	\$ 11,250,291.00	\$ 4,965,053.67	\$ (6,285,237.33)
Victim Assistance Prog. Fine	<u>203,715.00</u>	<u>203,714.67</u>	<u>(0.33)</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 11,454,006.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,168,768.34</u>	<u>\$ (6,285,237.66)</u>

<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>	BUDGET FOR OCT - SEPT	ACTUALS FOR OCT-MAR	VARIANCE
Personal Services			
Salaries	\$ 3,912,699.00	\$ 1,938,360.43	\$ 1,974,338.57
Fringes	<u>1,509,427.00</u>	<u>751,092.10</u>	<u>758,334.90</u>
Total Personal Services	5,422,126.00	2,689,452.53	2,732,673.47
Operating	\$ 278,106.00	\$ 122,262.81	\$ 155,843.19
Capital	<u>\$ 6,729.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,499.17</u>	<u>\$ 4,229.83</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 5,706,961.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,814,214.51</u>	<u>\$ 2,892,746.49</u>

*County Jail Fund - \$545,497.36 was collected and transferred to the Debt Service Fund for payments on the Detention Facility.


Brad Bowers, Finance Director/Comptroller