

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON APRIL 10, 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**

Vice Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, April 10, 1998.

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**II. INVOCATION**

The Rev. John Savage 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. 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  
Martin S. Jackel, District Three  
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five  
Ben Price, District Six  
Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

ABSENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

IN ATTENDANCE: Russ Abolt, County Manager  
R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney  
Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Dr. Hair is out of town this weekend on County business and, therefore, you're stuck with me today.

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**CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSIONERS**

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we are delighted to have with us a member of the Youth Commission in attendance today: Yen-Chieh Tseng. We are delighted to have him with us today. Commissioner Rivers said, that makes him a sole commissioner. Vice Chairman Thomas said, that's right, he's a sole commissioner today. Commissioner Rivers said, we have a few of those in Georgia. Commissioner Price said, he's also from the best high school. Vice Chairman Thomas said, and he's from Windsor Forest High School. We are delighted to have him. Feel free to just jump right in if you have any questions concerning —, just jump right in and participate.

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## **V. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

### **1. ACTION ON VETO - TRANSFER OF YOUTH DETENTION CENTER AND PROPERTY LOCATED BEHIND MEMORIAL STADIUM TO CHATHAM COUNTY RECREATION AUTHORITY.**

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I believe at the last meeting Dr. Hair made his presentation as to the reasons why he wanted to have this vetoed. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Mrs. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to override that veto and I feel like we'll have discussion if we get a second on the motion. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right, it's been motioned and seconded that we override the veto. Any discussion or questions?

Commissioner Jackel said, I would just like to repeat my opposition to this proposal. When it was first presented to me, as I understood it, we were going to donate the Juvenile Court facility to the Recreation Authority, they were going to refurbish the Juvenile Court facility and lease it out as office space. With the profits made from leasing out the Juvenile Court facility as offices and also the equity in the building, they were going to secure funds to build a dormitory. My problem with this setup is I have concerns about giving away this property. One, it's now not on the tax rolls. If it was sold on the open market hopefully it would produce somewhere [sic] between 800,000 to a million dollars in revenue. We could use that revenue for certain that we need at this present time, but not only that, if you have property that's worth close to a million dollars and you buy it as a developer, there's some sort of ratio involved. You would not put just a hundred thousand dollars in property like that. Hopefully, time the property was fully developed, it would be worth somewhere between five to maybe ten million dollars. With that ten million dollars on the tax roll from now to in the future would generate substantial revenue for the County year after year after year that if we go through the plan that is proposed, we would not receive that revenue year after year. So that's a revenue loss for the County for now forward, a substantial revenue loss. Two, if the County is running it as office space, I have a problem in that we have private developers and we're competing with private developers who have spent their money, their labor, put their hearts in the property, and now they have to compete against the County for renting out office space. Anyone that has an open space and it's sitting there and having to pay the note and doesn't have the rent coming in is going to be somewhat bitter about our competition with the private developers. Also, I feel that this thing —, we all hear that the dormitory is a great idea. When this project is said and done, it will be almost three and a half million dollars is involved. I don't know of any businessman anywhere who wouldn't do a market survey before they made that sort of investment. This thing about we'll build it and they'll come, I'm not sure that will work. We need a market survey to convince us that this thing is really needed. If this project is built, there's also some other problems. I understand it's to be built for about \$20,000 a unit. I have information that one of the new hotels, and not —, a very nice one but not a particular fancy one, was recently built for \$74,000 a room. I don't know how you can jump down from a plain motel room at 74,000 down to 20,000 for a dormitory. I also understand that the barest structure going, built on any scale is the State figures \$10,000 for one prison bed and we're putting two in each of these rooms, so we're building this at the cost of a State prison. I don't think we can do it. I don't think that the figures work out. Part of this is based on the theory too that we will bring all these people to Chatham County and they're going to spend their money here. Well, I have some sort of vision of this couple in Atlanta and they say, well, let's go down to Savannah while our child competes in a soccer or swimming or weightlifting, or whatever we're dealing with, and then one of them says, yes, but they have this dormitory there; we'll just send the child down with the coach and it will just cost us \$20 a night to stay in the dormitory for one child versus us going down there and renting a room and having the child in the room. So we lose the rental of a room, we lose the expenditure of the parents and we just have one 13 or 14-year-old child staying there. So we actually could be losing money in town. Also, if you look at the motels, and I've called some of them and you call in advance, you block out rooms, you can get them for \$40 to \$50 and you could put the parent and the child in there. If you put two children in a room, you've got \$40 and a couple could rent a room for \$50, I don't see where that \$10 is going to make that much of a difference. The last thing I also want to tell you about this thing, I think some of us, myself and some of the others out there may have experienced this, the last thing you want to do is belong to a country club where they have a tournament every weekend and you can't play golf. You don't mind your club having a tournament every once in a while. We've got these facilities there and our first obligation with these facilities is for local citizens to use them, for our children to use these facilities first. It will be nice from time to time to have people come from the outside areas, Statesboro or Claxton or whatever, and play here; it would be great to have them come from all over the State and maybe all over the nation, but our first priority is that these facilities be used for the children of the taxpayers of Chatham County, and if we put forward this big plan to bring in people all the time to use these dormitories, I'm concerned that the people who should be using it won't have the full opportunity to use it. So when you start at the beginning and you go from competing with the private sector, taking it off the tax rolls, raising the taxes, the whole chain of events, I just have to be strongly opposed to our doing this. Now that doesn't mean I'm opposed to a dormitory, but I think there are other ways to do it, and the first is to start out with a market survey; the second is to see if the private sector is involved, and those two things haven't been done. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right. Commissioner Murray, and I'm going to ask that you please be as brief as possible so that we can move this Commission along. Commissioner Jackel said, at least as short as me. Vice Chairman Thomas said, if that's short —.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd just like to address a few of the issues that Commissioner Jackel was concerned about. The first one is competing with the private sector in office space. I think we've already decided to do that with another facility, and it's not saying I don't support that facility, but we gave a piece of County-owned land to the CAT Board to build a transfer site in the downtown area. If I understand it correctly, that site will have office space in it that will be leased to the private sector, so we're already in that business. Secondly, we have a letter of commitment from a non-profit group to lease that facility right now and there's a possibility if this does not go through that a non-profit group will buy that facility. If that happens, we still would not be collecting property tax revenues off of it, so —. As far as the price per room, we already have a preliminary plan that's been drawn up just to look at to give us ideas with an architect. We have gotten proposals on what it would cost to build

that. We feel very confident that the figures we have are accurate. The one million dollar —, 800 [sic] to a million dollar value that's been set on that property, first of all, I doubt very seriously that we'd be able to sell it for that kind of money. I think you'd be doing good if you could get \$700,000 for it, and I understand that if we got \$700,000 we could put it into something else, but it's a one-time expense that we would have and then next year whatever programs we started with that money, we would have to come up with some way to fund it. It would be a one-time revenue, non-recurring. I just have some problems trying to do that with it. I think that once we've explained this to most of the people that had some opposition to it, and I'm not talking about members of the Commission, but people in the general public would have called, we've explained it to them. I've only had one person at that point so far that has disagreed with what we're trying to do, and his reasoning was wanting to put this money back into some of the programs that we have going on with the County right now, and one of them would be the literacy program, and I can certainly understand that and respect that, but there again if we sold this for \$700,000, took that \$700,000 and started a new program in Chatham County, in next year's budget we'd have to try to find some way to fund that program again, and I think we need to look at that through other areas of revenue. Again, I'd like to just explain that this project, if the veto is overridden today it does not mean it's a done deal. We still have a long way to go. We still have to put a proposal together and go to the banks and talk to the banks about it. If we don't go through with it, the property reverts back to the County anyway. There are other things that can be set up in that proposal, and I certainly would not have a problem that once if this all goes through and everything works with it as we feel like it will, that at that time when we no longer need that facility, we can deed it back to the County and let the County either sell it or deed it over to the non-profit organization. Paul Scott is here and I think once the Commissioners speak and answer their questions, I'd like to see if he can come forward and maybe answer some other questions that someone might have because he has all the details as Executive Director of the Recreation Authority and I think he has some information also that the Commission would like to hear. You know, I support the project. I do know there are a couple of people that don't support it and think that the County will taxing and that we will be liable for it. There's no financial liability to the County at all other than the property itself, and the worst case scenario if it went through and was built and we weren't able to meet the debt service on it and the banks called the loan, we would lose the property. That's worst case scenario. I would like to say one other person, and I'm not picking on the news media, but I still don't think the news media has put the facts out there as the facts really are. I think they've tried to, and I appreciate what they have done, but I don't think they've given the true picture of what we're really trying to do with this facility. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, Commissioner Murray. We're going to go to Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Odell and then if any other Commissioner would like to speak, please let it be known, and then we'll go to Mr. Paul Scott.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got a few points also I'd like to go over that seem to have been missed by the media, especially for some odd reason the proposal we're putting forward at the present time enables us to develop an Olympic committee —, I mean an Olympic program here in Chatham County. We actually have some International Olympic Committee people who are supporting this program because they're the ones that are funding it at the present at the time. Some how or another, the focus of this whole deal has shifted from the fact that we presently are collecting about \$700 [sic] to a million dollars a year from the International Olympic Committee, which most of the private citizens do not know anything about because the paper in its second attempt to —, after sitting down with Paul Scott and those folks and outlining what they were doing, didn't even mention it in their editorial for the second time. I can't figure out why. I spoke to Frank Anderson concerning it and went over it and understood his problems he had with it on this particular item and wanted to make sure we address those today as far as Mr. Frank Anderson is concerned. I will make an attempt to address that after we get through here, but the point I'm making in all this is the paper has absolutely missed the whole point. I don't [inaudible] the paper because I've had two articles written in opposition to this program. If you go out to the Nursing Home Authority [sic] and see what we have going out at the Nursing Home Authority [sic], many of the citizens don't even know. I had an opportunity to go out there and look over the facility. I've been involved in it for a number of months, and it's a tremendous thing taking place out there. We're having people come in from out of the country who are participating in Savannah's atmosphere, being a part of the United States, learning, being educated, anywhere from 16 years old to 30 years old. Those folks are here, those folks are participating. They are —, it is not something that we're building and hope they will come. They are here, and it's something that needs to be noted, that they are here. As far as the dorm part is concerned, all things need to have a backup. Our backup as far as this goes is this thought of dorm facilities for people who will be coming into Chatham County, with the idea that if for any reason the International Olympic Committee decided to stop this program which we're developing and expanding, then we would want to be able to tell the people as far as Chatham County is concerned that we have a backup that we feel like will help continue this program that we've developed out there, this dorm. That will be the students and the people coming in and participating in tournaments. I want to emphasize that we are at the present time collecting money as far as the dorm goes. We just have it at the Nursing Home Authority [sic] right now. We have to get out of the Nursing Home Authority [sic] based on a problem with the State law, and we have to move from that facility. We do not want to lose this facility or do not want to lose this program that we already have going now. That's one of the major reasons that we're looking at the dormitory, and I'd like to emphasize again, it is not something that we are going to build and hope they come. They are here, and I'd like the media to make sure that they write an article based on that fact and go out there and see what's taking place on that program before they form the opinion of the public because it is not anywhere —, it has not been stated anywhere or any information given to the general public about what is taking place at this present time. I'd ask those at the press to make it their mission to get out and find all the facts and then write an article on all the facts. That's all I've got to say about it.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you, Madam Chairman. I have looked at this, I have been called by not only those people in my district, but those especially in Ben's [Price] district for some reason, and it's important to me that for the Chatham County Recreation Authority —, and we have three Commissioners who serve on that Board. We have David Saussy, Frank Murray and Ben Price, and I personally know that they have spent an extensive amount of time reviewing each and every issue, and every question that I had David Saussy and Scott came over and spent more than two hours going over the details, and I have confidence in their opinion. I think if we've delegated the responsibility, I think it's incumbent upon us to rely upon our fellow Commissioners. This property that we're saying so much about, the property was given to Chatham County by the

State of Georgia. I don't think we'll have a problem filling the dormitories. I think that if you look at what's going on with the Sheriff's Department, i.e., as far as training, we serve as the Regional Training Center, which most people do not know, and I think we might be concerned where there is no tax implication or that they're easily [inaudible], and I have to rely upon my fellow Commissioners, which I do.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you. Any other Commissioners want to comment? If not, we'll go directly to Mr. Paul Scott.

Mr. Paul Scott said, thank you very much, Dr. Thomas and Commissioners. I thought about when I came over here today that if I were a citizen out there that did not know much about this project and relied on what I saw in the paper, I'd probably be very confused. I'd probably be very confused about if the project were beneficiary to the community or not. From that I would just like to say that it's been very difficult to get the facts out in this matter. I think some of the facts have gotten out today, but I want to reemphasize just a few things. First of all, our intentions of going forward on this project and how we came to it very quickly. We went into this project with all the right intentions. We have an International Olympic Committee's presence and monies that are going into this community right now. Almost a million dollars a year. We have an opportunity to expand upon that and the sky's the limit. I know the budget of the International Olympic Committee in this particular program has gone up significantly. Their budget just got approved. We would love to go back to them and say, listen, we now have more room for your athletes, we have more room for your money. That is something we would like to be able to do. That is one side of it. We always know that the International Olympic Committee is a political body like most bodies that operate in that sector and, who knows, they could come up one day and, politics being what they may, they may say, well, we don't want to be in Savannah, we want to go to France or one of the other training centers. We know that's a possibility. So going forward with this project did not make sense just to do it just for the International Olympic Committee, although that is a big part and that is a tremendous opportunity. We felt there had to be other things. As we went out and we looked, we talked to the Savannah Sports Council and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and we looked at their statistics and they tracked a lot of tournaments and we found out how many tournaments were coming through here. Don't forget some time ago we missed the opportunity for the Jacksonville Jaguars because we did not have a dormitory. Private people tried to get this project done and they couldn't get it done. So we went forward with the intentions that because of the new facilities that Chatham County has now created, because of the 50-meter indoor pool, because of the track and field facility. As I told you last time, we've gone way above a softball town. We're now on the map as having one of the best facilities in the Southeast United States for a city our size and we're competing every day against other cities. So we thought the dormitory had a lot of merit in that it becomes now a vehicle, an incentive vehicle, to go out and effectively compete against other markets to try to bring in tournaments. Al Kennickell is here today from the Sports Council and some time I would like him to come up and tell you about that because this is what they do every day. The Sports Council takes on this assignment and has been doing it since 1993. The other part of this is, we went forward with the intentions that youth camps —, why is it that our youth has to go out of our community to go to youth camp. They go away to go to a camp because there's really not a lot of camps here. Why do we do that? And a lot of them can't afford it because they're charged astronomical rates, so that leaves a lot of kids out. So the other part of this was that it would serve our community very greatly and it not only taking youth camps that are here and giving them a place —, an economical place to come to, to learn about sports, to learn about discipline, to get them off the streets and do those kinds of things, but I think it also has the potential of creating further camps. So we went into it with all the best intentions, all the best reasons. We did do some research, we did talk to a lot of people, and that's where we came to. Let me give you my —, I thought I would just give you some reasons why I think the dormitory project makes sense, and I think it will answer a lot of questions in this. First of all, there is no taxpayer liability in this. We're not asking the County to back bonds. That is a misconception that's kind of been out there, that this is somehow related to other projects that the County is undertaking. We're not asking anybody to back any bonds. And we're not saying the County can't sell the Youth Detention Center. The reversion clause that we would like to stipulate when the project is successful, the building comes back to you. You can sell it then. It probably will be worth twice the value. We will have enhanced it in-between that time, so you get the building back. Secondly, I think that this dormitory will maximize the utilization of this non-performing asset. The Youth Detention Center has been sitting vacant for several months. I think that to utilize this to help us get private financing from the lending institutions and those kinds of things to build something like this will impact the community over all, maximizes the utilization of this facility. I think leasing the Youth Detention Center —, we have the intentions right now to lease it to the Coastal Center for Developmental Services. If this project is passed today, we will sit down on Monday and we'll begin talks with them, and we're going to try to do that and I think they do good things in the County. We all know what they do for our retarded citizens by putting them to work. Again, as I've mentioned, it will assist in creating an incentive mechanism that will entice tournaments to Chatham County, and why is that important? Well, obviously, it's going to increase economic impact. The hotel industry is going to benefit. This will have a great economic impact. Mark Friday is here, President of Hospitality Association, and I'd like him to come up and tell you about this. Mark [Friday] and I have talked about it, and what was printed in the paper was not exactly accurate. And he's here today and I'd like for him to tell you about it. Also, this will reduce and eliminate costs associated with the operation of those facilities. We don't know how much it costs now to run a pool. This is a very expensive matter. All these facilities are big time facilities and they cost a lot of money to operate. The more tournament volume you can bring through, the more you eliminate these costs. It eliminates usage fees that we are now putting on the taxpayers and the people that walk through don't want to have to pay usage fees. We have to get rid of that and I think we all want to get towards that goal. The tournaments is the way to do it. Also, as I mentioned, I think we will have an opportunity to go back to the IOC and we'll have an opportunity for expansion through this. I believe the dormitory is going to give them the right message that this community wants to do something like this. We're bringing in almost a million dollars a year. I want to bring in two million, I want to bring in three million, I want to bring in a lot more. We spend all that money locally and we want to continue to do so. We think it's a good project. I have just gotten a call from some federations in Italy, the Greek Weightlifting Team and others recently. As a matter of fact, yesterday, who are looking at our site. They have nothing to do with the IOC. We've just opened up a new world because we told them we have a training camp in Savannah, Georgia. We have a proven track record with the IOC, which is the highest Olympic standard you can possibly be at. And so now we're having interest an outside party, so forget the IOC, now you've got others, other countries looking at us to come to the United States and do training. And, lastly, as I've already mentioned, I think the dormitory would create an economical facility for community-based youth sporting camps. Again, why must our youth go out of town and pay high fees and do those types of things when I think something like this is available for

them. With that I will stop there and, Dr. Thomas, if there's --, if they have questions I'll be glad to answer them, but I'd like to also call on some people, again the Sports Council and Mark Friday, the hospitality industry, to try to at least, I think, answer some of the questions that have been raised if that's appropriate.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, I thank you very much, Mr. Scott. Commissioner Rivers said, I've got a question of Mr. Scott and the attorney if you don't mind. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioner Rivers and then I'm going to make a statement.

Commissioner Rivers asked, have we drawn up any deeds or any —? Mr. Hart said, no, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, since there's been nothing drawn up, I want to make sure that we get that conveyance —, in that conveyance a clause that once that project is completed that that land revert back. Also, that if this project fails that any amount of that land revert back or if they abandoned —, if they abandon it, that that reverts back, but if we don't have nothing drawn up, I don't see any [inaudible] anyway. Thirdly, and most significantly, I would like to say to this Board and to the Sports Council that I would like to see a whole lot of diversity on this board covering this total community, and I'm saying —, I'm saying at least reflective of the population of this community and that we get it from a broad prospective of this community. Those are my concerns and those are the concerns when I asked for reconsideration. Those concerns I hope will be a part of this total thing. I think the project is very, very significant to Savannah. It's another piece that loans to a whole lot of things that we could do that we couldn't do when we first started all of these Olympic legacy projects. I'm betting on that, I'm hedging my bet on that. If it fails, then that's something I have to carry, but those things I would like to see a part of that, Mr. Attorney, that we assure those things are there. Mr. Hart said, we can either do that through a deed or intergovernmental agreement between the parties. Commissioner Rivers said, okay.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, let me say this. Unless you're going to say something differently from what you —. Commissioner Jackel said, I have a question from the County —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, from what you've already said. Commissioner Jackel said, from the County Attorney. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm not going to allow you to speak unless you —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I'm going to speak anyhow. I'm going to speak anyhow. Mr. County Attorney —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, he comes before you, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's fine, but I've got a right to speak at this Commission. Vice Chairman Thomas said, you can speak —. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, let's make that clear. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm just saying —. Commissioner Jackel said, let's make that clear. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm just saying let's not repeat the same thing, that's all I'm asking you. Commissioner Jackel said, that's fine. I'll respect your request. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much. Commissioner Jackel said, I was elected to express my opinion. Vice Chairman Thomas said, sure you can. Commissioner Jackel said, make sure you understand the difference. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I do understand the difference, but I'm still going to ask that you do not repeat the same thing. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's fine. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm going to Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Saussy had his hand up and then we'll go to Commissioner Jackel, in that order.

Commissioner Murray said, thank you very much. The only thing I was going to say is along with what Commissioner Rivers just stated is I think we all feel strongly on that, and I think it's up to this Commission to go and possibly increase the size of that Recreation Authority and add those members on there, and I think that's something that we as a Commission should deal with, not others. The Recreation Authority does not have the Authority to appoint members. We do, and I think we just have to set it up that way and go forward. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, thank you. Now Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, as y'all know, the Legislature set up this Authority and we have to go by what they had, but I see no problem whatsoever in expanding it. I don't think they would have any problem with that. A lot of us have worked very, very hard on this project. Extremely hard, and to me it is an economic engine, just like the Trade Center is and just like SEDA does things out at the Crossroads and brings in companies for that. We put money into those things, the County puts money into those things. This is no different than that. We're trying to build Chatham County. What do companies look for when they come here? They look for all sorts of things, but one of the things they do look for is things that are happening and things are happening in Chatham County and Savannah. They're happening very fast. We have gone in the last six years from a small town, so to speak, to what in the next 20 years is going to be tremendous. Now some of us don't like growth, but I frankly do and I think most of this Commission does. This is growth. It will put this city and this town internationally, if we're not already there, much more on the map. We will bring people into this area from all over the world. We already have, we've gotten the International Training Center here. That is a very, very positive thing. When companies look at Chatham County and they know that we've got an International Training Center here, that's going to mean something to them. When they look and see that we have a lot of tournaments coming into the town, they're going to say, yes, this is a great place for our people to live. And one other thing that's down the road really that maybe people have not thought about, especially about the training center, those trainees that come into this City are from mainly right now the African nations and South America, but all of the third world countries are involved in this solidarity program, and there are many of them out there. What happens when these trainees go back home? They're the heros and will be the future leaders of tomorrow in their countries. They will have a connection with the port of Savannah. This is something that can really, really become extremely big in the future, and so I don't look at it just as something for tomorrow, I look at it for way out in the future, and that's where we're trying to build. That's what we're trying to do, that's what this Commission is trying to do. We've got the Trade Center, that's part of it. We're trying to build Savannah to a situation that we have never had. We've had opportunity after opportunity after opportunity to do it, but people continue to put things down. This we need to do. The other thing we're doing for these third world countries, we're educating them. They're being educated in our school system. I mean, it's a win/win situation. The idea of the CCDS going into this building is another plus. They need the room. They're right behind us right now, right behind the Youth Detention Center. They have agreed, if we get this property, to lease the property from us. We can't lose people. There's just no way. And I think Paul [Scott] has got some people that he'd like to bring up. Isn't that right, Paul [Scott]?

Vice Chairman Thomas said, but before we do that, before we do that I'm going to allow Commissioner Jackel and then the persons that are with you. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, let me understand here. When you get the Juvenile Court facility, you're going to pledge that a security for the funds to build the dormitory? [NOTE: No audible response was made.] Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Now, Mr. County Attorney, if the Juvenile Court facility is pledged against the dormitory and somehow they do not —, aren't able to make these payments, then we can't concede to Commissioner Rivers' proposal that we get it back because we'd be getting it back as encumbered property, is that correct? Mr. Hart said, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, that's correct. Mr. Hart said, it is correct it would be encumbered, yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, it would be encumbered, so even though we would get it back, it would still be encumbered and we would have to pay that debt before we had it free and clear again. Is that correct? Mr. Hart said, yes sir, unless it was —, unless the lender were willing to subordinate to the right of reversion, that is correct. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. So we could not accomplish what Commissioner Rivers is requesting in his concept that we just get it back. We would get it back as encumbered property, which is substantially different isn't it? Mr. Hart said, it would depend on what the loan agreement says. Commissioner Jackel said, I just thought that point that hadn't been brought out before needed to be made.

Commissioner Rivers asked, can I have —, can I have a right to reply to that? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, if we —, is there a way that we could prohibit the encumbrance? Commissioner Jackel said, that's what they're trying to do. Commissioner DeLoach said, no. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm asking the attorney now. I'm asking the question. Everybody up here —, everybody up here is answering a legal question. I'm asking him. Commissioner Jackel said, go ahead, go ahead. Mr. Hart said, the Commission within its power could vote not to allow them to encumber the property. Yes, sir, that could —, you know, actually we're talking about overriding a veto and that action needs to be taken one way or the other and, you know, you're asking me to assume that the veto is dealt with in one direction or the other, but from a practical standpoint, yes, you could say that it could not be encumbered. Now if you say that, you're taking that property as a mechanism to obtain financing and making it exceedingly difficult if you want to achieve the end goal of a dormitory of achieving that. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll hedge my bet from where I stand.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, back to you now, Mr. Scott. Mr. Scott said, if I could, let me call Al Kennickell, who is Chairman of the Savannah Sports Council.

Mr. Al Kennickell said, Madam Chairperson, Commissioners, I'll be very brief in the interest of time. My name is Al Kennickell. I'm the co-Chair of the Greater Savannah Sports Council, which is part of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce. The Council has been very active in the sports infrastructure of the County for a number of years. We were involved in 1993 with the Commission on the one percent sales tax increase which funded most of these facilities. Our mission is to attract out-of-town, out-of-state people to the community to use and participate in events with our infrastructure. Our mission really is to create economic impact through sports in Chatham County. Last year we had more than 12,000 people come from out-of-town, out-of-state to participate here. We, the Sports Council, endorse this athletic dormitory. We feel it will give us a competitive edge in attracting events to the community. We feel that any revenues that may be lost by the hotel industry due to this dorm would be offset by the increased number of families and spectators who would come to view these events. I'm certain that our competition would be very nervous that we would have a facility like this. It would make us a much more attractive location. As far as the financial concerns you may have on this project, if at any —, if we perceive at any time, if we feel like that this is not viable and that it would not work, we would be the first people to pull the plug on this. Now Savannah has had a long history of being conservative in its ideas and in its spending. In the past 30 years we may have been conservative to a fault in that our neighboring cities of Jacksonville and Charleston have passed us by. In the last couple of years I feel like Savannah has started to turn the corner. It looks to me like we're about to close the gap on some of these communities. What I look at this dorm as being an example of is Savannah playing to win, and I think we need to continue to do that to keep the momentum going that we have right now because in the 20 years I've been working this community I've never seen momentum like we have so we're for this, we think this would be good for the community and we support it wholeheartedly and we hope that you do also. Thank you.

Commissioner Rivers said, All [Kennickell], let me ask you a question. You just said that although it may have a negative impact on the hotel industry, how can you say that if you expect it to attract more people? You're not going to be able to house all the people in that dormitory. Mr. Kennickell said, no, I tell you what. In fact, what I'm referring to is something I read in the paper that someone thought it may have a negative impact. I don't think it would at all. I think that what you'll see is a greatly increased number of people coming to the community. In fact, I think Paul [Scott] is going to address that. I think what I'm referring to is something that may have been misquoted in the paper, but what I'm saying is this, that if there were a number of people that stayed in that dorm that might have stayed in a hotel, there's going to be a great deal more people that will be filling those hotel rooms because we're really going to be a very much more viable location for events. This is going to have a big impact and I would think it would attract a tremendous number of additional people to the community on a yearly basis.

Commissioner Jackel said, we're talking about a 52-bed facility. Mr. Kennickell said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray said, not 52-bed. Commissioner Jackel said, 52 originally. Commissioner Saussy said, no, 104. Commissioner Jackel said, 104 beds. Mr. Kennickell said, it's 104 beds. Commissioner Murray said, 52 rooms. Commissioner Jackel said, 52 rooms. Commissioner Murray said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. How many athletes do we have that we're currently going to house in there? Mr. Scott asked, you mean as far as the IOC program? Commissioner Jackel said, right. Mr. Scott said, right now we have 18 paid for IOC athletes. Let me just say this with some disclaimer. They just made the cut so we're rather low. The new program starts September 1 so we plan to double that possibly. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so you might have about 36. Okay, and then you have how many people staying from the Police Academy? Mr. Scott said, well, no sir, that's not —, what we have done is we have heard from, on the record at their board meeting we have heard that they have an interest obviously in putting some kind of training —, their training people there. We basically said then, look,

if we have the room, as available, sure, but that's not the primary use of the facility, but if it's available, sure, we'd help out Chatham County when we could.

Commissioner Murray said, Paul [Scott], one other thing too, you need to expand a little bit on the possibility of expanding this program with the swimming and the weightlifting. Mr. Scott said, if I may, you know the object of the IOC program, right now it's just track and field. The whole object is to try to bring in and diversify with other sports. We'd like to bring in kids from these third world countries for swimming, we'd like to bring them in for weightlifting. I think we've proven that we can do those kind of things blindfolded. Now the IOC is very interested. We've talked to them about it. Obviously we've got some selling to do, but you know that's part of it. That's what we're trying to accomplish. If I can, I'd like to call on Mark Friday to come up. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Mr. Friday. Mr. Scott said, the reason why I've asked Mark [Friday] to come up is I just want to get some clarification on something. I read like most of you in the paper something that Mark [Friday] is quoted as saying and it came out to be that, at least I construed that the hospitality industry, through Mark [Friday], viewed this thing negatively. When I read that, I called Mark [Friday] and I talked to him about it. I said, Mark [Friday], you know, I don't understand this because I felt like you would have called me and we would have talked about this and I understand the detail, and I'd like Mark [Friday] just to tell you maybe his view of the project.

Mr. Mark Friday said, good morning, Madam Chairman, members of the County Commission. My name is Mark Friday and I'm Chairman of the Savannah Hospitality Association. I apparently have fueled the flames of misinformation. I do want to go on record as saying that the Hospitality Association does fully support this type of project and any other project that would, as Mr. Saussy said, be an economic engine to Savannah. While we do not necessarily view 52 or 104 rooms out of 8,000 hotel rooms in Savannah as competition, we kind of look at it as more of an enticement for more people to come into the City and thereby helping out the hotel and motel rooms, and in return giving back tax revenues to both the City and the County on that. I'm not sure —.

Commissioner Murray asked, may I ask a question? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, I'm involved in the National Guard and my job is going around from unit to unit throughout the State and as we do that with our staff that we go to different units, this past weekend we had some people, a lot of them that live in the Atlanta area, and the question is asked to me constantly, we don't have the problem anywhere else in the State that we go, but when we come to Savannah they cannot find rooms. And is the hospitality industry, the hotel/motel industry that booked right now that there are not rooms available? Mr. Kennickell said, well, Mr. Murray, in all honesty that's a good problem to have. Commissioner Murray said, I know it is. I'm not knocking that, I'm just —, I think it fits into what we're talking about right now, that's why I asked that. Mr. Kennickell said, I think most of you know that our entire industry, the visitor count and the taxes from last year were up over 14%. This year we should see somewhere around 10% to 12%. So, yes, that is a problem and especially on weekends, and whereas it used to be indigenous to the historic downtown area, we're seeing a much broader scope and the entire City is actually becoming booked for those time periods. Commissioner Murray said, and most of this facility with the heavy use would be on the weekends especially during the school year. Mr. Kennickell said, well, during the school year may be a different picture to look at. I mean, we're in the prime season, prime tourist season right now, and if it does occur during the school season, that may be an off season for us, which will certainly help us out. Commissioner Murray said, thank you. Mr. Kennickell said, if anybody else has any questions, I'd be more than happy to clarify them, anything that I may or may not have said.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, does that complete your —, does that complete the people from your group? [NOTE: No audible response was made.] Commissioner Saussy said, I call the question. Commissioner Murray said, maybe some of the —, you had some of the coaches? Vice Chairman Thomas asked, does anyone else wish to speak?

Mr. Scott said, I brought along two of my coaches, if I may just take a moment for introductions. Vice Chairman Thomas said, sure. Mr. Scott said, Abdi Bile, if you'll go ahead and stand for me, Abdi. Abdi [Bile] is a two-time world champion, four time Olympian, who serves as head coach of the Savannah International Training Center. Abdi [Bile], as they say, was the man in the 1980's in the mile, 1500 meters and so forth. He had a time of 3:47 a mile. Right, Abdi? Isn't that correct? 3:47 is pretty fast. Commissioner Saussy said, he's fast. [Unintelligible comments were made when several individuals were speaking at the same time.] Mr. Scott said, also if I could get Dieudonne Kwizera to stand. Dieudonne [Kwizera] has a list that's at least three pages of all the things he's done. This guy is absolutely incredible. He has competed in three Olympics, he's an All-American, as was Abdi [Bile]. Dieudonne [Kwizera] has done just about everything and as you start looking down his resume, you see what he's done from the country of Burundi, which is where he is from. Dieudonne [Kwizera] founded so many things over there, the Track and Field Federation for that country, he was nominated by the president of that country as a goodwill ambassador. He has done so many wonderful things. I think one of the biggest accomplishments and one of the most impressive things and personally the reason why we have him not only as one of our coaches, but as an international relations person. He speaks eight languages, and that's fascinating. And everywhere we go, we were in Greece recently and as I came and sat down at the table and was talking to the president of these National Olympic Committees, they all spoke different languages and I wasn't sure what to do and I walked in and I start trying to sell them on Savannah obviously as a site for them to send their athletes. This gentlemen interpreted simultaneously about three or four languages. Absolutely incredible, so we're fortunate to have him.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a motion on the floor to override the veto. Commissioner Saussy said, call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I called for the question. Please vote. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion to override the Chairman's veto carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Mr. Scott said, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much.

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Commissioner DeLoach said, Madam Chairman, before we get to that. Commissioner Price said, point of order is what you need to call. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, point of order or whatever I need to call. I wanted to —, I had originally wanted to make a motion to try to tie all these loose ends up. I don't think the Chairman and a number of other people, and I've spoken to Frank Anderson also, it's not the concern that they're against the program that we're trying to do out there, they're more concerned that we have not attempted to get the private sector involved in it. With that in mind, I've talked to a number of Commissioners and I asked them what's the possibility of simultaneously as we move forward with this to appoint a committee to report back to us, you know, in two months to give us, yes, the private sector wants to do it and if they do, that's fine; if they don't, that's fine, and I think we'll tie up some of the loose ends that Mark's [Friday] got because I feel like the Chairman is for this, Mark [Friday] is for this, but the way we do it is the question, and this might give us an opportunity to tie up all loose ends so we can all move forward in that direction. With that in mind, I'd like to make a motion that we appoint a committee to study the possibilities of having the private sector to fund this and have the Commissioners —, the Commissioners nominate this committee at a later date.

Mr. Scott said, Madam Chairman? Vice Chairman Thomas said, just one moment. Are you finished? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, did you make a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, I made a motion. Does anybody want to second —? Commissioner Jackel said, I second it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Any discussion? Commissioner Price asked, did you want to say something, Paul [Scott]? Mr. Scott said, yes, please. Dr. Thomas and Commissioners, the only thing that we would like to say to that is this. We understand your concern for this, but I don't want this to be a political matter. I want this to be something at our word that we're going to do, and I've talked to Commissioner DeLoach and I've talked to other Commissioners about it. We're willing to sit down with a group and try to look at private financing, which we have done but we are willing to do it again. We're going to look at private investors, we're also going to talk to the banks. We're going to do all those kinds of things. I'm willing for anyone here who would like to sit on this thing and do it and go through it, fine. What I don't want to do, and we will make a criteria for that, okay, but what I don't want to do is at the end of this, whatever the group decides, I do not want it to come back in front of the Commission because then it will go back through this again. I think the decision has been made, but we will give you our word, okay. Having three Commissioners on the Board, having the citizens appointed by the Commissioners, I think that's all the credibility that I hope you would need, that we will strongly look at this through this group, and we're just doing that just to be honorable, intentional and all those kinds of things. We're willing to do that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a motion on the floor. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't have a problem with forming a committee. I don't want to see it slow down the process that this group needs to go through because there's a lot of work that needs to be done to get to that final stage, if we get there, and I think there's a lot to do with the financing and those type things to put together, and also we need a set of plans that are drawn that we can actually go to the bank with and some other studies done, and I think that in that process all these questions that some people have right now will be answered in going through that process. And as Paul [Scott] has said, I certainly don't see a problem with anybody on this Commission that wants to come to any of those meetings and sit there and have the input and questions about maybe stay up to date with it. I'm just afraid that if we —, and you did talk with me and I told you then, yesterday, that I didn't have a problem with it and I don't have a problem with it as long as it does not slow down the process that they have to go through because there is still a good lengthy process to go through to get a little —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, well, it will take two months is what Paul [Scott] said, and I said we will have it decided in two months. Commissioner Murray said, but I agree with him too that the Commission has already voted to swap the properties, and I think that's the important part. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, we can go forward with that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, no further discussion. Commissioner Saussy asked, could I hear the motion again. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, there was a motion and a second —. Commissioner DeLoach said, the motion was to appoint a committee. Commissioner Price said, to help study the idea of using private financing instead of having to go the public route, but that it would not slow down the process —. Commissioner DeLoach said, simultaneously. Commissioner Murray asked, do we have anybody on the Commission that would like to go to these meetings, just raise their hand to at least acknowledge that. Commissioner DeLoach said, to go to the —. Commissioner Murray said, to go to the meetings through this whole this whole [inaudible] process. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll do that. I don't have a problem with that. Commissioner Murray asked, anybody else? Commissioner Saussy said, well, you've got three already on there. Commissioner Murray said, yes, but I'm saying do we have anybody that would just like to go. The meetings are open, they aren't closed meetings. Commissioner Saussy said, right, they're not open —, I mean, they're not closed.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, well, maybe they'll have second thoughts. If they can, they can still join later in which to serve. Any further discussion? If not, I call for the question. Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, unanimous.

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

1. Commissioner Murray moved to override the Chairman's veto of the transfer of Youth Detention Center and property located behind Memorial Stadium to Chatham County Recreation Authority to be used as a dormitory for visiting athletes. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion to override the Chairman's veto carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved that a committee be appointed to simultaneously study the possibilities of having the private sector fund a dormitory for visiting athletes. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Commissioner Price said, Madam Chairman, I'd like to ask that we move up on the agenda the item regarding the County's primary health care provider, which is I believe #9 under Individual Actions. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, because I think we do have —. Commissioner Price said, a large number of people. Vice Chairman Thomas said, there are some physicians also here and they need to get back to their patients. We need to vote on that please. Did we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

[NOTE: The order of business was changed and Item IX-9 was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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Commissioner Odell said, I move that we go into Executive Session. Mr. Abolt said, my understanding the intent would be for land acquisition, possible litigation and personnel matters. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, let's vote on that.

Commissioner Murray said, before we do that, we've got a lot of people out here that still need to have things addressed on the agenda that need to get back. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, you want to do that after this. Mr. Hart was there a second to the motion? Commissioner Odell said, there was no second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, no, no second, so it dies. The Clerk asked if we can take a very short break please. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, I'm going to do that right now. Can we take about five or ten minutes?

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was recessed at 12:05 p.m.

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The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:15 p.m., following recess.

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Vice Chairman Thomas said, what I would like to do at this time is to —, and a lot of people have been waiting, if we can just do the Mystery Customer Award and get that out of the way and then come up —, go back to the Commissioners' Items in that order, I would appreciate it. Are we ready? Is that okay with the Commissioners? Commissioner DeLoach said, whatever you say, mam.

[NOTE: The order of business was changed and Item VII-1 was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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**VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

**1. WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER - MICHAEL COHEN (COMMISSIONER MURRAY). POSTPONED FROM MEETING OF MARCH 13, 1998.**

Commissioner Murray said, Madam Chairman, I would like for us to be able to address this item and Item 5 under the tabled items at the same time. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, I know when we went through budget cuts and going through our budget planning. Commissioner DeLoach said, so move that --. Mr. Hart said, we need to take #5 off the table. Commissioner Murray said, all right, I second that. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to take #5 off the table. Commissioner Murray said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Price were not present.]

Commissioner Murray said, okay, so now we're addressing both of them. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, good, thank you. You know, I guess several months ago most of us on the Commission started getting phone calls about the Weightlifting Center, and I think some of us were getting different information. It was coming different ways and the reason this has been tabled for the last two meetings was that Al Kennickell and Michael Cohen and several others have been working back and forth trying to meet and gather information to see what the problems really were and what I found

out, or what seems to be the problem to me is the fact that when we went through our budget sessions instead of cutting percentages, as we did in most areas, I think Recreation, if I'm not mistaken, it was about 3% cut over last year's budget. To me, the Weightlifting Center and all these facilities we built fall under Recreation. They are recreational facilities, yet we took a flat \$50,000 out of the budget for the Weightlifting Center. The Weightlifting Center before the swimming pool was built, and I still think it would be questionable, but the Weightlifting Center is utilized more than any facility that we've built right now by a very diverse group of people from this community, and I think more so than any other facilities that we have. We have also put an addition on that facility since we built it, and at some point in the future we probably will have to look at another addition to the facility. I personally feel like that with the new cuts, the cuts should have been across the board the same percentage-wise as the Recreation Department since that is part of our Recreation Facilities in this community. I think that the part that really has hit most of us is the fact that the hours were cut, and where the hours were cut, those afternoon —, although actually at nighttime, I think those people that went out after work or after school hours, things like that, athletic teams from different schools and a lot of the individuals that work throughout the community would like go by after they got off and work out. And the facility now is having it closed I think around 7:00, if I'm not mistaken, instead of going to 9:00 or 9:30 at night, and most people can get in and finish up their weightlifting. The —, I don't know where the money would come from. I don't know who the people will look at it, but I personally feel like we need to reinstate some of that so they can operate. I understand that Sundays are not a problem if they close. Is that right? I think that was part of our conversation.

Mr. Cohen said, yes, if we could work something out with the Team Savannah organization, just as it's doing now, will operate the facility on Sunday whenever necessary. Commissioner Murray said, I think what we need to do is find some way to restore the funding so they can at least operate the hours they need to at night because it is well used, and that facility was opened up also for this could use. I think the issue that we're going to have to deal with today is a fee structure of whether we charge a fee or don't charge a fee, and I guess out of that then I want staff to let me know whether this is right or not, but I've been told that if a fee is charged, then those fees would go back to our general budget and it would not go into the facilities where those fees are being charged but they aren't being maintained and operated. So, is that correct? Mr. Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, I don't agree with that, but if that's the way it has to be I will not support us charging fees to any of the facilities. The fees, in my opinion, should go to the facilities where the fees are charged to help offset the maintenance and not going into our general budget. I did not agree with putting it back into the general budget we agreed to do that, so —. Those are my personal feelings.

Commissioner Rivers said, Attorney Hart, can we isolate that and make that an enterprise account? We can't do that? Mr. Abolt said, the only way —, sir, if your intent is to identify revenue coming in to ensure as part of any budget request that that revenue is considered, we can do that administratively. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Mr. Abolt said, when you see a lot —, next year when you look at the budget, for example, for the Weightlifting Center, even though it is completely discretionary, we will show revenue in there so you'll have complete control over it. If you'll permit me, and the reason why we had this situation, it comes from two different events. The one event has to do with the budget cuts Commissioner Murray referred to. As you will remember, there were eight iterations of budget options. There were certain reductions made by staff that in the different iterations that were reviewed by this body, we requested to look at other items and some suggestions were made. This Board did agree and from the Board itself came a decision to cut \$50,000 that was part of nine hundred and some odd thousand dollars of total cuts organization wide. So that's one issue and that is whether or not you restore any or all of that \$50,000. That stands alone and it has to do with balancing the budget. The second came along a little bit later and it was like option seven or eight and staff was about trying to come up with the math that would make these options work, and it was quite late one afternoon and we were toying over how we could get you to a point where revenues and expenditures would equal, and at that point I looked at my staff and I said where might we get a little bit more money. One of the staff, very creative, came up and said, well, based on the numbers that we're seeing coming in, usage of the Weightlifting Center and because it is the only facility we don't charge for, let's charge. Let's make a recommendation to charge. So that equated to \$125,000. It was no more scientific than that, but the budget that was adopted, option eight, includes \$125,000 in revenue. So let's hypothetically say that you want to restore all of the \$50,000 in cuts and not have an admission charge. The spending plan for '98 is then out of balance by \$175,000. How do we make it up? The first choice obviously, even though it's not recurring revenues, we would have to look at fund balance and then, failing that, cuts in other departments or looking at the August digest.

Commissioner Rivers said, well, for one I will not view anything predicated on nonrecurring revenue. I just will not do that. Somewhere along the line if we have a surplus or at digest time I'd prefer to look at it and settle up the difference, but not with nonrecurring revenue because once we do it that means we have to have that permanent stream there and I've always said that it's no need in carrying the budget out of kilter.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion?

Commissioner Murray said, yes. I understand that. The reason, you know, and I don't have a problem with charging a fee provided we can work it out fairly. The reason I said I don't want to charge a fee is because that, to me if we charge a fee for that facility, then the money should go back into the operation of that facility. It shouldn't be going to, you know, wherever it might be going to the Commissioners' part of the budget. But, you know, I agree with you too, if it's a non-recurring revenue, I don't want to do it that way, but I feel like we can work this out some way where we can restore part of that funding and come up with a fair way to do the fee structure if we're going to do that. I think another issue we get into with the fee structure is the fact that we've got Team Savannah there. All this weightlifting equipment belongs to Team Savannah from what I understand. It's not the County's, but it's being utilized for the County's citizens, so how do we set up a fee structure that is fair to those people that have put the equipment in there to come in and do their workouts too. So I think there are a lot of things there that we have to discuss to have to come out with a fair way of handling it. This particular center is unique to all the rest of the centers. It is totally different the way it operates. With the amount of participation we have and the broad spectrum of people throughout this community that utilize this facility, and I don't think you're going to find that in other facilities. I know the swimming pool is doing much better at the present time than we thought it would be doing. But here's a facility we've already added on to and now we're telling them we can't open the hours we need to for people to utilize it. We just don't have the money to do that.

Commissioner Rivers said, I think, Frank [Murray] that we could probably miter all that out, but it wouldn't —, won't be in the 1998 budget. I think that anything we do in the 1998 budget is going to pull it out of kilter and means we're operating at a deficit. I think at digest time we can look at it and make those funds inclusive and adjust for it if we decide to continue to charge fees, to make the adjustment that those fees be channeled back into —.

Commissioner Murray said, well, that's fine, but this goes a little bit further than that. I understand too that because we haven't been charging those fees right now since the first of the year that this center is going to have to take larger cuts in the hours of operation, so they're going to have to be shut down more hours than they're already shutting down to operate under the present funding that they have, and if that takes place, y'all better take your phones off the hook because they're going to be ringing.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask you one other question, Russ [Abolt]. This is April, are we at audit? Mr. Abolt said, the audit —, most of the work on site has been completed. The audit should be completed as normally expected sometime around the end of this month, first part of May. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't know, Frank [Murray], if we would have any surplus there. In the short term we might can —, I don't know. I would —, I would consider addressing that but still get in July, making the adjustments to truly not go back to that if this is a last resort, then possibly we could look at that. I would consider that. I'd wait until audit to see what [inaudible].

Commissioner Murray asked, can we hear from the —, from Al [Kennickell]? Vice Chairman Thomas said, Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Michael Cohen said, Dr. Thomas and members of the Commission, the Team Savannah organization was hired as the contractor for the Weightlifting Center for Chatham County. It was a very simple contract. We were paid a monthly —, an hourly rate to manage the weightlifting facility. Part of that was that Team Savannah was to do everything in its power to expand the weightlifting organization, not to include just Team Savannah. In the last three years we've got —, we are now approximately 87% of the people who use the facility have no relationship at all with Team Savannah. The people that you're hearing about, the phone calls you receive are not from Team Savannah. They're from the other individuals, the other programs that we developed as a direct directive from this Commission to expand our operation and expand the facility. These programs that are being cut were made at large —, a conversation between myself and the other coaches and staff, were to have a minimum effect. We went to reducing the hours down to two hours a day, which was the first set of cuts. That represents approximately 18% cut in the operation hours. We're going to have to do the exact same thing in the next month, reduce the operation by another 18% to come in line with the budget that we had no idea would hit us until mid-February, was when we got the first word on that. We were operating the facility as if it was a standard 3% across-the-board and that was it. We had no idea, we never received documentation that we would take a full cut of approximately 30% of our budget. We had no idea. Team Savannah has invested almost a half a million dollars, a little over a half a million dollars purchasing the equipment for all of Chatham County to use. The vast majority of equipment in that facility, as many members of the Commission have seen, has no relationship at all with weightlifting, what our kids do. It has a direct relationship to all the other programs that we've developed: the special Olympics, the learning disabilities, the occupational therapy, the seniors programs, the women's programs, the developmental programs for the little children. All those programs were developed with special equipment that we, Team Savannah, not Chatham County, not the taxpayers, went out and purchased. So what we're being asked to do now is several things. One is to continue the operation of the facility safely, and you must understand that the operation —, the facility's been in operation now for three years and no serious injuries at all. You've not heard about any injuries. Why? Because the staff is the best there is in the world. That staff has been cut 30%. We're going to have to do it again in the next month the same thing. We're losing staff members. You know, it's funny, my father explained it to me one time as picture a giant pool with fish in the pool and when the pool dries up, the fish have to conjugate in a smaller area. You're going to have more people, as is happening now, conjugating in a smaller area in that facility and the coaching staff cannot do what they've been hired to do, and that's coach. To work with the kids and work with the special needs people. They've now got to walk around and monitor, and as more and more people crowd into the shrinking hours, you're going to have an opportunity for problems. The staff is now working as hard as we can. Team Savannah is paying out of its budget monthly some \$1800 to make sure that the staff is taken care of during this budget crunch because we've got to have those people there. They've got to be there to make sure this is a safe facility. We're going to undergo another cut. That cut, as I explained to Mr. Lynch when I gave him my letter of how we're going to set the cuts up, is going to affect some very important programs. These are the morning programs. The morning programs are incredibly important to, not Team Savannah, but to the community, and now I'm talking about our senior citizens program, we're talking about our learning disabilities program, our occupational therapy program, and our special needs and special Olympics programs. Those are the next —, that are on the chopping block to be cut. We have no choice. I beg you to somehow find some way not to let the weightlifting organization, the weightlifting program shoulder a 30% cut when the rest of recreation received less than a 1.5% cut in 1998.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I think this is one of the best programs we've got in Savannah and always have. It's really thanks to Team Savannah and Michael [Cohen]. I feel like we need to continue if not at the level that we are now, I would hate to see a cut. I don't think we can stand it. I know that money is a problem. I do think that we ought to start charging. That there is a problem also in how do you collect it and how —, what situation are we going to have there. We've got to pay somebody to collect it, or how is that going to work, but I think these things definitely need to be worked out. Hopefully, the money will come in at the end of the year, after the audit, and we'll find it, but I just don't think we can cut this any more. If there's any possible way that we can do that. How much are we talking about that we need? Mr. Cohen said, well, it certainly was cut \$50,000. Honestly, we —. Commissioner Saussy said, for the full year. Mr. Cohen said, for the full year, right, and we're now operating at approximately 18% below what our standard rate was for the first two months. That was March and April. Next month, May, we'll take the additional action and it will be almost 18% because we have to make up for the first three months that was received at the full rate. Commissioner Saussy said, all right.

Mr. Abolt said, if I may, I'll try to address this big picture and, obviously, it's your choice —, and the operation of the Weightlifting Center, you know, is your choice. I want you to do it in the context not of trying necessarily exact it out of the operation of the Weightlifting Center, in the M&O, our general fund budget, if we're —, which is obvious, we could not implement the fee structure that was very crude in the way in which we estimated it back in December, we're out of balance \$125,000. The \$50,000 cut is a reality for Mr. Cohen as a contractor. If you choose to give him more leeway, I certainly would want staff to work with him to decide how much would have to be identified as far as future other cuts made in other departments or from fund balance or what have you, but I would urge you to make a decision today one way or the other because I do not want us to bet on what either the fund balance or the digest might bring and then try to make up because each day, as we well know, that we're in operation with a deficit of \$175,000 makes it more difficult. So I would much rather, for example, I'm giving you alternatives. You can pass the fee schedule that is before you. That will raise something less than 30 —, well, 20-some thousand dollars this year, and then at least let me know if I were to come and attempt to solve this problem from non-reoccurring revenues then I'd have that as first choice. If that's not acceptable to you, then I will come back with what amounts to \$130,000 in cuts somewhere else so that in April we know, as good managers of this budget, that we've at least solved the problem now as opposed to playing somewhat of a roulette game and try to do it in August when that was possibly too late. So I would ask for your choice: the fee schedule that is before you; if that passes, fine; if you choose not to impose the fee and wish to also at the same time restore some or all of the cuts to Team Savannah, let me know and, at the same time, let me know would you be open on fund balance or must I be about coming up with cuts right now that would accomplish the savings for the balance of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Murray said, on the fee structure, is any consideration being given to the members of Team Savannah that own the equipment? Mr. Abolt said, no, sir. Commissioner Murray said, if not, it's across the board. Regardless of who it is, pays the same to go utilize the facility.

Mr. George Lynch said, the annual fee, sir, would be charged to Team Savannah just as it would anybody else who wanted it. What arrangement Team Savannah would make to keep it from hitting the individuals, Michael [Cohen] could comment on. But if that fee structure is opposed, the members of Team Savannah will not be exempted from it. Commissioner Murray asked, how do we justify everybody in Chatham County using that facility using their equipment? Mr. Lynch said, excellent question.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I would pose it as to where would they be if they didn't have that facility. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that can be a fee in-kind so they're paying. Commissioner DeLoach said, but my point is, we can arrange something here and we can get something done, but it needs to be for everyone. It can't be selected. But we just need for them to tell us they can set up a fee structure, one that will work, one that Michael [Cohen] says is what we can do, and then let us just do that fee structure. Whatever he says we can do, and I'll leave that to Michael [Cohen].

Commissioner Saussy said, if we leave that structure as it is, they have put all this money into the equipment, why can't that be used as a fee in-kind. Mr. Abolt said, if I may on that. First of all, we do not want to make this so burdensome that the administration of it far outweighs the cost of it. The \$125,000 was an arbitrary figure, purely arbitrary. I would suggest that if we don't get \$125,000 in real money, which we're not going to get this year because of the time, let's just say either don't charge the fee or let us work with what we can get as far as real money. If we start dealing with this in-kind stuff, I cannot use the in-kind to draw a balance line between revenues and expenditures at the end of the year.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let's just let them set up and he can tell us what it is, but —, can I make a motion. I'll just make one. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion that we wait until we have the audit and take the fund balance to balance this based on that less the program that you're going to develop on scholarships and fee structure, period. Will that take care of it?

Mr. Abolt said, I'm not sure of the last end, but I'll defer to Michael [Cohen] and George [Lynch] on that. Yes, if you'll give —, what I'm fearful of is that, please, this is a leap of faith that the fund balance will be good news, but if we —, we have many other obligations, as you know, to draw down fund balance. I did not want to come to you, let's say, in the middle of May and say I've got, you know, a fairly complex way of dealing with fund balance and you come to this issue on the \$125,000 and some restoration of the cuts in the Weightlifting Center and you say, oh, all of a sudden say, oh, that's not allowed, and then we've gone ahead another month, month and a half into the fiscal year without addressing that shortfall, so I guess it's my request of you if a motion like this passes that a majority of you would find favor in using fund balance in May to address the problem. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, it's out there. Commissioner Rivers said, we'd almost be forced to.

Mr. Hart said, we need a second to the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, was that a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, mam, it's a motion. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's been properly motioned and seconded. Is there any discussion?

Commissioner Murray asked, who is going to administer this fee structure? Mr. Abolt said, well, our contractor will. Our contractor would collect it and then we'd assure that it was audited. The Finance Department would take the money. Commissioner Murray said, so that means they're going to have to put somebody at the door to watch anybody that comes in to have a card or something for them. Who pays for all this? Mr. Abolt said, well, it's part of the cost of managing the program, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, was that in the contract when the contract was first let? Mr. Lynch said, it would be one, sir, that we would have to recognize that they're going to have a minimum wage, part time to hold the cost to the minimum, individual there. In point of fact, that's an addition, if you would, to our contract cost because that's imposing an additional workload on them. Commissioner Murray said, so you're suggesting that they have a minimum wage, part time person to collect cash money. Mr. Lynch said, that's what Michael [Cohen] and I have discussed is about the only way that you end up getting anything net out of it in your collection. You're running into the same problem here that we did, as you recall, when we looked at charging admission to Tybee Pier, and that is that a fee is not all profit. You have to have somebody there to collect it and to account for it. If you were to pass the fee that is outlined, which I'll say I think is about the

fairest we could find, for the balance of this year, that was based on the assumption that it would have been passed a couple of weeks earlier, the total amount you're going to probably be able to net this year is \$16,000 after you net out the costs of collecting.

Commissioner Murray said, excuse me just a minute. I've got a problem then, we —, and I know the \$125,000 is an arbitrary figure, but we're being told that we should have collected \$125,000 if we had been doing it year long. We aren't into but the fourth month of the year. Mr. Lynch said, sir, that was just a guess. Mr. Lynch said, sir, 125 —. Commissioner Murray said, we're being told that if we don't collect it we're going to be \$125,000 out of budget. Commissioner DeLoach said, but it was just one we stuck in the budget saying that would balance and, in fact, we were wrong. Commissioner Murray said, it's just like the guess was to take \$50,000 out of budget. It wasn't really going to work, but we're going to do it anyway. We guess it won't hurt. Commissioner DeLoach said, it was wrong. It was a mistake, but we just need to —. Commissioner Murray said, but your motion, let me see if I understand your motion. Your motion is to restore that funding so they can go ahead and do what they need to do at the Weightlifting Center. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes and then we'll deal with it next year coming up. That's the only thing I know to do. Commissioner Murray asked, but that is your motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Restate that motion, so I'll understand it. Commissioner Rivers said, he has the option of going to fund balance. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Rivers said, we're going to have that anyway. If we do nothing we're going to have that. Commissioner Murray said, that's fine, but I still feel like something's got to be worked out —. Commissioner DeLoach said, long term. Commissioner Murray said, with fees on the Team Savannah people that have paid to put that equipment in there and maintain it. Commissioner Rivers said, it ain't even significant, it ain't even worth it. Commissioner Murray said, all right, let's approve then.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Any further discussion?

Mr. Lynch said, a point on that, sir, that I think is significant. If you take a look and hark back to Michael's [Cohen] earlier comment, statistically Team Savannah is a very small part of the group from which you would be collecting a fee. Commissioner Murray said, oh, I understand that. Mr. Lynch said, yes. That's a real significant —, thousands. Commissioner Murray said, the only thing I was asking, I don't see how you can justify collecting from somebody that's given the equipment for everybody else to use, but that's neither here nor there. One other thing I would like to mention, you mentioned the pier and why we aren't collecting there. The State's taken care of that. They're going to make everybody that fishes off that pier buy a fishing license, which is wrong. Commissioner Saussy asked, are we going to receive the money? Mr. Lynch said, not to my knowledge.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, let's stay on the subject. Is there any further discussion? Vice Chairman Thomas said, any further discussion? Commissioner Saussy said, call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, I call the question. Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Price were not present.]

Mr. Cohen said, thank you very much.

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved to wait until we have the audit, take the fund balance to balance the Weightlifting Center based on that less the program that you're going to develop on scholarships and fee structure. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Price were not present.]

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## **2. VERBATIM MINUTES (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).**

Commissioner Jackel said, we have —, we're very lucky to have a very fine Clerk. She takes down everything in shorthand and types up these minutes, but I'm really of the belief that we do not need a verbatim transcript of each and every meeting. I think we do need the verbatim transcript for when we discuss zoning issues, and I think it would not hurt if she took down most of it and then someone could put in a request either before or after that it be done in a verbatim fashion, but I think the rest of it could be summarized and we would, I hope, have an economic savings by having her spend less time on this, and less paper and less copy and everything else. So, if someone sees something important coming up, they can ask that that be done in a verbatim thing, or if doesn't occur to you, afterwards since she is keeping the tape and notes. She could then supply it, but just on a routine thing I think most of the things would be best just summarized.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Anybody —? Commissioner Murray said, I'd like to hear from the County Attorney on that. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I think so too. Commissioner Murray said, I don't have a problem with it because I know we have a tape, but I just —, I know we have a lot of citizens come up and request pages out of the minutes, and I think it does need to be where it's clarified to those people when they get copies of those minutes and read only certain portions of it, but I don't know from a legal standpoint —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Attorney Hart.

Mr. Jon Hart said, I don't think there's a legal a requirement that we take verbatim minutes, but from a practical standpoint it's my understanding that at the present time that the Commissioners are receiving a full copy of the verbatim minutes with their package. I think from a practical standpoint that could probably not happen and we keep a verbatim copy of the minutes and then if each Commissioner had a question about something that came up in the meeting that they wanted, we could send them portions of those verbatim minutes and perhaps save the paper war. I understand that. From a practical standpoint though, these verbatim minutes, and they are a lot of work for our Clerk, but they are very valuable. I cannot express how valuable they are. Just several weeks ago we had a number of issues come up on Triplett Park and the verbatim minutes in those issues were things that took place last year, and memories have gotten somewhat foggy about what was or wasn't

said, and come in exceedingly handy for us to determine some of the things that we need to be doing out there. Often times Commissioners get called about what they said or are reported to have said in meetings, and on several occasions we've been able to clarify that to our citizens by saying, no, this is what I said, would you like to see the verbatim minutes. On other occasions we have projects that drag three and four and five years, things that have been discussed and come up on several occasions, and we are constantly going to the Clerk saying, can you pull everything that's been before the Commission on this particular issue. It takes a lot of her time, but when you get a package, you can read that and you can follow the history of what came up in the minutes and piece together what the County's position has been on a particular issue. It is a very valuable tool to the County Attorney's office. I would —, as the Commission obviously sets policy, and we would respect anything the Commission decides in that regard; however, from a practical standpoint, the County Attorney's office appreciates the effort that the Clerk does and feels that it is a valuable tool. Commissioner Odell said, hear, hear.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, I want them. Commissioner Jackel said, you want them? You want them to continue? Commissioner DeLoach said, I want them. I've used them a couple of times to clear the air. It works really great. Commissioner Jackel said, why don't we —, I mean, she's taking down things about proclamations and all these —. Commissioner Saussy said, that needs to be there. Commissioner Jackel said, mystery witness people and —. Commissioner Saussy said, that's part of the record of the County and it needs to be there. Whether we receive all of it is another story, but —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, do we need to vote or is it by —. Commissioner Murray said, it's just discussion right now, no vote. Commissioner Jackel said, its discussion.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, all right. Thank you. No changes.

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### **3. COMPENSATION ISSUES (BOARD).**

Mr. Abolt said, this is an item —. Commissioner Murray asked, who put it on there? Mr. Abolt said, this is an item that had been discussed by members of the Board unofficially. There was at one time some thought that possibly in another setting the same subject could be brought up, which was not appropriate. The only way we knew to bring it back to you was in your open session. There has been an issue, unfortunately, reported also in the paper today, and staff advised you some weeks ago that we are experiencing a very alarming loss of some very bright and key and reasonably tenured employees in one of our departments and it appears to be, from our analysis, in all candor the reason for the loss has to do with compensation. That certainly is a concern to all of us who care about the County. Staff has prepared for information an analysis of what it might take to bring within reasonable market comparability positions that we're losing now to the outside world, primarily the private sector, but we would be remiss in bringing that to you if we did not address other issues of disparity and pay and reclassification concerns. The end result of all that is that staff's identified for planning purposes about \$1.2 million that would address in part the compensation issues with the understanding that this does not go the complete route of fully funding your adopted compensation policy, which as we all know includes merit, cost of living and what have you. However you wish to deal with this, either today or in the future, please understand just as with the matter of the Weightlifting Center, financially I can give you no choices any earlier than if you were to entertain something on this matter in August when the digest was there and knowing full well the competition already in the line for that or, at the earliest after that, the 1999 budget, but either way it is an issue that something should probably be said by this Board in the weeks ahead. It will give staff some direction as to how you want to handle it in the future.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, what is your pleasure? Commissioner Jackel said, table it. Take it as information. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do we need a motion? Commissioner Murray said, we don't need anything. Commissioner DeLoach said, it was just discussion. Commissioner Murray said, it was just discussion. Mr. Abolt said, this is here at your behest. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, we can't just walk away as if it's not really happening. Let's at least say we need to address some particular part of this so that we don't look [inaudible] toward the need for compensated employees. We can't just walk away from it. We've got to say something. Commissioner Rivers said, we're going to address it when we've got the money to address it. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, but we need to start making a study of it now to get to that point when we have our budget hearings in September or October. Do we move in that direction now? This is a good time to start it now so that people know that we're addressing the issue that we're going to bring up at budget hearings in October, November, December. If that's the case, I make a motion that we move towards a study based on whatever —, what Russ [Abolt] was talking about, a study that he'll have to do to justify or at least show the discrepancies. That would be my motion at this time. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll second it. Commissioner Murray said, I don't even think we need a motion for them to do that. Staff knows what we need to do. We've been talking about it —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, we do have a motion on the floor. Commissioner Murray said, that's fine, let's vote. Commissioner DeLoach said, I just think it's more, I think it's more —.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a motion on the floor. Any discussion? Commissioner DeLoach said, no, none. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, let's vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Price were not present.]

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved that staff move towards a study of compensation issues, including disparity, pay and reclassification concerns, to be addressed during FY1999 budget hearings. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Price were not present.]

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**VII. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. MYSTERY CUSTOMER AWARDS.**

Mr. Van Johnson said, Dr. Thomas and members of the Board, we're again here to show our mystery customer recipient. These individuals have stood the test of our customer who have visited their respective departments and they have greeted and treated the mystery customer with the respect and the services that are indicative of Chatham County employees, and we're here to present them with the Mystery Customer Service Award. Our first award goes to Lillie Young, who works at the Public Library, and she's here with the Assistant Director of the Library, Bill Johnson.

Mr. Bill Johnson said, Dr. Thomas and Commissioners, somebody told me a good many years ago that to enjoy working in a public library you'd have to have a [inaudible] of missionary zeal. In an environment where we like to think of that commitment to service and desire to serve is the norm, Lillie Young is an individual who really does stand out. We're happy to have her because of that, working with our youngest customers, and we're pleased that she's made the intellectual curiosity of children her special mission.

Ms. Lillie Young said, to Dr. Thomas and the Commission and all of you here today, I'd just like to say thank you for the certificate and the award. I really do appreciate it and I hope that I have come up to the standards that you have said that I did, but most of all I appreciate everything that you have done. Thank you once again.

Mr. Van Johnson said, our second recipient is Cassandra Johnson. She's of the Magistrate Court, but she's presently out of town and unable to be with us this morning. Our third recipient is Randy Slay of the Voter Registration office. He is here this morning with Sandra Williams, Chief Deputy Registrar. Pardon me, Director. Commissioner DeLoach said, get it right, tell him to get it right.

Ms. Sandra Williams said, as the Director of the Voter Registration office, I'm very proud to be here to stand before you to say that I have the best department in the world and I'm glad that you all have saluted Randolph Slay.

Mr. Randolph Slay said, Dr. Thomas and Commissioners, I'd like to thank y'all for this recognition and I accept this not only on my behalf, but on behalf of my co-workers who are also instrumental in ensuring that we all perform at the highest level. And I'd also like to commend my Director, Ms. Williams, and my immediate supervisor, Ms. Margaret Moore, who upon my arrival as a member of that office, I was impressed with their professionalism and expertise in the customer service area. Thank you.

Mr. Abolt said, I wanted to make sure, ladies and —, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, that they did receive their checks. Those of you who are observing for the first time will not know that each of these employees did receive a \$50 check. Both of them have assured me that not only have they received it, but they've spent it.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Johnson, I'd like to recommend that we look at Commissioner Jackel as the most conscientious Commissioner and thorough, so we want an award for him. You can hold the money.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I would just like to recommend that at the next meetings as we do this that we have that as the first item on the agenda. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, they've been sitting here and I had an idea that that's what they were here for, but that's a mighty long time for them to have to sit. I know they've got things to do, but if we can do that at the first of the agenda at the next meetings. Commissioner Jackel said, it was, it was. Commissioner Murray said, no thanks to you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, thank you very much. We shall move on to the next item on the agenda.

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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we're going to move into CAT now because we do have one Commissioner who has to leave and if he leaves, we won't have a quorum. We need a motion to go into CAT.

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board recess as the County Commission and reconvene as the Chatham Area Transit Authority. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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The meeting of the Chatham Area Transit Authority was adjourned and the Board reconvened as the Chatham County Commission.

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**VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS**

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 (\*).

- 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. **SALARY ADJUSTMENTS (CHAIRMAN HAIR). Tabled at meeting of October 24, 1997, until budget deliberations.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- \* 5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE ADMISSION FEE PROGRAM FOR ANDERSON/COHEN WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER. Note: Tabled at meeting of March 13, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

This item and Item VI.1 were discussed jointly. Please refer to Item VI.1, Weightlifting Center - Michael Cohen (Commissioner Murray) for verbatim discussion.

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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 ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) RESERVE FOR VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS TRANSFER OF \$245,000 FOR PAVING CARTWRIGHT, LUCAS AND QUEENAIRE DRIVES.**

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: One Percent Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) Reserve for Various County Roads transfer of \$245,000 for paving Cartwright, Lucas and Queenaire Drives. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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### **2. POLICY REGARDING FEE WAIVERS AND A HISTORY OF WAIVERS TO DATE.**

Mr. Abolt said, Madam Chairman and members of the Board, this was prompted at your request and the advice of the County Attorney on how to address what amounts to definitely a ground swell of requests to waive fees for various County recreational facilities be they fixed, like the Pavilion at Lake Mayer, and other parks or the Tybee Pavilion, and most importantly and one thing that's been greatly used are the two portable band shells. I think Attorney Hart along with other staff have come up with Abolt excellent choice in dealing with it. One thing you'll find that even when we did charge and the charge stood for the use of the band shell, for example, we would arbitrarily at the time of receipt of the band shell assume that \$250 would cover the cost of setup and then removal from wherever the event took place. In looking at Mr. Golden's figure, that figure is in excess of \$700. So there was a subsidy there. We have on your agenda five or six ones that come after the policy issue. You can treat those in two ways: one, you can handle them with the understanding that whatever you might choose in direction today would not apply to these and they would stand as is and as you've been directed —, you've directed us in the past, the fees would be waived, or we could apply the new policy if you choose to adopt it.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm going to make a motion that we do away with granting waivers to any organization so there will be no hard feelings or there will be hard feelings by everybody. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second that motion. Commissioner Murray said, and I'll vote for it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm sorry, I was —. Okay, where are we now. I was —. Commissioner Murray said, there's a motion and second on the floor. Mr. Hart said, motion and second on the floor to do away with all waivers. Mr. Abolt said, so my understanding would be, if you give us that policy direction, then Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 you would deny. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, I call for the question. Please vote.

Commissioner Saussy said, let's discuss what we're denying. Commissioner Murray said, people wanting to have a waiver of the fee. Mr. Abolt said, if I may, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, the issue has become that it's common knowledge that rather than pay the fee, for 32¢ spent on a stamp has proven that the fee can be avoided. Attorney Hart has come up immediately and say, hey, watch out because it could be a violation of the gratuities clause. Staff does not waive fees. We come to you with the requests, but —, I don't want to be dramatic, but the floodgates have opened and everyone wants the fee waived. Commissioner DeLoach said, everybody's [inaudible] and we can't do that. Mr. Abolt said, so I mean, there's nothing certainly wrong with this motion. It's very easy to enforce and may very well simplify things.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, what do we have? Commissioner DeLoach said, you're going to [inaudible] and everybody's going to be happy. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right. Commissioner Odell said, let the record reflect, in my opinion Billy [Hair] would have voted for that. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a policy to deny all requests for waiver of fees for use of Tybee Pavilion, portable band shells and other County facilities. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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Mr. Abolt said, I believe you handled Items 3 through 7 by your previous action.

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- 3. **REQUEST FROM JEFF CREMO, PROJECT COORDINATOR OF GEORGIA’S “GOT YOUTH COVERED,” TO WAIVE THE \$550 FEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RENTAL OF THE TYBEE PAVILION FOR JUNE 6, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The request is **denied** pursuant to newly-adopted policy not to waive fee for use of the Tybee Pavilion (see Item IX-2 above).

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- 4. **REQUEST FROM THE TYBEE ISLAND MARINE SCIENCE FOUNDATION, INC., TO WAIVE THE \$550 FEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RENTAL OF THE TYBEE PAVILION FOR MAY 24, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The request is **denied** pursuant to newly-adopted policy not to waive fee for use of the Tybee Pavilion (see Item IX-2 above).

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- 5. **REQUEST FROM THE TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT TO USE A PORTABLE BAND SHELL FOR THREE (3) DAYS, APRIL 17, 18, AND 19, 1998, DURING THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET FESTIVITIES AND TO WAIVE THE \$250 PER DAY USER FEE (TOTAL \$750).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The request is **denied** pursuant to newly-adopted policy not to waive fee for use of the Tybee Pavilion (see Item IX-2 above).

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- 6. **REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND TO USE THE TYBEE PAVILION FOR NINE (9) DAYS FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND TO WAIVE THE \$550 PER DAY RENTAL FEE (TOTAL FEE \$4,950).  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The request is **denied** pursuant to newly-adopted policy not to waive fee for use of the Tybee Pavilion (see Item IX-2 above).

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- 7. **REQUEST FROM MPC TO USE A PORTABLE BAND SHELL IN CONJUNCTION WITH EARTH DAY, APRIL 19, 1998, AND TO WAIVE THE \$250 USER FEE.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

The request is **denied** pursuant to newly-adopted policy not to waive fee for use of the Tybee Pavilion (see Item IX-2 above).

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**8. APPROVAL OF THE GMP CHANGE ORDER (NO. 10) WITH MTCB AND CONFIRMATION OF FURTHER BUILDING REDUCTIONS. (See memo explaining need to delay for two weeks.)**

Mr. Abolt said, this one, as we indicated, we'll need two more weeks on that. The contractor has to perform in a fashion satisfactory to staff. It will also allow us enough time to advise you in advance and coincidental with that the Trade Center Authority. Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Mr. Abolt said, we're just delaying it for two weeks. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, carried.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to table this item to the next meeting. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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**9. REQUEST BOARD CONCURRENCE FOR JONES, HILL AND MERCER'S (CHATHAM COUNTY'S THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR), TO CONTRACT WITH ST. JOSEPH'S CANDLER HEALTH SYSTEM, THROUGH THE SAVANNAH BUSINESS GROUP AS THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FOR CHATHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEES, RETIREES AND THEIR FAMILIES. (See supplemental information provided.) Please note request from Commissioner Jackel to table item.**

Mr. Abolt said, thank you, Madam Vice Chairman and gentlemen. The issue before you is a recommendation from the third party administrator, Jones, Hill & Mercer, to award a contract for employee health care services. Before I introduce Mr. Garrison from Jones, Hill and Ms. Whitehead, there are two issues I want to again reinforce, as we've done in some printed material. Number one, this is not a bid. It's a request for professional services, so you have maximum discretion on how you handle the recommendation, and, number two, unlike other solicitations for proposals, we have a unique relationship with our third party administrator. Jones, Hill, Mercer has been selected under an RFP to manage our health care program for our 1600 employees. Part of that contract calls for them to make recommendations as to who the care giver will be. So, in effect, you have today you have the RFP results and you also have a recommendation from the third party administrator, Jones, Hill, Mercer, to look at, not a continuation, but award of a contract to St. Joseph's/Candler. Questions that are specific should primarily addressed to Mr. Garrison, and then certainly staff can respond beyond that as appropriate.

Ms. Beverly Whitehead said, good morning, Dr. Thomas and Commission. We find ourselves in an unenviable position today. Chatham County has two which I believe premiere health care institutions, St. Joe/Candler Health System and Memorial. We embraced attack in January to request that our TPA, Jones, Hill, Mercer, go out and request proposals for the provision of health care services for the employees and their families of Chatham County. We received proposals back and we had five responses. Basically, the five responses centered around the two institutions. The evaluation committee consisted of myself as your HR Director, our Senior Contracts Administrator, Kathy White, Chuck Voelker, our Risk Manager, Bob Johnson, our Benefits Manager, and James Garrison, Vice President of Jones, Hill, Mercer. That evaluation committee spent endless hours, which was not an easy task, reviewing the proposals, looking at data, examining where we've been in terms of utilization review, in terms of cost savings, in terms of relationships in the past, where we are now, and what our future goals are in the area of health care. Consistently, since 1988, the employees of this jurisdiction have by their own choice utilized the services of Candler and St. Joe. We have been four years into our current agreement with Candler as our preferred provider. We have returned to the taxpayers cost savings each year that we have been under this current contract.

In 1997 alone, 49% savings was returned to the taxpayers. We've been able to do that through a very closely knit partnership, one founded on consistent communication, on quick resolution of problems, on quality provision medical care, on close alliance and relationship with the physicians that provide the primary care and specialty care in the community and with our TPA for claims adjudication and for advise and assistance in the area of health care. At this point I'd like to introduce some members to you and then I will ask James Garrison to come to the podium. And I ask as I introduce them to please stand because the body I'm about to introduce is the body staff for recommending to be our health care provider, our preferred health care provider for Chatham County. James Garrison, Vice President of Jones, Hill, Mercer, Paul Hinchey, CEO of St. Joe/Candler Health System, David Deason, President and Chairman of Savannah Business Group, J. B. Freeman, Executive Director, Savannah Business Group, Paul Justice, who has played a dual role through this process, both as legal counsel for the St Joe/Candler Health System as well as assistance in this managed care process. My next row, Ramona Johnson, who was the team leader for the employees of Chatham County, Jenny Lee [phonetic], who is Paul Hinchey's right hand, and probably without Jenny [Lee] Paul [Hinchey] couldn't figure out where he needs to be on each day. She keeps him straight. And we have two physicians, and I appreciate you moving us up because those two physicians we kidnaped literally from their practices this morning, and they have patients waiting: Dr. Hissam and Dr. Paul Bradley. These individuals represent the team that we're recommending to you as a Commission to provide health services, both hospital services as well as physician network services under a PPO arrangement. At this time, I'll ask James Garrison to come forward.

Mr. Garrison said, thank you, Beverly [Whitehead]. Madam Chair, Commissioners, as Beverly [Whitehead] said, I am James Garrison. I'm Vice President of Jones, Hill & Mercer Employee Benefits, Incorporated. Jones, Hill & Mercer is a full service

third party administrator. We were founded here in Chatham County in 1885 and have continuously operated as part of the Chatham County community for 113 years. We've served the Chatham County employees as the administrative manager of the health plan for approximately two decades. Our role as the County's third party administrator includes health plan payment for your self-funded plan, financial reporting and data analysis with cost containment efforts, managed care of contracting, plan design consulting, regulatory and legislative monitoring, and planned documentation services. The staff's recommendation that you have before you today is a culmination of several months of efforts. This process that began with your action in December that charged us with the responsibility of requesting and reviewing proposals for preferred provider organizations. Your current contract with Candler Hospital has been in effect for about four years now, had an original expiration date of December 31, 1997, and that has been extended until now. We received proposals, as Beverly [Whitehead] said, from five organizations. Each proposing organization was interviewed by the committee that Beverly [Whitehead] mentioned during the selection process. The field was narrowed down to your two primary health care provider systems in Chatham County, and it was narrowed down obviously to Memorial and to St. Joe/Candler SBG arrangement. Additional interviews were held with each of these finalists, if you will, and with these two competing health systems. After detailed analysis of all aspects of the proposals, the result is the recommendation that the interest of Chatham County plan and the employees would best be served by the St. Joseph's/Candler SBG arrangement. Some of the reasons for this recommendation are enumerated in the documents that you have supporting this staff report and also the staff report. The recommended arrangement excels in each of the three primary evaluation criteria that we used: price, program and history. Price: The most favorable price was the SBG St. Joseph's/Candler System price. The programs: The plan contains programs that enhance employee health and well-being, and ultimately —, price is a very important consideration, but ultimately the health state of your employees determines the ultimate price in terms of dollars and also in terms of well-being for your employees, so that is the ultimate deciding factor, the health state, and particularly the health state, of your employees. It is important for any program to contain things that thrust along these lines of increasing health well-being. The third, as I mentioned, history: This —.

Commissioner Odell asked, Madam Chairman, may we ask questions as we go or do you want us to wait until the presentation is ended? Mr. Garrison said, I'm just about at the conclusion. I've got one —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, if you can just hold it and let him finish and then —.

Mr. Garrison said, thank you. The history: This continues a very successful partnership, as Beverly [Whitehead] mentioned, of a plan that is enjoyed with Candler Hospital for the past, and this enhancement of it adds the St. Joseph's Hospital along with their past successful partnership. One additional comment: As a whole, this decision was a very difficult decision. We required a very detailed analysis of many complex factors. Chatham County is indeed very fortunate to have two excellent health care delivery systems from which to choose. That is not always the case in communities of Chatham County's size. I'll be available to answer your questions. I would like to introduce you and continue to introduce the President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Joe/Candler Health System, Paul Hinchey, if I may at this time or at the Board's pleasure.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have two hands —, we have two hands first. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I've just got a couple of questions. One is was any of the items rebid at any time? I mean, did you receive at any time a proposal and then both items were resubmitted to gain additional information? Mr. Garrison said, no, sir. Let me go back through the process. We had five —. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I understand what the process. Mr. Garrison said, five bidders. We called them in and had interviews and then we narrowed it down to two. We called in and had another round of interviews with just those two and asked —, during that process of interviews, we asked identical questions to the two final bidders and they came back with responses from those questions. At no time was there ever any rebid or change of the bid request or the proposal request or whatever. There was no —. Commissioner Odell asked, was indigent care considered as a factor in awarding the contract? Mr. Harrison said, I can't —. Commissioner Odell said, let me just finish my question. My question is, I know Memorial Medical Center provides a substantial amount of indigent care. Ultimately, we as taxpayers ultimately bear that brunch. Looking at what's happened at the State level as far as cutting the Indigent Care Trust Fund, did we look at whether or not the Candler/St. Joe provided indigent care or free care, was that a factor in this decision? Mr. Garrison said, our focus was on specifically the self-funded health benefit plan of Chatham County, and as such the process was very narrow in that in picking what is best for this Chatham County self-funded health plan, the —, and I would have to answer your question that —. Commissioner Odell said, right. Mr. Garrison said, and the separate issue of indigent care delivery, it was not considered. Commissioner Odell said, I understand that, but, you know, just for the record so that everyone will be abundantly clear, I'm concerned that if we have one institution that takes those that do not have health care and they take the financial loss and then we have an instance in which there is money to be made, butt that is not a factor in evaluation, it appears to me that one institution is potentially receiving the gravy while the other institution [inaudible] the care for those who otherwise would not have care, and maybe I'm wrong, but that looks like it should be a factor in that we are a county government. Mr. Garrison said, I don't disagree with that, and I would like to a little bit later in this presentation to ask St. Joseph's/Candler to respond to that and get in further in this question and to answer your question very specifically, in these criterias [sic] for this self-funded health plan, the evaluation process is pretty narrowly focused as to what is best for this plan and the Chatham County employee benefit plan and that plan only. Commissioner Odell said, one last question and then I'll shut it off. We had Jones, Hill & Mercer for the State of Georgia for two decades, and we have had the Candler/St. Joseph's, or it used to be Candler preferred, for four years now —, is that correct? Mr. Garrison said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and you all are the group that makes that determination for us, is that true? Mr. Garrison said, we take the lead in making that determination. We would not suppose to —, I mean, we would not make that determination without the concurrence of the Board. Commissioner Odell said, I understand, sir. My only concern is if 're not in the lead and you have a working relationship with staff, how do you ever, at least to us Commissioners, ensure us that it's not a self-fulfilling project; that if used, these are the people you are comfortable doing business with and there are no absolute empirical system for you to do your evaluation. It is based upon opinion as to what category should be given to what, when. Am I correct? This is not for God as to what category we should evaluate our health care provider with. Mr. Garrison said, no, it is not. Commissioner Odell said, okay, and someone makes that opinion decision, is that true? Mr.

Garrison said, yes, based on customs and practices, they would. Commissioner Odell asked, and would you also agree that other people with similar training might differ as to the weight that each one should be given? Mr. Garrison said, I would have to agree with that, but I am also confident that the decision is one that would be not only our opinion, but similar —, my peers and similar consultants would look at it the same. Commissioner Odell said, well, reasonable people would come to the same conclusion, but reasonable people with similar training could come to a different conclusion. Mr. Garrison said, yes, that is very possible. It was a very difficult decision. Health care is a complex issue these days and there are an awful lot of factors to consider, and it was a difficult decision. Commissioner Odell said, that's all at this time.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioner Jackel, then DeLoach and then Price.

Commissioner Jackel said, let me just take one brief second with an aside here. My wife had to go to a physician recently and we received a form from Jones, Hill & Mercer. It had an address, but no phone number. I was very disappointed on that. I hope that's been changed. Mr. Garrison said, if it has not been changed, it will be changed this afternoon. Commissioner Jackel said, if I don't see a phone number on it, I believe that means you don't want to receive calls. I did not take that well. But now to the position at hand. We've got —, you know, if you don't want our plan, we'll go somewhere else. Mr. Garrison said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, if I had a question and I wanted a phone number to call and someone to talk to and there was none on the form, so I hope —, I was told that was going to be changed. I hope it has. Did you read the report that was intended for the Commissioners to receive and did you have any part in its preparation? Mr. Garrison said, I need some clarification of what report. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, we received a thing that says, Beverly Whitehead, Human Resources Director, from her, and it was the original report that we were supposed to receive with several attachments. Commissioner Price asked, why don't you ask Beverly [Whitehead] that question? Commissioner Jackel said, I want to ask —. Did you have any —, did you review —? Mr. Garrison said, the staff recommendation, yes, I have reviewed that, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, you did review that? Mr. Garrison said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, let me tell you my great concerns about the recommendation we received. One —, if I'm wrong please point it out to me. Nowhere in the report that we received did it indicate how much the cost of the project was or, or —. Would you please hand him a copy of the report. This is the report that you reviewed with Ms. Whitehead that you knew we were supposed to receive as Commissioners? Mr. Garrison said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. No where in this report does it indicate the cost of the project. Is that correct? Mr. Garrison said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. How am I, as a Commissioner, can I vote on something without knowing the cost? Mr. Garrison said, the cost was subsequently —, some of the cost comparisons —, these proposals that were received were all marked confidential and they were part of the business secrets for the various competing health care organizations. We did, as addendums and subsequently were sent through Mr. Abolt to the Commission various comparisons of prices, very sensitive prices between the St. Joe/Candler SBG proposal and the Memorial proposal. They put those out side by side, so as an addendum some price comparisons are there, but the prices in this are not enumerated side by side. Commissioner Jackel said, that's not my question. My question is there are four pages with A, B and C attachments, and that's all that you reviewed and we were going to be furnished with, and no where in there does it tell us total cost of what we were going to vote for. If I had no additional information, I would be irresponsible if I voted without knowing the total cost. I don't understand why you approved this and sent this to us like that. Mr. Garrison asked, may I attempt to explain? Commissioner Jackel said, sure. Mr. Garrison said, the total price of your health care, the bottom line of your health care benefit plan from this time until this time next year cannot be determined. It can only be determined by the utilization that your various employees and the families that use —, utilize health care during the year, utilize at the end of the year so that —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I understand that, but there should be some projected cost or this is what it cost you last year or something, but there's no price information in here. Also in here, we were never informed of what the cost differential was between the two groups. What this —, it was impossible for me based on the information to make any decision. I still need additional information. Now, concerning the additional information, on the document we received from you —, no, actually —, yes, from you on the outpatient cost, there are no projections for me to understand what the possible cost on this would be and who would be the low provider. In outpatient surgery Memorial charges \$950 per case, implants, medical devices and appliance costs plus 25%, professional fees excluded. Across from that, St. Joseph's/Candler has \$987 per case, devices, implants, and professional fees included at cost plus 10%. I would hope you would have provided us with the information on —, like you did in the other area, 1995, 6 and 7, how that worked out and who would have been the low provider on that case because I can't figure it out. You know there are three types of mathematicians, there are those that can count and those that can't, so that's part of my problem. Commissioner Saussy asked, what's the third one. Commissioner Jackel said, one day you'll be smart enough to figure that out. Okay, so there are three types of mathematicians and I fall in the second category. Commissioner Price said, would you repeat that for me. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll explain it later. All right, we've got outpatient lab costs with 30% off and the other says 75% discount from charges. Again, because I'm the second type of mathematician, and just —. Commissioner Murray asked, what's the third? Commissioner Jackel said, well, there are two kinds, those that can count and those that count [sic], and I'm the second kind. Commissioner Murray said, I thought you were the third. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, well, maybe the third. All right. And on down the list. I would like to see some sort of breakdown on that before I had to cast my vote. The other thing is —, unless that information is available now. Is it? Well, I would still need some time to study it. The other thing is I received information that once all the information was submitted people were asked to reconsider, and I've heard four different pronunciations of this so I'm not sure which is correct, the outlayers, outlaws, outliers, and I forgot the fourth pronunciation. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time. Mr. Garrison said, I pronounce it outliers. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, we'll use outliers. I understand both parties were asked to reconsider their outliers. Memorial said they did not wish to, that they would look at it six months down the road, and I understand St. Joseph's/Candler did reconsider theirs. Is that not correct? Mr. Garrison said, that is correct. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so that changed the figures once they reconsidered theirs. Mr. Garrison said, that was in the final negotiations with both parties they were asked the same questions and that's —, one question was about the outlier methodology that they proposed, and they both answered those questions just as you said, Memorial stuck with what they had originally proposed and Candler/St. Joe came back with a modification in the methodology that they calculate their outliers. Now I know that sounds like Greek and the detailed explanation will take a while, and I'll be glad to make it if you wish me to do so. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's the question. Now once they reconsidered it, is that the time they went —, they changed it from first dollar until after the deductible and did that change their bid from higher to lower? Mr. Garrison said, there was no deductible —, I'm not —.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, the outlier doesn't come into effect until after \$40,000 is what I'm saying, and as I understand Memorial's plan after \$30,000 that the outlier comes into effect it switches back to first dollar. Mr. Garrison said, that is right. Commissioner Jackel said, whereas St. Joseph's proposal on the table now doesn't. So was that the change that —. Mr. Garrison said, the St. Joseph's/Memorial —, I mean, the St. Joseph's/Candler system is much more favorable than the Memorial and is —. Commissioner Jackel said, as presently stands, but what was it before they reconsidered? Mr. Garrison said, it was very similar. They both had a \$30,000 outlier to begin with. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so they both had \$30,000 and after reconsideration St. Joseph's was more favorable? Mr. Garrison said, that is correct. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Mr. Garrison said, and that's been enumerated in a memo of comparison of all the health care claims or all the admissions for the Chatham County employees and dependents for the 1995, 1996 and 1997 plan years. We took all those admissions and ran them through each formula and [inaudible] this as proposed and it's a memo from me through Mr. Abolt. It shows the differential in the price and the net result of that repricing through those two differing contracts. Commissioner Jackel asked, was that done prior to the reconfiguring? Mr. Garrison said, no, that was done on the final proposal. Commissioner Jackel said, on the final. Mr. Garrison said, final proposal. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. When both sides were asked to reconfigure their outliers —. Commissioner DeLoach said, outliers or [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry —. I'm still asking for the correct, I don't know. Did either party have any idea where the other was in this —, in that situation. Mr. Garrison said, absolutely not. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Is it possible to get the information that I requested on what the outpatient cost is going to break down to and go back over 95, 96 and 97 as it's proposed? Mr. Garrison said, as you can see from the complexity of the different methodology, and some of them are dollar prices, some of them are percentage discounts from certain charges, some of them match up very clearly side by side, such as MRI's, CT scans and things of that nature. To answer your question, yes, it is possible. It is a very involved process. Commissioner Jackel said, Madam Chairman, I have no further questions.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, and recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I wanted to know exactly how do you determine the list of physicians that Chatham County uses? Mr. Garrison said, included with the proposal received from the competing health systems are physician panels or what we call preferred provider panels, and those are organizations that are put together by the health care systems or hospital systems themselves and led by those systems, and that's —, that is how those are determined. They become part of the system's proposal. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. If you've got a different insurance company, would they have the same group of physicians if Candler were listed as the primary care person? Would they have the same listing as —, if I had, for instance, Anthem Health. Is Anthem Health's group list the same as Chatham County's group list? Mr. Garrison said, it —, two answers to this, it maybe, maybe not. The various health care systems contract with many financing agencies. The contracts —, in this case the contract's through us with the Chatham County plan. It may also contract —, that same system may contract with Anthem Health. His contract with Anthem Health would be different than one with —, that we're talking about today. They make a decision on whether to contract with a self-funded plan, insurance company or whatever about what kind of volume that plan or that insurance company or whatever is going to bring to the table, and that has a lot to do with the pricing methodology to the level of services that they offer to that contracting entity. That can make a difference in the number of doctors and who the doctors are, but —. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, what I'm getting at, and maybe I'm not doing a very good job of it, but when it's got a Candler Health System's provider on the outside sign —. I'll go ahead and get down to it. I've got Anthem Health. I got terrible service from Candler. Not necessarily the hospital. I've had surgery, and it's been great surgery and great service and all that other stuff. It was great, but if my wife has a cold, I can't get there. You cannot get into the doctor's office and see somebody. Period. Now, I know everybody will stand up and say you're wrong and all that, but, no, I've been there and I've done that. Okay. It's terrible, terrible, terrible service. Absolutely the worst I've ever seen. I don't know if Memorial's is any better. I'm speaking for the people who need the service. Everybody's talking here saying it's great. It's absolutely terrible. I don't need it, Beverly [Whitehead], I don't need it right now. My point in all this is —. No, I'm talking to him, okay. My point in all this is I want to speak to the person who uses the service. Not necessarily Chatham County. I have Anthem Health, but they've got great physicians, but they've got poor coordination as far as those physicians are concerned. Dr. Schyberg, there doesn't come one any better than Dr. Schyberg, but I can't ever get ahold [sic] of a primary care doctor. You know, everybody wants to have their own doctor and it used to be that way, and at one time the doctors controlled everything and now the hospitals do, so we've got us a deal going here now, and everybody —, the consumer's right in the middle of all of it and we're catching the devil because of it. But there's great physicians at Memorial. I use some of them and have to pay extra for them. I don't like having to pay extra for them. It doesn't make any sense to me why I should do that, but apparently there's a logic to all this, and I'm sure it comes down to the bottom line, but my problem in the services at Candler is the physician providers, there either is —, and I don't know how you answer this, if it's an adequate number. They don't —, whether they pay them enough, whether they're actually —, because when they come in, you get them, they last about six months, maybe two years or when they can get out from under a contract they've got with them and they're out in private practice and you've got to chase them down in private practice and that type thing. I've been with Anthem Health Care about four years and I've been with Candler that long. So, the hospital, a great facility, great service. I've been in there, had an operation, super. The everyday, I've got a cold or I've got strep throat, you cannot get in the doctor's office, and that's period. I don't care, you can line them up here and tell me how great you are. They're terrible. All right. I know because I have had to try to get my child into the doctor and it does not happen, so I end up paying more and going to Sun Coast because I can't get to the doctor, and that's wrong, and yet I'm stuck because my primary provider is Candler. Now to me Chatham County —, to me the option it ought to be is we ought to sit down and use a negotiator, you come up with an equal contract and both of them provide the same amount of service and you choose where you want to go as far as a Chatham County employee. It doesn't —, I don't need to pay 10 more percent [sic] to Memorial because I want to go to Memorial and I've got Dr. Wheeler, who's a great doctor, or Dr. Murray, who's a great doctor. I don't need to pay more because I'm going to them if I'm a Chatham County employee. I should be able, since I am a taxpayer and Memorial Hospital is part of our —, you know, we pay the indigent care, and we've got Candler, who's a great hospital, but I can't get to the doctor because they don't have one that I can see. I ought to be able to go to another doctor and not have to pay more. Now that's what I think you ought to negotiate, and those prices the way they look to me weren't that big a difference. So sit down and say, okay, boys, this is what we're going to do it at, and if they agree to it, you know, and really,

I think, it's not that far off. The numbers is what —, the way they look to me, and Beverly [Whitehead] said that 25% of the people is all that goes to Memorial. If that's the case, it won't make any difference. Am I wrong in that?

Mr. Garrison said, you've addressed a lot of things. Let me address a few of them. The Chatham County plan enjoys a much greater strength and leverage amongst the providers than Anthem Health does in Chatham County. The Chatham County employee plan, it accesses problems like you've experienced through the insurance company, through Anthem Health. The plan has and will continue to have dedicated customer service representatives that are dedicated only to the employees of Chatham County, not to serve Anthem Health or whatever, so if an employee of Chatham County has trouble getting an appointment with Sun Coast, Sun Coast is the preferred provider under the St. Joe/Candler System, if you will —, South Coast, I mean. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, they just come [sic] on board right recently. Ms. Whitehead said, January. Commissioner DeLoach said, January, yes, they just come [sic] on board. I know all this, see. I've been down it. Mr. Garrison said, but a Chatham County employee has a customer service advocate under this proposal and they have in the past with Chatham County, and we handle different plans, but the Chatham County plan has much stronger leverage and must stronger response for its managed care patients or its employees than most plans do. The —, let me address the —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what does that mean? I mean, you've got —, I mean, is there a larger list that Chatham County gets to choose from that says —. Mr. Garrison said, that means in the Chatham County —. Commissioner DeLoach said, that says Candler Hospital on the front than there is —? Mr. Garrison said, yes, that is true, but if a Chatham County employee has trouble with any part of this system, all they have to do is call Ramona Johnson. She is the customer service representative and she spearheads that problem through the system and gets it taken care of that day. Commissioner DeLoach said, I can see the advantage to having, you know, a thousand people rather than the 50 that we've got, but my point is, I just want decent service. Mr. Garrison said, everybody does, I agree. Let me —, you addressed —, why don't we just, and that's good, you asked a good question. Why don't we just cut deals with everybody and let everybody —, have everybody free to choose anywhere they want to go and get a real good price from everybody put together? Well, the very nature of these proposals and contracts, when you as a businessman or a hospital provider or whatever are proposing a discounted rate to a buyer, you look at that buyer and see how much money they're going to spend with you, how much leverage do they have on me, and that's the whole nature of preferred managed care or preferred provider networks in that if you bring a lot of business, then that entity can afford to give you a little better price. If you get into the situation where, all right, we'll get a low price from everybody, well then you're back at the starting point. If you've got, you know, a wide open, no steerage or anything towards one and you can get that best price from both people, now what do you do? Well, you go back to one of them and say now if we shoot all of our business over there will you lower it, and that one will say yes, and that's the point we're at. If you were to say we're going to pay everybody the same price, then you would lose one of these proposals if not both. Both of these systems require when they have a preferred provider that they have steerage, that they utilize their doctors, their institutions, and that is the rationale for them giving a better price, and —, to address that because that is an important point and you do address it. If you pay a higher price overall, you can get an equal, you know, you can get —, the higher the price, the wider spread of health care providers that you can get. Commissioner DeLoach said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Price, and then Commissioner Saussy and Commissioner Jackel and then Murray.

Commissioner Price said, the issue of indigent health care has come up, and I don't fault anyone from bringing it up, but I do think that something that needs to be clarified as to whether or not it should be included in this process of deciding on who's going to be the primary health care provider for the County employees. In my opinion, I don't see why it would be a determinate factor. What we want is what's best for our employees and most cost efficient for our employees, and the fact that another health care provider in town is handling a large portion of indigent health care needs in this County to me doesn't mean that because they may be incurring costs in doing so, that they should be favored over another health care provider who may have a less population of indigent health care to come to their hospital. I don't —, I just don't have any real way of measuring that one way or the other with favoring one hospital or the other just because they might have a higher population of indigent health care. I think that really shouldn't be part of this —, that shouldn't be used to determine what we do today.

Commissioner Saussy said, I've just got a few questions. If I understand it, Jones, Hill & Mercer is owned by John Alden. Mr. Garrison said, that is correct. We are a wholly owned subsidiary of the John Alden Financial Corporation. Commissioner Saussy said, okay. Under John Alden's PPO outside of this, outside of Chatham County, in your PPO's and your HMO's in the Savannah area, who do you do business —, who does John Alden do business with? Mr. Garrison said, the primary —, in the past few years the primary provider for the John Alden health —, small group fully-insured health plans has been Memorial. They also have access to Candler. Commissioner Saussy said, okay, that's all I've got.

Commissioner Jackel said, I also have a question. In the proposal we're dealing with St. Joseph's/Candler, I understand they don't have a neonatal unit and they would be taken care of at Memorial. Mr. Garrison said, correct. Commissioner Jackel said, if there's a bill of \$300,000 or \$400,000, how is that handled? Mr. Garrison said, through the proposal that has been made by St. Joseph's/Candler Savannah Business Group, for those things that cannot —, there are a few things that cannot be done by that system, such as neonatal and the highest level trauma services. For those things that cannot be performed by the Candler/St. Joseph's System, that system has agreed to indemnify the plan to the tune of a discount for those services that they cannot provide by 40%, a 40% discount from those —, from the retail cost of those services. Interestingly enough to note, for level one trauma the Memorial Medical Center discount for that area is 30% if the contract was with Memorial. If it's with St. Joe/Candler, St. Joe/Candler's indemnifying the plan by a 40% discount for those same services. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so if it's a \$400,000 bill, St. Joseph's picks up 40% —, pays us 40% of the cost of the bill. Mr. Garrison said, correct. They do that through the stop loss or excess arrangements with y'all's secretary. I don't know how they do it, but they do it. Commissioner Jackel said, and we would pay the balance. Mr. Garrison said, that is correct. Your plan would pay what this plan —, whatever the schedule of benefits pays for the balance, yes, sir.

Commissioner Saussy asked, what is the stop loss on the aggregate —, is it a aggregate stop loss? Mr. Garrison said, the County has two forms of excess loss insurance that backs up the self-funded portion of the plan. One is what we call a specific stop loss. That's for individual claims either on employees or dependents that receive \$100,000 during a calendar year. You also have what we call aggregate stop loss coverage that protects all the claims in the aggregate self-funded claims if they exceed a certain dollar, which is calculated at 125% of expected claims during the year, and then you have insurance that backs up there. Now what I'm speaking of, the health care system, Candler/St. Joe, has their own. I mean, they agree to indemnify the plan and it's outside of this. It's outside of this. It's a different kind of excess. I'm assuming they have excess insurance. They might just pay it out of their pocket. That's not our business, but they have agreed to discount this. Commissioner Jackel said, we hope we don't reach that level. Mr. Garrison said, everybody hopes that. Commissioner Saussy said, we'd be in big trouble then.

Commissioner Murray said, I really didn't have any questions until I listened to a few of the other questions that were asked, but I've been in all three hospitals and I've gotten good service out of all three. I don't have any problem with that. Where I have a problem is if you do go to a doctor, you don't have the choice of the doctors you go to and some of us have been through some major medical problems and some of the employees of Chatham County have, and I think the only way we should go to a doctor, in my opinion, is one that you really have faith in, especially going through different types of treatment, and without that —. You know, I would go to the doctor I want to go to rather than worry about who's on that list, and just pay the higher price if that's what we have to do, but I don't agree that we should have to do that. And to me cost is not the most important issue here. Mr. Garrison said, Beverly [Whitehead] has an answer to that. Commissioner Murray said, well, I haven't finished my questions yet. I wish y'all would just all this back and forth until we get through and then y'all can come back to us with anything you want, but we're the ones that have to make the decision of who to go with. I've had just about every board member from y'all's group call me. Some I've talked to, some have left voice mails, and that's fine. I have not had one person from the other company call me other than receiving a fax, and I quite frankly appreciate the fax we got because it brought some things out. But I'm not going to sit there and go back and forth with who to go with because to me price is not the most important thing. The service that we get and the health care that these people receive is the most important thing, and to me —, it's not just here, it's all across the country, the health care system has changed, and I don't think it's right in telling people you've got to go to a certain doctor if you want something done, and that's what's happening. When you go to the hospital it's one thing, that's fine, but when you go to the doctors' offices, it's like cattle being herded through an office. Somebody brought up Sun Coast a minute ago. Yes, I do know that's part of the St. Joseph's system and one of my doctors is a part of that group, and since he's gone to that group, he's the one that told me it's like herding cattle anymore. If I didn't know your history, I couldn't send you to have these tests run because I'd be like another person coming through there he didn't know about. And so whether he thought it was justified or not, he couldn't send for that service or you couldn't go to have that test done. And I had the doctor himself tell me that, and I have some real problems with that. Now I'm not saying this group is the best one or Memorial's the best one, but I think we have to have these questions answered before we decide on any group.

Ms. Whitehead said, Commissioner Murray, if you would allow me to respond to that. When we contracted four years ago, we did so based upon one very important criteria: maintaining employee choice. When we had the negotiations in 1994 and again in 1998, we posed to both providers, then and now, that for any of our employees, if they —, if their particular physician was not in the network, in the existing network, that that institution would make contact with that physician and request that that physician come under that network to meet that employee choice. That has been consistently done. We have had —. Commissioner Murray said, well, what happens if that physician doesn't want to go to that group? Ms. Whitehead said, if the —, we can't force the physician to do so. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. Ms. Whitehead said, but what our commitment has been is we firmly believe in employee choice as a technical matter, and since 1994 we have had many employees who's physician for whatever reason went out of practice, had to change, they went with a different doctor and wanted that doctor added, and we have had those physicians added. We have broadened our panel of physicians, our network of physicians to address the very issues that Commissioner DeLoach identified, and that was physician access. In addition to physician access, the waiting time in physician office. All of those issues are being readily dealt with and have been consistently dealt with, and we have said over and over and over, in writing, in open enrollment sessions, in all of our communications with our employees, if your doctor isn't there, we will do everything we can do to get your doctor there. I can't make that final decision for that physician, but we can do everything that we can do to facilitate that process. If you have a problem, we give you 24 hours and we will have it resolved. Those are the commitments that set aside the two health care institutions. Those are the commitments that this organization has made to its employees.

Commissioner Murray said, maybe I need to address the question to one of the hospitals then or one of the administrators of the hospitals that owns, I guess, the doctors' offices now, or Sun Coast, or any of the other groups. Why do y'all allow people to book as many patients as they do and sometimes you sit there two and three and four hours to see a doctor, and that's fine, but if you don't make that appointment and cancel it, you'll be billed for it, but we can't bill for the time that we're losing to be at that doctor's office taking all this extra time because they booked too many patients to begin with. Can any of y'all answer that question? With a straight answer. An unidentified gentleman from the audience said, if I understand your question, are you saying that if you had scheduled an appointment with a physician and that appointment is canceled, the patient is charged for that visit. Commissioner Murray said, I'm saying that if you don't show up and you don't call and cancel that appointment, you're charged for, and I can understand the reason behind that. What I don't understand is why you book so many extra patients to see a doctor and you have to sit three to four hours before you can get into the doctor's office to see him. We can't charge for that time that we lose off of jobs, and especially those people that work by the hour. The unidentified gentleman said, well, that's certainly not the intent to have —. Commissioner Murray said, it might not be the intent, but you show me one group that's under a large group like that that doesn't do it. The unidentified gentleman said, well, we have Dr. Paul Bradley and Dr. Jim Hissam, who is President of the South Coast Medical Group —. Commissioner Murray asked, how often does y'all's patients get through—, what's the average wait for a patient then because I have left a doctor's office before because I have sat too long.

Dr. Paul Bradley said, Commissioners, I'm Paul Bradley. I'm an Internist. I have helped take care of the County employees for the past decade. First off, we don't bill —, at least, our practice has never billed for patients that we don't see. Commissioner DeLoach said, I cannot hear. Commissioner Saussy said, we can't hear you. Dr. Bradley said, I'm sorry. We have never billed for patients that we don't see. I'm not sure, but I don't even think it's legal. The —, if a patient doesn't show up for their appointment, we ask them to reschedule. We try to do our best to send them a reminder that they didn't show up and, no, they don't get a bill. Waits are a problem, and I won't tell you that I have the best waits in town. It is not our intention and never has been our intention to make patients wait. Why do patients wait? Well, at least for myself, I like to talk to them. I like to find out what's wrong, and it's not —, we're not preparing a hamburger and french fries for everybody. Everybody has a different problem. Some people come in with one problem; that's quick. Some people come in with 25 problems; that's a disaster. Some people come in and need to leave in an ambulance. It's always amazing to me that the wait's terrible, the wait's terrible until you're the person that needs to leave in an ambulance, and then suddenly, oh, my God, thank you for taking the extra time, thank you for getting me to the hospital, and for that patient you never again hear a complaint about a wait. Schedules are not overbooked. The problem is the unpredictable nature of patient complaints, and you try to do your best to take care of each and every one of them. To do that a lot of times you get behind. We do have to run a practice and we do have to have schedules, and the patients are scheduled in blocks typically, depending on the practitioner and the practice, 15 to 20 minutes per patient. So what happens? Well, you get someone call in that needs to be seen, so you try to work around that. You have patients that come in with different problems and sometimes the problems are extreme, sometimes the problems aren't, but the extreme ones take longer. So you do the best you can to get everyone out. At least in our practice, we're very sensitive to the issue. Again, I'm not telling you we have the best waits, but we understand that. We try to tell patients: call, we'll be glad to tell you how late are we running, and I take care of a lot of people in this room and they'll tell you, and I understand it that we don't have the best wait in town, and I apologize and they'll tell you that when they see me, I'm sorry, I thank you for waiting. Well, what do you do about it? You do the best you can. We try to accommodate everyone that wants to be seen. Mr. DeLoach, Dr. Schyberg is no longer in our group, but if you'll call me, you can come find me a lot of times in the office until seven, eight, nine o'clock at night. Now if you call me and tell me that you have a cold and you need to be seen at 3:15, we will probably tell you, sorry, the schedule's booked, you know, the person's already scheduled at 3:15, we can't see you then but we will find the time to see you. It may be nine o'clock at night, but if you call our office we will see you. A lot of times we'll get complaints because we can't see you at a time that's convenient, but that's because we're trying to stick to schedules and they're tough, okay. Some people will have a severe problem, we'll try not to send them to the emergency room, we'll try to see them and, of course, that will make the schedule get further and further behind. I'm here today for one simple reason. I've taken care of the County employees for the past decade. They've become family. Last year y'all brought me down here and very graciously gave me an award from the County family saying thank you, and it's become family and to me it's a very important family, and it's a family that don't want to see change. Mr. Murray, you're absolutely right, my attrition rate over the past decade can be counted, patients lost for whatever reason, and I'm not telling you I'm perfect, it's probably less than a dozen if you exclude insurance changes. Insurance changes is becoming mind-boggling. Every day I say, oh, this one's gone, this one's gone, this one's got a new policy, that's got a new policy, but if you look, if you ask me to pull records, how many patients have I lost because of lack of —, because of patient satisfaction issues, the number is practically none, and we have lots and lots of patients. I'm here to urge you to remember the family issues and remember continuity and care to me is more important than anything else you can give us or give us to take care of the patients with. And for those who can't be seen, we'll be glad to work with you. We're not telling you we're perfect. Waiting times we understand and, I promise you, we do the best we can, but I'm not telling you we're perfect at it. Commissioner Murray said, well, I can appreciate that and maybe all this problem's being caused by the insurance companies and not the hospitals and not the doctors themselves that have gone with all the different groups, and I can understand that, but the insurance companies have put an awful lot of pressure on y'all too. Dr. Bradley said, the pressure is huge. Waiting times, though, I'll blame a lot of things on the insurance companies, but not waiting times. The insurance companies —. Commissioner Murray said, no, I'm not blaming the waiting times on them. Dr. Bradley said, the insurance companies are actually pressuring us on the same time, get them out, get them out. But, I'm sorry, you sit down in my exam room, I want to talk to you. We have a relationship and I think it's very important. It's what I do. I can't schedule everyone for an hour block though. You'll never be seen. You'll have to call the next decade to get an appointment, so we try to stick to schedules and we try to do the best we can, but I want —, I mean, I've never walked out of the exam room with the patient still having a question. I won't do it, and I'm not going to do it. That's how I take care of them, and so we ask you to bear with the waits and for the same reason we're there until we have to to see everyone that has to be seen. I can't speak for everyone, but at least it's what we try to do. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what --, where are you? Where are you located? Dr. Bradley said, it seems everyone else, on Eisenhower. Commissioner DeLoach said, on Eisenhower. That's Sun Coast, isn't it? Dr. Bradley said, well, this is —, we're all kind of, we're all under the same big roof, but it's —, I'm Candler Medical Group. He's South Coast Medical Group. They're becoming more and more semantics though. I'll let my counterpart talk now.

Dr. Jim Hissam said, I'm Jim Hissam. I'm Family Practice. I'm also the Medical Director for South Coast. South Coast Medical Group presently has 43 physicians in it. I feel like some of you know that because I recognize an awful lot of faces around the room here, including some smiles here too, thank goodness, but with that being said, we define primary care, and I think we really need to do that real quickly here, in terms of how the physicians look at primary care. Primary care for what you need and what services your family on the same-day basis when you're sick really is family practice, general internal medicine, general practice, pediatrics and, in Savannah, Georgia, OB/GYN is right there with all of the others. We've learned that from all the moms and all the wives for all the years. We've recently added urgent care to that, and with that being said real quickly, I saw my first Chatham County employee in 1976 when I came to Savannah to stay one year and one year only. I keep getting extensions every for the past 22 years and I'm very pleased of that because I have been very, very rewarded by the community, by the people in the community. I have a very good practice, I have a very good relationship with my patients, I feel, and I owe them a lot, I owe this community a lot for all that they've done for me and my four sons, whom I hope eventually will stay in this town also. That being said, over the past 22 years I have treated and have a large number of Chatham County employees. What's been nice about that, I not only treat the employee, I have —, at least it just started out with one, maybe the wife, and then maybe a wife and the children, and now I've got the wife, the grandchildren and maybe an aunt and uncle or someone along that line. It really is a ripple effect in terms of who you end up seeing with the different

generations of the families. But all that being said, I want to try and answer one or two of the quick questions here. The concerns about the waiting time are very, very legitimate. There's been a lot of consolidation here recently of physician groups, as you are aware. What used to be one group is now a mega-group type situation. Many physicians have consolidated, many have moved, and we're still in the transition of learning how to do it and how to facilitate our front office. Most of the time, and I suggest you talk with your colleagues and ask around, waiting time is many times physician specific. We have some physicians you're going to wait no matter what time you show up, and we're able to identify those physicians and keep trying to teach them, to train them. We talk to their patients and everything like that. Fortunately, that's a minority number, but it's almost impossible to change them due to the physician will spend instead of the 10 minute slot, he'll spend 30, and some of you know who some of those physicians are because they treat you and your families. With that in mind, what we tried to do in South Coast in respect to —, and this is just in the last two months, two or three months, to address your concern about the same day situation, which pediatrics should always be same day, or the four o'clock in the afternoon sore throat. You know, most of you know, we used to close all of our offices around five o'clock. We have now extended to 10:00 P.M., okay, one of our main offices that is open Monday through Friday until 10:00 P.M., and that is essentially if you're sick, you walk in. We appreciate your call, but if you walk in you'll be seen at that time. We have taken that Saturday, which used to be just a nine to twelve to a nine to six type situation. The same time scenario —, call and make an appointment or you can walk in. Your records will be obtainable or available and you'll be seeing a physician. It may not necessarily be your particular physician at that time, but he is a member of the group and does have access to your allergies, your medical history, et cetera, and we've also gone to Sundays now starting 12:00 to 6:00 on Sundays where we do provide either appointments or walk-ins to be seen. We understand people's work schedules. If I —, if people were to bill me for all the time they had to wait, I'd be very embarrassed I'm sure. I really need to try and minimize that, I'm not always successful. I do know that, at least in our group, to answer one of the —, I've never seen this, and if I'm wrong, somebody please show it to me and it will be corrected immediately, I have never seen us bill a patient that didn't show up —, that didn't show up or wasn't there for an appointment, and if that's happened, I'd certainly like to see it because it will never happen again. The final thing I'll say now and then I'll go sit back down is I'm sort of a director here, asked to come here sort of as a representative of South Coast Medical Group of 43 physicians. Actually, as I sat here I realized I'm really here as a patient advocate. I have an awful lot of people in this room that I recognize faces, I have an awful lot of friends, et cetera. What affects you all directly affects us, be it insurance companies, and, you know, we always —, that's the big target, that's the easiest one to hit, but it also affects the hospitals, also physicians, who are in a time of great change right now for Savannah, Georgia, and the delivery of medical care and cost of medical care, I tell people it's like —, for the doctors it's like reading tea leaves. Probably the one thing I can assure you of —, the last two things, are, number one, our number one concern and major concern still is in the quality area. That has not been lost in the middle of all this. We really are sticklers for the type of care that's delivered, and when we find problems, we try and address them. And the second and final thing is that, as our goal forward goes, we want to go forward. Physicians you will see are going to be coming —, be becoming and are becoming much more pro-active in many of the issues you've brought up here, the HMO issue, the insurance, et cetera, we sort of sat back and watched it run at us, almost roll over us, and we have many of the same complaints you do. Thank you.

Commissioner Murray said, I appreciate you explaining that, but I guess the question I have with the offices and this particular doctor that I go to is under y'all's group who tells me it's like herding cattle through a place anymore. They don't have enough help to take care of the people coming through to support the doctors. Now I have a problem with that because if that's the case, then you're getting too many people through there at one time so you aren't able to take the kind of time you need to take with them. Dr. Hissam said, that's a problem that exists right now. It's a problem we did not anticipate, it's a problem that's particularly come up over the last six months or so, and one of the things that we are doing is, you know, we have purchased a new facility that we're renovating into a major medical center, if you will, that has parking, that has the room to put the personnel. Getting the personnel is not always the problem. Having the room to put them in —. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] has a place to put, but did not have the personnel to take care of those people coming in, and I'm talking about nurses and people, receptionists, and like that. Dr. Hissam said, very legitimate and has to be revamped and I'm in agreement with you. Commissioner Murray said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Odell asked, the parent company for Jones, Hill & Mercer —. Mr. Garrison said, Jones, Hill & Mercer Employee Benefits, Incorporated. Commissioner Odell said, right. You all use Memorial? Mr. Garrison said, my parent company, which is the John Alden Financial Corporation, has contracts with Memorial as well as Candler. Commissioner Odell said, one of the questions that Eddie [DeLoach] brought up, and that is, I can see where there could be a 100% savings because my daughter, and we're not —, we're relatively healthy, seldom use —, a \$300 or \$400 bill, paid \$10, I can understand —, and I pay the balance, I can understand why we can reap such great savings from our health plan. If you don't pay any bills, obviously there's substantial savings, but that's really not a health plan. One of my primary concerns [inaudible], one of my primary concerns is that where you have forced choice where you have to belong to this particular group rather than using any particular physician, we still live in a world in which we are separate and divisive, and where I look in the audience and I see very few people in key positions that look like me, and those physicians who look like me that I have an absolute right to go to, don't belong, many of them, to this plan. I still would use them, you know. I'm not saying it's discriminatory, but what I am saying is that people tend to want to hire those people who look like them, so that excludes people that look like me and those physicians are not a part of your plan. Why indigent care is important, and this is for Ben [Price], I accept that you have an absolute right to misunderstand what I said. I never said that it should be a determinate factor, I said it should be a factor. I accept that you have a right to conclude that it does not and should not. That is your choice. I'm not obligated to marry that choice. What we have here is a cozy, fuzzy situation in which we have Jones, Hill & Mercer and they have Candler [inaudible], and it's been that way, we're keeping it that way, and we want to keep it that way because it's comfortable. It does not relate to realistically money and savings to Chatham County employees because if you don't pay bills, how do you determine what it in fact costs? And Martin [Jackel] was right, there's no numbers. Now we're not scientists. If you send me a bill and you don't pay but \$10 out of \$385 and there's no number for you to call, that to me says that you're not expecting a warm and fuzzy call from Harris Odell. You all are doing the system, you're the experts in this, and being the experts, it cannot be concluded that you might want to call somebody when you get a bill. I understand

that —, and I really don't want a response, I really don't, and you can respond to anybody else, but I really don't need a response. The fact that we have a large segment of our population who do not have health care. The fact that a large segment of that population is supported or treated by our institution, and that's Memorial, not with them. The fact that the State of Georgia has walked away from poor people who do not have health care and Memorial has taken it right against the chin over and over, they're having to eat the cost as far as indigent care and that should not be a factor in making a determination of who we have a contract, where there might be some gravy, then my concept of fairness is not that all of the good goes here, but all of the obligation goes somewhere else. That's it.

Mr. Garrison said, [inaudible], 100% of Chatham County employees are covered under this plan. Last year this plan paid out somewhere in the neighborhood of \$6.3 million in health care. The —, it's very, very important for you to understand that regardless of who your "preferred provider" is during the year, unlike a health maintenance organization, each employee, each dependent, each family member here has the absolute freedom of choice of going to any qualified medical provider in the United States or in the world, and your plan will pay the bill and it does pay the bill. Your plan never provided —, from —, before managed care you had what we call an 80% payment plan, and when you picked —, when this Commission picked the preferred provider back in pre-74 you picked Memorial, you left Memorial and you picked Candler. You never provided a disincentive away from the old plan for someone not to be able to go where they wanted to go. When you picked a preferred provider, starting with Candler and Memorial back in the older days, you provided an additional incentive by paying 90% of that bill instead of the old 80% and a co-pay for certain primary care, so I want to make that clear. Unlike a health maintenance organization where if you go to somebody out of town, a physician or hospital, that is not in the panel, you get paid zip, zero. In your plan you can go anywhere you want to and you receive no less benefits than any Chatham County employee has ever received in the past 10 or 15 years. That's a very important distinction. People sometimes don't understand or forget that distinction. I feel like, and I know in the interest of time, Paul Hinchey, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Candler/St. Joe, is with us today and he —, I would like to have you hear him make a short statement if the Board so approves.

Commissioner Jackel said, Madam Chairman, I would certainly like to hear from him, but I would also like for the people from Memorial to have a chance. Vice Chairman Thomas said, sure, right. They have the same opportunity.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want to hit on that poor service one more time. Just a little bit. And I appreciate Dr. Bradley coming forward and making the comments he made. I've got his name —. Commissioner Murray said, you're getting ready to change doctors, aren't you? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I'm fixing to change doctors. But, seriously, you'd better make room in that schedule for me. Seriously speaking, there is a problem with the delivery service of the primary physicians with —, I can only speak for Candler because that's the only one I use. I mean, that's my —, my insurance company pays for that. There's a problem. I don't want anybody to walk away from here today, and Sun Coast is just coming on line. They're not brand —, I mean, it's not like they've been there for 20 years or something. This is a response to a problem that we already had. That's the reason Sun Coast is developing the way it's developing right now. It's trying to answer a problem that we've got here that we're trying to act like we don't have. We do not have good service. That five o'clock thing you made the comment about that you're now staying open until ten o'clock, that's great but that's just happened. That has not happened in the —, I mean, this is just happening. I mean, I don't know if you walked up here and decided to do it today, I don't know. My point is, this just happened because I have tried for four years that I've had the health plan that I had and the one I had before to get in to see, and at five o'clock, by God, if you walked up, you do not —, it's like the ark, man. You are on the ark or you're not on the ark. If you're not in that door at five o'clock, you do not go. Hey, hey, go out there and die. You won't see anybody. I mean, that sounds crude, but that's true, and everybody's the same. Everybody to the person is the same. You know, there is nobody as sick as I am when I'm sick, you know. There is nobody. I don't go to the doctor unless I've got to go to the doctor. Now I know insurance companies, this big thing, this big shift was based on the fact of abuse of what services we used to have, and everybody knows that. The insurance was paying it out and they decided they were going to put the squeeze on hospitals, the hospital's squeezing us, everybody gets squeezed, but the fact of it is we have not established a good primary physician service as far as the —, and it might be the same with Memorial, I don't know, but I do know that it's not that way with Candler. Dr. DiNello at —, I reckon he's at St. Joe's now, I want to go to that man every time, love that man. I can't use him, you know. That type thing. It just bothers me to no end that I can't go to the person that I feel like is concerned about me. Now he might forget my name when I walk out, but the fact of it is, it just bothers me that the health care provisions that we have today are not concerned about the individual any more, and it might be the way the time is, I don't know. Once you get in the hospital, it's okay. I mean, honestly, it's okay once you get in the hospital, but from the point of getting there, it's absolutely impossible. It's hard to find a clogged artery if you haven't seen the same person over, you know —, you catch somebody else and everybody says, well, you'll get to use somebody who is in that practice. Well, he's in that practice for a year, he comes in, you happen to walk in the door, the other guy's gone. They bring you in and he says, what's wrong with you. You run by your little deal and you might be sitting there fixing to have a heart attack and he can't tell it because he doesn't know your past history. It's just a real concern and it's not one that y'all probably, you know, you can't answer it today. I know the response that the Sun Coast setup is a direction trying to do that, all in one thing where you can get this taken care of. I understand the approach, but the fact of it is, it has not been all rosy, it is not all rosy, and it's not all rosy for a number of people. So we need to understand that going into this that, you know —, and like Dr. Bradley said, we're all family here. Well, if we're all family here, we can all talk like we feel like talking, and if I've got a problem with my —, you know, my wife will tell me right quick if she's got a problem with me. Well, I want to be able to do the same with the primary physicians for the people of Chatham County, the employees. If they've got a problem, and I feel like they have a problem, we need to address that problem and how are we going to do that. That's all I've got to say on it.

Commissioner Saussy said, Eddie [DeLoach], I think if you go in the ark two by two you'll have better luck. Commissioner DeLoach said, better luck two by two.

Mr. Garrison said, one central issue in preserving patient —, Chatham County employee/doctor relationship through the years, that has been considered, but your points are very, very well taken. May I introduce Mr. Hinchey as this point in time? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, please.

Mr. Paul Hinchey said, thank you, James [Garrison]. Dr. Thomas, Commissioners, good morning. It's been a long morning already. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the St. Joseph's/Candler Health System and the medical staff, two of whom you met today, we are pleased to have been given an opportunity to submit a proposal as the preferred health care provider for the Chatham County employee health plan. Should we be chosen, it is our pledge to be an effective partner with Chatham County in delivering quality cost effective health care. Included in this pledge is a commitment to work with the County in a mutual exchange of ideas to continuously improve the provisions of this relationship. I'd like to highlight two of the broader aspects of this proposal. The first is access. For the past four years Chatham County has entrusted the care of its employees and their families to Candler Hospital. St. Joseph's/Candler Health System proposes to build upon Candler's tradition of caring and trust by expanding access to St. Joseph's Hospital and its physician network. Both St. Joseph's and Candler Hospitals enjoy outstanding reputations in this community. Both hospitals have been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals with commendation. Only 10% of the 5100 hospitals accredited nationally achieved this rating. Candler in 1996 with a score of 100%, St. Joseph's in 1992 and 1995, and in March of 1998 St. Joseph's successfully completed a survey extending it's accreditation to 1999 with a score of one on every grid element, the highest possible score on an extension survey. This score was supported by quarterly patient satisfaction surveys conducted by national consultants. This data is benchmarked with other hospitals throughout Georgia and the Southeast. The results show the approval rating for both hospitals consistently exceeds 95%. This proposal offers the County employees full access to both hospitals and physicians network under one agreement. The second area of emphasis is information. Philosophically, we do not view our relationship with Chatham County as a vendor/supplier relationship where the County as the vendor purchasing supplies from the provider. We view our relationship as a partnership which continuously improves. With this goal in mind, we believe we must continually strive to improve the health of County employees. St. Joseph's Hospital has been mentioned as enjoying a mutual beneficial relationship with the Savannah Business Group since 1994. The same relationship exists between Candler Hospital and the County. As a result of these partnerships with the employee community, we're offering programs in this proposal which use health information as the cornerstone to improve employee health. Specifically, a centralized data depository, every pricing services for all health claims so that health trends can be analyzed and improved; comprehensive wellness services to address the preventive aspects of health care; an integrated approach to disease management with the goal of deterring an employee's health condition from reaching a chronic stage. This is done through early risk identification, risk minimization, and very intensive disease management. A detailed program to objectively demonstrate appropriate patient outcomes to assure that quality is not being compromised for cost savings; and, finally, an emphasis on appropriate utilization of health services through case management, extended hours of primary care, after hours call center, and a broad-based consumer service committee. We understand the decision before you is a difficult one. We believe Savannah is fortunate to have three quality hospitals; however, we believe the Savannah Business Group, St. Joseph's/Candler proposal, in addition to being cost effective, is comprehensive in scope and with progressive programs to monitor and improve an employee's health. I'd like to address Commissioner Odell's comment regarding indigent care because I believe there is some confusion regarding the burden of care for indigents in this community. We conducted a comparative survey on how much of this burden each health system bears. First, we suggest that an analysis of the cost of providing care to the medically indigent should be based on what the actual costs are to each health system and not what each health system charges for that care. The simplest example, an aspirin may charge \$3.50 [sic], it certainly doesn't cost a health system \$3.50 for that aspirin. A comparative analysis using publicly available data filed with the State Planning Agency and the Medicaid Cost Reports filed with the federal government show that the burden of providing care to the medically indigent is shared almost equally between Memorial Medical Center and St. Joseph's/Candler Health system. Furthermore, as a supplement to this net cost analysis, it should be noted for the record that the Department of Medical Assistance reports that Memorial received \$17.3 million in special State payments in State Fiscal Year 96-97. These payments came in the form of funds received from such sources as disproportionate share hospital payments, net indigent care trust fund receipts, and family practice residency program payments. Unlike St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, Memorial received substantial support for providing services to indigent and charity populations. In summary, the net cost analysis of the uncompensated services clearly shows that Memorial Medical Center and St. Joseph's/Candler Health System bear a comparable burden of the medical care for indigent populations. This conclusion is further supplemented by the fact that Memorial receives substantial support from the Department of Medical Assistance to provide services to the medically indigent while St. Joseph's/Candler receives no such support. Although I don't view this as being the fulcrum for this proposal, there's been a good deal of questions raised about this, and we felt encumbered at least to give you point of view, hopefully to clarify that confusion. We greatly appreciate this opportunity to be here and, hopefully, we're looking forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Hinchey, I have a question. Mr. Hinchey said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, you're saying that because Memorial receives dollars from the State and through disproportionate case, that in itself offset the number of patients that's seen by each hospital or cost, or you bill your cost at a different rate than Memorial does? Mr. Hinchey said, let me start from the top. The dollar amount that's quoted in the paper, \$20-X million —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm not concerned about the —. Mr. Hinchey said, okay, let me ask you a question. First of all, it's not the charges of the service, it's what it costs Memorial and what it costs St. Joseph's Hospital to provide that service; that's Item #A —, as opposed to what the charges are because the charges are inflated. By both hospitals. That's the way the system works, so the first point is what does it cost to provide indigent care in this community, both at Memorial and St. Joseph's/Candler Health System. That's Item #A. Item #B is you subtract from that the inflow of income that comes from State supported funds such as the indigent Care Trust Fund, Family Practice Residency Program. You net those two out, which St. Joseph's/Candler receives zero from those funds, you net those two out. The level of uncompensated care in this community is comparable. Commissioner Rivers asked, why don't you receive anything from the disproportionate funds? Mr. Hinchey said, because the level of Medicaid patients that are provided by Memorial is higher than what's provided by St. Joseph's/Candler and so when you have a disproportionate amount of Medicaid, you qualify for those funds. You submit the report, you get an inflow of revenue for that.

Commissioner Saussy said, and therefore, you've got more Medicaid patients or indigent patients going to Memorial than you do St. Joseph's or Candler. Right? Mr. Hinchey asked, in number of patients? Commissioner Saussy said, numbers of patients yes. Commissioner Saussy asked, what is the reason for that? Mr. Hinchey said, it's just patient choice. Commissioner Saussy said, no, there is a reason, sir, there is a reason. Now what is the reason? Mr. Hinchey said, there's no barrier to entry from any of these hospitals. Commissioner Saussy asked, well, why don't they go? Mr. Hinchey said, they can go. Commissioner Saussy said, well, what is the —, there must be some reason that they don't. Is Memorial the one that they're used to going to or what? Commissioner Price said, that's it. Mr. Hinchey said, it probably is. Commissioner Saussy asked, what is the reason? Mr. Hinchey said, I can only say that we could all go around this table —. Commissioner Saussy asked, why does EMS —, why do the EMS, our County EMS take most of their patients to Memorial rather than Candler or St. Joseph's? Commissioner Odell said, especially if they don't find any shorts on them. With no insurance. Take them to Memorial. Commissioner Saussy said, there is a reason. Mr. Hinchey said, I can't comment to that. I don't agree with that statement. There's no barrier to entry to any of these hospitals. EMS would take them to the closest hospital. Commissioner Saussy said, well, there's a perception then that there is a barrier, and if you're going to work on this thing I think St. Joseph's and Candler need to work on why that barrier is there. Commissioner Price said, let me ask this. Commissioner Saussy said, because they have not done it in the past. Mr. Hinchey said, well, Commissioner, we're attempting to address some of that issue in a pro-active way. We've located a health center in downtown on the corner of Drayton and Henry. Commissioner Saussy said, I know that. Mr. Hinchey said, we reconverted a building, we tore down a crack house, we put a physician in there. We are servicing the inner city as best we can. We are being pro-active and not passive. Commissioner Saussy said, but the perception is still there. Mr. Hinchey said, but that —, then that's something we've got to deal with. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Mr. Hinchey said, but there are no barriers in reality to either of these hospitals accepting any patients.

Commissioner Odell said, when you talk about your costs versus the charge and your indigent care, are you using bad debts as indigent care? Mr. Hinchey said uncompensated care by both Memorial and St. Joseph's/Candler is classified as indigent care and bad debts, and the reason for that is because different hospitals —, that's the way you file it on the cost report. Both Memorial classifies that way and St. Joseph's files it that way, so when you hear the term uncompensated care, both hospitals use the same definition, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay. The only reason I asked that question is that Memorial, I believe, has a section which they in advance determine who's indigent, and I guess my question is whether or not Candler/St. Joe, that determine is made by the failure to pay the bill. Mr. Hinchey said, no, absolutely not, no. Anything to do with charity in indigent care is done on the front end and a bill is never released, and you'll sit down with the patient, you'll get the status of their income, and you qualify for certain financial criteria, and it's written off right then. That's different than bad debt, which is billed and then subsequently goes into collection. Charity care is done on the front end. The patient never gets a bill. I know that because I sign those. Commissioner Odell said, that must be an all day job. Mr. Hinchey said, well, there's certain thresholds.

Commissioner Price said, Paul [Hinchey], why would Memorial be bidding with Westside Urban Health Center for primary care for the indigent if it was such a big issue that that's where most of the indigent are going? Where they're going. We just went through several months ago a big competition between Westside Urban Health Clinic and Memorial as to who would have the contract for the County to provide health care services for the indigent, and Westside won it, but why was Memorial even in there bidding on it in the first place? Mr. Hinchey said, I'm not dodging your question, but I can't speculate on Memorial's strategy. I really can't. Commissioner Price said, okay. I'm asking this question because everybody seems to forget that up here. Everybody thinks, well, you know, Candler and St. Joe, they're polluting the indigent, they're telling the indigent to go to Memorial, they're screening them, they're discriminating against them, they're doing all these things, and yet just a couple of months ago Memorial was very anxious to get that health care contract.

Commissioner Saussy said, right, and also if you'll look at the numbers that the Westside is sending to Memorial, the majority of their indigent people go to Memorial. They send them. Commissioner Price said, right. I understand that, but I'm not —. There is —. Commissioner Saussy asked, is that —, what's the reason for that? Commissioner Price said, there was compensation to Memorial to a certain extent, whereas it was zero compensation to Candler and St. Joe's. Commissioner Saussy said, because they're not getting the patients. Commissioner Price said, well, they're not getting the Medicare, they're not getting —, I mean, that's what we're hearing. My point here is it's not a commodity that Memorial, and we'll have Mr. Colvin and those up maybe here in a minute, but that they're trying to avoid. Those are patients that —. Commissioner Saussy said, maybe they need to work a little bit harder on trying to get —. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, well, let's don't debate back and forth between each other. We've got enough people out there that need to speak. Mr. Hinchey asked, were there any other questions? Chairman Pro Tem Murray asked, were y'all through? Commissioner Price said, I'm done. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, we appreciate it. Mr. Hinchey said, Commissioners, thank you.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, now we'll have the people that will speak for Memorial. If you will please state your name for the record so she'll have it for the record.

Mr. Rusty Ross said, Rusty Ross. I'm one of the Vice Presidents at Memorial and I appreciate the opportunity to get up here and say something about Memorial. I think we've heard a lot today about the other health care system in town, and I think we ought to hear —. I really have some other comments, but let me address two issues that were raised here at the last. Yes, we did compete for the indigent care, primary care dollars for one simple reason. We still provide to this day the prime —, the majority, the vast majority of the primary care indigent health care services in this town, as well as the vast majority of the specialty care, the hospital care. Obviously, I dispute Mr. Hinchey's numbers and I think anyone who has been living in this community for any period of time knows where indigent care is taken care of in this community. I need to speak a little bit about what Memorial is. We are in size one of the top, in the top 5% of hospitals in this country. We provide the most comprehensive health care system in this community. In addition to the normal things, orthopedic care, heart surgery, that sort of thing, taking care of people with pneumonia, we also prove the only level one trauma center in this town. This became a very, very important issue yesterday when we had these tornados run through here. We also have the only neonatal ICU unit. There is anywhere from 38 to 44 infants in that neonatal unit at any one time. They come from all over the region. They

also come from the inner city of Savannah. The level of care that's required for that is very, very expensive, and the rest of the system supports it. We also have the only pediatric ICU unit in this town, and other pediatric sub-specialties that support our Children's Hospital. We're one of only 138 members of the National Association of Children's Hospitals. The Backus Children's Hospital is a phenomenal system of health care for our youth and it doesn't matter whether you have a dollar to pay for it or not. I think a little bit needs to be said about the origins of Memorial. It was opened in 1955, the same year I was born. I'm feeling awfully old these days. Commissioner Murray said, awfully young. Mr. Ross said, it was dedicated to the war veterans in this town. Time that it was done, it was created, it was said that it was the most modern hospital in this area, this part of the country. It remains so. We constantly upgrade our systems and our services. We employ 130 physicians. I was glad to see Dr. Bradley here today because —, and hear his comments about family because we very much believe that as well among our physician community. We employ 130 physicians, but if you choose the Memorial program, which I think you need to hear before you can choose one or the other, you'll find that Dr. Bradley's name is listed among our providers as well as theirs. And many of the South Coast physicians are also listed as physicians who provide services under our plan as well as theirs. We certainly have the premiere transportation system. If you need to get to the hospital, we can get you to the hospital, whether you're on a highway system, in the middle of a tornado struck area, or in downtown Savannah. We were asked the end of last year to bid, to provide a proposal on health care for Chatham County employees and their families and retirees. We did so in good faith. We provided a very competitive bid that provided rates that we provide to our best customers in this community. I don't know what you want to call it, whether it was a rebid or a request for changes, but there was a rebid. There were new prices asked for. We thought we had pretty good prices as they were and we didn't change ours. We did say we'd look at some of the components of it after we had a chance to get back in the ball game, but we didn't change it. All you can tell from the staff writeup is that Candler/St. Joe had better prices on some things and we had better prices on others. You can't tell what the total would be. We know we had better rates for the case rates. They had better outlier rates. But let me tell you something. When they talk about charges and how one hospital has one level of charges and another has another, in comparable figures in 1996 and 1997 remember we still saw 25% of the County employees even though the program was directed to Candler's operation. We had a lower average cost per admission for those patients. There was a sentence in the report that was given to you by the staff that said something to the effect that to achieve any comparable savings there would have to be a shift of patients from one place to the other. Well, that's the nature of managed care. You do in fact shift from one place to the other. But it said, to achieve any comparable savings this would have to occur. That would tell me that at least in somebody's mind some of our costs were less than theirs, if the shift occurred. I think you have to understand here, at one time the Candler/St. Joe system is referred to as two hospitals and another it's one. I think when the County initially went with Candler back several years ago there were three hospitals in town. Today there seem to be only two. The most comprehensive group of services reside on Waters Avenue. We have everything in one place. I think there was a newspaper article recently, if you wanted services of one type from the St. Joe/Candler system you went to one place. If you wanted services of another sort, you went several miles away to another place. So I don't know whether it's two hospitals or one hospital, but I know that they don't both provide all services anymore. Which hospital is preferred in our community? As of 1997, 45% of the people in Chatham County choose the Memorial system, 36% choose Candler and 18% choose St. Joe, and as I said, 25% of the County employees still come to Memorial even though it's more expensive for them to do so. Patient satisfaction: We had 96% in-patient rating, 98% out-patient rating, people that were satisfied or very satisfied with the Memorial system, the current users in the last quarter of 1997. Clinical quality: I think you all did receive a letter from us. It certainly indicated that Memorial's rates on these sorts of things as complication rates and mortality rates were much better at Memorial than certainly St. Joe and comparable to Candler, if not better. On top of all this, we were rated last year in one of the publications that does this sort of rating as one of the top 40 orthopedic hospitals in the country. This is high praise for a small hospital in a small town like Savannah. And back to indigent care just for a minute. It was \$31 million in 1997. It's projected to be \$35 million for 1998. These are big numbers and we all know where the indigents come for hospitalization. One question that Commissioner Saussy asked a minute ago that wasn't answered is why do people —, why do the indigents come to Memorial. Well, one very good reason: We have the facilities to take them. If someone who is an indigent needs surgery, but it's not an emergent condition, they can call up our surgery clinic and one of our trauma surgeons will see them and if surgery needs to be done, they will do it. That's how people —, the indigents get into our system. We must compete with paying patients. We know that. Health care costs have actually gone down. Nationally it's barely moving up these days relative to what it did in the 70's and 80's. This reduction in cost is reflected in these prices for these competitive bid processes, but as some point, as many of the Commissioners have mentioned during the course of the last hour and a half, at some point you begin to suffer, the quality begins to suffer. Your wait times in the primary clinics and doctors' offices begin to increase, and we try very hard in our system, as a major teaching institution, to have more physicians available because where I went to school and got my economics degree, we paid attention to the laws of supply and demand. If you had to wait three hours to go see a doctor, maybe there weren't enough doctors in town, and that's certainly one element of it. We graduate somewhere between 20 and 30 new doctors into our system every year. Many of them stay in Savannah. We have a total of 91 residents at any one time, and most of those residents that we graduate are in our internal medicine family practice programs, which are primary care, and there are a few also in our OB/GYN program. Most of our residency programs are just that, primary care, because we recognize that that is where you need to make the effect, to have the effect on creating a healthy environment. The specialists are certainly necessary and critical, particularly in times when you're injured or you're very, very sick because primary care doctors are the ones that keep you from getting there. We recognize that and attempt to do something about it and have been doing something about it for years. I'd like now, if I could, to introduce Bob Colvin, who has been before you before, he's the President and CEO of Memorial Health System, to say a few words. Thank you.

Mr. Bob Colvin said, members of the Commission and Dr. Thomas, I'll keep my comments brief. You've had some very thoughtful discussion on this issue this morning and you've got a major decision to make. Let me add a couple of thoughts though to what you've already got on the table. Certainly, Mr. Ross just articulated what we think are some of the strengths of our proposal and why you should consider the scenario that includes Memorial Health System as part of the County's contract. We think we have —, and we would ask you to evaluate this, not in isolation of the business decision, but with some of the thoughts you've already put on the table. We have —, semantics aside, we have been the prime provider of safety net services, social services for this community for many years. I think we've done that and done a good job of it. I think our reputation as an outstanding institution is growing throughout the country, and clearly the reputation we have in this

community, because that's where you go when you're extremely ill, carries forward to this day. We appreciate that and we're proud to be able to say that. The fact of the matter is, we continue that sense of social obligation to this community as we move ahead. You heard earlier today the discussions about the International Olympic athletes that are here. We're providing subsidized health care to that group of athletes to support this community's endeavors along those lines. We were the organization this year that put up \$260,000 for Union Mission Primary Care for the Homeless Project, the seed money to get it started in this community because we believe that's a worthwhile endeavor for this community as far as providing comprehensive primary care for its citizens and the needy citizens, and to do it in some alternate fashions. We think that's the cost effective way to do it. We have had —, you heard some reference earlier that there are no barriers in either system's provision of health care for the neediest folks, and I agree with that. There are no barriers, but there are also only a limited number of doors and, quite frankly, the doors primarily reside on Memorial campus. If you're a needy individual in this community needing primary care services, surgical services, and you have no resources, you know that you can get through the door to see a physician on the Memorial campus and get those services met. The difference is we have physicians that are part of our system, part of our teaching program, that are available and ready to do that. That's the entry way, that's the doors that we have that's part of our system that allow that entry and that access. Along with that, let me give you an example. Those patients who came through those doors this last year, we provided free pharmaceuticals through our clinics to the tune of just over one million dollars, direct provision of pharmacy for those patients because our physicians said if we didn't provide those services to those patients they wouldn't get them likely and they would, in fact, need fewer hospitalizations. And, there again, in our social safety net role we serve in this community, we took that responsibility and we provided them with a million dollars in free drugs to those folks. That's one of those doors that we have open that the other systems do not have. Now you're talking about emergency room services, certainly the other system meets their obligations in serving patients coming to their emergency room. We appreciate that and we respect that they do that. [Inaudible] we have the other opportunities and situations that provide that care. Quickly a comment about again the indigent care contract this last year. I think we were pretty clear at that point in time, our pursuit of that contract simply had to relate to the fact that we were providing over 50% of that primary care for this community on an ongoing basis and we felt we needed to have some compensation and some opportunity to pull those services together. Even to this day we're trying to work with Westside and say how can we comprehensively pull those services together, even though we're not getting any direct funding for it. We [inaudible] part of that social mission we service. That being said, I think that's one of the factors this Commission does need to take into consideration is they need to take a look at this entire package. We've been able to meet those social obligations because we've had funding from the State, we've had some funding from the federal government through what's called disproportionate share and we get disproportionate share because we historically have served that needy population. That's the equation. Because we've been serving that population in very large numbers, we've received some funding, but if you look at the real numbers out there, those funding resources that we've gotten haven't covered these costs and those funding resources are decreasing significantly. They have at the State level dramatically over the last three years and are now, and particularly as a result of the Balanced Budget Act at the federal level, those resources are going away. Our ability to continue to provide those safety net services for this community —, and you all know as Commissioners, in many of the counties around the State the Commissioners are subsidizing local hospitals directly. Fulton and DeKalb Counties, I think the total is over \$85 million coming from those counties to subsidize Grady Hospital for the same kind of things we're doing in this community with no subsidy. We've been able to do that because we've had enough paying patients. The paying patient pays to help us allow us to subsidize that. That's a balancing act, and with the balancing act we hope to be able to continue long into the future. But to be able to do that, we need to have paying patients coming to us. We believe we put an outstanding proposal on the table for you. We think it was very competitive and we think it has as good a rates as you're going to see in most markets anywhere. We think that takes due consideration for you and would ask that you favorably look at our recommendation back to staff to consider the Memorial proposal once again. Any questions from the Commission?

Commissioner Murray said, I don't really have a question, I'd just like to say I appreciate the FAX that I got from you, especially in the last paragraph which states that if y'all are not chosen you would still provide care to County employees for no greater penalty than they're currently receiving, and I think that means a lot. At least you're trying to work with us regardless of which group we go with, and I know there's been some discussion also already today, and I don't want to take a lot of time, about the proposal on indigent care when we had all that several months back, and I think at the time most of us were looking at what Memorial was at one point and a different group that we were dealing with at one point, but we still knew what had happened during that process years ago, and I think most of us now do understand that we do have a new group at Memorial who's actually running the hospital and I think those things are changing, but —, and I'm not suggesting that we go one way or the other right now, but I just want to say that I was one of the people that criticized quite a bit the last time. Mr. Colvin said, given our last meeting, I appreciate those comments.

Commissioner Rivers asked, what is the dollar amount that you received for disproportionate care? Mr. Colvin said, you know, I don't have that, Commissioner, but we would be glad to provide that material for you and to clarify some of the issues that were raised earlier. Would you like us to clarify that for you —? Commissioner Rivers asked is there any differential in what you charge indigents versus what Candler/St Joe charges? Are your costs more inflated or less inflate or —? Mr. Colvin said, you know, I believe we're probably charging fairly close to the same numbers in terms of the broad charges to the patients out there. As the folks from the St. Joe's/Candler System recognize, so much of what we do right now is discounted, whether it's Medicaid or Medicare, commercial insurances. It's difficult to put that in some perspective, but I believe our base charges are very comparable.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any other Commissioners? Did you want to speak, uh —? Commissioner Price said, no, I don't have any questions of Mr. Colvin. I am prepared to make a motion though. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Just let me make this comment, and I do want to applaud Memorial for the work that they have done particularly in the social issues because having served most recently in the area of health and human services on the task force for the State of Georgia, we were —, I was delighted to have played a major role in helping to bring some funds into Chatham County, particularly to Memorial to address the disproportionate needs of Chatham County because you have done an excellent job in that way. I've had some good experiences and I've had some bad experiences on a personal basis, but more recently on

a good basis as opposed to before because everything is changing right now. I can say the same thing with Candler/St. Joe. We just have three fine institutions, and I just wanted to make that known to you that you have done an excellent job in that area and I really appreciate it because I was one of the ones too that was very, very hard on you the last time that you were up here —. Mr. Colvin said, thank you very much. Vice Chairman Thomas said, but I want to applaud you for all the great things that you are doing and we will try to think in terms of that. Mr. Colvin said, thank you very much. Vice Chairman Thomas said, are there —, anyone else who wishes to speak at this time from the floor? So that we can kind of --?

Mr. David Deason [phonetic] said, my name is David Deason. I represent the Savannah Business Group. Due to the length of the discussions, I'll try to keep my comments brief. Vice Chairman Thomas said, please. Mr. Deason said, thank you for this opportunity for the Savannah Business Group and for St. Joseph's/Candler Health System. As the current President of Savannah Business Group I speak for all our members when I say that we believe our partnership between the Business Group and St. Joseph's/Candler has delivered to us high quality, cost efficient health care and we're very excited that staff has recommended our system as the preferred system. My daytime job that I normally work in is Director of Human Resources for Colonial Oil, representing [inaudible]. Commissioner Odell said, I can't hear you. Commissioner Saussy said, I can't either. Mr. Deason said, excuse me. I said my daytime job is Director of Human Resources for Colonial Oil, representing approximately 300 employees. I can personally attest, at least from our own experience, that the employee satisfaction is very high with the current system and we have been having as an employer and our employer costs have been very much in line with what we expect to pay for health care. I'm sure that a lot of you, if not most of you, are involved in business and I doubt very many of you smile when you have to write a check to that insurance company. The —, we found that the cost of free choice was just so burdensome that we couldn't afford it anymore. If that were not the case, we would not have the national debate that we have had the last several years and the highest office in the land would not be interested in trying to do something about it. Fortunately, we think that as a business group we have been able to affect both quality and cost in health care delivered to ourselves. For those of you that are not familiar with SBG, we began in 1983 as one of the first business groups in the country. We currently have 23 members representing 13,000 employees, totaling 36,000 covered lives, that includes Union Camp, Savannah Foods, Chatham Steel, ourselves, and many of names that you would recognize. We direct contract. We've had contracts with all three hospitals, we've had contracts with Memorial at one time and now contracts with St. Joseph's. We have found that to control the quality and address the concerns that Mr. Murray had and the concerns which Mr. DeLoach had, that it is better and more cost effective and more efficient time-wise, to deal with one system. I just want to wrap it up for time that J. B. Freeman, our Executive Director, and I promise you that if you vote for this that we will do everything within our power to see that the County receives and continues to receive the level of care that they have.

Commissioner Murray said, I just have one question. This really is not meant sarcastically or anything, but isn't it true that the more people you have in there, the better the group is and the better it benefits the group? And the reason I'm saying that, Chatham County has approximately 1600 employees total, plus the family members that are on this, so you're talking about quite a few people with health coverage, and so that is another draw to try to bring Chatham County under this program, I would think. The rest of the groups that are in there, some are small business and some large business. Mr. Deason said, obviously, and the benefits accrue to all involved including the County. The County is a member of SBG. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. Mr. Deason said, they just have not been a member of the hospital portion.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Are you finished, sir. Mr. Deason said, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much. Do we have any other persons who would wish to make a statement that has not already been stated, you have the same privilege. If not —.

Commissioner Price said, Madam Chairman, we've had a long debate about this and I can tell you that I hope that however we vote, whatever direction we vote in, that we are not trying to say one hospital or hospitals is better than the other hospital. That has got to be understood. I, in fact, had my last daughter last October in Memorial because my wife and I are a little bit further up in age and the neo-natal center is there and we recognize the expertise is there for that, but I do think that staff's recommendation to the Commission is the correct recommendation and I do think that all things equal, that it is the right direction to go in. 75% of our employees want to go to these two hospitals, this one entity now, and I think that we're nine members of the 1600 employees, I think it really is what our employees want to do in this instance, and it still seems to be the most cost efficient way to do it. So with that I move that we go forward with staff's recommendation that was given to us. Commissioner Jackel said, Madam Chairman, I would like to table that motion. Commissioner Murray said, it's not a motion yet. Commissioner Price said, it's not a motion without a second. Mr. Hart said, there's not a motion. Vice Chairman Thomas said, there's a motion on the floor. Do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, I'll second so it can be tabled. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. Then I'll moved so it can be tabled so we can have further time to consider the information that's been supplied us. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I didn't hear the motion. Commissioner Price said, the motion was to go with staff's recommendation. Vice Chairman Thomas said, let me take the motion and then if it fails —. Mr. Hart said, you've got to take the motion to table. Madam Chairman, you need to address the motion to table first. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, did that come before the motion? [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Rivers said, I'll second it for purposes of getting it on the floor. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right. All in favor of the motion to table, please vote. Commissioner Price said, which there's no discussion. Commissioner DeLoach said, no discussion. Are we going to bring it up in two weeks? Vice Chairman Thomas said, if it fails. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion to table. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioner Price voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Commissioner Price said, all right, it will be back before us in two weeks.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, thank you very much. Commissioner DeLoach asked, can we find out what information Martin [Jackel] needs so that —. Commissioner Jackel said, I requested some of it already. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, and then —, then I was supplied with this. I've gotten half way through it, but I haven't gotten through it yet.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Price moved to accept staff recommendation to contract with St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, through the Savannah Business Group, as the primary health care provider for Chatham County employees, retirees and their families. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion.
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioner Price voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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- 10. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT A RESOLUTION TRANSMITTING THE UPDATED FIVE-YEAR SHORT-TERM SOLID WASTE WORK PLAN TO THE COASTAL GEORGIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR REVIEW. ON THE ISSUE OF OPEN BURNING AS WELL AS THE GENERAL CONTENTS OF PROPOSED CHANGES, STAFF RECOMMENDS BOARD SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP UPON RECEIPT OF THE POSITION PAPER DEALING WITH CHANGES IN THE SOLID WASTE PROGRAM.  
[ALL DISTRICTS.]**

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved, Madam Chairman. Commissioner Murray said, second. Mr. Abolt said, what we will do, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, we will poll you and find out a time convenient to your schedule so that you may in work session go over the items on the position paper. Vice Chairman Thomas said, very well. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rivers moved to adopt a resolution transmitting the updated Five-year Short-term Solid Waste Work Plan to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Commission and Department of Community Affairs for review; on the issue of open burning as well as the general contents of proposed changes, and Board will schedule a workshop upon receipt of the position paper dealing with changes in the Solid Waste program. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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- 11. 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.**
- **TAX COMMISSIONER - ENFORCEMENT TECHNICIAN (ONE POSITION); TAX/TAG PROCESSOR I (ONE POSITION); TAX/TAG PROCESSOR II (ONE POSITION); CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (ONE POSITION)**
  - **ENGINEERING - CIVIL ENGINEER I (ONE POSITION)**
  - **PARKS AND RECREATION - EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I (ONE POSITION); MAINTENANCE WORKER I (TWO POSITIONS); EXEMPTION FROM HIRING FREEZE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 1998, FOR ALL CURRENT AND UPCOMING VACANCIES IN PARKS AND RECREATION**
  - **DISTRICT ATTORNEY - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II (ONE POSITION)**

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, what is your pleasure? Commissioner Odell said, I'll move to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, and I'll second it. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion?

Commissioner Murray said, yes, to me this is pretty much like the waiver and the fees with the studies we have. I mean, we've been going through this process and I've brought it up before and I don't get too far with it, but I'll keep bringing it up. If we're going to just keep approving these as they come up like this, why do we have to take part of the agenda to begin with? Let the Manager and his staff handle it. Otherwise, I just don't think we should be approving them all the time, so as long as they come up, I'm going to just keep voting no. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, but to me it's the same type situation we have with the fees.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, please vote. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Tax Commissioner, Enforcement Technician (one position), Tax/Tag Processor I (one position), Tax/Tag Processor II (one position), Clerical Assistant III (one position); Engineering, Civil Engineer I (one position); Parks and Recreation, Equipment Operator I (one position), Maintenance Worker I (two positions), and exemption from hiring freeze until September 1, 1998, for all current and upcoming vacancies in Parks and Recreation; and District Attorney, Administrative Assistant II (one position). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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.)**

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Action Calendar. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion we approve X-1 through 12-R. Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to pull 3. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll second it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, pull 3. Anymore pulled? If not —. Commissioner Odell said, I think Martin [Jackel] left. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. If not, we have a motion and a second to approve all except #3. All in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

Mr. Abolt said, with your permission I would like to just to point out that we have followed your direction. Items Q and R on the Purchasing Report allow us to do more sewer extension and some water line extensions in Isle of Hope. You'll recall after you heard testimony recently you asked staff to go back and see what the Water and Sewer Fund Budget had for this particular project. If we have had a little bit of wiggle room, which we did have, to extend into some of those areas of Isle of Hope where the folks have either voted in the past not to have the service or were silent on it. I'm pleased to report that you have just awarded the contract in the amount of —, excess of \$150,000 that would make some modest extensions in those areas.

Commissioner Murray said, it's on here and I know that Al [Bungard] wanted it on to get informal approval, but actually we approved all this at the last meeting when we made the motion if you found the funds, do it, and so this to me is just adding to that. Mr. Abolt said, well, we had —. Commissioner Murray said, nobody questioned it when we were voting on it. Mr. Abolt said, we had to come to the actual change orders.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Q and R, did you propose Q and R. Mr. Abolt said, no. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Did you want to speak, Mr. Golden?

Mr. Jim Golden said, Dr. Thomas and Commissioners, part of our responsibility is recruiting volunteers, and you can pretty well see a good example. They waited all morning, and they're very thankful for you approving their agreement with volunteers providing the services. We have Mr. Richard Miller here with the [inaudible].

Mr. Richard Miller said, Dr. Thomas and Commissioners, y'all went right through our situation. We appreciate that. You probably don't even know who we are or what we're doing. I put a folder at each one of your places while you were on break a minute ago. We represent an international model boat racing association. We're a worldwide organization. The organization is divided up into districts throughout the world. Georgia and South Carolina is what we call District 13. I'm the director. Steve Anderson back here is the local club president, and my wife Ann is the secretary-treasurer. We have been holding an event at Lake Mayer for the last 10 years. We bring people from all over the Southeast United States once a year to race their boats at Mr. Golden's complex out there at Lake Mayer. That's been extremely successful. These people come to Savannah from all over for a minimum of three days. It's good for the hotel business, it's good for the restaurants, eating, the shopping malls, everything else. We, this past year through coincidence that's just occurred, we've moved to a different County-owned lake, which has turned out to be extremely successful for us. The lake is smaller, it's more sheltered, it's much more satisfactory for what we do. Mr. Golden has been just tremendous, him and his staff, in aiding us in the last 10 years to help us promote this thing. We are getting ready to work with him on the erection of a permanent drivers and judges stand very similar to the one at Lake Mayer that the Radio Controlled Car Club has. Once we do this, we can now promote more international regattas here that will bring people from all over the world. Local people don't seem to keep up with boat racing, as such, particularly in a hobby standpoint. This is a family-oriented hobby, but in the years past we have had contestants come to Savannah specifically for this race from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain and France. This year we'll have more. They come from all over the country. It's nationwide. We have people come from Canada, Bermuda, and the Virgin Islands. They come from all over. It's a hobby, it's a lot of fun. My wife, my family, we travel, we go all over. We just got back from Toledo, Ohio, this last week. It's a lot of fun. We thank you.

Commissioner Saussy asked do you have any contact with Sports Council or the Chamber on this? Mr. Miller said, no sir, we do not. Commissioner Saussy said, [inaudible] help promote it through them. Mr. Miller said, we have struggled all along since our very conception here 10 years ago on how to promote this through the news media. The very first race that we ever had at Lake Mayer was in 1986. We at that time pursued the news and the press and the news media in general. They all came out on a Friday, it was something new, they were very excited. We were in the paper, we were in the news. That weekend the people at Lake Mayer said that that was the biggest public turnout they had ever had at Lake Mayer for any event at any time. Parking was a real problem. It is a very family-oriented hobby and people enjoy that. We start out in a junior division at six years old and it goes all the way up till we have in our national newsletter what we call silent engines when people pass on. They're still very active all through their lives. Commissioner Saussy said, I would suggest that you get in touch with the Sports Council because they promote all these things. They've got a new director now too. Mr. Miller said, okay. Commissioner Saussy said, or Al Kennickell, he's the chairman.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we'd like to thank you so very much for what you're doing and also like to thank Mr. Golden, who always does a very fine job in recruiting our volunteers, and we certainly don't want to leave him out. Mr. Golden said, I'd like to introduce you to [inaudible because other Commissioners were speaking at the same time]. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, great. Would you like to have something to say, sir?

The gentleman said, I'd just like to thank y'all for letting us to take over this land out there for [inaudible] and tournaments. NBL has been around for a long time. They're really standing behind us. We've got a lot of international support and we've got a lot of support from the County here. Thank you very much. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

Commissioner DeLoach said, that area, you're going to redevelop that area that was —. The unidentified gentleman said, yes, sir. That area, we've been out there measuring and drawing and sending faxes from here up to Dublin, Ohio, back and forth with NBL trying to get a track design built up. I think all of you has the new track design up there. That's what we're proposing to put in, NBL is, and right now we're trying to work it out for NBL to help us build that track. They have a professional staff of five guys that will come down here to put that track together for us [inaudible] all the rules and regulations of the NBL. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much.

**[NOTE: Refer to Item 3 for discussion thereon.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 12-R, be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item 3. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

**[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 MARCH 27, 1998, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 27, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 19, 1998, THROUGH APRIL 1, 1998.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period March 19, 1998, through April 1, 1998, in the amount of \$2,383,878. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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**3. REQUEST BOARD REAFFIRM THE SALARY INCREASE GRANTED THE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR IN THE 1998 EMS BUDGET, RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1998.**

Commissioner Saussy said, Madam Chairman, I bring this up because I have a real problem with it. Item 3 under Facts and Findings says that we have no legal requirement for a contract between the County and the EMS Director. I would like to know a little bit more about this situation. If we don't have any legal requirement, why have we been doing it all along? What are his duties? How many hours does he put into it? We're talking about going to \$14,400 per year. That's almost as much as the Chairman makes, and I dare say he puts in a lot more hours than the EMS Director. I want to know what his duties are. I'm on the EMS Board, and the only thing I have seen, maybe I'm not very observant, but the only thing I have seen is that he has a meeting once a month for maybe an hour and a half. Now that's a lot of money to pay anybody, and I just think we need to look into the situation a little bit more, and I would like to table it. We haven't got a motion yet, but —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, let me go to the attorney.

Mr. Hart said, would you like me to respond to that, Commissioner Saussy? Commissioner Saussy said, yes, go ahead. Mr. Hart said, the question was asked the County Attorney's office whether there is a legal requirement that the County have a contract with the EMS Director, and per se there is no requirement that the County actually enter into a documented contract. Okay. But there is a requirement under Title 31 of the Georgia Code that directs that anybody that operates an ambulance service must have a Director of EMS —. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Mr. Hart said, as part of their certification, and the function of that EMS Director, as spelled out in the Code, is to review protocols and make sure they meet the region standards in regard to EMS requirements. So he —, whoever you choose as the EMS Director does in fact have

duties and responsibilities concerning the protocol of the operation of EMS and to be a medical advisor in that regard. Beyond that I don't —. Commissioner Saussy said, that I understand, but there again, what kind of time is taken? Most of these protocols are already set from the board anyway. Of course, he has to look at them and approve them. How much time does —, how many doctors do we have in this town that give their time freely for many, many things? I know that Dr. Victor has done a great job with the EMS over the years. He got it started and did a wonder ful job and still does. Frankly, I don't think he needs to be paid. I think he should be just like some of these other doctors that give their time towards this thing.

Commissioner Murray asked, there's not a salary being paid now? Mr. Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Mr. Abolt said, it has traditionally for a number of years. Commissioner Saussy said, 20 years. Commissioner Murray asked, what is that salary. Commissioner DeLoach said, \$12,600. Commissioner Murray said, \$12,000. Mr. Abolt said, \$12,000 and change. Commissioner Murray said, well, we found out that whether we agree or disagree with whether they should be paid or not, all's they have to do is go to our State Legislatures and they will grant it. Commissioner Saussy said, well, let's let them do it then. Commissioner Murray said, I think we all agree that people in certain positions, those positions should be more than what they are, but I don't like it being requested of the State.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, so what —, give me some business please. Commissioner DeLoach said, I think Dr. Victor's done a good job and I don't have a problem that he's being paid this much. Go ahead and pay him the same amount. Not give him a pay increase, keep it \$12,600.

Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to make a motion to deny it. I have no qualms with Dr. Victor at all. I think he has done a good job, but I think this is ridiculous. Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is dead for lack of a second.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion we continue to pay Dr. Victor at the same —, well, not Dr. Victor, but the position at the rate that it is. Commissioner Murray said, \$1,000 a month. I'll second that. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it is moved and seconded that —, to pay Dr. Victor the same rate as he's always been receiving. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, but not to increase now. Vice Chairman Thomas said, but without an increase. All in favor. Opposes have the same right. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Saussy voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

Commissioner Murray asked, did he request the increase. Mr. Abolt said, I don't —. Commissioner Murray asked, where did the increase come from? Mr. Hart said, what happened was the documentation —. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, Madam Secretary, did it carry? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. The Clerk said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion was carried to remain as is. Mr. Hart said, when it got to the County Attorney's office, it did not appear that there was a delineation of what that budgetary item was going to be delineated for although on the front cover of that you could extrapolate that it was for an increase for EMS Director, so when we came through on a reaffirmance in contract we felt like in order for clarification it needed to come back before —. Commissioner Murray said, where did the request come from is what I'm trying to find out. Mr. Hart said, well, we got a request from the —, for the rates? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Mr. Hart said, I have no idea. Commissioner Rivers said, it was a 1998 budget request. Mr. Abolt said, he requested it, Dr. Victor requested a review of his salary.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the motion was carried.

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board not increase the salary of the EMS Medical Director in the 1998 EMS Budget, but that the rate of pay shall remain at \$12,000. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Saussy voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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- 4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS: \$5,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF RECREATION EQUIPMENT FOR GEORGETOWN, \$15,000 FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE TURNING POINT BUILDING, \$400,000 FOR RENOVATION OF THE OLD YMCA BUILDING, \$55,000 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE MUSEUM.**

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

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following Georgia Department of Community Affairs Local Assistance Grants: \$5,000 for the purchase of recreation equipment for Georgetown, \$15,000 for the renovation of the Turning Point building, \$400,000 for renovation of the Old YMCA building, and \$55,000 for the operation of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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- 5. **REQUEST FROM EAGLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP OF SAVANNAH, INC., TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS AND TO REDUCE THE SUBDIVISION BOND BY 50% FOR BETZ CREEK, PHASE 4. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Eagle Development Group of Savannah, Inc., to approve the construction of the required improvements and to reduce the subdivision bond by 50% for Betz Creek, Phase 4. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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- 6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHTS ON WHITEMARSH ISLAND ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the installation of streetlights on Whitemarsh Island Road. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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- 7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AMEND THE ANNUAL COST TO MAINTAIN PRIVATE DIRT ROADS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CHATHAM COUNTY. [ALL DISTRICTS.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to amend the annual cost to maintain private dirt roads within the unincorporated areas of Chatham. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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- 8. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE A QUIT CLAIM DEED TO RETURN OWNERSHIP OF THE LUCAS THEATRE TO LUCAS THEATRE FOR THE ARTS BASED ON THE ORGANIZATION'S COMPLETION OF FUND-RAISING UNDER ITS AGREEMENT WITH CHATHAM COUNTY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize a quit claim deed to return ownership of the Lucas Theatre to Lucas Theatre for the Arts based on the organization's completion of fund-raising under its agreement with Chatham County. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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- 9. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A SPACE ALLOCATION AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SAVANNAH PROP TWISTERS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A RACE COURSE FOR RADIO CONTROLLED BOATS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request for a space allocation and authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement with the Savannah Prop Twisters for the establishment and operation of a race course for radio controlled boats.

Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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**10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A SPACE ALLOCATION AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH SAVANNAH BMX, INC., FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A MOTORCROSS NBL/BMW RACING FACILITY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to Request Board approval of a space allocation and authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement with Savannah BMX, Inc., for the establishment and operation of a motorcross NBL/BMW racing facility. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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**11. REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE AND WAIVER OF FEES FOR BEER IN CONNECTION WITH GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR NON-PROFIT SPECIAL EVENT AT HENDERSON GOLF CLUB ON APRIL 22, 1998. ROGER WRIGHT REPRESENTS THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION, LOCATED AT 5105 PAULSEN STREET, SUITE C-236.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of Roger F. Wright, on behalf of the American Diabetes Association, located at 5105 Paulsen St., Suite C-236, for a temporary alcoholic beverage license and waiver of fees for beer in connection with a golf tournament for a non-profit special event at Henderson Golf Club on April 22, 1998. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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**12. 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. First renewal option to the annual contract to provide food services for inmates at the Detention Center	Detention Center	ABL Management	\$1,161,576	General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
B. Deductive Change Order No. 5 to the contract for the construction of the Aquatic Center for minor fine tuning of the facility and construction contract	Aquatic Center	Braun Construction	(\$4,571.20)	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Aquatic Center
C. Renew for one additional year contract for towing services	#Fleet Operations #Police	Sapp's Wrecker Service	No cost to the County	N/A
D. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for construction of Juvenile Court to make changes as required by the State Fire Marshal	SPLOST	Adams Construction	\$39,296.73	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Juvenile Court Facility

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
E. Confirmation of Change Order No. 4 to the contract for construction of Juvenile Court for additional work	SPLOST	Adams Construction	\$29,166.37	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Juvenile Court Facility
F. Award contract for the paving of Cartwright, Lucas and Queenaire Drives	SPLOST	Claco Construction	\$293,244	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Reserve for Various County Roads (pending transfer)
G. Deductive Change Order No. 4 to the contract for LaRoache, Woodridge, Central, S.E. Timberlands Drainage Projects	SPLOST	Clemmons Engineering	(\$8,990)	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Drainage Projects
H. Deductive Change Order No. 3 to the contract for Golden Isles, Winfield, and Middle Landings Drainage Projects	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung	(\$7,500)	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Drainage Projects
I. Deductive Change Order No. 2 to the contract for Whitmarsh Island Drainage Project	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	(\$1,375.50)	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Drainage Projects
J. Deductive Change Order No. 3 to the contract for Summit Ridge Drainage Improvement Project	SPLOST	Triangle Construction	(\$8,526)	N/A
K. Award annual contract for miscellaneous computer parts and components	Various	Entré Computer Center	Varies	#General Fund/M & O - Various #SSD - Various #CIP - Various
L. Confirmation of the purchase of an upgrade to the telephone switch serving the Administrative Annex	SPLOST	Property Technology	\$19,257	#SPLOST (1993-1998) - Juvenile Court (\$9,628.50) #SPLOST (1993-1998) - Administrative Annex (\$9,628.50)
M. First renewal option to the annual contract for janitorial services for the downtown offices	Building Maintenance and Operations	Basics Cleaning Company	\$141,220	General Fund/M & O - Building Maintenance and Operations
N. First renewal option to the annual contract for janitorial services for the Southside offices	Building Maintenance and Operations	Quality Cleaning Contractors	\$14,268	General Fund/M & O - Building Maintenance and Operations
O. Award a contract to design and prepare technical specifications for the modification/ repair/ replacement of Judicial Courthouse HVAC control system	Building Maintenance and Operations	Rosser International	\$45,000	General Fund/M & O - Building Maintenance and Operations
P. Change Order No. 7 to the contract to provide hydraulic analysis for Pipemakers Canal, to provide an archeological survey and a sediment and soil preliminary investigation associated with Pipemakers Canal	Engineering	EMC Engineering	\$15,952	CIP - 1998 Drainage

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Q. Confirmation of Change Order No. 3 to the contract for design and engineering of additional water and sewer system improvements for the Isle of Hope area	Engineering	Thomas and Hutton Engineering	\$8,200	Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund
R. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for improvements to the water and sanitary sewer system in the Isle of Hope area	Engineering	Thomas Griffin Construction Company	Not to exceed \$150,000	Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 12-A through 12-R. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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.

- Petitioner, Fran Williams (Realty Executives), Agent (for Perry E. Luten, Owner) is requesting that a 0.7 acre tract of land located in the 7300 block of Skidaway Road between Montgomery Crossroads and Ferguson Avenue be rezoned from R-1 (One-Family Residential) to a P-B (Planned Business) zoning classification in order to allow a retail “dollar” store. The MPC recommended that the request be denied.  
MPC File No. 98-12104-C  
District 1.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Read into record as first reading.

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- AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, BUSINESS/OCCUPATIONAL TAX ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE I, TO ALLOW FOR THE REGULATION OF MASSAGE THERAPISTS AND MASSAGE THERAPY BUSINESSES.**

Commissioner Murray said, not to get in discussion on this, but didn't we already address that #2 item, or is that —, this just getting back to us for discussion? Mr. Hart said, well, the last time that was before the Board, the Board directed staff to sit down with the parties and work out —, attempt to redraft the statute to address the particular problem. Commissioner Murray said, so it's just taken that long to get worked out. Mr. Hart said, yes sir, we had to go out to [inaudible] four or five standards and try to draw it.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Read into record as first reading.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

- 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.**

Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved 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. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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."**

Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval. I'd like to ask a question on it though. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, discussion. Commissioner Murray said, my only discussion is how do you enforce it? Mr. Abolt said, based on complaints, sir, of just price gouging, and there have been as we all know —. Commissioner Murray said, it happens every time we have one. Mr. Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, every time a hurricane or —. Mr. Abolt said, all these items, if I'm permitted, are on the shelf in the event of and when the next disaster might occur as opposed to trying to convene the Commission in emergency session to get you to adopt it. Enforcement, as you well know, based on priority and on complaint. There have been some horrible examples, as Commissioner Murray attests to, in Southern Florida and other areas of our country that are devastated by natural and manmade disaster where itinerant sales persons will come in and sometimes local and take advantage of the situation and overcharge for essential goods and services. Commissioner Murray said, it happens in Chatham County almost every time we've had one by the local businesses. I won't say all, but some local businesses.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, if there's no further discussion, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved 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." Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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.**

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved for approval. Commissioner Murray said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carried.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved 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." Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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.**

Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carried.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved 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." Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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.**

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rivers moved 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." Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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.**

Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioners Odell said, second. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved 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." Commissioners Odell and DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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**7. THE MPC HAS REVIEWED THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TO IDENTIFY THE CONSISTENCY OF LOCAL PARKING STANDARDS WITH THE FEDERAL REGULATIONS. THE MPC RECOMMENDS THAT A TEXT AMENDMENT BE APPROVED REGARDING THE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE SPACES.  
MPC FILE NO. 98-12057-C  
NO DISTRICT - UNINCORPORATED AREA**

Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Murray said, second.

Commissioner DeLoach said, question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, question. Discussion? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Are you fixing to tell us we've got to put in 20 more parking places at each place or what? I didn't read the [inaudible], I'm sorry.

Mr. Milton Newton said, it does not change substantially the —, what we're doing except in some instances. For instance, some of it is minor having to do with the color of the signage that is to be put up, but it does add a new requirement for vertical clearance for handicap spaces. It does set some additional standards for aisle width between parking spaces for handicap accessible equipment, and it does break down what I believe we now have a couple of categories, five categories in which certain —, a number of spaces come into play and it increases the number of categories so it does not increase —, does not affect the number of spaces required in each category, but it would slightly increase the number of spaces required at the lower end of each category. And, again, that's consistent with the Federal requirements. And one other thing that it does, it identifies that outpatient medical type facilities that specialize in treatment of persons with mobility impairments have to have some additional handicap spaces beyond the normal —, the requirements for shopping centers, et cetera.

Commissioner Saussy said, call for the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, call for the question. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carried.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved to amend Section 6.31 (Parking) Size and Marking of Parking Spaces, of the Chatham County Zoning Code, to make local parking standards consistent with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Price were not present.]

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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 \$9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Information status report.

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**3. STATUS REPORT ON GOLF COURSE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSITION.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Information status report.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Abolt said, Madam Chairman, Executive Session as I understand it would be called for the purpose of discussing possible land acquisition, litigation and personnel matters. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do we have a motion?

Commissioner Odell moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible land acquisition, litigation and personnel matters. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel 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**

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

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