

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MARCH 13, 1998, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, March 13, 1998.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Harris Odell, Jr., gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:

- Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
- Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
- Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four
- David L. Saussy, District One
- Joe Murray Rivers, District Two (arrived approximately 9:20 a.m.)
- Martin S. Jackel, District Three
- Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
- Ben Price, District Six (arrived approximately 9:15 a.m.)
- Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Russ Abolt, County Manager
- R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
- Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

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**V. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

**1. RECOGNITION OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE MARSHAL AND COMMITTEE.**

Chairman Hair said, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure for us to have with us today the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and it is my pleasure at this time, if Mr. Forbes will come forward to the podium —. We recognize how significant this is to our City and the contributions of the Irish. On behalf of the Chatham County Commission, we have a token of our appreciation for all that you do. It's a paperweight. It has the Courthouse on it, and we hope you will accept that in the spirit it is given. Mr. John J. (Jimmy) Forbes, Jr., said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Mr. Forbes said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Chatham County Commission, it's a pleasure to come before you today as the Grand Marshal of the 174<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Parade, which we'll celebrate next Tuesday. We're looking for a grand day and plenty of sunshine in spite of what the weatherman says, and we hope that you will join with us. I know how important a sense of cooperation is to gentlemen in politics, and isn't it amazing that the Irish have been able to agree on doing anything for 174 times? As I said, I'm delighted to be here and we're looking forward to a great day. I would like to take just a minute to introduce the other members of the Parade Committee who are here with me. First, my Chaplain, Father Pat O'Brien, Pastor of St. Peter's Apostle Catholic Church. My aides, my son, John P. Forbes, Michael Laird, Al Winters, John McKenna, and the guy who does more work than anybody in Chatham County this time of year, the General Chairman of the Parade Committee, Mr. Jimmy Ray. Again, our thanks for you having us here and making time in the schedule for us, and I certainly appreciate the gift. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, you're certainly welcome.

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## **VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. AMTRAK RENT - DICK KNOWLTON (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).**

Commissioner Thomas asked, is Mr. Knowlton here? Commissioner Murray said, I haven't seen him. Commissioner Thomas said, I don't see him. Commissioner DeLoach said, he hasn't made it yet. Commissioner Thomas said, maybe I'll —, Mr. Chairman, he's not here at this moment. Perhaps —. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to delay that? Commissioner Thomas said, delay that for just a while.

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Chairman Hair asked, Dr. Thomas are you ready to talk about the Amtrak? Or are you waiting on Dick [Knowlton]? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, I'd really —. Chairman Hair asked, you just want to delay that or do you want to —? Commissioner Thomas said, I was really wanting Mr. Knowlton to be here. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to put it on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Thomas said, yes, let me just try one more time and, if not, I will proceed with it. Chairman Hair said, okay.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was pulled by Commissioner Thomas and will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

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### **2. RECOGNIZE LINKS AND GENERAL SHULER (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).**

Commissioner Thomas said, just a second, Mr. Chairman. Could we just wait until the weightlifting and then come back to this? Chairman Hair said, okay. Well, Commissioner Murray has pulled that.

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Chairman Hair said, I think Dr. Thomas is ready now for recognizing LINKS and General Shuler.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, I'm extremely proud to have this opportunity this morning to recognize these individuals who played such an important role in helping to cultivate the finalization of a masterpiece in terms of recognizing African-Americans in aviation. Back in February, I believe, the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup>, we —, many of you participated. It was truly a wonderful occasion, and I thought it would be fitting today to recognize those individuals who played such an important role in making this happen. First of all, let me say that General Shuler and I talked, and you can talk and have a concept or to expand on a concept, but you have to have an individual who is willing to move forward on those particular things, and I just wanted to say to General Shuler, you have been that person. You have not only inspired me, but you certainly have inspired this community by stepping out and saying, yes, we are going to do this. It was already in the plans. It was just a matter of moving forward with it, and we just want to thank you for that. Then we had to have some additional people to help us carry out this vision, and it was not to my surprise, but I was just elated when the Savannah Chapter of LINKS were [sic] asked to participate as one of the sponsors. And, I tell you, we could not have selected a better group of people to do this. With Dr. Deanna Cross as President of the Savannah Chapter of LINKS, and Ms. Maude Hall, I call her my liaison person, who was there with me every step of the way, and this morning we would like to take this opportunity to present to them a certificate of appreciation for your support in this endeavor. General Shuler —, I'm going to ask the Chairman to please come down and help me with this because, like I said, it was a joint effort between all parties, City, County, just a whole lot of people. And we do have —, one other thing, Mr. Chairman. We do have one for the curators. We don't have them ready yet this morning, and I'll tell you a little something about them. And let me tell you a little something about the Savannah Chapter of LINKS. Locally, they have celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> year of service. Nationally, about 52 years. They have a membership of about 9,000 people, and, as I said, we could not have selected a better group. They are a service organization, and service they did render. So, again, thank you so very much. I do want to recognize Mr. Archie Davis, who is the Treasurer, and give him his recognition as well. Thank you so very much, and I think Dr. Cross has something too.

Dr. Deanna Cross said, good morning. On behalf of the Savannah Chapter of LINKS I want to thank you for this appreciation. I would be remiss in my duties as President if I were not to thank you personally for your support, providing the transportation which enabled us to bring approximately 4,000 people on that Saturday to the commemoration of the Tuskegee Airmen is superb, and for Dr. Thomas, Commissioner, and her efforts, we wish to reward her with the commemorative medallion that was presented to each of the airmen. And because she is not an airman, we have presented it so she can display it, and on behalf of the LINKS.

Commissioner Thomas said, one last thing. Let me say about the curators, Lynn Holman [phonetic] and Thomas Raleigh [phonetic]. They're from St. Petersburg, Florida, and they were unable to be with us this morning, but we also will make sure that they get their certificate of recognition as well. Thank you so very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. General Shuler, would you like to make a comment?

General Shuler said, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. I just want to express my appreciation to the Savannah Chapter of LINKS, Incorporated. Working with Dr. Cross particularly and Ms. Maude Hall was a delightful pleasure and all the ladies of that organization, they're a real credit to this community. But also thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and Dr. Thomas for being active participants in that celebration. If I might, with your permission, just give you about a minute update on the museum. Chairman Hair said, sure. General Shuler said, I furnished you some materials up there, but I wanted to cover a few things. Since I reported to you on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November of last year, there has been much that has occurred with the museum growing very rapidly. In addition to the exhibit you just heard about, the African-Americans in aviation, we've

added an 18<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron Exhibit, and the following exhibits are in works: Special operations, [inaudible] reconnaissance, a series of mission exhibits including Berlin, St. Lozier [phonetic] and Second Schwienfurt. Design work on the post-World War II exhibits are coming along. We hope those exhibits will draw in those men and women who served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force since World War II. Many smaller exhibits are in progress and being added, such as the Polish Air Force Exhibit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Air Depot and other new unit exhibits. The B-47 that's been allocated to us by the Air Force Museum is going to be moved late April, early May from Florence, South Carolina, to the Memorial Gardens and will serve as a signature aircraft to attract people off I-95. That program is well underway. The museum continues to grow, adding new exhibits so that repeat visitors will have something new to see every time they come out there. The museum's education program continues to grow as well. Over 6,000 students from Chatham County schools went through the museum in calendar year 1997. Over 3,500 students have either already gone through the museum this year or are scheduled to do so before school ends in May. The museum attendance numbers continue to grow and I've provided you a chart with the records of all of our attendance from '96 when we opened through the current month of February. Those —, the attendance, as you will note, between '96 and '97 grew between 19 and 20 percent, and already this year for the first two months another 19 or 20 percent growth is very evident. So we think we have the numbers going in the right direction. Financially, the museum did complete calendar year '97 with a modest cash reserve, which still holds. The revenue flow from retail sales, food service operations and admissions and memberships is increasing. Museum memberships are now over 6,800 and the fund-raising programs continue to generate money that helps us to stay in operations. You may have noticed in the news reports that there was a line item that was inserted in the State's supplemental budget of \$55,000 for operation of the museum in 1998. Those monies will be distributed to the County not later than 30 June of this year. Very quickly, our objectives for this calendar year include the following: First and foremost is sustain day-to-day financial operations. Secondly, to increase attendance to 100,000 this calendar year. Now you will note that the attendance projections for this year only demonstrate a modest 7.5 or 7.6 percent increase. That's really for budgeting purposes. We're already exceeding that. We're shooting to get a full 100,000 people through the museum in this calendar year. The next objective is to retire the loan that the County very graciously made to the museum during this year, and then to make a significant contribution to the 1998 debt service requirements by year end. These then are our goals and things that we're concentrating on this year. I've furnished you with a copy of an economic impact report that was completed in December of last year since I reported to you last. It covers a 12-month period that demonstrates the economic impact on Chatham County and its municipalities equate to over a million dollars a month. We will continue to survey our visitors and update that report periodically. Additionally, I continue to provide the monthly and quarterly financial reports to General Lynch and to the bond agent, as required by the bond agreement. In closing, let me reassure you once more that we clearly understand our fiduciary obligations and responsibilities to Chatham County and to this Commission, and we're working very diligently to meet them in the fullest sense. I appreciate Archie Davis being with me each time we come up here. His financial advice and guidance has been instrumental to the progress that we've made, and I want to take the opportunity to thank him publicly. I'm available for any questions, Mr. Chairman, if you have any.

Chairman Hair said, I don't really have any, General. I just want to add, I was at the event for the Tuskegee Airmen. I was there on Friday night as well as Saturday, and I was extremely impressed. On Saturday, that was the fullest I've ever seen the museum, and the affair Friday night was very, very good and it was very well done. General Shuler said, thank you, sir. Chairman Hair said, I appreciate the progress you've made.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd just like to comment. I read over the material you presented to us. This is as good if not better than any materials we've received from any groups. It would make me very happy if everyone lived up to your standards because I can —, that's just —, it's just excellent material. It really lets me know how hard you're working and the effort you're making, and because of that the obvious progress that you're making. General Shuler said, thank you. Commissioner Jackel said, I appreciate it. General Shuler said, I appreciate those words. Believe me, the numbers are going in the right direction. We just want a steeper curve so we can get there faster and meet our obligations.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, General. Thank you, Archie [Davis], I appreciate you being here as well.

Commissioner Thomas said, if anyone wishes to join, you may see General Shuler this morning and take out a membership.

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### **3. WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER - MICHAEL COHEN (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).**

Commissioner Murray said, I'm going to ask we table that to the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, okay, we'll pull that and put that on the next agenda.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was pulled by Commissioner Murray and will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

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### **4. SEWAGE AND ISLE OF HOPE (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).**

Commissioner Murray said, we've —, is Al Bungard here? Mr. Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, Al [Bungard] has some drawing and stuff with what's going on at Isle of Hope. I know about three years ago there was a survey taken of the different roads out at Isle of Hope that wanted or did not want to hook up to sewers at that time, and I think —, I don't remember what the fees were that were proposed at that time that would cost each individual home to tie into it, but I think a lot's happened over the last three years and certainly we've had an awful lot of rain and stuff since the first of this year, and Bransby Road is one road that, from what I understand, the majority of the citizens on that road do want it now. I guess my thought is that I'd like to see where the lines are going now because it doesn't make sense to make to run sewer lines down one street, skip a street and then run them down the next street and then go back several years later and have to go to double or triple the expense to put that line back in. I would think that if the funds are available, we should be able to put all the lines

in now, and as those people tap into it, then we'll recoup our money back out of those tap-in fees, or some portion of it, but, Al [Bungard], I would like for you to go over it, if you could, and just explain what's out there and what's going on now.

Mr. Al Bungard said, back in September of '95 a survey was sent out to about 180 [sic] addresses. About 180 [sic] responded. The conclusion was of the 24 service areas, 10 voted for and 14 against. The 10 are the areas shown right here on the drawing. They're hard to see up there, I know, but the highlighted areas scattered around, we have a lot more detailed one, of course. That contract is ready to start, and we have had one petition, as he said, from Bransby to add that in. We estimate that the buy-out, construction cost buy-out for the remainder of the area is about \$600 [sic] since yesterday. You know, it's lagged about \$600,000. The Bransby one alone will be about \$60,000 plus design costs, and I do not know yet what the balance of the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund is. There was —, we're paying out higher rates, I understand, to the City for sewage treatment, and I need to talk to Mr. Persaud to find out what the impact of that is on the fund. We can certainly do some more detailed estimates. The issue I guess for me is how do we proceed with deciding, you know, who would get the additional service. In some cases, about like Bransby, were overwhelming at eight against and zero for. Now it's eight for, zero against. In some cases there are much closer calls: four to three. And the procedure adopted at that time was a simple majority, and we're proceeding with the contract now.

Commissioner Murray asked, doesn't it make sense though from an economic standpoint to put the lines down, the main sewer lines down the roads? Mr. Bungard said, yes, it does. Commissioner Murray said, while the construction's going on out there. Mr. Bungard said, I mean, the construction cost today would be obviously cheaper now while the guy's on site. We have a contract. We'd have to, you know, of course, redo the design work and then implement a change order. The question becomes, you know, simply one of funding. Commissioner Murray said, all right. How long do you think we'll know how much money we have left in that? Mr. Abolt said, we'll get that for you by next time. We can get that to you next time. Commissioner Murray said, all right. And it still would not be too late at our next meeting to make a decision on that? Mr. Abolt said, I don't know. I don't know anything about that time limit.

Commissioner DeLoach said, well, we ought to just go ahead and make a decision. I'm with you. If we don't do it now, I mean, we need to go ahead and do it and whatever we have to do to make it work, we need to make it work. Commissioner Murray said, where I'm coming from, I just feel like we need to be looking in the future and not just trying to stop the things as they come up and, unfortunately, from the funding standpoint, that's all we've been able to do. But I think we've got a prime example right here that we can go ahead and put the sewer lines down provided the funding is there, but I'd like to make a motion that we move forward with it. Commissioner DeLoach said, second.

Chairman Hair asked, can I ask a question about the motion? Is that assuming that the funding's there and if the funding's not there, then we would not —. Commissioner Murray said, well, certainly we can't do it if we don't have the funding. Chairman Hair said, we won't borrow the funds, but even [inaudible], you're saying. Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Murray said, and you'll get back with us on the funding side of it. Mr. Abolt said, what we'll do is we'll take this as orders to, in effect, put together as much as we can in expanding the Isle of Hope area based on the availability of additional funds in Water and Sewer. Commissioner Murray said, I know there were some people that were supposed to come from the Isle of Hope area. I don't know if they're in the audience now or not, but if they are, were there any questions they might have, but do they understand what we just did? Chairman Hair asked, would anybody like to be recognized? Commissioner Murray said, evidently they're not here. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you, Frank [Murray].

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to proceed with putting in sewer lines in Isle of Hope if funding is available in the Water and Sewer Fund. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Price were not present.]

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#### **RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

Chairman Hair said, I'll ask for unanimous consent to recognize Jimmy Ray again to introduce some very special guests. Any objections?

Mr. Jimmy Ray said, good morning, Mr. Chairman, County Commission, and the people of Savannah. It's been a great two weeks for us. We've been extremely busy. We have some special guests in our fair city, and before I introduce them I'm going to let you know that one of the bands that's going to lead our parade this year is the Dublin Fire Brigade Pipe Band. They'll be in Sunday. I think it's about 40 of them. So they're going to be playing loud and clear, and we're looking forward to having them. We have a gentleman that lives here in Savannah of Irish descent. His whole family is from Ireland, and he's in the trucking business here in Savannah. His name is Peter Hogan. Peter Hogan was instrumental in getting Father Joseph Young here three years ago so we could all meet him and now he's back and he's brought some special guests with him. I'm going to ask Peter Hogan to please come up and introduce our special guest from Ireland. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Jimmy [Ray].

Mr. Peter Hogan said, Honorable Chairman, thank you very much for the invitation and the rest of the Chair. I really appreciate the opportunity to introduce these gentlemen. We have one gentleman, Father Joe Young, whom many of you already know and have met from three years ago. Father Joe is probably the most renown clergyman in all of Ireland, that is doing the best to improve the lot of the Irish children, many of whom are presently living in certain ghetto areas of the country, and Father Joe has anointed himself and appointed himself as the forerunner of what is to be in Ireland with the great modification of their economy in recent months since they joined the United States of Europe, if you will, and he is presently

striving to reunite the youth of Ireland in the troubled section of the North with the Irish Free State or the Republic of Ireland. And this has been an effort that he has put forth for the last 10 to 20 years. Though unsuccessful, in recent months we find that he is becoming successful. He's attempting to get this done through music, culture and athletics.

Chairman Hair said, oh, oh. We have an unexpected guest here. Would you like to explain what you're doing here. Don't you know this is for the Irish and, you know? The unexpected guest said, I am the Easter Bunny and I am hopping mad. I have waited 174 years for a parade. Every year I wait and no parade. You have the Irish Parade, but no Easter Parade. You know, I give presents. No thanks, no thanks whatsoever, so I'm thinking to myself, this is going to be my year, you know, the Chairman's name is Billy HAIR. No mention of a parade whatsoever, and I'm telling you right now, nobody is leaving this room until I get a parade. A "Leprechaun" then entered and enticed the Easter Bunny to leave by showing the Bunny a picture of a carrot. The Bunny hesitating left but said, I'll be back next year. Chairman Hair apologized for the interruption.

Mr. Hogan said, that's a tough act to follow. They're not very smart those bunnies, are they? So anyway, our good priest here is attempting through music and sports to reunite the youth of Ireland, and he's been very successful in getting the Belfast young people in soccer and other sports to come down into the Limerick area and vice versa. He's gotten the Limerick teams, football teams, soccer teams, to visit the North of Ireland, and the fife and drum bands, the marching bands, he's brought them from the North of Ireland down to the South and vice versa. So he's doing a tremendous job, and that's one of the people I'd like to introduce to you today. The other gentleman is the Mayor of the City of Limerick. He's a graduate of the University of Cork, as is his wife who's here likewise, his wife Mary. He's a Professor of Economics at the Limerick Institute of Technology and he has spent the last eight years as a City Councilman in the City of Limerick and Mayor and Deputy Mayor of that great city for the last six years. Limerick is the oldest city in Ireland. In fact, it's older than the City of London, to give you an idea. So with that I'd just like to introduce Father Joe Young.

Father Joe Young said, I'd bring that rabbit back to Ireland any day. We might even change the laws on celibacy. But anyway —. Members of the committee [sic], it's an honor for me to be here today. We were here three years ago, and I'd just like to pay tribute to the people of Savannah for their tremendous kindness and courtesy to us since we've arrived, not just in word but also in deed. It's a tremendous honor for me today to be joined by The Honorable Richard Sadlier, Mayor of our very historic city whose charter goes back before the City of London, and his good wife, Mary. What makes it very special for me is that when you get the support of people like your first citizen, then I think it makes it easier for you to come indoors like this, but I didn't expect to meet a rabbit, you know what I mean. But just to sum up, it is my sincere wish in the spirit and the intention of my visit to your beautiful city is to —, through the good offices of our Mayor in Limerick, maybe to twin our cities, not just in sport and music and in the laughter of the occasion and the joy of St. Patrick's weekend, but also in other areas of commerce and industry and areas of historical value because we have so much in common. I leave that to the Mayor. From myself, after 20 years in the priesthood, my only purpose is basically to be —, I think it's God's adoption agency. I hope I'm adopting the right kids, but I can't do it without your support. So I thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Mr. Hogan said, the next guest is The Honorable Mayor Richard Sadlier.

Mayor Sadlier said, Chairman, Commissioners, can I thank you for your invitation to attend here this morning. It is indeed a pleasure, an honor and a privilege. I am very grateful indeed to you for it. Let me say that I hope you will be as quick as [sic] resolving all of your problems as you were here this morning. It's amazing how the carrot seems to work right around the globe.

Commissioner Price said, the truth is the Chairman's name is really Billy O'Hair.

Mayor Sadlier said, I notice you have a CAT here, as well, if there was an emergency. However, I would like to say that we are delighted to have attended here in Savannah and that we hope that this visit will begin the process of forging closer links between the cities of Limerick and Savannah. There are many, many traits which we have in common. I'll mention just a few here this morning. Firstly, we're both located on major rivers, Savannah obviously on the Savannah and Limerick on the River Shannon, the largest river in those islands. Secondly, your war hero, the hero for the war of independence, Sgt. William Jasper, his people hail from the Shannon region, just in fact outside Limerick City. Thirdly, we have a third-level education. A number of links in that we have three universities in Limerick, and you, too, have a number of universities here. Indeed, we have had a very fruitful and I'm sure constructive meeting which will be the forerunner of many other similar meetings with the people of Armstrong yesterday afternoon. It's an area in which I have obviously a very direct interest. There are other links with Savannah which I won't go through this morning, but the Archbishop of Savannah in 1954 was, in fact, made a freeman of Limerick City, which is comparable to presenting one with the key to the city. That was in 1954. The next freeman of Limerick City was none other, in fact, in 1963 than the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The most recent award of freeman had a 16-year intervention before the previous award, so that's just an indication to you of the esteem in which we have held Savannah and indeed the people of the United States. It would be remiss of me here this morning if I weren't asked to refer to the contribution which the United States has made to our country of Ireland, most recently in the contest of the peace process. I'm sure you're familiar with the difficulties and the troubles which we have had in Northern Ireland, which have gone on now for over centuries. It's at a stage where there is so much hatred and mistrust among certain of the conflicting groups that they can't even begin to sit down together to begin to discuss and resolve their differences. Thanks let me say to the intervention of successive presidents, but most recently of President Clinton, who at times when he had major international problems, he still retained an interest in and a commitment to Ireland, which is now beginning to bear fruit. He appointed Senator George Mitchell and he brought the parties together. They almost resolved it. The difficulties arose, it went off the tracks, he got it back on course again, and he persisted over many, many major problems. We're now within a scintilla of having all of the parties together, face to face, eyeball to eyeball, sitting down talking to each other. Perhaps more importantly, listening to each other. That is something which we couldn't have done without the intervention of the United States. Too many groups were locked into too many corners. They were far too many situations which couldn't be compromised. The parties had been locked into conflict for a long, long time. It took an outsider coming in with a fresh approach and with the trust of all those parties to make the very, very substantial advances we have made in the last two years and, more particularly, in recent months. May I once again say to you that the invitation to attend here this morning is something which I hugely appreciate. The welcome which we've received here in Savannah has been beyond even our wildest dreams. In Ireland we have a saying. We extend to visitors, a hundred thousand welcomes. We have received, let me assure you, nothing less than that one hundred thousand welcomes from the people of Savannah. I would like to say to you, Chairman, and through you to the people of Savannah, we appreciate what you have done for us, we appreciate the

welcome which you have extended to us, and we will bring back to Ireland nothing but the fondest of memories of the wonderful people and City of Savannah. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you so much, Mayor. Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I think this is wonderful that y'all could come over here, and I'd like to suggest something. You mentioned soccer, that you have soccer teams, and I know you do over in Ireland. We have some of the best soccer fields in the United States right here in Chatham County, brand new. I would like to propose us to look into the possibility of y'all bring a team over here and us taking one over there to have an exhibition or just to get together on that. So maybe we could work on that. Commissioner Price asked, is that a Scottish challenge? Commissioner Saussy said, well, it could be a Scottish challenge. Mayor Sadlier said, I thought everybody in Savannah was Irish. Commissioner Saussy said, we've got a few Scots.

Chairman Hair said, this weekend everybody is Irish. Thank you very much for coming. We really appreciate that. We appreciate you coming. Jimmy [Ray] thank you so much for bringing them.

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### **RECOGNITION OF ALDERMAN PETE LIAKAKIS**

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to move the Board to entertain to have Alderman-at-Large Pete Liakakis address us for just a couple of minutes with a problem with the water and air in our aquifer. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel has asked for unanimous consent to put Alderman Liakakis on the agenda. Does anybody object? Alderman Liakakis. Commissioner Murray asked, limit it to what? Three minutes? Chairman Hair said, three minutes.

Alderman Liakakis said, gentlemen, thank you very much for allowing me to speak to you for just a moment. There's a real critical issue in one of our public resources that I think that all the governmental bodies in Chatham County need to address. Before the Georgia EPD, they got a application for TSG to withdraw water. Most of you know, and the citizens of Savannah, that they want to withdraw water from the Altamaha River, the Ogeechee River and the Savannah River, but one of the problems in their applications is that they would like to, once they withdraw water from the Ogeechee River, they would like to inject this water into our aquifer. Now that could be a very big problem for us here and around the State because what could happen if there's an employee error or the equipment of TSG if they are allowed to do this, it could contaminate the aquifer, and that's something that is very serious. I mean, this is a precious public resource and I'm asking the public governmental agencies in our area to please consider passing a resolution to the Georgia EPD for them to turn down this request from a private company to use our aquifer as a storage. They would like to withdraw the water, use our aquifer as a storage container and then distribute that water to somebody else that they might sell it. But the big problem is that our aquifer might become contaminated if something happens to this equipment when they're injecting it into our aquifer. And this, Mr. Chairman, you can see in there a little bit on that information that I distributed to you, so I'd appreciate you considering this.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Pete [Liakakis]. I think it would be premature for us to do a resolution today, but I think certainly we need to take this as information and certainly have all the parties present before we were to do something like that, but we appreciate you coming and we appreciate the information.

Alderman Liakakis said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much.

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### **5. COMMITMENT TO RECREATION AUTHORITY OF JUVENILE COURT PROPERTY AND LAND FOR DORMITORY (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have a tremendous opportunity today to enhance the economic viability of this community. As you know, last Commission meeting we passed in concept the possibility of marketing and building a recreation housing facility out at Bacon Park. That the Authority along with staff has worked very hard for these last two weeks to try to put some things together on this, or a plan, and I think we have come up with a very good plan. At this time I would like to make a motion that we convey the deed for the Juvenile Court and Youth Detention Center on Eisenhower Drive and approximately a five-acre parcel of land in Bacon Park south of Memorial Stadium to the Chatham County Recreation Authority, which would be utilized for the creation of this regional housing facility. I'd like to put that in a motion.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Discussion? I'd like to make a couple of comments about this, and I've discussed this with Commissioner Saussy in private. I've got a real problem with this, and my problem has several foundations. The first is, as Commissioner Jackel mentioned at the previous meeting, this would be Chatham County giving a piece of public property, which is a very valuable piece of property, to the Recreation Authority and then they would rent it out as commercial office space competing directly with private industry, and I do not believe that government should be competing with private industry. That's my first problem. The second problem is this property currently is surplus property, and if you look at our budget situation, we could sell that property as surplus property right now, put the revenues from that back in the treasury, plus if we sold that as surplus, it would go back on the property rolls and it's currently not on the property rolls, so that would give us an additional benefit to the County and to the taxpayers. And I just think that to take a valuable piece of surplus property that we could sell very easily and get a lot of revenue and put it back on the rolls, and to give it away and have that property used to compete with private industry that pay property taxes in this community is the wrong thing to do. And I just think that this is a very dangerous thing to do. If you look at the letter that we received from our own financial advisers yesterday, our own financial advisers that we

pay for financial advise, have advised us to be very careful with this and she listed a number of questions that have not been answered today, and I think to move forward with this today prior to getting answers to the questions that were raised by our financial advisers would not be a wise idea. And those are my major objections to it. I think this is a very dangerous proposal and could be establishing a very dangerous precedent.

Commissioner Murray said, I think those questions have been answered and I'd like to call on the County Attorney because he gave us his legal opinion on that —, all those factors in a meeting yesterday. So, would you mind addressing those?

Mr. Hart said, the Commission has a policy decision that is only vested within the Commission about whether they wish to proceed with this transaction or not. The Chatham County Recreation Authority has a charter that is extremely broad and gives them very broad powers in the area of recreational facilities and the building and financing thereof. Certainly the County, if it so chose, could transfer both pieces of property to the Recreation Authority for lawful consideration. Lawful consideration being basically defined as whatever you choose to make lawful consideration. For example, maintenance of the facility would be sufficient consideration. That could either be done by deed, that could also be done by intergovernmental agreements because the Recreation Authority is a true authority under the Georgia law and is technically a political subdivision. That type of transaction between a private entity and Chatham County would probably have some problems under the gratuity provisions of the Georgia Constitution which are not issues since you're dealing between two essentially governmental entities. The Commission could make a decision to transfer the property, the Commission could make the decision to transfer the property with certain conditions that they so chose to make in regard to the use of the property, and from a practical standpoint there's not a legal prohibition against the transfer of the property.

Chairman Hair said, I have one question. In the letter from our financial adviser she's saying because this financing may have impacts on the County's financing, such as analysis of County's bank qualified debt, that the bond counsel should be the person asked, and we don't have an answer to that question, do we? Mr. Hart said, to bond counsel? No sir, at this time we do not. That question —. Chairman Hair said, and our adviser had advised us to do that before we acted on this. Mr. Hart said, yes sir. The question there is if we're going to use bond financing either through the Recreation Authority, which does have the power to issue bonds in their charter and authority, or if the County were to issue bonds, I think clearly we're going to have to get a bond attorney's opinion. On the other hand, if financing vehicles are done through the private market and can satisfy the private market demands, which we don't know what those are or are not, that may not be an issue, but certainly if you're going to use public funds in a bond financing issue, Mr. Chairman, you would certainly want to have bond counsel render an opinion.

Chairman Hair said, I have one other question. If we were to proceed with this and transferred title and they used this property as collateral and they default, then what happens to the property? Mr. Hart said, it depends on how the property is used as collateral, and again it's difficult to answer all the different questions that your question presumes because the financing arrangement hasn't even been discussed, but you'd have to look at the financing arrangement and then give an opinion on that. If it's a pledge of the income, you would lose the lease value of the property. If you pledge the property and you pledge that in a traditional deed to secure debt type situation, then the property would be at risk. Chairman Hair said, you just raised a very, very important question. You just said none of the financing arrangements have been —, we're going to transfer title to property before we even know how it's going to be financed and we don't know the ramifications of that financing.

Commissioner Saussy said, I think one of the other things we could do in this is we could have the County Attorney provide an agreement between Chatham County and the Recreation Authority to provide a provision for the properties to revert back to the County should financing of the Recreation house suddenly become infeasible.

Commissioner Price said, I don't know have a problem with that. You know, I read what you read, Billy, from our financial adviser. If anything we're premature by about a year, but I don't think that we have to do nothing. I think that we can go forward and do it contingent upon as David [Saussy] suggested, and I have a problem with that. And if Frank [Murray] would accept that as an amendment, I don't know if the motion maker can amend his own motion, but —. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy made the motion. Commissioner Saussy said, I made the motion and I would be happy to amend it to say that. Chairman Hair asked, do you accept that as a second? Commissioner Murray said, yes.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm kind of repeating what I said last time and what the Chairman has already said. We have created a Recreation Authority and now it wants this property. We'd be giving it to you. You're then going to run it as a commercial office space, which I don't know where your experience is in running it as commercial office space, and then we're competing against the private sector and that, as the Chairman states, I'm philosophically opposed to, and then we're running a dormitory which is somewhat again competing against the private sector. I really wish you had started on this thing with the idea of seeing if there was someone in the private sector who wanted to build this dormitory and run it instead of all these convoluted steps to get this project going. I think there probably is a need for the dormitory, but because of the way it's going to be set up, I can't support it that way.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Price and then I'd like to make a comment.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes. I really thought I understood this thing very clearly, but there have been some discussions here this morning that sort of opened the doors to other questions as far as I'm concerned. I think the idea of wanting a dormitory, I think it's great, but the question as to the finances, the other information as far as working out all of the details, I just don't want to have to come before this Commission like we have with some other projects that has [sic], you know, not fallen the way we want it to fall, and we need to be very cautious, you know, about what we do. I'm not against the project, but I'm against, you know, as to how we're going about trying to do it financially. That's my concern.

Commissioner Murray said, yes. Just to address a couple of the questions that have come up. First of all, the office space that would be attached to this facility would be office space for the Recreation Authority and those members. It would not be leased out to other groups. As far as the housing facilities that's being built, if it's built, would be built not to compete with local hotels and motels. It would be built to utilize for those athletes coming in to take place in different functions going on in this community at a reduced rate, and only the athletes and coaches would be allowed to stay in there. The families would not be allowed to stay in there. They would still be going to motels throughout the community. I don't see where it's in direct

competition with those people in that business in this community right now. If it was, why haven't those people come forward and done this already. I don't think the private sector would get involved in exactly what we are trying to propose here, and this is being done strictly to enhance those facilities that we have built with one percent sales tax, to enhance the schools and colleges in this community for those athletes that might come in. The revenues that would be produced off of those people visiting and the extra addition that we would have from other teams coming in for tournaments and play-off games and things of that sort, the swimming pool, which is now open, would also bring a large number which no one knows on that yet how many. The revenues produced off of that for this community would be much greater in the long term than what we would be getting on a one shot deal to sell this property to another individual with taxes to come in on it. I just think that if you can give everybody a chance to go through the total presentation and look at what it's doing, and the only risk that the County has in this at this point would be the facility, and that would not be a risk if it's worded right with the agreement between the two, the County and the Authority. The County would not be at risk. So, I would like for them to be allowed to go ahead and complete the presentation. Commissioner Price asked, can I say something before you get to that?

Chairman Hair said, let's get the Commissioners —, our policy has always been the Commissioners give their comments first and then we accept that, so Commissioner Price and myself and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Price asked, Billy [Hair], what are we doing with the Trade Center? Chairman Hair asked, what are we doing with it? Commissioner Price asked, are we competing with private industry? Are we going to lease out some spaces and some parts of the Trade Center? Are we going to provide convention space that maybe might go somewhere else? What we are doing —. Chairman Hair said, I don't know of any private convention facilities —. Commissioner Price said, but we're participating with the private sector, Billy [Hair]. That's what government does, and the fact that we're trying to do something here may be innovative, may be something that's more aggressive than maybe we've even seen in the past, but we have these assets available to us now out there in the Bacon Park area, the hub area, and this is a way to take advantage of those assets. It's a way also to provide additional space for colleges that might need dorm space themselves in the future. You could argue that the Board of Regents is charged with that or what have you. My point is we deed property to other agencies, other governments: the Board of Education, City of Savannah, we do that without a feasibility study being done. You've got three of the Commissioners from this Board that serve on that board, Frank [Murray] and David [Saussy] and myself, and we're very aware of what risk is. A lot of what we do is the management of risk, and I think that you've got, even including, you know, Mr. Winger, who's head of one of the local bank here, he could speak to the risk, but let's hear this presentation, as Frank [Murray] said, and let's not rush to judgment about whether or not this is a feasible project or not.

Chairman Hair said, we will certainly hear the presentation. Two comments before I call on Commissioner DeLoach. First of all, the statements that we have nothing at risk is really not true. What we're risking is a very valuable —, this property's worth eight or nine hundred thousand dollars. We're risk that to the taxpayers, so we are have a risk —, we do have a risk. We're giving up a piece of property worth a lot of money, so that's our risk is we're giving up eight or nine hundred thousand dollars plus not putting it back on the tax rolls. The second, and I suggested this to Commissioner Saussy, I am totally in favor of what we are trying to do here. I'm totally not in favor of how we're trying to do it. If we were to take this dorm and to get a private developer to build this dorm and lease it back over a 20 year period that's the way it should be done. That's the way Armstrong built their dorms. That way you have no public involvement. That way you have surplus property goes back on the tax rolls, we get the money for the property. We don't have any risk, we don't have to worry about financing. You get a private developer to build the dorm and lease it back to the Recreation Authority for 20 years. That's the way to do it, not do it with this kind of convoluted methodology that we've got here in this proposal. There is a —, there's a simple way to do this through the private business sector and not have to do it through the transfer of a very expensive piece of property that we will lose.

Commissioner DeLoach said, each one of these comments, or the way it sounds to me, all of them are theoretically true. Billy's [Hair] point, so is David Saussy's and all, but to me it goes back —. This thing is a little bit deeper than whether we build a dorm now or what our logic was in financing this thing. This goes back to the last Commission and this goes back to a vision that this community had. With the help of the citizens, this community embarked on a program of developing a first class facility in Southeast United States to bring people here to participate in athletics. Now that's what you voted on many years ago. Now we have been in the process of developing these programs. From the City of Savannah developing Paulsen Park and Ambuc Park, we've got the pool facility, we've got weightlifting. There is no logical reason for the City or the County of Chatham to build a weightlifting center as far as the government is concerned, but this community with the help of the citizens had a vision and that vision was we're going to provide the finest facility in the Southeast United States for people to come here and participate in. Now that is what this is all about. Now, granted, if you look at the context of it and the idea of it, it doesn't make sense. That's the reason the private sector hasn't stepped forward to say yes I'm going to do this and I'll lease it back because I realize I'm going to get a return on that. You can't write it, you can't make it look logical because this is more than just logic. This is a vision that this community had as well as these Commissioners on the past and the present group. This is a vision that we need to follow through with. We don't need to get concerned about every dime and dollar. If we can sell a piece of property and make \$10 on it, what's the old saying, you know, why give a man a fish, teach him how to fish. This is the same logic here. We need to be able to develop this program to where it will serve us many years from now. It will bring our kids along and they can participate and they can become Olympic people. Weightlifting, this weightlifting center is, granted, great for people to go in and I'll go in there and I'll lift weights for one or two months and then I'll say, you know, I'm really getting in shape here, and then I'll fall by the wayside and I'll go get fat again and I come do it again. Well, that facility was not built just for me. It's built with a vision of bringing some people along that will one day be Olympians that will represent Savannah and what the best part of Savannah is. That's the reason that's facility there. It's not just for Billy [Hair] and myself to go in there and work and get in shape. It is to develop Olympians for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. That is what all this is about. This pool, those women and dads and all don't load up every morning and run down there and have their kids swim because they want to see them achieve for one day. They want something further down the road. They're looking for something that if we can bring one child out of this group that becomes an Olympian, we have something that we can stand up and be proud of. Now this is what this program's about. It is not about a pool, it is not about a weightlifting center, it is not about a softball facility, it's not about a hotel or motel or a dormitory. It's about a vision that this community developed, and it's a vision we need to go forward with. We don't need to chop this thing up and start picking on it and saying we need to spend this \$10 or this \$15 right now to relieve us in our budget. What we need to do is bring our budget in line and let's go forward with our vision. Now we need to look at this thing, we need to push this thing, and we need to develop this program. It's not logical. If you want to look at it as logical, it is not. But neither was the space program. The fact of it is, this is something that will make us somebody, and that's what it's all about. That's why we're here.

Commissioner Jackel said, I was very surprised recently and we have something coming up later on on our docket, the Chairman's idea about Henderson Golf Course and he suggested some private authority might be interested, and I was really amazed that we got over 20 responses through one ad. We could have sat around here and said, well, the private sector is not interested. I thought when we advertised this thing if we got two or three responses we would have been doing good. We got responses from New York and Pennsylvania from one ad in the *Atlanta Constitution*. I don't know that the private sector's not interested in building a dormitory out there. I do know that there are groups here in Savannah, Chatham County, right now that knew if we would give them this building on Eisenhower and they could rent it out and make a profit, the line would be all the way out to the Mall. I think every YMCA in town would love to have that. That's a worthwhile cause. I think the JEA would like to have that. I think the school system would like to have that. We've got other valuable pieces of property. The old police barracks out there on Hodgson Memorial. Who are we going to give that to so they can rent it out as office space and take the profit and add onto their recreation or whatever it is they want to do? Commissioner DeLoach said, Danny Powers would. Commissioner Jackel said, Danny [Powers] would, sure. That's not what we're here about. And I'm not against the dormitory, but I don't see why we have to take this property on Eisenhower, let them refurbish it, let them be in the office renting business and compete against the private sector. Maybe we ought to put this out to bid for the non-profits and see who else wanted to do this. It's not fair to the County, it's not fair to the other non-profits in the County, and we haven't really given the private sector a chance. I think that there are those out there who would like to develop a dormitory for us if they knew that option was available, and why not give that a try first and then we can see what else we could do. A dormitory's a good idea, but not this manner of doing it.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of things that I would like to get answers to and to see. I would like to see that this property remains in Chatham County hands. I don't want it to just be given over. I would like to see the reversionary clause that would be included in any transfer of deeds, et cetera. One of my biggest concerns is I would like to see a lot more diversity on this Authority. If they're going to be doing all of the things that they're doing in recreation and all the things that I vision them doing, then it has to be inclusive of a whole lot more people and a better cross-section of this community in making decisions and what's to take place in shaping this community and what it should be. So I would like to see that, but basically I want to see those reversionary clauses in there, I want some of the questions answered on would we be at risk, what liabilities we would have, et cetera. I would ask that Mr. Saussy consider either looking at that and bringing all these back before we take a vote on saying yes.

Chairman Hair said, I suggested that to Commissioner Saussy this morning that there's, you know, if we delayed this two weeks we'd have the answer to a lot of questions, and I think that would be a good idea. If you're ready now for the presentation, we'll have the presentation. I'll recognize Mr. Scott. Commissioner Odell asked, could he identify his board members?

Mr. Paul Scott said, yes sir. First of all, I'll Paul Scott, Executive Director of the Chatham County Recreation Authority. With me is Mr. Rick Winger, President of Wachovia Bank, who sits on the board. Our dear Chairman, Mr. Bill Seaman. With us also is Mr. Scott Martens, who kind of served with us as Real Estate Adviser, and Robert Dailey is our Director of Operations. Commissioner Price said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray said, the County Commissioners —. Mr. Scott said, I'm sorry, and Frank Murray —.

Chairman Hair said, before you start, could —, would you answer Commissioner Odell's question basically what percent —, how many board members do you have? Mr. Scott said, there are seven total board members and three of those are County Commissioners, four are citizens appointed by the County. Chairman Hair asked, how many of those are minority? Mr. Scott said, one.

Commissioner Murray said, the comment I would like to make, and first of all this Authority was set up for a do-nothing authority with a large range of things that we can do. And when it was originally set up, it was set up for one reason and that was to find the bonding for the golf course. And after that we still met on a monthly basis and we sat in this room with nothing to do and then we started looking at the scope of what we could be doing and what was going on with the recreation in this community, and that's why —, when we started expanding out and doing other things. Paul [Scott] was brought in because he's —, right now they're housing at the Chatham Nursing Home the International Training Center for the Olympics. It's the only one in the United States right now that I know of. That can be expanded and we'll know something in the next month whether that's expanded or not, but it can be expanded to bring in at least 60 people on a full-time basis that they are paying to have here. That is another purpose in this facility, and it's not a dormitory. It is a recreational housing facility. There's a big difference. And, as far as the minority participation, that's up to this Board who appoints three members and the minority person that is serving right now does not come to meetings. So, I just wanted to bring those things out. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Murray.

Mr. Scott said, I just wanted to go through rather than give you some lengthy presentation, I thought what I might try to do —.

Commissioner Rivers said, hold up. Let me —, let me answer that. Mr. Chairman, and if the diversity lies within this Board, then I suggest to this Board that we expand that Authority to get a better cross-section. If a person's not participating, then we need rules to have there to either eliminate that person if he doesn't attend —, he or she doesn't attend certain meetings, then we have a provision in there to eliminate that, and the Board within themselves would do that, so if we —, and I want to move on that immediately that we look at expanding it and looking at a good cross-section of people.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Would anybody else want to comment before we start the presentation? Mr. Scott. How long do you think this presentation will last? Mr. Scott said, I think that I'm just going to try to answer most of the questions rather than go through some lengthy presentation. I think most of you have your packets in front of you that we gave to you. Chairman Hair said, you didn't answer my question. How long do you anticipate this will take? Mr. Scott said, eight minutes. Chairman Hair said, okay, that's fine.

Mr. Scott said, what I thought I might do rather than go through, again, the presentation is just try to answer some of the questions, and I've written some of them down, some of the statements, some of the questions. I thought I might try to go through with that. I want to amplify first of all what Commissioner DeLoach said. Back in 1993-1994, this Commission set out through the sales tax referendum to build a tremendous recreational asset in Bacon Park. I worked with this Commission. At the time I was director of the newly-formed Savannah Sports Council as part of the Chamber and the Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and we sat back through a lot of meetings. I mean a lot of meetings, going through and trying to figure out what we wanted to do with this community as far as recreation. At that time, and it didn't make it on the referendum, there

was a dormitory need and through the years we have certainly missed a lot of opportunities because of it. One of the opportunities we missed is when I came before you and told you about the Jacksonville Jaguars training camp. We missed that opportunity because we did not have a dormitory. I can go on and on with opportunities that we've missed through the years because we did not have this mechanism. One of the things that as, at the time, Director of the Sports Council I found out is when you go out to be competitive and represent this community and you are trying to get sporting tournaments and those types of things which will have an impact on this community, much like the economic development sector does, in your bidding packages where are you going to house those athletes? That is the only way that you're going to be competitive is to have a dormitory mechanism. You now have the infrastructure. We settled that issue a long time ago and you've now built it, but we do not have the dormitory mechanism to make that feasible. So we are not as competitive as we could be. Since then I've gone to being in the economic development business and now I'm with the Recreation Authority and I've seen bidding opportunities go to waste because you didn't have the proper assets. What I'm bringing before you today is something to try to get us the proper assets without coming before you to ask for you to back bonds and do those types of things like other projects. We didn't want to do that. We didn't want to take that approach. We wanted to try to be entrepreneurial in spirit. This Commission created us. You were the catalyst behind it. You appointed these Commissioners to be on there. You appointed the citizens to be on there. And so we've taken that and tried to do the best that we could with it. We now have an International Olympic Committee Program that is the only one like it in the United States. There are four training centers in the world and Savannah has it. That is remarkable. It is probably Georgia's only Olympic legacy because when the Olympics left, they took everything. And now we've got this. Let me give you some thoughts of how we came into this real quick. I think we really have an opportunity here, and the opportunity is to utilize an asset for the long term. Sure, we could sell the asset, the County could, but I think it would only benefit short term the County. We see an opportunity to utilize an asset that is non-performing, that has been sitting there for a while, and utilize it for the long term of the community. Very simply, that's what we see. I've heard statements about what Armstrong did. Armstrong in our view is a very different situation. It is different because you have a captivated market there. A captivated market there. There will be some type of an implied agreement or an agreement with the student housing there. We know there's a shortage of student housing in this town, there's no question about it. Savannah State has the same problem, the same exact problem. In your packets it shows that everybody is about —, I think SCAD was the lowest at about 93% occupancy. Everybody else is about 98% to 100%. That is a very different deal than the way we're approaching it. There's also been comments about competing with private sector. I think and I would only ask that you look at the intent of what we are trying to do. We are not trying —, we are not private developers or a private entity trying to line our pockets or enhance our well being. We're trying to help the community. Also, I would point out the Savannah Airport Commission does builder suit lease backs every single day. I know because I located [inaudible] out there and they did a leaseback for me —, excuse me, they renovated the old airport terminal and put them in their. They'd lease land to hotels. Savannah Economic Development Authority does the same thing in economic develop. Now why do they do these things? It's to help the overall community compete with other communities. Recreation is no different. Assets should be utilized to do those types of things. That is the approach that we had coming into this. I would also like to say that we're not a non-profit entity. We're a government, and there's a big difference. We're a government that you created, that you have representatives, and that really you have control over because you appointed everybody on that board and you have three Commissioners, and I think that's important to realize.

Mr. Scott said, lastly I just want to say that you now have built about \$10 million worth of sporting infrastructure in the Bacon Park area. The 50-meter indoor pool, the weightlifting center, you now have a track and field at Savannah State. It has done wonders for this community. I was excited when I went to the pool and I saw it open. They had 200 and some odd competitors a couple of weeks ago right when they opened the doors. My understanding is they're going after the State competition and hopefully going to land it. That's going to be a thousand competitors. We haven't begun to scratch the surface of what that's going to generate. I'm excited about it. I've talked with all those people, I've talked with the managers of those facilities, I've talked with the participants, I've talked with everybody. They're telling me to be competitive you have to have this housing mechanism. Have to have it. Otherwise, other communities may get those opportunities. You have right now obviously with these facilities a lot of operational costs. A tremendous amount. The only way that you're going to get the operational costs to be reduced —, actually there's a couple of ways and I identified them in the packet, you can certainly charge people as they walk through the door. That's one way to do it, but I think that will have just a minimal impact. Another way is do corporate sponsorships, but we all know the corporate size of our community and it's relatively tapped out, I would think it's fair to say. So that's not something that we can go forth with. But I think the way to offset a lot of these operational costs is tournament volume. Tournament volume is what does it. When you bring people from out of town, spending money, bringing it through, they lease out the facilities, they do those kind of things. We've gone way past the softball towns of years ago. We are now major leagues, and we need the assets to help us compete at that level. I hope that answers your questions, and please, if there's any more I'll be glad to try to answer them.

Chairman Hair asked, do the Commissioners have any questions? Commissioner Odell said, just one. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I appreciate the opportunity, Mr. Chairman. I don't think there's opposition to what you've said. The only question is how do we arrive there, because it's not whether or not we should, it's not if we don't do it this way, this is the only vision —, that's unacceptable. The question becomes are there other ways that we can finance this, and I think that's what Martin [Jackel] underlined his question. Did you look at other avenues of financing? Mr. Scott said, we've talked about other avenues of financing. Again, to compare it to the Armstrong situation is different. I think it's very different. Again, there's that captivated audience there. There's going to be some kind of contract that will point all the student housing in that direction. We do not have a contract with the County or the City or anybody to bring participants or that captive audience directly to us. We don't have that kind of mechanism. So when we go forward, we are trying to find the best vehicles we can to be in the strongest position when we start to meet with lending institutions. That is the reason we wanted this nonperforming asset which you have to try to utilize it to be in the strongest position we possibly could and we went forward. Commissioner Odell asked, but would we have a captive audience that you just spoke of if we increased the volume as far as tournament, which is justifying our doing this? I mean, you —. Mr. Scott said, we're on the same page, Commissioner. Absolutely, I think that we would —, we think we would, but to be able to prove that in the private lending world is not necessarily just enough. You have to have as much as you can when you go into those kind of talks. For me to go forward a lending institution and say, gee, I might have an asset, I might have a source of revenue, I might have certain things just doesn't cut it. You all know, you're all business people. You have to go in saying, I've got this facility, I've got this thing, now let's start negotiating. And I think that's where we're trying to get to. We're perfectly happy if the project doesn't go through or things like that, to give the building back to the County. There's no problem in that. One government to another. We'll be glad to do that. I think that's the right thing to do. We're certainly glad if the project is paid off after 20 years, we'll be glad

to give the whole dormitory system back to you if that's what you want. We don't have any problems with those kind of arrangements and that's something we can obviously work out through staff of how that's to work. But I think we're on the same page as far as that, but it's a little bit of a different deal when you go to the banks and go to the private sector.

Chairman Hair said, I have a question before I recognize Commissioner Thomas. Have you solicited private developers to build this facility? Mr. Scott said, not openly. Chairman Hair asked, why not? Mr. Scott said, because at this point our thoughts are to have the asset first so we'll be in a better position to negotiate with private developers and to do things. Chairman Hair said, see, this is what worries me. You haven't solicited private industry to see if they would build the facility and so you're saying that the government should step in and do it, and see this —, that just goes against everything I stand for. Mr. Scott said, I'm not saying the government should step in, sir. Chairman Hair said, well, we're stepping in to the tune of a million dollars —. Commissioner Saussy said, [inaudible] a million dollars, I think it was. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas and then I'll recognize Commissioner Price.

Mrs. Hilda Whitaker asked, how many million did you say, Mr. Chairman? I didn't hear you. Chairman Hair said, I think if you look at this asset on the open market and if you look at the revenue we would gain if you put it back on the tax rolls, it would be over a million easily, easily. The tax audit itself would be substantial each year.

Commissioner Thomas asked, what size dormitory were we talking about? I mean, how many athletes would be able to —? Mr. Scott said, I think we started we had the idea we'd, you know, the idea of building a hundred room dormitory. That's what ideally we'd like. Commissioner Thomas said, that would be ideal. Less than that wouldn't be —. Mr. Scott said, oh, no. Less than that you still —, no, it would still do good, but we start out with those kind of visions and then once we start at getting an architect involved and start getting the concept down and start getting real numbers to come in, those kind of things, then we start looking at reality, and that's the way most projects work. When I was with SEDA we dealt with a lot of people who started out here and ended up here to reality of what the project should be and how the numbers actually worked. So, right now we're looking at a 52-room dormitory and we're also looking at a kitchen and a dining type of service as well with those athletes. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, the reason why I was asking that because if we were to do it and you did it, I mean, you wouldn't want it to be obsolete by the time you, you know —. Mr. Scott said, no, we made preparation if the project is as successful as we think it's going to be, we have made room on the site for another dormitory immediately. Commissioner Thomas said, okay.

Commissioner Price said, Billy [Hair] —. Commissioner DeLoach said, recognize Scott Martens please for comments. Commissioner Price said, I had a very short conversation, really it was, Eddie [DeLoach], that your concern that you just voiced is actually is in the motion. The motion is contingent upon them being able to get the financing. We don't go forward, we don't move the property, we don't transfer it, we don't do anything unless it's —, unless the financing is arranged. Chairman Hair said, we're still losing the asset. Commissioner Price said, and the banks would know that. Chairman Hair said, we're still losing the asset. Commissioner Price said, oh, I understand what you're saying, but we're using a nonperforming asset that may be a better extent than what we would get from the money for the sale of that asset. Think about it, Billy [Hair]. If we're able to house these tournaments, if we're able to bring these dollars into Chatham County and sales tax revenues, the increase of all that, don't be penny wise and pound foolish here. That's short sightedness. Look at the opportunity that presents itself to take that investment and to multiply it through the Recreation Authority through the housing project that we're talking about. Chairman Hair said, I am thinking about it, Ben [Price], and I've thought about it a lot, let me tell you. Before we finish this meeting today on our agenda we've got a proposal from the Elections Board to buy voting machines and we don't have enough money, we've got to finance it over a four or five-year period. The sale of that one asset would buy those voting machines. Now which is more essential in terms of government service to the people. Commissioner Price said, we also have other assets [inaudible] right now, Billy [Hair]. We've got a water and sewer system we're looking at selling. That's a fair amount of money, probably three million dollars, two or three million dollars right there, if not better, that we can have for these other necessities that we have.

Commissioner DeLoach said, before I recognize Scott [Martens], I did want to say that I was thinking about it, we were taking about the asset that we were going to lose, and I think you used the term a million dollars. What is the actual tax benefit of that million dollars, 40% of it, what's the tax value of that money? Mr. Abolt said, sir, it's commercial property. I would have to —. Commissioner DeLoach said, just say it's a million dollars, what's the tax value on a million dollars property in Chatham County? Did you want to guess? Would you say 30 mills total, 50 mills? For the City of Savannah. Chairman Hair said, I have no idea, but before you get to that question, you're giving up the million dollars. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, I just want to know about all this money we're going to lose. Chairman Hair said, well, you're giving up the value of the property immediately. If this motion passes, you're giving up the value of the property. Commissioner Saussy said, the other day, one mil, I believe this is true, one mill was worth \$1.8 million. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, I'm not talking about that, I'm talking about what it costs if we take this \$1 million off of the books of Chatham County, how many dollars are we actually sacrificing in tax value. Can you come up with a number? Commissioner Rivers said, you're actually passing zero if you trade it off with whatever you get in return.

Commissioner DeLoach said, nobody has a clue. That's pretty sad. Would you say \$40,000? Commissioner Jackel said, I think it's \$50,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, let's go say \$50,000. So we're going to sacrifice \$50,000. Chairman Hair said, per year. Commissioner DeLoach said, per year. What do you think —? Chairman Hair said, plus the value of the land. Commissioner DeLoach said, could I get through? Okay, you've got \$50,000 you're sacrificing there, but based on the number of competitors that this —, that they actually had this past year, how many dollars are you actually generating with the use of that \$50,000 are we creating in Chatham County by compounding our money, if you want to call it that? Chairman Hair asked, how much are we? Commissioner DeLoach said, take a hundred, take a hundred rooms, take \$200 a weekend. Multiply that times four, five, six —, how many tournaments did we have last year? Mr. Scott said, out of town competitors we actually had 11,400 that were documented. A lot of tournaments don't document —, I've seen in the paper today the rugby thing has gone now to 70 teams. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, but my point is there's —, you could take \$50,000 and compound it with the use of this facility and far outweigh the tax money that you're talking about we're taking off the tax rolls. It's insignificant compared to the value that you create. That's the point we need to make here. We're not —, we might be moving \$50,000 off the books, but we're generating twice that, three times, four times that, plus we're enhancing our community as a location to go to be a part of, to come to, to compete at. That's what we've got to keep our eye on the ball is what we're after.

Commissioner Odell asked, are those mutually exclusive though? I mean, why can't we have both? Why can't we have the items that you're speaking of and have a concern voiced by the Chairman and Martin [Jackel]? I don't see those as being mutually exclusive that you have one but you can't have the other. I think we can have both. Chairman Hair said, we can have both. Commissioner Odell said, I don't think there is any disagreement that this would be an attractive thing for Savannah. I don't think anyone disagrees with that. Tourism attracting recreational activities here, you know, it's a growth industry and we're in a pivotal position to take advantage of it. But the question is, why can't we have both, and the answer is, they don't know yet.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let's hear from Scott Martens please. Chairman Hair said, we'll be glad to recognize Mr. Martens.

Mr. Martens said, thank you. I'm Scott Martens. I'm shorter than he is, but —, I'm really here kind of from the Sports Council side as well, and I had the privilege of being on the committee under Commissioner Saussy when we were finding a location and worked with Ben [Price] also when we were looking for locations on the one percent sales tax, and that's how I got kind of involved in this. I am in the development business. We have 200 acres and we make deals every day, and we know how to finance and we know how they don't finance also. I want to answer a couple of things. When I first —, when Paul [Scott] first showed this to me, I looked at it and I said, you know, I'm not real comfortable. I can see the pieces of the puzzle, but I just —, it just didn't come together. The only time it really came together is when I sat back and thought, okay, we have this building over here on Eisenhower, it becomes —, oh, and to answer your earlier question, Billy [Hair], two years ago I started doing the drawings on this particular dormitory I think, and I'm not sure what it was for —, it was for the IOC I think. We were going to try and get it done before the IOC came in, and I went to several private investors in town and the G-word always came up, and that's, you know, I couldn't get around it. They said, okay, fine, you know, can we get the piece of land, can we put the building up, what kind of guarantees are we going to have? Can you guarantee, will the County guarantee this? I said, no, no, no, no, the County is not going to guarantee this. Well, how are you going to guarantee this? And that's what I got. You know Roger Hammond? Everybody knows Roger Hammond. He has enough hotels to convince people of his expertise, and that's the first thing he went to. Well, where is the guarantee? Can we get a County guarantee? And I said, no, you know, there's —, it's not going to happen. So when this opportunity came up and I told Paul [Scott], once in a while timing opportunities show themselves and all of a sudden the pieces of the puzzle come together. We do need the dormitory, it's the last piece in the one percent sales tax puzzle to bring all of these training facilities together and make sense to go out and market them worldwide. We have this asset on Eisenhower over here that's worth X-number of dollars. Now, whether that particular piece of property is leased from a free enterprise way or possibly leased to another agency of need in town, that doesn't matter as long as the deed can back up the new dormitory. So instead of taking the dormitory, or taking the piece of property and selling it, and with the cost of running projects in the County, that would go "poof." That will go right away and you'll never see that again. But if you also turn around and make that collateral for the dormitory and put maybe other agencies of need in the community in there at a reasonable lease, now you've got that building working for the County, you've got it as collateral for the new projects where they can go out and borrow against it in order to serve thousands of people. If you do just that little building, the story ends right there. You either sell it and, fine, go buy a few things that will be obsolete in a couple of years, or you make the thing work for you. And that's how it came together in my mind as being a feasible project. It can work for everybody. The building can work for the County. It becomes the asset to keep liability away from the County and operational costs away from the County, so there's nothing there to concern yourself about, and the whole thing does work and that's why I got up and made my little talk because I did not believe it several months ago. I could not figure out how it came together, but it does come together and it is a good deal and there's no guarantees. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Martens. We've already pretty much talked this thing to death. I don't know that —, I'm hearing everybody repeat everything now. I think we either —. Commissioner Saussy said, I call the question. Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to move to table this. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to table which overrides. Do I have a second to table? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second to table. All those in favor of the table vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion to table failed by a vote of five to four. Chairman Hair said, the motion is tabled. Commissioner Jackel said, no it isn't. Chairman Hair said, no, it's not tabled. Commissioner Saussy said, call the question.

Commissioner Murray asked, can I make a comment please? Chairman Hair said, if they'll remove the call. Will you allow Commissioner Murray comment before —? Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, my question is several people have been saying we need to do this with the private sector. Is the County willing to give the five acres out at Bacon Park to a private developer to put the building on it? Commissioner Jackel said, we'd have to talk to [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, we can't answer that today. Commissioner Jackel said, on the right deal. Commissioner Murray asked, what's the difference in doing that and —? Commissioner Jackel said, [inaudible] we willing to rent that out too?

Chairman Hair said, okay, you've made your comment. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, all those opposed vote no. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to four. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask that this be entered into the minutes for reconsideration and those following questions and all that we asked of the attorney to be done as far as reversionary clause, I want the answer to what Mr. Murray just asked, I want it all cleared up and —. Chairman Hair said, you voted on the prevailing side, right? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, I just wanted to make sure. Commissioner DeLoach said, he did. Commissioner Murray said, I thought he answered everything that you needed.

Mr. Hart said, if there are questions that the Commission has about the project, there's been a lot of discussion here today and I'm not —. Commissioner Jackel said, I have a question. Mr. Rivers want to know if the reversionary clause works. If the building is used as security for a loan, how is the reversionary clause going to work? Chairman Hair said, why don't we do this. Submit —. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at one time.] Chairman Hair said, can we submit them to him in writing. I think that would be more appropriate. He's going to have to write them all down and forget have of what was said. If all of us will give any questions we have directly to Mr. Hart and then he will —, then that will

be part of the package he will give us back in response to Commissioner Rivers. Mr. Hart said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Saussy moved to convey to the Recreation Authority the deed for the Juvenile Court and Youth Detention Center on Eisenhower Drive and an approximate five-acre parcel of land to be used as a dormitory for athletes contingent upon the financing being obtained. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion.
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to table the motion. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion to table failed by a vote of five to four.
3. A vote was taken on the motion made by Commissioner Saussy and seconded by Commissioner Murray. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to four.
4. Commissioner Rivers requested that it be entered on the minutes for a motion for reconsideration at the next meeting.

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**VII. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. PROCLAMATION FOR CLEVELAND BLIGE ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC WORKS.**

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation to Mr. Cleveland Blige upon his retirement from Public Works.

Mr. Michael Kaigler said, we've also got a plaque for Mr. Blige from the employees out at Public Works and it reads: "In recognition of 22 years of loyal service, presented to Mr. Cleveland Blige, Chatham County Public Works wish to extend their appreciation for a job well done."

Mrs. Beverly Whitehead said, we also have one other thing for you. I know you as Blige, and that's how I have to call you lovingly. Blige, for the years of service that you have committed to this community, for the citizens that you've served, you've been a beacon and you've let your light shine in your service delivery, I don't care what was asked of you, and it is our hope and we give —, present to you a lamp in appreciation for that service and trust that that lamp will remind you that we do appreciate the quality of service delivered. Wherever you were in this community, in whatever condition, knee deep in mud, at no point did we ever hear you complain. You always served willingly to step to the occasion and you truly have served and have blessed this community and blessed this organization as a role model for what quality customer service is. Thank you.

Mr. Abolt said, as Mrs. Whitehead said, we do have a special recognition program for those folks that have stuck it out as long as Cleveland [Blige] has. What we have here, quite frankly, is a memento, as Beverly [Whitehead] indicated, with the County seal. It is a light, but it also is a recognition of what this gentleman has done, not only in loyal service, but like Beverly [Whitehead] said, in a commendation I gave him a few years back, he volunteered when you don't have to volunteer.

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**2. GFOA AWARDS.**

Chairman Hair said, our next recognition is for our financial service awards. Commissioner Rivers said, those guys again. Commissioner Price said, look at that wall over there. Chairman Hair said, it's fantastic.

Mr. Abolt said, one thing you will see in my next year's budget proposal is a wall stretcher. These folks are here again, and that again is a very pleasant again. As you will see from the staff report, the recognition that these ladies and gentlemen have received now spans fourteen years, consecutive years, for the quality of our Comprehensive Financial Report and nine years in our special way in which we present budget documents. These folks are absolutely great. David [Persaud], please introduce.

Mr. Persaud said, thank you, Russ [Abolt]. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, the interpretation of these recognitions is basically the type of work we do. We take pride in our work. It is a reflection of the quality and [inaudible] of established accounting, principles and standards. I have invited our senior employees, who have worked diligently in this accomplishment and I'll ask each one to introduce themselves and their titles, starting with Frances Cargill. The following persons introduced themselves: Frances Cargill, Investment Officer; Sherri Cadman, Account Technician; Shirley Lopez, Financial Services Manager; Estelle Brown, Budget Management Analyst, Clara Rouse, Chief Accountant; Linda Kramer, Accounting Supervisor; Chris Morris, Budget Analyst; Read DeHaven, Assistant Budget Officer. Mr. Persaud said, Chuck Voelker, our Risk Manager, is not here, but I want to thank the staff for their hard work.

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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Commissioner Rivers moved to recess as the Board of Commissioners and reconvene as the Chatham Area Transit Authority. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Following adjournment of the meeting of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the meeting reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

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### VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

<p>action is contemplated at today's meeting, staff report and file material has not been duplicated in your agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (*).</p>
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- 1. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES. Tabled at meeting of April 25, 1997. Further note: Assigned to committee at meeting of May 9, 1997.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- 2. BOARD CONSIDERATION ON CHANGING THE COUNTY'S FISCAL YEAR. Tabled at meeting of May 9, 1997.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- 3. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATION TO EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REGARDING NOTIFICATION AS TO PARTICIPATING EMPLOYEES. Tabled at meeting of May 9, 1997.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- 4. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FINE COLLECTION. Tabled at meeting of June 13, 1997. *Please see memo from Clerk of Superior Court asking that item remain on the table.***

Chairman Hair said, the Clerk of Superior Court has requested that we just take that off the table and withdraw that motion, so I'll need two motions: one to take it off the table and then a motion to withdraw it at the request of the Clerk.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to take it off the table. Do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Now I need a motion to withdraw.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- Commissioner DeLoach moved to take this item off the table. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy and Price were not present.]
- Commissioner DeLoach moved to withdraw this item from the agenda at the request of the Clerk of Superior Court. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Price were not present.]

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**5. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS (CHAIRMAN HAIR). Tabled until budget deliberations.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- 6. PETITIONERS, HILDA WHITAKER, FRANK L. BOURNE, JR., JAMES SHEPPARD, RONALD KOLMAN, MARTIN J. HEIMES AND MARIANNE M. HEIMES, ARE REQUESTING THAT THE TEXT OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS BE AMENDED BY REPEALING THE CURRENT ORDINANCE AND ENACTING A NEW ONE IN ITS PLACE. GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS UNDERTAKING, THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE APPROVED AND THAT THE COUNTY FUND THE ACTIVITY AS A LINE ITEM IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS' BUDGETS. NOTE: ITEM WAS TABLED AT MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 1998. SEE ADDITIONAL STAFF INFORMATION INCLUDING A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND OPTIONS FROM MPC STAFF. TABLED AT MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 1998, UNTIL OPINION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL IS RECEIVED.  
MPC FILE NO. 97-11982-C  
NO DISTRICT/TEXT AMENDMENT/UNINCORPORATED AREA**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

(Unless the Board directs otherwise, adoption of an Action Item will mean approval of the respective County staff report and its recommended action.)

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$13,600 TO THE PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT AND RESERVE FOR SPECIFIED PROJECTS TRANSFER OF \$500,000 TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT FOR FUNDING OF CONSULTANT RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION SERVICES.**

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do I have a second. Commissioner DeLoach and Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the following: One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Contingency transfer of \$13,600 to the Pennsylvania Avenue Community Center Project and Reserve for Specified Projects transfer of \$500,000 to the administrative account for funding of consultant right-of-way acquisition services. Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 2. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF SALE OF THE COUNTY'S WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS. NOTE: CHAIRMAN HAIR SUGGESTS THAT PUBLIC COMMENT BE TAKEN AT YOUR REGULAR MEETING OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH.**

Chairman Hair said, the next one does not really require a vote, but this is for Board consideration of the County's water and sewer systems, and as you can see from your agenda, I suggest that rather than have a full-blown second public hearing, we just have like we do a lot of times, have a public hearing as part of our 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and have it advertised that way. Anybody that has interest in it or wants to comment, we can do it at our 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Murray asked, that discussion is going to be on whether we sell this system or not, is that correct? Chairman Hair said, it's going to be on anything they want to talk about. Questions of that as well as questions of service or whatever. Commissioner Murray said, because I feel like the people that are on that system will be opposed to selling it. Chairman Hair

said, that's fine. Anybody that wants to comments, it will be advertised as a hearing in conjunction with our regular meeting. Did anybody object to that? Okay.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

No motion was made to be voted on by the Board.

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**3. BOARD CONSIDERATION ON NEXT STEP TO CONSOLIDATE RECREATION DEPARTMENTS WITH CITY OF SAVANNAH.**

Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas and members of the Board, under your direction staff has complied with a plan now before you in draft form that would consolidate the Recreation Departments beginning the first of April with a phase plan. In my memorandum to you toward the tag end of February I gave you an update on where we were. The cooperation with the City staff in my estimation has been extremely good. The intergovernmental agreement does though go in one direction, and I choose as I've done in the cover memorandum to explain to you that is not the only course that you do have. The direction taken in the draft, which implements in phases the consolidation, would shift some of the cost of recreation to the County. I am not really, you all have not given me specific clarity on your direction as to how many of you voted to consolidate, with the understanding that the amount of monies paid for the services we now render would remain the same, or certainly not increase an appreciable amount. I'm not sure how many of you feel that way. You do have though, in my estimation, based on about 18 years of experience, another alternative, which essentially is to consolidate and then each participating jurisdiction, in this case the County Commission and a partner, the City of Savannah or other municipalities other counties in the area, could determine annually in a budget process how much you wanted to pay for that service, and it would be the responsibility of the combined departments to provide a level of service commensurate with the level to be paid. That is not difficult. It can be done quite easily. In this case though, as negotiations have proceeded, and they've been very good negotiations from the standpoint of open candor among both City staff and County staff, it is apparent that there is no appeal to those representing the City of Savannah for a consolidation that would not address an issue of equity or per capita expenditure for recreation. So, consequently, the way in which the draft is written, there would be an assumption next year, 1999, either by the SSD or the M&O of a greater proportion of recreation service funding. In the case of the M&O, to deal with the issue of equity and the concern of the City as to those who live outside the corporate limits of the City of Savannah coming in to use those services, the M&O budget would pick up the entire cost of recreation services, which this year the combined budget is \$1.2 million and change versus the two hundred plus thousand we now spend in M&O for Mr. Golden's operation. In the case of SSD, were it to be decided that the SSD should pick up the cost of those who live in the unincorporated area but use the services within the City of Savannah, the rate would go to about 31% of the overall budget where now, of course, as you know, we do provide that service through M&O. So in either option offered by the City of Savannah's staff, there would be an increase of some substance for the County to commit to in 1999 and every year thereafter.

Commissioner DeLoach said, you need to decipher that a little bit for me. Chairman Hair said, let me see if I can help. I had a discussion as late as this morning with the Mayor about this, and see if I can simplify it somewhat. Basically, if we pass a motion today to continue this process, and I certainly hope we do. I think this is the right thing. We've already voted to consolidate and we need to take the next step. The issue from the City's point of view has always been the inequity, and as Russ [Abolt] just pointed out to you, the inequity is substantial. They're putting in a million two and we're putting in 200,000. There are several ways that we can deal with that inequity. We could deal with it in one fell swoop in the '99 budget and it would cost a million dollars. Nothing this year, but in the '99 budget. Or we could do it, as the Mayor and I discussed this morning, over a phased period, say, doing a third: 300,000 —, 330,000 in the '99 budget, 2000, 2001 budget until we —, or we could do it in two years at 500,000. That's up to us as how we want to equalize it, but I think it would —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, we've got to increase ours a million dollars? Chairman Hair said, if you want to do it in one year. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, it doesn't —, we're going to do it —, our costs are going up a million dollars so that we can be a part of Savannah. Is that what we're saying here? It doesn't matter how we do it, but it's going up a million dollars if we go in the City of Savannah? Commissioner Thomas said, that's what they're saying. Chairman Hair said, it is, and it also —, the next step though is to have the county-wide millage for recreation, just like we do for other services. I think that —, you cannot look at the numbers and argue that there isn't an inequity. There's no question the City's right on that point. There is an inequity, and the Mayor is willing to cooperate with us in saying they won't demand we do it in one year. We could do it over three or four or five years, but I think if we commit, we would have to address that equity issue at some point.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I think we need —, I'm sure there's an inequity and where I might like a Cadillac, another fellow might like a Chevrolet, and so forth and so on. I think we need to analyze it, or I do for me to understand that I need to go and tell all the people in the unincorporated area that you need to ante up a million dollars. I need to be able to go to them and say, and this is why and this is what you're going to get. I do not see —, we could —, you know, I don't understand how the negotiations went. I don't understand what Savannah spends, but I do know the facilities that we have are good in Chatham County in the unincorporated areas. There's always room for improvement, I won't argue that, but we have good facilities and we have good service to those facilities. I mean, the cost of maintaining is the cost of maintaining. That doesn't change because I'm moving from the unincorporated are to the City of Savannah. So I just needed to —, I need to understand —, I don't need to understand because I won't be here if I tell them they need to spend a million dollars. They need to understand why they will be spending a million dollars for this anticipated combination of —, to the City of Savannah. I can't get there from here. I need some help bad.

Commissioner Murray said, I can't support the plan that's been presented to us today. You know, yes, we wanted to look into consolidating recreation. To me this is not the way to do it. This is a one-sided proposal. I think the County Manager has a much better idea of how it can be done that would be equitable to everyone involved. I think that what we try to do is move into areas where the people that are receiving services pay for those services so everybody in the County doesn't have to in some areas. This is just not, to me, the best plan we can do and, yes, we've all done it, but I am not going to sit here and vote for consolidation and to move forward with this plan the way it's presented to us right now. I just don't see it feasible. I agree with Commissioner DeLoach. You know, here we are questioning let's just go ahead and move forward, it doesn't matter what it costs to all of us people in the unincorporated area, we go ahead and move forward and put the extra million

dollars in it. We had a plan a few minutes ago that we were trying to offset some of these costs and a lot of people had some problems with that, but it's a way to offset some of the costs that we've got in recreation. Another thing I would like to ask Russ [Abolt]. The soccer field, who maintains and takes care of that? Mr. Abolt said, the County does, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, the swimming pool, who maintains and takes care of that? Mr. Abolt said, the County does, sir. Commissioner Saussy said, track and field. Commissioner Murray said, yes, track and field, who does that? Mr. Abolt said, we do, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, weightlifting. Commissioner Murray asked, the weightlifting center? Mr. Abolt said, we have that responsibility. Commissioner Murray asked, does the City have anything comparable to any of those facilities? Mr. Abolt said, no sir. If you look at the attachment, it's page eight of eight, we've attempted to inventory those facilities. Commissioner Murray said, Memorial Stadium's ours. Mr. Abolt said, yes sir. You see it right there. It does not have the pool because at the time of these negotiations, the pool wasn't open. Commissioner Murray said, so this thing about double dipping from the unincorporated area just is not so. We pay our fair share too, and we always have and we always will. As a matter of fact, some times we pay more than our fair share, and I just cannot support this proposal as it's presented to us.

Chairman Hair said, okay, as the Manager pointed out, if you —. Commissioner Murray said, I don't support any of these. I may support the one he's talking about [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, well, all three are being discussed. I mean, it's up to this Commission to decide which one of those three they would move forward with. I mean, if this Board wants to move forward with the County Manager's recommendation, we would take a vote and that's the way it does.

Mr. Abolt said, if I may, Dr. Hair, and I appreciate the opportunity, I believe at the staff level we have carried it as far as we can carry it, and I would mention in my last closing paragraph in my memorandum that I believe if there is continued interest, and I think there is, these issues would be best addressed with yourself and —.

Chairman Hair asked, can I suggest this? I think it's very important. I mean, this Board's already voted to proceed with this. I think we have to obviously deal with the issues. Can I suggest that maybe we set up a meeting with this Board and the City Council just to discuss this issue and let's get those things worked out amongst all 18 of us. I really think that it's important that we continue with these are being very good questions that are being raised, but I would hate to see us take a vote today that would kill the consolidation process and I think that if we —, and I'd be happy to take the lead in setting the meeting up with the Mayor and Aldermen, and if we just met as two bodies and then laid all these issues out there and with some fixed agenda and let's see if we can move this forward.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I had been somewhat against this from the beginning, but I wanted to see what came up. The million dollars a real problem in additional taxes that people are going to pay, but aside from that, one of the things that hasn't been addressed to my mind is when I get a call from someone in the unincorporated part of the County and I have some unincorporated areas, and they have a problem with what's going on, well right now it's real easy. I call Russ [Abolt] and Russ takes care of what needs to be taken care of. Now who do I have to call if this goes forward? Do I have to call Michael Brown or do I have to call Floyd [Adams] or Pete [Liakakis] and ask them to contact Michael Brown to get something done for a person who has no vote over any of those people up there? Commissioner Odell said, absolutely. Commissioner Jackel said, now why would they even want to return my call other than they know me and they run into me socially and they think they'd better, but I have no clout. If they have the soccer mom in the unincorporated point has some problem, I'm just someone that Michael Brown has to get around to returning his call, and we know he's not near as good as Russ [Abolt] because no one is as good as Russ [Abolt] about that. From what I see about the money here and the extra taxes and the problem of not how are we going to deal with this thing if we have problems, and that I think is a much bigger problem for Eddie [DeLoach] and Frank [Murray] than it would be for me, but it is somewhat of a problem for me, I'd have to be against it at this time.

Commissioner DeLoach said, to me —, what's the thoughts about negotiating —, I don't have a problem with this, you know, so far as the negotiations have gone so far, but what's the possibility of Chatham County running the Recreation Department instead of the City of Savannah? Mr. Abolt said, sir, again I don't want to let my prejudgment or past experience show, but I would certainly argue were you to go for the one option the City proposed where the County would pay 100% of the bill, I'd think you'd have every reason to expect that you're going to have to, you know, raise taxes or adopt a budget, which you're going to, that you would expect that you would have full control of the program. I mean, some jaundiced person might say it violates the golden rule, which is, you know, those that have the gold make the rule. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what is your thoughts on that, Billy [Hair]?

Chairman Hair said, see, there again I think that's the kind of thing we need to meet together with the City Council and discuss that. Those are the kind of issues, Commissioner DeLoach, that I think we need to work out. I'd just like to see us move —, at least move forward and discuss —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't want to see it die. Chairman Hair said, that's right. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's my point. I can't vote to give Floyd [Adams] and them a million dollars. It just won't happen. Chairman Hair said, that really was not the intent of this item anyway. It's more to give the Manager direction and for us to look at what our next step is going to be. That's really the purpose of it being on the agenda, and I think that really our next step should be a joint meeting between us and the City Council and let's sit down and have all these questions out there and let's see what we can do to address them. But I would hate to see us kill the process. I think that we just go to the next step. There's nothing wrong with sitting down with them and asking questions and getting answers and negotiating. That's really —, but I think we need to negotiate as a body, and I think that Russ [Abolt] is correct, I think that it's gone as far as he and Michael [Brown] can take it. I think they need some input from the policymakers at this point. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm not opposed to consolidation, it just concerns me that if I was in Garden City or Wilmington Island and everything was controlled by Savannah, I'd have to wonder if that's in my overall best interest. If we're going to go to a county-wide tax, which is going to be the only way that all of the municipalities and the City of Savannah will ever accept this, then we should —, Chatham County Commission, the Recreation Authority should be [inaudible] because if you're not in the City of Savannah, that's fine. Well, you want wherever you are, for that body to be able to control your destiny. If you're in Garden City, you want to be able to go through Garden City, not go through Savannah where you have no clout, no influence and you will not get a call returned. I don't understand how it can be a good deal if it costs an additional million dollars. The reason I didn't get [inaudible] was that I wasn't that good in math, but my question is how can it be a good deal? Commissioner Jackel said, oh, it's a good deal for the City. Commissioner Odell said, if we pay a million dollars more and we don't get anything other than that good feel that we've paid a million dollars more?

Chairman Hair said, I really think it's —, can I make a comment here? I'm a little bit concerned. We don't want to get into a bashing of the City here. I think that we would like to proceed in a cooperative way. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely. Chairman Hair said, and I think for us to make disparaging remarks about the City is inappropriate and really, quite frankly, not true because I think the City has been cooperative. I even met with the Mayor on this a number of times. As I said, we talked about it as late as this morning at 7:30, and I think that they really do want to consolidate and I think when you're going down this path all the time that we had to deal with these tough issues, but I think that they're willing to cooperate with us and I really think the approach is that if we meet with them as a body, we can lay all of the issues on the table and we can discuss them.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'll agree, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell has the floor.

Commissioner Odell said, you know, I don't —, I think you were writing while I was talking that's why you didn't understand it. Chairman Hair said, probably. Commissioner Odell said, my statements were not intended to be disparaging towards the City of Savannah, and I don't think they were. My point being is that he who has the gold makes the rules. I think if it's lodged in the City of Savannah, then County-wise the City of Savannah, even if you're not in the City of Savannah, will have authority over that. Chatham County covers all over the County. I think that if we're going to do the tax, it should be in Chatham County. That's not a disparaging remark against the City of Savannah, and if they take it that way, then it's not intended that way. I think they're a wonderful group of people. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas and then Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Commissioner Odell really summarized what I wanted to say, but in addition to that, and I think I mentioned this to you this morning, Mr. Chairman, is my —, you know, I have several concerns and I think they would be concerns of all of us, and that is the operational procedures, how it's going to affect those who are now with the County Recreational Department, who's going to be doing what in terms will the City Director be in charge, will Mr. Golden be in charge? I mean, there's a whole lot of questions that are unanswered at this point, and I would certainly like to know what those things are before we make a final judgment on it. So I think that the coming together with the City, with the Mayor and the Aldermen along with the County Commissioners so that we can hash out any concerns I think would be the appropriate step. Next step. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'm not opposed to consolidation so much. I'm opposed to the way it's being presented to us right now. As a matter of fact, I was chairing a committee two years ago to work with consolidation, and what came out of that committee was maintenance in the Bacon Park area, which has saved a sizeable amount of money in that process, and I think we can do the same thing over all recreation. But the way it's being proposed, we aren't saving anything, we'll put an extra million dollars into it. Chairman Hair said, keep in mind now, those were only one of three options. Commissioner Murray said, I know that, but that's the one that's being pushed right now. Okay, and that's why I said I'm opposed to the ones that have come out. I like the one that the County Manager has suggested. It's fair and equitable to all citizens, and if we do consolidate, we've got to consolidate and take our little private parts out of, like the City Council and the County Commission, and quit worrying about who's turf it is. It's county-wide turf, and when that's done and it comes in and benefits all the people in Chatham County, then find, I can support that. This one does not do that. None of these plans that I see can do it. Chairman Hair said, well, you said the County Manager's did. Commissioner Murray said, well, the County Manager's does.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I don't know about the other Commissioners sitting up here, but to be very frank with you, I have not read this in depth, and I like to be in depth when we're dealing with something of this magnitude and then us coming up here thrashing out all of these things over a meeting, then we should have —, this thing's big enough to have an individual meeting where everybody has gone through this document thoroughly, making their comments, making whatever amendments and adjustments that need to be. I think that's the way we need to do it. Chairman Hair said, I totally agree. Commissioner Rivers said, and be prepared to get with the City on our disagreements or what we may have here.

Chairman Hair said, I totally agree. So then we've got a consensus that we will, in the next 30 days I'll set a meeting up with the City Council and Mayor and we'll discuss all the —, and make sure that —. I think Commissioner Rivers is right. We all need to make sure we're up to date on all the issues. Commissioner DeLoach, did you want to make a final comment?

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just --, one that --, I think it was important to have this come before us now, but —. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. Commissioner DeLoach said, so that the City of Savannah understands that, you know, this is not going to happen, let's go back and start all over again because the draft —, I mean, there's a draft right here. Had we said, you know, hey, this is great, let's bend over, we're going to do it, we would have passed this thing here, and that would have been a problem. Chairman Hair said, you're correct in your theory, but I think that —. Commissioner DeLoach said, there's a draft right there [inaudible].

Mr. Ken Earls said, two questions. What would a million extra dollars in the SSD budget do to the property taxpayer? What amount would that be? Commissioner Murray said, a lot of mighty angry people. Mr. Earls said, I realize that. I want a dollar amount thrown out though. Mr. Abolt said, approximately a mill. Mr. Earls said, a mill, so —. Mr. Abolt said, approximately, approximately. Mr. Earls said, so what, \$85 on a hundred thousand? Mr. Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Saussy said, no. Mr. Earls asked, how much? Commissioner Price said, Gary [Udinsky] is finally here. Gary [Udinsky], an you answer that? Chairman Hair asked, what's a mill on a million dollars, Gary [Udinsky]? Mr. Earls said, in SSD. Chairman Hair said, just approximately. Mr. Udinsky said, I think it would be, a mill would —, on a \$100,000 house, which before this was budgeted was \$40. Mr. Earls said, okay. Chairman Hair said, second question. Mr. Earls said, this just to bring it up equal to what it should be right now, right? The million dollars, this is to make it equal with the City is what's being said, right? Commissioner Thomas said, right. Commissioner Odell said, correct. Mr. Earls said, okay, my question, the second question: Who would be, if this totally goes through, who would make up and pass the recreation budget annually? Commissioner DeLoach said, that's what we've got to —. Chairman Hair said, those are --, that's undecided yet. Mr. Earls said, that's a major question. You shouldn't even be discussing this yet. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Earls. We appreciate your comments.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The Commissioners agreed that a meeting be scheduled with the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah to discuss issues of concern.

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**4. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR EXPERIMENTAL ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS AS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE IN ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS IN CHATHAM COUNTY.**

Chairman Hair said, this basically is just giving the County Manager the right to apply for a DCA grant at the State to try some innovative approach with sewage tanks out on Oatland Island. We've had some problems out there that the Manager and I have dealt with, things the County Attorney had dealt with, and this is basically just authorizing the Manager to apply for a grant to put these systems in.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, I've got a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Commissioner Murray said, anybody that wants to vote against this needs to go swimming in that little pond they got out there. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the County Manager to apply for a grant from the Department of Community Affairs for the funding of \$12,000 for installation of six (6) experimental alternative systems as a practical solution to subsurface drainage in On-Site Sewage systems in Chatham County. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**5. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM THE ELECTIONS BOARD TO PLACE THE BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS UNDER CHATHAM COUNTY PAYROLL SYSTEM AND TO EXTEND BENEFITS OFFERED TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES.**

Chairman Hair said, basically what this does, and the County Manager and I discussed this, and the Vice Chairman discussed this, this just basically —, all this does is take the Elections Board employees and make them County employees with the same rights, benefits and privileges. There's no increase in anybody's budget. There's money in their budget to do this, so it's revenue neutral.

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All those —.

Commissioner Rivers asked, can I ask a question? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Rivers asked, does that bring them under the Civil Service rules, et cetera, et cetera? Mr. Abolt said, I would have to ask the attorney on that because in the past, not Civil Service rules, but our Personal Rules. We, in the past have asked that those constitutional officers and others would have to agree to it. I didn't know whether that applies here or not. I refer you to Mr. Hart. Chairman Hair said, he's saying it does not. Chairman Hair said, he's saying it does not. Mr. Hart said, yes, I don't think it would bring them under. The Elections Board was set up to be a very independent organization from a county or municipal government. We can provide them benefits because they have a budgetary process which they go through, but it's not —. Commissioner Rivers asked, is there any law against them being a part of the Civil Service System? Mr. Hart said, I don't know. I'd have to research that.

Chairman Hair asked, could you research that? Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to have him to research that because I would like to at once, as we get the opportunity to bring all of Chatham County employees under one [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, I would think it's going to be difficult to do that because of the fact that they have to be totally isolated from politics. I think it's going to be pretty difficult to do that. Mr. Richardson, do you have a comment on that?

Mr. Dick Richardson said, well, I'll just comment that we are an autonomous body, as you know, so we cannot become part of it. Chairman Hair said, I didn't think you could. Mr. Richardson said, even [inaudible] people.

Commissioner Murray said, this then is to give them the benefits as health insurance, —? Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Murray said, I certainly don't have a problem with it. We, as part time people have it.

Commissioner Rivers said, I don't have any difficulty with that, but if you're using one part of the system, certainly it seems that you would be using another part of the system. I don't know. I have a problem with that. Chairman Hair said, well, the Attorney has ruled —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'd like to see some legal opinion from that. Mr. Hart said, I'd be glad to provide you with an opinion. Mr. Richardson said, Mr. Hair, as you know, there are several other agencies that have the same type of thing.

Chairman Hair said, I would hate to see us deny these employees —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm not talking about denying them. Chairman Hair said, well, I'm talking about as far as delay though. I think we need to vote on it. He answered your question. And then you could bring it back as a separate motion at a future meeting to bring it up. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, but here again I know that he is an autonomous body and I want to know if he's under that rule because once you do it, then you don't have any leverage whether he wants to come under it or not. Chairman Hair asked, could we not bring that back as a separate motion? Mr. Hart said, yes sir, we could. Chairman Hair said, if we find out that you can do it, we could bring it back as a separate motion, right? Mr. Hart said, yes sir, there's —, the way that body is set up, it's a very independent body and it's meant to be that way so that you don't have situations like you had in Miami.

Commissioner Murray asked, wouldn't this also give them the right to the pension plan too? Mr. Hart said, well, no sir, it would not. That's a separate issue because we're an ERISA plan and you have to meet with the requirements of that. Under the health insurance we're self-funded, we can make our decisions there about that. They going to have to meet the plan requirements under our pension plan. Commissioner Murray asked, they don't meet those requirements? Mr. Hart said, they don't work enough hours within the County. Some of their employees on staffing levels don't meet some of the requirements. Commissioner Murray asked, do we as Commissioners work enough hours? Mr. Hart said, you're covered under your plan.

Mr. Richardson said, they do work enough hours on an annual basis. Mr. Hart probably didn't realize that, and they can pay in that pension plan. They pay into it, [inaudible] have to pay. Mr. Hart said, okay. It just has to be on the same terms and conditions. Chairman Hair said, as long as they met the requirements they could come under it though.

Commissioner Jackel said, it's my understanding now that they're not in our pension plan and they're not on our health plan, and what other benefits are they to receive? Chairman Hair said, that's it. Commissioner Jackel said, in effect, is that not some sort of pay raise to these employees? Chairman Hair said, they pay for it. [Inaudible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Mr. Hart said, they have to submit a budget to the Commissioners. It would be a budgetary item.

Chairman Hair said, okay, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from the Elections Board to place the Board of Election Supervisors under Chatham County payroll system and to extend benefits offered to County employees. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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#### **6. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF LATE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE RENEWAL FOR UNION STATION LOUNGE AND RESTAURANT LOCATED AT 2130 NORWOOD AVENUE. STAFF RECOMMENDS DENIAL OF THE REQUEST. [DISTRICT 3.]**

Chairman Hair said, let's let Mr. Anderson go first and then we'll make sure everybody will have a chance to say what they need to say. Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, the applicant has a requirement to renew the alcohol beverage license by January 31<sup>st</sup> of every year. The renewal was received by the Inspections Department on February 17<sup>th</sup> and there is no administrative avenue to relieve that. Chairman Hair asked, so it was 17 days late? Mr. Anderson said, correct. Chairman Hair said, 17 days late. Okay. Bobby [Herndon], I recognize you.

Mr. Bobby Herndon said, I appreciate the opportunity to be heard today. Chairman Hair said, state your name for the record please. Mr. Herndon said, Bobby Herndon, attorney. I represent Union Station. I'd like to explain what —, the scenario that happened in this situation. First of all, the proprietor, Ms. Bednarczyk, is here and has been the owner of this establishment. This is her fifth year. Never complaints. She called. She had been ill, her and her —, she's a single mother raising a teenage girl, and they had both been down with the flu and, if you remember, there was a rash of that along about then. In addition, there was a mail problem. I don't want to get ahead of myself, but it was a combination of things. When she called Ms. Kimmer on February 4<sup>th</sup> and said I'll be down to file this, but I don't have all the papers, if you'll send them to me, I still haven't received them. And I think she assumed that what happened last year that the paperwork was very tardy in getting out, so last year everybody I think was late in having to file, you know, and payment of their license. So she kept —, when she called on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, of course, naturally she was delinquent, just as Mr. Anderson indicated. It's too late, the penalty is 50%. In this case, that's \$1,800. Now if you count the days that are involved between when she called, which was a Wednesday, that left her Thursday and Friday to do any kind of business with banking to get the additional \$1,800. Then the following week, she did have that week, but then the following —, when she did pick up the check finally and made arrangements with the bank for the additional \$1,800, which she didn't have the economics to do when she was told, and she went to the bank, got the check on Friday, but couldn't pay it until the 17<sup>th</sup> because Saturday, Sunday and Monday was a holiday. On the 17<sup>th</sup> she was here when Ms. Kimmer opened and still had not received all the paperwork. She had to come in and finish filling out her food license on that day, which she had never received.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell has a question, Mr. Herndon.

Commissioner Odell said, hey, Bobby [Herndon]. How are you? Basically, the issue is that because of failure to receive the necessary paperwork and illness, it was a combination of things, she was late in paying for the license and, as a result of that, 17 days, we being honorable people moreso the than Internal Revenue Service, we're going to hit her with a 50% penalty to a small business which equals to about \$1,800. Mr. Herndon said, well, it is \$1,800, which we've --, which she's already paid, of course, in order to get her license, which is on Item 18 of this same agenda. Commissioner Odell said, so basically, when we say we encourage business, may not be always true. We don't necessarily encourage business, but what you want is a reduction in the [inaudible]. Mr. Herndon said, if I may address that. Chairman Hair said, waiver of the late fee is what it is, that's the question, a waiver. Mr. Herndon said, if I may address that for a moment. I can understand that their are inspections that are set up and so forth and so on, but what I guess I'm asking for is a little understanding for providential cause and et cetera, and in comparison when you talk about a 50% penalty at \$1,800 for being four days late, that's unconscionable, and I'm asking for a little bit more consideration. If you stop to consider that last year the County was some two to three weeks late in getting the paperwork out, the people did not even get them until late January. So, consequently, when they were late filing last year, there was no penalty because it was the County's fault. So now the shoe's on the other foot. But because she was four days late at this time, then it made her go another 13 days, which five were holidays.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray has a question. Mr. Herndon said, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Murray said, not only do I have a question, I have a couple of comments, and one is the Inspections Department is doing what they have to. They don't have the authority to waiver that. The County Commission is the only one —. Mr. Herndon said, I —. Commissioner Murray said, wait, let me finish, is the only one that has the authority to waiver that. That's why it's up here today. Mr. Herndon said, I understand. Commissioner Murray said, I feel like it's probably going to waived [sic] just from what I'm hearing, so I don't think there a problem. It's a process that is set up in the County that we have to go through so that's why y'all are up here, not because they just wanted to be stubborn and not do it. Mr. Herndon said, I'm not —, please understand, I'm not trying to find fault with that at all. Commissioner Murray said, my only question is, is this right on Central Avenue and Norwood? Mr. Herndon said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, okay, I thought that's where it was, I wasn't sure.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. I think we've pretty much —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got —. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Murray said, let me finish. Have we had any complaints or anything like that through the Police Department on this? On the place? Mr. Abolt said, no sir. In fact, as testified to, there is a Sunday license that comes up later. Commissioner Murray said, okay, I don't have a problem.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, have we waived any of these before? Chairman Hair said, oh, yes. Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. A number of them. Commissioner DeLoach asked, have we waived any of these before? Mr. Abolt said, yes sir, you have. It's your discretion. If you do waive, you obviously do so with the understanding to those watching, you're not establishing a precedent, you're reviewing the individual merits of the case. Chairman Hair said, which is what I think we should do.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, I move that we waive the fee. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second to waive the fee. Any further discussion? All those in favor of waiving the fee vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you for coming. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request of Susan E. Bednarczyk, d/b/a Union Station Lounge and Restaurant, located at 2130 Norwood Avenue, for waiver of Alcoholic Beverage License renewal. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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#### **7. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PENALTIES FOR TARDY BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE BY CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHOUT A BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE, WILLIAM E. SMITH, D/B/A CROSSTRADE, INC., LOCATED AT 10 SOUTHERLAND ROAD. STAFF RECOMMENDS DENIAL OF THE REQUEST. [DISTRICT 4.]**

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, this applicant was discovered operating in the unincorporated area without a license. The County business license, Occupational Tax Ordinance, does have delinquent fees for not paying or obtaining a tax certificate prior to opening a business, and what you have here is a request for waiver of that penalty, which again does not have the administrative —. Chairman Hair said, they didn't —, you discovered they didn't have a license. Mr. Anderson said, we discovered it. Chairman Hair asked, they didn't —, this was not a late situation? Mr. Anderson said, that's correct, we discovered it. Commissioner Murray said, they wouldn't have paid it unless you discovered. Mr. Anderson said, I beg your pardon. Commissioner Murray said, they would not have paid anything unless you —. Mr. Anderson said, that's correct.

Chairman Hair asked, is there anybody representing the petitioner here? Commissioner Murray said, I move that we deny it. Chairman Hair said, we've got a motion to deny. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, a second. All those in favor of denial vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion is done.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to deny the request of William E. Smith, d/b/a Crosstrade, Inc., located at 10 Southerland Road, for waiver of penalties for tardy business tax certificate by conducting business without a license. # seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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#### **8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE 90-DAY HIRING FREEZE AND AUTHORIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO ADVERTISE POSITIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS MORE COST EFFICIENT TO FILL. •CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT - CLERICAL ASSISTANT II (ONE POSITION); CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (ONE POSITION) •BOARD OF ASSESSORS - APPRAISER III (ONE POSITION); APPRAISER II (ONE POSITION); APPRAISER I (ONE POSITION)**

**•CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - CHILD SUPPORT INVESTIGATOR I (ONE POSITION)**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rivers moved to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Clerk of Superior Court - Clerical Assistant II (one position) and Clerical Assistant III (one position); Board of Assessors - Appraiser III (one position), Appraiser II (one position), and Appraiser I (one position); and Child Support Enforcement - Child Support Investigator I (one position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

(The Board can entertain one motion to adopt the below-listed calendar. Such motion would mean adoption of staff's recommendation. Any Board Member may choose to pull an item from the calendar and it would be considered separately.)

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Action Calendar. Staff has requested at a meeting yesterday that we pull —, the staff wants to pull Item 5, so we will pull Item 5. Anybody else want to pull any items? Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, which ones? Commissioner Jackel said, 13 and, let's see, this one is, I think it's H. Chairman Hair said, H. Anybody else? Commissioner Jackel said, no, no, not H. I and —. Chairman Hair asked, which one? Commissioner Jackel said, let me find it. The next one is Q. No, no. Chairman Hair said, we need to do our homework here. Commissioner Jackel said, I've got them marked. Chairman Hair asked, Q you said? Commissioner Jackel said, Q is what it says on —. Chairman Hair said, Change Order to the contract to include parking and an enhanced door at Pennsylvania Avenue, is that the one? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, that's the one. Chairman Hair said, that's it? Is that it? Commissioner Jackel said, there's one here, it's —. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, Martin [Jackel], we're waiting. Commissioner Jackel said, N. Chairman Hair said, N. You need a better filing system, Mr. Jackel. N, okay. The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar.

Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, if I may just bring your attention —, I know the Board members are aware of —, in granting the request to the City of Port Wentworth on the two portable band shells, you're acknowledging that with that approval we will not have the option, though it has not officially been requested, from the sponsors for the commissioning of the USS McFaul, but in the event that they do wish the band shell, it will be in Port Wentworth. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Jackel asked, Mr. Chairman, did I get 13? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, yes, you did. Commissioner Price asked, not available to them? Chairman Hair said, it will already be used, yes. The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

[NOTE: Refer to Items 13 and 20-I, N and Q for discussion thereon.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 20-Q, be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 5, 13, 20-I, 20-N and 20-Q. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

[NOTE: ACTION OF THE BOARD IS SHOWN ON EACH ITEM AS THOUGH AN INDIVIDUAL MOTION WAS MADE THEREON.]

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 20, 1998, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 20, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 12, 1998, THROUGH MARCH 5, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period February 12, 1998, through March 5, 1998, in the amount of \$5,128,094. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a resolution authorizing Tax Anticipation Notes for fiscal year 1998 for the General Fund (\$8.815 million) and Special Service District (\$2.270 million), totaling \$11.085 million. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**4. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY ATTORNEY, CLERK OF THE COMMISSION AND COUNTY ENGINEER TO SIGN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE CHATHAM COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN A LOCAL ASSISTANCE ROAD PROGRAM (LARP) WITH GDOT FOR THE RESURFACING OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTY ROADS/STREETS: CHEVIS ROAD - 1.28 MI.; LITTLE NECK ROAD - 2.52 MI.; ROBERT MILLER ROAD - 1.36 MI.; AND WHITFIELD PARK DRIVE - 0.66 MI. (5.82 MI. TOTAL). [DISTRICTS 1, 6 AND 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, Clerk of the Commission and County Engineer to sign all required documents to enable Chatham County to participate in a Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) with GDOT for the resurfacing of the following County roads/streets: Chevis Road - 1.28 mi.; Little Neck Road - 2.52 mi.; Robert Miller Road - 1.36 mi.; and Whitfield Park Drive - 0.66 mi. (5.82 mi. total). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE PERPETUAL UTILITY AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS WITH BETHESDA-UNION SOCIETY OF SAVANNAH, INC., AND AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF \$30,940. [DISTRICT 1.]**

Chairman Hair advised the Board that this item had been pulled by staff..

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was pulled from the agenda by staff and was not placed before the Board for consideration.

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**6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION, ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY CRAB TRAP RECYCLING AREA AT THE WILMINGTON ISLAND TRANSFER STATION FROM MARCH 15, 1998, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1998. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, establishing a temporary crab trap recycling area at the Wilmington Island Transfer Station from March 15, 1998, through June 30, 1998. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**7. TWO REQUESTS FROM UNITS OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR WAIVER OF THE USER FEE FOR THE PORTABLE BAND SHELL:**

- A. THE RICHMOND HILL/BRYAN COUNTY UNIT FOR ITS FIFTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE ON MAY 1 AND 2, 1998 (\$250 USER FEE).
- B. THE SAVANNAH UNIT FOR ITS FOURTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE ON MAY 15 AND 16, 1998 (\$250 USER FEE).

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the requests from the following units of the American Cancer Society for waiver of the user fee for the portable band shell: (a) the Richmond Hill/Bryan County Unit for its Fifth Annual Relay for Life on May 1 and 2, 1998, and (b) the Savannah Unit for its Fourth Annual Relay for Life on May 15 and 16, 1998. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 8. **REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH FOR USE OF TWO (2) PORTABLE BAND SHELLS AND WAIVER OF THE \$500 (\$250 PER UNIT) USER FEE FOR ITS ANNUAL STAND UP FOR AMERICA DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL. NOTE: THIS CONFLICTS WITH USE DURING USS MCFAUL COMMISSIONING. [DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Port Wentworth for use of two (2) portable band shells and waiver of the \$500 (\$250 per unit) user fee for its annual Stand Up For America Day Parade and Festival. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 9. **REQUEST FROM THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR WAIVER OF THE \$100 USER FEE FOR USE OF THE LAKE MAYER COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from the American Heart Association, a non-profit organization, for waiver of the \$100 user fee for use of the Lake Mayer Community Park pavilion. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 10. **REQUEST FROM THE FRANK CALLEN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, INC., A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR WAIVER OF THE \$650 USER FEE FOR USE OF MEMORIAL STADIUM FOR THE HIGH T.I.D.E. ULTIMATE FRISBEE TOURNAMENT ON MARCH 16, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from the Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club, Inc., for waiver of the \$650 user fee for use of Memorial Stadium for the High T.I.D.E. Ultimate Frisbee Tournament on March 16, 1998. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 11. **REQUEST FROM ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRO-AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR WAIVER OF THE \$650 USER FEE FOR USE OF THE BALL FIELD SITE LOCATED AT PRESIDENT STREET AND PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE FOR THE MAGIC MIDWAY AMUSEMENT CARNIVAL, INC., EVENT ON MARCH 10 THROUGH 23, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, a non-profit organization, for waiver of the \$650 user fee for use of the ball field site located at President Street and Pennsylvania Avenue for the Magic Midway Amusement Carnival, Inc., event on March 10 through 23, 1998. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**12. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING THE AREA IN CHATHAM COUNTY THAT QUALIFIES FOR HIGHER TAX CREDITS UNDER THE STATE OF GEORGIA'S "JOB TAX CREDIT LAW."**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt a resolution in support of expanding the area in Chatham County that qualifies for higher tax credits under the State of Georgia's "Job Tax Credit Law." Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**13. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE ADMISSION FEE PROGRAM FOR ANDERSON/COHEN WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER.**

Commissioner Jackel said, there's been a great deal about what they should charge and how much they should charge and how often the fee should charge, the fee structure just doesn't make a great deal of sense to me. We had a dollar daily charge for use and \$3.00 for adults. We have a quarterly charge of only \$3.00. Chairman Hair asked, George [Lynch], do you want to address that question?

Commissioner DeLoach said, could I make a motion that we table this until we discuss it next —, the 27<sup>th</sup>? Commissioner Murray said, I'll second it. Chairman Hair said, we want to —, I think it would be appropriate because Commissioner Murray has already pulled his other item. We have a motion to table and a second. All those in favor of tabling vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion is tabled..

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the request to approve admission fee program for Cohen/Anderson Weightlifting Center be tabled to the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**14. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR SALE A PROPERTY HELD BY TAX DEED AT 505 E. BOLTON STREET IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH. [DISTRICT 2.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board declare as surplus and offer for sale a property held by tax deed at 505 E. Bolton Street in the City of Savannah. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**15. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR BEER POURING FOR 1998. PETITIONER: CHERI STOKES KELLER, D/B/A JANIE ARKWRIGHT'S KITCHEN., LOCATED WITHIN KELLER'S FLEA MARKET AT 5901 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of petitioner Cheri Stokes Keller, d/b/a Janie Arkwright's Kitchen, located within Keller's Flea Market at 5901 Ogeechee Road for renewal of Sunday Sales license for beer pouring . # seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**16. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING FOR 1998. PETITIONER: WILLIAM J. YOUNG, D/B/A PIZZA INN, LOCATED AT 313 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of petitioner William J. Young, d/b/a Pizza Inn, located at 313 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for renewal of license for Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring for 1998. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**17. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING AND ADD NEW LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1998. PETITIONER: THOMAS W. WILLIAMS, D/B/A WILLIAMS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 8010 TYBEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of petitioner Thomas W. Williams, d/b/a Williams Seafood Restaurant, located at 8010 Tybee Road, for renewal of license for Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring and add new liquor pouring license for 1998. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 18. REQUEST RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1998 FROM THE FOLLOWING:**
- A. PETITIONER: JOHN GREGORIE ENGLAND, D/B/A SOUTHBRIDGE GOLF CLUB, LOCATED AT 415 SOUTHBRIDGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]**
  - B. PETITIONER: JOHN N. HOWARD, D/B/A COUNTRY SOCIAL CLUB OF SAVANNAH, LOCATED AT 5150 JASMINE AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]**
  - C. PETITIONER: AURRIE BELLE WRIGHT, D/B/A SHERATON SAVANNAH INN & COUNTRY CLUB, LOCATED AT 612 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**
  - D. PETITIONER: SUSAN E. BEDNARCZYK, D/B/A UNION STATION BAR & GRILL, LOCATED AT 2130 NORWOOD AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]**
  - E. PETITIONER: DONNA M. LOVE, D/B/A LOVE'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 6817 BASIN ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the requests of the following petitioners for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring licenses for 1998: (a) Petitioner John Gregorie England, d/b/a Southbridge Golf Club, located at 415 Southbridge Boulevard; (b) Petitioner John N. Howard, d/b/a Country Social Club of Savannah, located at 5150 Jasmine Avenue; (c) Petitioner Aurrie Belle Wright, d/b/a Sheraton Savannah Inn & Country Club, located at 612 Wilmington Island Road; (d) Petitioner Susan E. Bednarczyk, d/b/a Union Station Bar & Grill, located at 2130 Norwood Avenue; and (e) Petitioner Donna M. Love, d/b/a Love's Seafood Restaurant, located at 6817 Basin Road. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**19. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF QUITCLAIM DEEDS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following quitclaim deeds in satisfaction of payment of delinquent property taxes: Nether King, PIN 10801-03003, \$36.10; and Alice Rawls, PIN 20075-01007, \$258.90; and approve the following quitclaim deed to return the referenced property to the active tax digest: Joseph Greene, PIN 20066-22026, \$0.00. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**20. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS:**  
 (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.)

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Confirmation Change Order No. 1 to contract for landscaping at the Administrative Annex for additional landscaping	SPLOST	Grant Landscape Design, Inc.	\$6,019.88	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Administrative Annex

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
B. Extend, on a month-to-month basis, the annual contract for contract labor	Public Works	Eastern Personnel Services	\$6.89 per hour per man	•SSD - Public Works •Solid Waste Management Fund
C. Annual contract with option to renew for three additional one-year terms, to provide cost allocation services	Finance	Tindol & Company	\$8,400.00	General Fund/M&O - Audit Contract Account
D. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the construction of a youth activities building at the West Broad Street YMCA to include a suspended ceiling	SPLOST	Walter Strong Company	\$2,934	SPLOST (1993-1998) - West Broad Street YMCA
E. Renew lease agreement for the building occupied by CNT	CNT	Martin, Tovah & Ellen Melaver	\$69,118.92 plus the percentage increase in the CPI (2.7%) over the previous 12 months	General Fund/M&O - CNT
F. Change Order No. 1 to the contract to raise dikes and install storm drain structures in DMCA 14A/14B for additional 48" polyethylene storm pipe	Engineering	L-J, Inc.	\$48,563.20	General Fund/M&O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT)
G. Change Order No. 2 to contract for drainage improvements at various locations to recognize the understatement of work required by the project specifications	Engineering	L-J, Inc.	\$10,355.43	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Chatham County Drainage
H. Annual contract to provide various types of high-volume printing requirements	Various	•ABC Printing Company (primary vendor) •Coastal Paper Works (secondary vendor)	See staff report	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
I. Lease-purchase of Optical-Scan Voting System	Board of Elections	Global Election Systems	\$833,750	Not determined - Debt Service or Lease-Purchase
J. Emergency purchase of crushed stone	I.C.S.	Martin Marietta Aggregates	\$19,350	CIP - County Wide 800MHz
K. Amendment to the annual (1997) maintenance agreement on computer hardware and software system to recognize the installation of the new SMP system	I.C.S.	Unisys	\$17,188	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
L. Annual maintenance agreement on SMP computer hardware and software system	I.C.S.	Unisys	\$152,760	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
M. Annual maintenance agreement on countywide telephone system	I.C.S.	Property Technology	\$57,220.92	General Fund/M&O - Communications
N. Lease agreement for CCPD Internal Affairs office	Police	Re/Max of Savannah	\$12,000	SSD - Police

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
O. Change Order No. 9 to incorporate trade contracts to install piling, pile caps, building pad and excavation/fill of Slip 2 in the GMP	SPLOST	Maritime Trade Center Builders	\$3,333,762	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center
P. Contract for the survey and design of Stagecoach Road improvements	SPLOST	David Sladek, P.E.	\$15,200	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Stagecoach Road
Q. Change Order to the contract to include additional parking and an enhanced exit door at the Pennsylvania Avenue Community Center	SPLOST	Bazemore, Mastrianni, Wilson/Pioneer Construction	\$13,600	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Pennsylvania Avenue Community Center

**ITEMS A THROUGH P, EXCEPT I AND N AND Q:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Action Calendar, Items 20-A through 20-P, except Items 20-I, 20-N and 20-Q. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**ITEM I:**

Commissioner Jackel said, I know we have to replace the voting machines. It's —, my first point I wanted to raise is we're talking about rounded off to \$900,000, and this thing is kind of buried in here. I read it all and I found it, but I think we need to have some better system where big ticket items like that are a lot easier for us to find when we go to this book. It would be very easy in reading all these —, all this material to skip over almost a \$900,000 purchase, and then it goes on to then say the funds are not available. So, what we are we really doing here?

Mr. Abolt said, let me address the funding issue. You will recall that during the budget sharings when Mr. Richardson was present and he made a request of you all to consider, I at that time said our only option was, you know, buy it on time, so that's what you have right now. That's the issue. We have had in the past, as the Chairman indicated a while back in this meeting, have had to, you know, put it on a credit card because we have not been able to buy several things. Our computer upgrades, our phone system —. Chairman Hair said, our 800 MHZ system. Mr. Abolt said, the 800 MHZ system, because we did not have a fund balance or reserves at all, we must literally pay the price and, in this case, the price —, the first payment comes due in January of 1999. The machines will be delivered and used this year, but we would have a five-year obligation, \$175,000 a year.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think it's something that we have to do. We can't get the old machines, we can't maintain the level that we need, this is going to save us money. Mr. Richardson said, right. By spending —, excuse me. By spending the money, you're going to save money, and I'm sure that —, I know it sounds kind of funny, but the first thing you're going to save is \$50,000, bingo, right off the bat in an election procedure thing. You're going to save one time \$175,000 to enlarge that warehouse out there because we're against the law operating with not enough machines. We need 49 and plus the 15 we need this year. You eliminate that and you eliminate the cost of the —, the back cost of getting the machines, if you can get them, and machines this year. So you're really talking about \$231,000 plus \$50,000, which is \$280,000 that you're not making or spending any money this year and will not make a payment, which is \$174,000, I think, first of '99. Commissioner Jackel said, it all makes sense to me, and it's something that we have to do. Mr. Richardson said, plus, let me mention another thing if I may. Plus they're warranted for two years and it will be no expense for upgrades, maintenance or anything else for two years. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Anytime there's change there's a certain amount of confusion. Is there some sort of plan to educate the public in using these machines? Mr. Richardson said, absolutely. There will be people here to do that besides our people. Commissioner Jackel said, wonderful, wonderful. I'm glad to hear it.

Commissioner Murray said, you mentioned some of the costs. Russ [Abolt], what does it cost for us to pick up those machines, the manpower and the trucks and everything to haul them around to the different locations that we have now? Mr. Abolt said, it's a waste. I can't give you an exact figure, but —. Commissioner Murray said, I know it's a waste, but I was just trying to —. Mr. Richardson said, \$22,000. Commissioner Saussy asked, that's for each election? Mr. Richardson said, right, each election. And when I say we're saving \$50,000, that's per election where it's a County and State election. Commissioner Murray said, I don't have to be convinced. I'm in favor of it and I think we need to move forward with it.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy then Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Saussy said, frankly, I think this is the only way we can go. We are saving money. It's going to help —, hopefully, it will help voters get out and vote. There won't have to wait in so many lines. Commissioner Murray said, that's another thing too, it would speed up —. Commissioner Saussy said, but the other thing too, is, if I understand it right, Dick [Richardson], the storage part will be much, much less with the possibility of giving up —. Mr. Richardson said, the only portion of the warehouse that we would need would be just enough to put our chairs and tables in there and that's it because we would take and put the other stuff down where we are now. Commissioner Saussy said, so we could find places for the tables and chairs —. Mr. Richardson said, most of the warehouse would be back to you. Commissioner Saussy said, good. Thanks. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, the current machines that you have, Dick [Richardson], I'm in favor of this. I'm just curious. Where are those machines going to go? Are we trading them in or are we getting? Mr. Richardson said, trading. We're trading them in, yes. Commissioner Price said, those are assets. What will the voters notice different? I mean, can you give them some idea of what this is going to be different-wise? Mr. Richardson asked, you mean, how you go about voting? Commissioner Price said, yes. I mean, what do they have to look forward to? Mr. Richardson said, well, they have looking forward to,

number one, just to give you an example, when we went to Florida and went to an election of 13 cities in the county, 168 polling places, the results were in in 27 minutes. It took seven minutes to close the polls. Commissioner Price asked, will they still go behind a curtain and pull levers and do that? Mr. Richardson said, no, no. They're little —, you want to know sort of a physical aspect of it? They're little type of desks about like that [indicating], that stand on a metal supports and you can put however many you want to put in a room. It doesn't make any difference how many people are in the poll, and you can judge it so that you don't have any congestion or line outside. You're not going to be any lines. You have only one —, one computer which is that big [indicating], 17 pounds in a plastic box unit, that you go and when you go to the little table and mark your ballot with any kind of pencil, it doesn't make any difference, you take that ballot and, if you like, you may put it in a folder, you don't want anybody —, you think somebody might see it, and hand it to the girl that's by the computer, and she'll put it up there and it sucks the paper in there. You can take it yourself and just go up there and put it in or you can hold it in the folder. And from then on no human hand touches that ballot. It's all done computer-wise. Commissioner Price asked, so you can have multiple people voting at the same time? Mr. Richardson said, oh, absolutely, absolutely. You can have it big enough —, if it's big enough to put 30 tables in there, people voting at the same time. You don't have to stand in line to vote for the machines [sic], or outside or anywhere.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dick [Richardson]. Commissioner Thomas, were you satisfied? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, I just want to know about your procedures for educating the public, and I think we're long overdue with this and I'm glad to see that we're going in this direction of upgrading. Just for an example, how would you go about educating the public, you know, towards the new system? Mr. Richardson said, well, I guess about the only way you would do it is when you get to an election time, when the people come in you explain it to them one time when they go in, or perhaps maybe if we could get some release in the paper as to what they would have to do, but it would be similar to going to get a certificate at this time. We hope to eliminate that in the future because Florida has a great type of certificate that eliminates that certificate, you know, that you get when you come to the table and you have to hand it to the other person. Commissioner Thomas said, the only thing with that is that like, you know, some people require a little bit more —, I would like to see us be a little bit more aggressive before voting day to make sure that people —, because even people who really, really understand the process very clearly will probably have a difficulty because of the change, and I want to make sure that we're not going to be losing voters, that we're going to be picking up more, you know, people to vote. Mr. Richardson said, let me let my supervisor answer that question. Commissioner Thomas said, there are entities out there that can help you. You have like your League of Women's Voters, you have community organization out there. We have Senior Citizens, you know, just a whole lot, but we need to get to the people. We need to actually demonstrate to them how this is going to be used so that people will give up —, you know, some people will give up and say, well, I'm not sure I'm going to be able to use this new system, you know, which would be fine, but I just want to make sure we're not going to be losing anybody, that we're going to be picking up. Mr. Richardson said, no, we won't.

Ms. Kathy Rogers said, actually, when they walk into the poll they will be handed their ballot after they fill out their paperwork. It's as simple as darkening in an oval on the ballot, much like when you take a test now, a standardized test. You darken in that oval next to the name, and then when they go and insert it into the machine, it will automatically read it. That's as simple as it is for the voter. Actually, it's going to be so much easier than these lever machines. If you're in the precinct sometimes, and especially elderly people or new voters are so intimidated by those big machines. They go inside, they do not know what to do. Frequently, they leave and they don't even know that they voted for the candidate that they wanted to vote for, they are so unsure.

Commissioner Thomas said, I understand that and that's the reason why I'm asking the questions that I'm asking because I take a lot of time in trying to make sure that people understand, and where something is easy for us, it's hard for other people. So, I just want to make sure we take an aggressive stand in making sure that everybody understands. Okay. Mr. Richardson said, we're getting that from Global and Global will help us in that.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask one other question. In addition to the educational process, what type of assistance would be rendered at the point of voting? Commissioner DeLoach said, most of the politicians would be there with them. Mr. Richardson said, assistance to the voters, like the blind —? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. Mr. Richardson said, same type —. Ms. Rogers said, same procedure.

Commissioner Murray said, you've got roughly 10 minutes after the election or the polls close, the results is in, is that correct? Mr. Richardson said, well, with 168 polls it was 27 minutes. Commissioner Murray said, so which means the new media, televised news media probably will not be on TV all night long giving the results. Commissioner Price said, amen. Commissioner Murray said, I move we approve this. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Mrs. Whitaker will make her comment and then we'll vote.

Mrs. Whitaker said, for the record, Mr. Chairman, Hilda Whitaker. I'd like to know, is there a process in place to be sure that these ovals are darkened in right before they're inserted so they can be sure the ballot's counted? Especially for those who perhaps don't see as well and perhaps those citizens who do not read and write as well as they perhaps would like to. That process is going to be sure that they vote and how are you going to keep your vote secret if you've got to disclose it? Mr. Richardson said, Mr. McLaurin with Global will address that.

Mr. McLaurin said, John McLaurin, Jacksonville, Florida, Global Election Systems. Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, if you don't mind, I'll pass a sample ballot and let you take a look at it. The process is extremely elementary for the voters. We have the names of the candidates right on the ballot, the voter is the only person who ever touches the ballot. Any pencil or pen, excluding red, can be used to fill in the oval. The voter would then take the ballot and put it into the machine. I would address also, as far as voter education, we do a number of things as a corporation to assist in voter education. Some of the things that the County can do in the Elections Office and the Board of Elections can do, however, is obviously there will be a mass media campaign to inform the voters of the new process, the newspaper and the like. And, of course, I imagine we'll be going to the malls and demonstrating it at the Kiwanis Club and all the other associations too to bring the voting public up to speed.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Commissioner Murray will make one final comment and then we'll vote.

Commissioner Murray said, I would suggest that during this training, and I think we could probably do it once you get machines in is to take and each one of us have a Commission district, if we could set up in different places out there and set a time for it. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. Commissioner Murray said, I'll be glad to work with you on that.

Mr. Ken Earls said, the question really was not answered. Actually, Mrs. Whitaker was asking for me. Is there any way to assure that the oval was properly shaded so the vote will be counted? Chairman Hair said, okay. The gentleman will answer. Mr. McLaurin said, I'm sorry and I apologize for not being as succinct as I should be. The device, the tabulator, if an oval

is not filled in quite correctly, the ballot will come back and it will say a mismarked ballot. It will tell you exactly which race. It also is calibrated by the Secretary of State's office to make sure it's counting properly and accurately, and we'll do everything that's required by the state law as well as local law, but in fact the tabulator is sophisticated enough that if an oval is not quite shaded in completely, it will say, sir, your voter ballot is not —. Chairman Hair said, so it will not accept it. Mr. McLaurin said, you'll have an attendant there to —. Also for over-voted ballots and the like it also will pop back out. Mr. Richardson said, just like in the other machine, you know, when you had to be one there.

Chairman Hair said, all right. We have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Mr. Richardson, said, thank you, gentlemen and lady.

#### **ITEM N:**

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, that was a —. My notes were confusing. It shouldn't have been Item N, it should have been Item O. I guess we've already —. Chairman Hair said, well, we'll need to vote on Item N now. It's already been pulled from the agenda, so we need a motion to approve Item N. Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Chairman Hair said, and a second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **ITEM O:**

Chairman Hair said, now, I tell you what, Commissioner Jackel, we've already approved the item. Commissioner Jackel said, well, this is —. Chairman Hair said, if you want to make a comment, but we've already approved the item. Commissioner Jackel said, I know, and I'm sure the item would pass. This is what I mentioned earlier. Here we've got three and a third million dollars and it's virtually buried in there. That's a lot of money. I know we have to spend it, but —. Chairman Hair said, it must have not been buried too much, you found it. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I found it. We're spending three and a third million dollars for change now? Mr. Lynch said, no sir. This is a technical procedure. This has been in the budget. This is work that, as a matter of fact, on piles, fittings, things like that. We had chosen to use a change order to bring these items and put them within the guaranteed maximum price. It's not anything new, different, additive. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's to make us aware of it. Mr. Lynch said, it makes you aware of and just create a formal track where the Board —.

Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we don't need to approve that. We've already approved it as a part of the Action Calendar. He just wanted to ask a question.

#### **ITEM Q:**

Commissioner Jackel said, this is the first I'm aware of this, and here we're spending some half a million dollars. Chairman Hair said, it's \$13,000. Where do you get a half a million from? It's \$13,600. Mr. Lynch said, yes. Mr. Abolt said, if I may, some many weeks ago, Mr. Anderson, who is the Project Manager on this, did come to the Board and advised you of that. It benefits all concerned as far as security, plus it improves the program that can be offered here. This center is coming along famously and in a few weeks we're going to have the grand opening.

Chairman Hair said, okay, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hair said, that completes the Action Calendar.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Action Calendar, Items 20-A through 20-P, except Items 20-I, 20-N and 20-Q. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 20-I. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 20-N. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
4. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve Item 20-Q. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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#### **XI. FIRST READINGS**

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.  
Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

Chairman Hair said, we still are not ready to take the first six items off. Commissioner Murray said, Mr. Chairman, can I ask you a question on these? If we are not going to be addressing these, can we just make a motion to take them off the agenda and put them back on when we're ready to do it? Chairman Hair said, we are going --, that's a good question, Commissioner Murray. We just —, the County Manager and I discussed this yesterday. I think within the next —, they're waiting on one municipality. All of them have submitted them except one, and that's the one that's the one that's holding us now, and I was assured by the Manager yesterday that we hope to have that by the next meeting. That's a very good question. I did ask that question yesterday, but we're just not ready to approve it today.

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- 1. TO ADOPT "AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;" AND TO APPROVE THE ACCOMPANYING "DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY" AND "DECLARATION OF EFFECTIVE ORDINANCES DURING EMERGENCY" FORMS. Hold on first reading until response is received from each of the municipalities.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

First reading held until response is received from each of the municipalities.

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- 2. TO ADOPT "AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO PROHIBIT PRICE OVERCHARGING DURING EMERGENCIES; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES." Hold on first reading until response is received from each of the municipalities.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

First reading held until response is received from each of the municipalities.

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- 3. TO ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO ALLOW FOR TEMPORARY MOBILE/MANUFACTURED/INDUSTRIALIZED HOMES, TRAVEL TRAILERS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES, AND MOBILE/MANUFACTURED/INDUSTRIALIZED HOME PARKS IN ANY ZONING DISTRICT DURING EMERGENCIES; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Hold on first reading until response is received from each of the municipalities.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

First reading held until response is received from each of the municipalities.

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- 4. TO ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO ALLOW FOR EMERGENCY BUSINESS LICENSES; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Hold on first reading until response is received from each of the municipalities.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

First reading held until response is received from each of the municipalities.

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- 5. TO ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO ALLOW FOR EMERGENCY BUILDING PERMITS; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Hold on first reading until response is received from each of the municipalities.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

First reading held until response is received from each of the municipalities.

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- 6. TO ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO PROVIDE A CURFEW AND CLOSED OR RESTRICTED AREAS DURING EMERGENCIES; REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Hold on first reading until response is received from each of the municipalities.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

First reading held until response is received from each of the municipalities.

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7. **PETITIONER, HAROLD B. YELLIN, AGENT (FOR CLAUDE SHORE, OWNER) IS REQUESTING A TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4-5.2, B AND I USE SCHEDULE, TO ALLOW BOAT REPAIR SHOPS WITHIN THE B-N (NEIGHBORHOOD-BUSINESS) ZONING CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THE REQUEST BE APPROVED.  
MPC FILE NO. 98-12055-C  
[NO DISTRICT/TEXT AMENDMENT/UNINCORPORATED AREA]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Item read into record as first reading.

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8. **AMENDMENT TO PENSION PLAN ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE TWO RETIREE MEMBERS, INCREASING NUMBER OF PENSION BOARD MEMBERS TO NINE.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Item read into record as first reading.

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9. **AMENDMENT TO THE PURCHASING ORDINANCE AND PROCEDURES MANUAL OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO AUTHORIZE THE LOWEST BIDDING RESPONSIVE CHATHAM COUNTY FIRM TO MATCH A LOWER BID FROM A NON-CHATHAM COUNTY FIRM AND THE LOCAL FIRM TO BE SELECTED TO PROVIDE THE GOODS OR SERVICES TO THE COUNTY AT A PRICE NO HIGHER THAN THAT OFFERED BY THE LOWEST BIDDING OUT-OF-COUNTY FIRM.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Item read into record as first reading.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

1. **THE PETITIONER, VAWN L. SCHROLL, AGENT (FOR GLADYS M. WISE, OWNER) IS REQUESTING THAT A 2.5-ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD ON WHITEMARSH ISLAND, BE REZONED FROM P-R-A (PLANNED RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A P-BN-1 (PLANNED NEIGHBORHOOD-BUSINESS-LIMITED) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A COMMERCIAL PERSONAL SERVICE SHOP (HAIR STYLIST). THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE DENIED AND THAT A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE R-A CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW PERSONAL SERVICE SHOPS BE APPROVED. *NOTE: THIS ITEM WAS TABLED AT THE FEBRUARY 20, 1998, MEETING.*  
MPC FILE NO. 97-112004-C  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Mr. Bill Saxman said, in summary, the —. Did Commissioner Murray want to say something first?

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I've got a question. I understand that the property behind Skipper's Nursery has been denied permission to develop to have a new business. Is that right? Mr. Saxman said, the property behind —. I don't know of anything recently. There were some issues back when the County adopted the Islands Land Use Plan to prevent, you know, commercial development in there when, I think, Mr. Gignilliat was trying to develop that property, and that's how the R-A district got left on that particular property. All that area was zoned R-A and they just sold that to Skipper's and that's the reason the County kept the R-A with Skipper's there because they just transacted that deal. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Saxman, can you get an answer to that question? Commissioner Murray said, I thought that —, this says there's a deed restriction on the property. Mr. Saxman said, oh, there may be a deed restriction. That's something we wouldn't have knowledge of. Commissioner Murray said, I mean, if the deed restriction is there, how can we put a text amendment and to allow them to do something? Mr. Saxman said, well, the County Attorney can answer that better than I, but —. Commissioner Murray asked, can you answer that?

Mr. Hart said, a deed restriction on the property that's subject to be rezoned? Commissioner Murray said, that's what I've got right here. It says —, and somebody on the MPC sent this to me this morning. I got it on a telephone conversation. Mr. Hart said, the deed restriction and the enforceability of the deed restriction is a separate issue from whether we zone it. We could zone it and they could technically meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance but still not be able to use the property

simply because there is a valid restriction in the deed. Chairman Hair said, the same issue in the Georgetown property, the church property. Mr. Hart said, exactly. Chairman Hair said, exactly the same issue. They're totally separate issues. They're both restrict the property, but they're separate.

Commissioner Murray said, well, my next question is, what are they actually wanting to do on the present property? Is the building already built that they want to utilize? Mr. Saxman said, right. There's two structures on the property. One's being utilized as a nursery and the other one is a vacant structure now, but it had been used as an herb shop, I think. There was also a proposal to put a veterinary clinic in there, or a boarding place, and that never came through, but there are two structures on that property and they are proposing to put a beauty shop on there and it does require either a zoning or a text amendment. The Planning Commission elected to go with the text amendment versus rezoning because they did not want to open that area up to further commercialization because of the surrounding properties. Commissioner Murray said, the text amendment now would allow this type facility to be put up anywhere in Chatham —. Mr. Saxman said, right, all R-A districts county-wide this would apply. Right.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Murray asked, does that area have to be paved to meet all requirements in order to put this shop in? Mr. Saxman said, well, I mean, unless they get a variance. If they put a shop in that had less than five parking spaces, then technically they don't have to pave a parking lot, but if they generate more than five parking spaces, the Code requires that they do bring it in compliance with being paved. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not going to make a motion now. We tabled it the last time. I think we need to address it, but I want to hear the people out there that —.

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to address this issue from the audience? If you would come forward please and state your name for the record.

Mr. Jeff Schroll said, Vawn [Schroll] is my wife and she's the petitioner and was unable to attend today. I would like to point out one thing, and that is that it was brought to our attention just this week. I understand the concern about a blanket text amendment to all of the R-A districts, but this is, as I understand, the only P-R-A parcel in Chatham County. So if you would like to take that into consideration, a text amendment with a P-R-A, this is the only one.

Commissioner Murray asked, what did we zone the property down on Johnny Mercer on the landfill side of the road to? What is that? Mr. Saxman said, Planned-Business-Transitional or Planned-Residential-Transitional district. It's a Planned-Residential-Transitional district, and it does have certain requirements. It has to be adjacent to or across from commercial activities or an activity that would be detrimental to a continued residential development. Commissioner Murray asked, is there an existing dwelling on the property now that you want to utilize? Mr. Schroll said, yes sir, there is. I have some pictures of it, if you would like to see it. Commissioner Murray said, if you don't mind passing them around for everybody to see.

Mr. Hart said, Madame Chairman. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Mr. Hart asked, could I raise a point of procedure, and I apologize to the Commission. I didn't catch it until Commissioner Murray made a point that this was a tabled item. We need a motion to take it off the table and then —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion we take it off the table. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, now it's off the table.

Ms. Jean Valentine said, I'm the current president of the Islands group, citizen group. We're very concerned about this issue. Johnny Mercer Boulevard is supposed to be a scenic roadway, and I'm afraid we're going to wind up with another small shopping center. The things that come underneath there are frightening. It can be a gas station, it could be a repair shop, and our major, major concern is this is directly across the way from the Whitmarsh Island Road that goes into the three schools. We were having problems with backup of traffic going into the schools, particularly on bad rainy days, and we also have traffic coming on towards the Island, which makes a left turn right there to go across to go to —, and the school buses are there, into the schools, and now if we add another kind of shop, retail or whatever, we're increasing the traffic. We have spoken to Chief Sprague and he's supposed to be trying to do some kind of a survey to help us in this area, and I really —, I hate the thought, like they do in New York, where if three people get knocked off on the corner, then they put up a light. Let's take some preventative measures before we go ahead with this. We are deeply concerned as parents and grandparents and citizens. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'm concerned about it, but —, and I called to Russ [Abolt] I guess Thursday, because there was a meeting I think Wednesday night, down at one of the PTA meetings, and the question came up about street lighting for that intersection and also through that whole connector road, and the staff is looking at that right now. But I am concerned about the traffic in there and I'm concerned if new buildings are built in there, this building is already there. It's the one in the back from what I understand. The picture just showed that, that we looked at, and I'm not real sure right now what's the best decision. What did staff —, the MPC staff recommend on this? Mr. Saxman said, staff had recommended denial feeling they did not want to encroach or increase the traffic or the commercialization of that area with the schools and multi-family behind it and also residential subdivision, which is a part of this tract of land, is being developed as a residential, single-family subdivision, we just felt that would open it up toward a more neighborhood shopping center type operation. Commissioner Murray asked, how far back does this property go and is there any property still behind that that's —? Mr. Saxman said, yes sir, there's —, if you look at the zoning map, the grey shaded area is the petitioner's property, and then of course there are other properties that are part of that subdivision when it was subdivided back in the mid-80's that are behind it. The whole property directly behind it has not been developed yet has it? Mr. Saxman said, no sir, all this is vacant. That's what the V stands for. Commissioner Murray asked, and it's zoned for what? Mr. Saxman said, single-fam —, well, it's a PUD-M-6, basically, residential. Commissioner Murray said, okay, and the property in between Skipper's and the Baptist Church. Mr. Saxman said, that's still PUD-M-6, residential. All of this entire area, this is a part of the subdivision. If you recall back in '85 when the developer of this particular property had sold this to Skipper's when the zoning was being adopted for the Islands Plan and the County Commissioners agreed at that time they would put a P on that remaining R-A, all of this area was zoned R-A back in '85, and when they adopted the County Plan, or the Islands Plan, the County Commissioners created a PUD-M-6. The left this R-A and they left —, they rezoned this to R-1 to allow the church in there, but the balance of that area was set aside as a subdivision, which is Planned. Commissioner Murray asked, and how much traffic would a place like this potentially generate? Mr. Saxman said, well, just that one use, it's according to how many chairs they have, but there's a factor you can add for the number of chairs, but, you know, three or four chairs it's going to add, you know, at 15, 30 minutes, because I don't get haircuts so I don't know.

Chairman Hair asked, are you assuming it takes some people longer to get haircuts, Bill [Saxman]? Mr. Saxman said, right, right. Chairman Hair said, it sounds discriminatory to me, but that's okay. What do you want to do? Commissioner Murray said, I don't know. I can certainly understand what they are trying to do with it, but I also understand the congestion and stuff that we have at that intersection right now, which is a fairly dangerous intersection. Chairman Hair said, you said you don't want to table it again, so —. Mr. Saxman said, the Planning Commission, if I may interject, the Planning Commission is considering a reevaluation of the R-A text amendment. It's probably going to come up the first part of April. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach wants to make a motion.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll make a motion we deny based on the recommendation of MPC. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to deny. Do I have a second? The motion to deny fails for lack —. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, the motion to deny now has a second. Okay, all those that favor denying the motion will vote yes, opposing denial will vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to deny. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to untable this item for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to **deny** the petition of Vawn L. Schroll, Agent (for Gladys M. Wise, Owner), requesting that a 2.5 acre tract of land located on the south side of Johnny Mercer Boulevard on Whitemarsh Island, be rezoned from P-R-A (Planned Residential-Agriculture) to a P-BN-1 (Planned Neighborhood-Business-Limited) zoning classification in order to establish a commercial personal service shop (hair stylist). Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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### **XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR**

1. **PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED).**

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Information status report.

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2. **LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,000 (SEE ATTACHED).**

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Information status report.

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3. **INFORMATION AND UPDATE REGARDING STAFF'S REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF OPEN BURNING.**

Mr. Abolt said, please understand there was some concern on the issue of open burning. Mr. Kaigler and his staff have suggested we defer on this until the adoption of the revisions to the Solid Waste Plan. I want to bring to your attention the reason why and the justification. Certainly, we now have on staff Ms. Lamb, who is doing an excellent job in my estimation on Resource Recovery Recycling, and she made an awful lot of the contribution here on this and I want to bring that to your attention.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I have read over this report, and —. Chairman Hair asked, which report? Commissioner Jackel said, the burning report, and I know we're going to take it up later, but I want us to think about a few things before we —. Chairman Hair asked, can we do that at the time we bring it up, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, well, I'd like staff to look into some things that I don't think —. Chairman Hair asked, can you make a list of things you'd like them to look into? Just don't think we need to take —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, it would only be just a minute. Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll give you a minute..

Commissioner Jackel said, there's language in here that's saying that before there's any burning done currently that there must be notification to the County, and we see if we switch to no burning, then this is going to be harder to enforce. It seems to me that if there's no burning, it's much easier to enforce. Someone is not looking at this right. If you have —, how do you know if someone has called in or not if you see burning? If there's an absolute ban, it's so much simpler. I don't know where they're coming from. On Item B, the anticipated level of compliance and enforcement of burning prohibition based on the current lack of compliance and enforcement with existing ordinance requirements is one of the problems that they see. Impact on staff time is another one. Total prohibition of burning fails to support the overall solid waste reduction/diversion

goal. Well, this is all happening in the City right now. There's no burning in the City. They manage to do it. If they do it, certainly we can. We can do anything better than they do. I don't —, I think an analysis drawn in here, I think is [inaudible], and I think they need to take a closer look at these items.

Chairman Hair said, your time is up. Any other, could you just give them in writing to the Manager or Mr. Kaigler and I'm sure he'll be glad to give you the answers.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Information status report.

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**4. INFORMATION REPORT ON CHANGES IN THE SERVICE LEVEL AS A RESULT OF BUDGET CUTS WITHIN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.**

Mr. Abolt said, the other has to do, again from Mr. Kaigler, not at all a complaint, we just really tried to identify as best we can potential service deficiencies from Public Works during the growing season as a result of the budget reductions there..

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Information status report.

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**5. INFORMATION REPORT ON GOLF COURSE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY.**

Mr. Abolt said, the other report which you have all quoted and we're certainly proud of the response, on the golf course Mr. Lynch has put together the response to date on that as well as how we're handling the surplus property issue.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Information status report.

Chairman Hair said, and that date that Mr. Lynch gave me of Monday is a no-slip date. Right, Mr. Lynch? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, he assured me of that yesterday. I just wanted to get that on the public record. Mr. Lynch said, thank you, sir.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy and Commissioner DeLoach did not cast a vote either in favor of or in opposition to the motion.]

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Following adjournment of Executive Session, the meeting of the Chatham County Commissioners reconvened.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. REQUEST BOARD SETTLE CLAIM OF BRENDA BOULWARE AGAINST COUNTY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Jackel moved to place this item on the agenda and that the Board settle the claim of Brenda Boulware against Chatham County upon payment of \$330 for unreimbursed medical expenses and reinstatement of 20 days sick leave in exchange for a general and full release of the County and its employees. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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**2. REQUEST BOARD SETTLE GENERAL REFINING SITE GENERATORS GROUP v. AKINS & BOB MOTORS, INC., ET AL, Civil Action No. CV497-338..**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to place this item on the agenda and approve settlement of General Refining Site Generators Group v. Akins & Bob Motors, Inc., et al, Civil Action No. CV497-338, in the amount of \$12,000. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chairman Thomas declared the meeting adjourned.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 1998

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DR. BILLY B. HAIR, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK