

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON APRIL 24, 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

The Chairman and members of the Board of Commissioners entered the Commission Meeting Room accompanied by bagpipes and a delegation of Scotsmen dressed in kilts.

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, April 24, 1998.

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II. INVOCATION

Chairman Hair gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four David L. Saussy, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two Martin S. Jackel, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five Ben Price, District Six Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven
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ABSENT:	Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
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IN ATTENDANCE:	Russ Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk
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V. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. SUGGESTION TO IMPROVE YOUR PREPARATORY TIME ON COMPLEX AND/OR CONTROVERSIAL AGENDA ITEMS (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Commissioner Jackel said, it seems every meeting we have some complex issues or issues involving very substantial funds. The process is that we get our agenda and the backup material on Tuesday at about five o'clock. Of course, the meeting's that Friday. That leaves very little time if you're busy Tuesday night, and you don't get around to reading the material Wednesday night. If you require information on Thursday, it's very hard for staff to get us some backup information on some of those things. We need some sort of system in place to spot these issues. I don't think they're that hard to spot, where we could probably get a heads up report on what's coming up so we can look it over and see if we need additional information or if we want to request certain people to come forward to give us their opinions or ideas we would have an opportunity to do that. Certainly, that's not needed on 99% of the issues, but on the 1% of the things we need some advance notice and some process in place for putting that forward.

Chairman Hair asked, any other comments on that? [NOTE: No response was made.] Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Commissioner Saussy made a motion to move the proclamations up on the agenda. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

[NOTE: Items VII-1 and VII-2 were taken out of order and were heard at this point on the agenda.]

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VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS (CONTINUED)

2. LIBRARY BOARD PRESENTATION (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).

Commissioner Saussy said, at this time I'd like the Library Board to come forward and give their presentation. They've asked to be able to do this. I think they've seen some of the Commissioners. I know Harris [Odell] and I, we were appointed to be on that committee, and we've been very much involved in talking with them and going over things, and thought it would be good for them to bring it to the Commission here and also the public. Chairman Hair said, I've also met with them several times. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Chairman Hair said, they've done a really good job on this plan.

Mr. Jack Kaster said, good morning everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to present this strategy to you all. I'm Jack Kaster, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Library. I've got to say that this is a little bit tough spot on the agenda. I don't have any music, I don't have any T-shirts, I certainly don't have any brown bag material, but we're going to see to it that you each get a bookmark at the end of the presentation. The plan that we're talking about here is a strategic plan. It covers a period of five to seven years and, in the case of facilities, it goes out to the year 2015. We're bringing it to you this morning for several reasons. To get your comments and suggestions, to get agreement with the directions that we've outlined in the plan, to ask help in some long-range solutions and certainly some short-term fixes. Remember, it's your library, it's a key element of the County's infrastructure, and we think, and I'm sure you will agree, it must at once be a cultural, intellectual, economical and even an enjoyable force in the community, and we want to emphasize as we go, it should be a force in the community. Knowledge is power in the information age. You hear that all the time. You've got to agree with it. The question is are we ready for it. We look at a few facts where we stand in this area of being able to take advantage of the information age and the opportunities it presents. The skill labor pool, according to the 1990 census, just 26% of adults in Chatham County didn't complete high school, 9% didn't get past the eighth grade, and the graduation rate remains very dismal in all three counties that the CEL Library represents. We look to the future generations. How are things looking? We see that in 1996 in Georgia, 47% of the fourth, 49% of the eighth graders tested below basic levels in math; 45% of the children below age three and 56% of those age three to five were read to daily, but if you look at those with parents who had less than a high school education, those numbers drop to 25% and 31% had a chance to start to learn the benefits of reading and the pleasures of it. In 1996, 40% of preschoolers visited the library, but only 17% of those had parents who lacked a high school education. So those are not good trends. A library should be able to help in correcting these situations. Let's take a look though at our current library system. From a materials standpoint our library is one in which the materials are obsolete, tattered, out of date, really very inadequate. You may have seen a couple of months ago someone took the liberty of calling into the Vox Populi and said they requested a book on electronics and they got one dated 1958 and it talked about vacuum tubes. The average of a medical book is 13 years by census of these books, science books 16 and engineering 20 from the date of publication that now are on our shelves. From a technology standpoint, far, far insufficient quantities and what we have is out of date. Only three PC's in the entire library system are able to get graphic interfaces to the Internet. We have no technology manager. We need a lot of training for staff, but more important for the users of technology in the system. The library system from a funding standpoint, for every dollar that the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library gets, the average of 25 similar-sized libraries serving a similar-sized population get \$4.00. Our libraries aren't strategically located, some have too many in some areas and not enough in others. Inevitably the facilities in that kind of situation are too small, they're

not maintained, they're inefficient and ineffective. They're ineffective at bringing library services to the vast majority of the people in the community. As a result of all these facts, our circulation, which is not the only but certainly a pretty good indication of how well the system is working, is only 55% of the national average. This strategy that you all have copies of now sets forth nine separate goals. We'll trip through them lightly here and talk a little bit more in a second about them. The first, and they're not in any priority sequence, but I like to think that this is the first among equals, to augment, update and maintain the library's collection because you've got to have something on the shelves to do business with. The next two pertain to technology and we want to build and maintain high quality technology plus become the area's primary gateway to local online information, get the community facilities so that everyone will have access in a safe, pleasant environment to the library, and then the next one is what are you going to do with those things, provide services which are valued by the users and contribute the community's quality of life and stress, and you'll see throughout that document as you go through the strategy, a tremendous increase in the emphasis on the youth and on kids in what we have on the shelves for them and programs that we want to provide for them. Work with other community agencies so that we can customer driven, understand what they want, and again the next thing that you'll see in that strategy is a big emphasis on outreach programs, how can you really bring the library services to the people short of having buildings every five or six blocks. We want to have a marketing and development function so that people are aware of what they can do with their library because it's a lot more than just going and getting a best seller and reading it, and we want to be sure that we can obtain not only the public support that we need, but to enhance that with some private support as well. We want to have a sharp team delivering those services and maintain a pro-active board that will ensure that we get the right support to do what has to be done. Now each of these goals has some objectives, and I want to go through those a little bit more specifically. How are we going to achieve the goals, and we have them outlined. Simply, what is the current situation and what is the objective to come to as we implement this strategy. And we mentioned the inadequate, obsolete materials. In the future, obviously, up to date and useful resources and with that we think we can grow from the 1.7 items per capita that we have on the shelves now and 50% of those are obsolete, which we're about a big program now to get rid of the obsolete materials, that we'd end up with a collection of two items per capita, and that's sort of a norm that people say is good for libraries to have two per capita that you're serving. With that obviously you would drive circulation, and we want that to get up to over 11 items per capita within seven years. Right now, as I mentioned, we're 55% of the national average, 3.4 items only and nationwide they get 6%. Now what would that take? We've had 24% increase in funding for materials since 1985 and during that time there's been a 48% increase in the cost of living. What we need is a 20% increase in funding each year for materials for the next seven years just to get the materials in a proper state. Technology is another very key item. We have to get a technology system that is pervasive so that people can use it and that is responsive in terms of serving administrative needs of the library, and we want to get remote access so that you can, from your offices, and from your homes, dial in to the library system, get information, research information, reserve books, generally have access to all of the services of the library that are on line. We need to have enough staff to train the public and the users in the library and, as I mentioned, we want to make the library a point of entry for special local interest information. There's a lot of information for —, say, from non-profits that they could have access to the Internet with their data, there's information from libraries, from museums, from other local entities, and that could be a single source of access to that through the library.

Mr. Kaster said, facilities. Currently the way the facilities have by and large been chosen is to be politically sensitive in their location. In the future we want to have them well-defined, objective site criteria as the basis for those, and we've put in some specific site criteria that we would have a branch serve at least 20,000 population and things of that nature. We would have exceptions to things like the Carnegie Library, which belongs in Savannah and should remain in Savannah, and the only question there is getting it back in operation and finding the exact right use for it, so that we'd end up now instead of a patchwork of 15 undersized and really not only poorly located, but poorly utilized libraries, to 10 adequately sized, strategically located facilities, and upgrade them in the other two counties as —.

Commissioner Price asked, what do you mean by politically sensitive? Mr. Kaster said, I mean that people would want a library near their community, and if they get enough support for that, eventually it might be decided that, yes, we could put a library in that community, and that's the way some of these have evolved, and that's goodness to have a library near you, but it isn't good when you don't have an adequate collection in it, when you don't have circulation in it, so, well, you might get a warm feeling in saying that I've got a library just down the street. If you really want to use it and make efficient use of the County's resources, that's probably not the way you'd do it. So I think we have to just sort of tighten the screen up a little bit of how we decide to do those things.

Mr. Kaster said, now, the services in outreach. I talked a little bit about programs which we contend to have. Right now we don't have any services based on actual aggressive programs because we have limited resources, and frankly I think we can say some mea culpas on that too that we've done some things that we think are good and we haven't take enough time and effort to make sure that the community, that the users want both programs, and one of the things we wanted to do with our marketing and development thing is to understand better what the needs of the communities are and what they want, and so we want to research the needs of the community, have this outreach program, which for instance you'd couple that with technology and you might have a dial-up capability from homework centers out in communities where you could dial into the —, not only have someone on site to assist you with homework, but you dial in to get to encyclopedia references or anything else that would be online in the library. You might have workstations right there in the neighborhood. We could have some mobile sort of workstation capabilities that go out into the neighborhoods as well. We want to have expanded programming for children and young adults. We want to go from 5,000 in the Summer reading program to 16,000 in the next several years to expand that Summer reading program. Work with the schools to promote reading and continually access and evaluate the needs for effectiveness. We really want to make certain that the library is a lifelong learning experience.

Now, marketing development. Make sure the people understand what there is in the library, that they use it so we make use of our investments and our assets, and then, as I said, to work to develop a long-range plan that will be able to compliment the public resources with some private resources as well. Personnel. Right now we have one full-time equivalent employee per 2,800 residents. The average of most good libraries would be more like one per 1,300. So we have to improve not only the number of employees we have, but the professional ratios. We have 23% of our professionals now are librarians. We need to raise that to 33% to give the adequate support that we have. We have some volunteers now, but —, and I know some of you have mentioned this before, we need to sharpen our skates and get some friends of the library going so that we can fully utilize

volunteers in all of the opportunities throughout the system. Right now we don't have any —, what I put up here is functional professionals. We don't have a personnel person, we don't have a finance professional, we don't have a technology expert on the staff to again leverage the activities that we have to better manage our total operation. Governance is one other item. Really in the past the board has been sort of a quiet board, not particularly pro-active in dealing with you people and other government officials to maintain and develop a shared vision of really where this library wants to go. What we want to have now and in the future is an outgoing active, pro-active board that really does as it says here, feels pretty passionate about what the library has to be and how we can all jointly together get it to be.

Mr. Kaster said, well, let's take a look at sizing the solution. I mentioned the expenditure levels of CEL compared to the 25 average libraries. We spend \$12 per capita per year. The average of 25 well funded libraries is \$47, so we have to increase 290% in operating costs just to get average, and we're not in anything in this plan, except in quality of service, are we trying to be the number one. We're not trying to be exceptional and get written up in the national journals. We just want to be good quality delivered. So you see the bottom graph there. Unfortunately, the line if you drew it to the left at 95 it would be just about as flat as it is through six, seven and eight. It's quite a hill to climb, but we have to get there if we do agree that the library is important. From a facilities standpoint, here are the construction needs, and these include construction, technology and opening day collection for any new buildings. There's a rule of thumb that's generally accepted that one square foot per population is what you need to serve the area well, plus for administrative purposes where we have a regional library for the blind kind of thing that takes a little extra space, but using that and using the projections of population in the areas by 2015, you see that we need a lot of space. Now this construction, the \$62 million for Chatham, is in line with what —, very, very preliminary estimates. You remember, we talked during the SPLOST funding time about what our construction needs would be over time. It was I think at that time, \$55 million and then we've added Effingham and Liberty because we're responsible for that as well. So to get us up to a par with what the norms are by the year 2015, that's what we need for facilities. Other capital needs, there are some and they're significant. We need \$1,300,000 for the technology in Bull Street. As I think you all are aware, we've got this beautiful building that you see the rendering of here that's going to be completed in November, the end of November, and we'll have spent \$8.3 million on it, but we don't have any funds for the technology to go into it nor for the opening day collections. So we need that kind of money just to get Bull Street where it needs to be. We need some other technology funding so that we could the rest of the system into whatever resources we have in the new main library. We have some vehicles for outreach programs to do these things I was talking about. It takes the technology out to the neighborhood centers, et cetera, and that's the total other capital needs. If we do that, we implement that plan, what will we have? Well, the phrase we used is a renaissance in library services that is effective and efficient both on site and via outreach to get the programs to a lot more people. Emphasis on all of these constituencies, children, youth, professions, that people can come in and do research about their businesses, about their professional life. Technology that allows access to research, to the Internet, to business data, to the community information, and a real asset to the area. Where do we go from here? The thing we have to do is to leverage the Bull Street library. We've got to get a solid opening day collection, and that's been carefully sized and detailed by type of book and type of audience to require 124,000 volumes at \$3.2 million. We've got to get the technology here that will not only help us in administration and circulation, but to get that access, to let our people in the community have the Internet access, particularly those people who don't have any computers at home, don't have any place where they can come and access the Internet and start shooting at some of that global opportunities themselves. And we've got to promote the new services that we have. The literature is full of examples of where new main libraries have opened and the attendance has just skyrocketed, doubled, gone up 80%, examples like that. So we have a great opportunity here for a terrific new building, and if we can just get some stuff in it, we can promote it and really result in some community enthusiasm that will give us a springboard for other areas and get those library services provided system-wide, and the whole community would benefit from it. Here we are in 1998. If we get the resources for materials and technology, we think that the library can lead the way to getting on with the knowledge is power of the information age. Here's the challenge that we face. Let's offer a real asset to all citizens. Let's build the strongest possible environment for people to grow and make the library a positive force in the community. Don't you think our citizens deserve it? Don't you think they'd be right to demand it? What do we need now? I talked about short-term fixes, we need some short-term fixes. We hope the first one will be satisfied by the State; however, we hoped that once before, didn't we, about a year ago now. We need the technology for Bull Street and we need the opening day collection.

Chairman Hair said, the first one has been satisfied. Commissioner Saussy said, the first one's satisfied. Chairman Hair said, that has been satisfied. We have confirmation of that. Mr. Kaster said, we do have confirmation. Chairman Hair said, yes. Mr. Kaster said, thank you very much, that's good. Okay, we can cross that one off. Shall we deal with the second item? Chairman Hair said, not today. Mr. Kaster said, not today. All right, well, I didn't think there would be too many surprises. Okay. But the opening collection and technology are key in order to get the enthusiasm and leverage at Bull Street. We asked for some additional money in 1998 to enable the opening in January of '99 and we didn't get it. We need that. We need it desperately. I think it would be really, really bad for this community if we were to have this \$8.3 million new building sitting idle for six months because we didn't have any people to service the customers who came into it. And the way it stands now, unless we get some additional operating money, we can't open the library in January of '99, we just can't. I think you're all familiar with the Carnegie Branch situation. It would take about \$600,000 to get that in a useable state. It's very important that we do that. It's been shut down now for what —, eight months or so. We've had some good meetings with Helen Washington, head of the Dixon Park Homeowners Association, and some of her people looking at the right, if you will, mission for that building, all assuming that we'll get some funds to get it back on line, and that's an important need. And then starting in '99 to get on that trend, on that curve, that steep hill, we need some increased operating funds from you and from the other counties and your continued support, and I know that you've been supportive of trying to get money from the State for us, and that's an important element as well. Questions?

Chairman Hair said, do you have any —, David [Saussy].

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gentlemen, I think that we can see that really we have been remiss. I don't think it's necessarily been our fault. I don't think that we have really known what the position of the library is and how it has not and is not doing the job that really needs to be done in this community. We must, must provide more funding for this library if this community to continue to grow as it is, and we're growing very fast now, but in order to continue this growth, which I hope we will, we must have a strong library in this community, and how we're going to find the funds I don't know, but I would like to ask staff

if they could come up with some kind of ideas of what we can do in the future to come up with this what, five and about a half --, \$5.3 million. Mr. Kaster said, \$4.3 right now for the —. Commissioner Saussy said, \$4.3. Mr. Kaster said, \$3 million for the opening day collection, \$1.3 million for technology. Commissioner Saussy said, right, and that's —. Mr. Kaster said, to enable us to open Bull Street. Commissioner Saussy said, that's going to be a real tough job to come up with that kind of money right now, but if there is any possible way that we can do it. You know, we're building this fine library and we're going to have to expand the library to the southside too, and other areas. We have really got to concentrate on doing some things for this community and this library. I was really appalled at some of the figures that we see here, the money that we put in —, the community puts into the library system compared to other communities. One of the communities that I know of very well, because it's my home town, is Columbia, South Carolina, with a population of 98,000, and that is just the city, as opposed to our population of 137,000 in the City of Savannah, and they're putting in three times —, almost three —, well, two and a half times as much as we are, and that city's growing and has grown tremendously. And this is exactly what we've got to do. When people look at Savannah for jobs or look at companies coming in to move, they're going to look at the technology that we've got. We're getting ready to go into the new millennium and, God knows, we're 20 years behind in libraries and we have got to do something, and I just hope that we can come up with something.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to compliment and commend the board of directors. I think it is kind of interesting to see a group —, and this is the first time that I can recall that we've ever had a short-term and a long-term plan. Now some of the numbers when you look at the system, it's staggering, but basically what we've allowed to happen is over many years, we've allowed our system to decay and not to be maintained, and I have to compliment this board on taking the opportunity to do a comprehensive look and do a short and long-term plan. Just by way of numbers, there are two things that we have to know, have them in our perspective. We spend \$12.03 per capita per year. Just putting that into perspective, I think the average person spends \$265 a year on the lottery if you believe the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and if you compare not only that number in relationship with other communities of similar size and smaller, we are substantially on the back burner. Again, I think it's cheaper to educate, and I see our Sheriff out there, than to incarcerate. I think if you look at quality of life issues, attracting new industries to this community, the facilities are going to have to be more than mediocre. I would like to see us, and I know money is tight, to take every effort. We've neglected this system for many years. We've got a beautiful building that's going up. It would be an absolute shame and a disgrace if we did not have the staff or the facilities, or the facilities we did have or the resources for 12 to 16 years out of date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Odell. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I've just got two comments. One, the first one, when we were meeting in small groups and y'all were giving us this presentation, one of the questions came out if y'all had contacted or been in discussions with the School Board, and if not, I would recommend, and I don't know who has the authority to do it, but y'all would open up one position on this —, on the Library Board where you have a member of the School Board serving on that because they do have facilities throughout this whole community, new upgraded schools in a lot of cases, and I've talked with a few of the School Board members and they would be willing to work with the Library Board to try to work by utilizing their facilities also and maybe upgrade what they have in their place, and the other, and I don't know whether —, and I'll preface this by first saying I'm not an advocate of raising taxes and have never voted to do that, but I think this one thing —, and I don't know if we can legally do it or not or whether the consensus would be on the Commission to do it or not, but for the year 1999 if we could put a referendum in the November election on the ballot to increase the millage by one mill for one year only and all those funds would go directly to the library, then the citizens —, since y'all's comment was they would demand —, services of the library demand that we do these things, let's find out what the demand really is, let the citizens vote to increase the millage by one mill for one year only for the library, and that would be another option if we can even do that, and I don't know whether the consensus is up here to do that or not, but let the citizens play a part in whether they want to do that or not.

Mr. Kaster asked, could I comment on that? Commissioner Murray said, sure. Mr. Kaster said, I think that's a good idea, I think that's fine, but what we would like to see, I think, as a Library Board, is we would like to be able to have the impetus of an open Bull Street to drive that. But whether that's absolutely fair, and we think that the citizens —, some people talk about the fact that we're just sort of a silent constituency in the library and we would like to get them to express themselves and we think they would. So ideally we'd get Bull Street going, or at least have the solid promise that it was going in January, and get that on the ballot, we'll do our legwork to try to —.

Commissioner Murray said, well, if that is done and if that were to pass, it would give you immediate money that we could work around. It would also give us another year or longer to work into the budgets of future years the things we really need and work towards that. Chairman Hair said, I believe that would take a legislative action. Commissioner Murray said, I don't know whether it would or not. Chairman Hair said, to put something on the referendum, but that's something, you know, we need to look at all the options. I would just like to add my commendation. I think you folks have done a wonderful job, and I've met with you privately and I commend you as volunteers for the terrific job you've done. I do think it's important to say though that we don't want to give any false hopes. There's not a person up here that's not totally supportive of the library, but the kinds of money you're talking about in the short term, quite frankly, are not realistic. I think we have to begin a plan of chipping away at this, but I think to come up with two or three million dollars in any given year is just not realistic, and I think it would be very difficult to do that, but I do think that you will have support to begin to maybe look at incremental increases over a period of time. I think we'll have to deal with this problem over the next —, you know, it didn't get in this shape over night and we're not going to solve it over night. It's been —, it's 20 years —, it's been deteriorating 20 years. It may take us 20 years to get to that average funding level, but at least we'll begin that process, but the kinds of money you're talking about are simply not going to be available in a given year I don't believe, and so we just need to be realistic, but at the same time we need to be very supportive and we do need to —, all of us are very supportive, and we need to try to work on this problem.

Mr. Kaster said, well good, and I just hope that all of you are as dedicated as we are to try to ensure that when this building is ready and the grass is planted and the trees are planted, that we'll be able to unlock the front door and let the customers in.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I was —, I spoke to them a couple —, a meeting we had and my concern was what is the long-range plan. This thing focuses mainly, the presentation focuses on Bull Street, and I had suggested that we —, what is the long-range plan when we had our meeting and asked y'all come back to us with what is your long-range plan of development of where these facilities —. Mr. Kaster said, facilities. Commissioner DeLoach said, where these facilities need to be located and what these facilities need to be and all that, and I asked for an update during our meeting, and this again focuses on Bull Street, and if you want to get the community behind you, you're going to have to present a long-range plan that ties in the entire community and not just Bull Street, I feel like. And I want to know what the long-range plan is. Mr. Kaster said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, I see the numbers up there and that's fine, but what is the —, how are we going to spend that \$26.6 per capita to do this program? Where are you planning on putting the money? Or what is the focus of this thing here because it wasn't on the presentation. Mr. Kaster said, yes, I can show you a facilities plan, if you like.

Chairman Hair said, can we maybe do that not at this meeting possibly, but —. Commissioner Saussy said, Eddie [DeLoach], it's on page 43 if you'll look in this booklet. It shows what the money's going for. Chairman Hair said, you know, we've spent about 45 minutes already on this. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, I don't know that many of these questions are going to be answered today, but —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, and I think Commissioner Murray also, he and I talked a while ago. I think something like this also —, it was very effective when you guys met with us in small groups —. Commissioner DeLoach said, it was great. Chairman Hair said, and I think we get a chance to ask questions that, you know, we're particularly interested in. I think that might be more appropriate than doing it at a full blown Commission meeting. Mr. Kaster said, well, we have another follow on for that purpose alone, and if you, David [Saussy], want to set that up or if we can do it direct —. Chairman Hair said, I think that would be much more productive, I think. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, sounds good to me. Chairman Hair asked, does everybody —? Commissioner Rivers said, can I ask one question? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, Mr. County Attorney, do we have to go through the Legislature in order to do a referendum for —? Attorney Hart said, I think you do. Commissioner Murray said, this would not be a sales tax now, this would be an increase in millage. Attorney Hart said, I'm going to have to look and see. Commissioner Murray said, for one year. Attorney Hart said, I'd be glad to report back to you about that. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, normally we can raise the millage, and all we're doing is asking the question of the citizens whether they want that. Commissioner Murray said, whether they would support that or not. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't have a problem with it. County Manager Abolt said, give us some time please to look at that because realize the library also serves three counties. Commissioner Murray said, I know it does. County Manager Abolt said, so I would think that whatever you would do, you would want to do in appreciation for what the other two counties might also do.

Chairman Hair said, I think one danger of that option though is that —, is, you know, when you tell the public you're going to raise taxes for one year, they don't generally go off at the end of that one year. I think that's a, you know, we might need to look at that. It's certainly an option that we need to look at. Commissioner Murray said, I just suggested that we let the citizens do the vote. If they say yes or they say no, that's entirely up to the community, not to us. Chairman Hair said, okay, we'll look at that. We'll have staff look at that and then see what our options are. Report back to us and then —, if you can make sure that you might meet in small groups, and again thank you very much for the presentation. Mr. Kaster said, okay, thank you very much for your time.

Chairman Hair asked, have you got a question? Mr. Ken Earls said, those of you who have been here a while know that several times I've fought you all trying to cut funding for the library, but I have three questions. The regional library, the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, has a final decision been made on that, where it will be when the Bull Street Library opens? Chairman Hair asked, do y'all know the answer to that? The board may not know the answer to that question. Commissioner Odell said, I don't think a final decision has been made. There are a couple of sites that have been looked at. The Richard Arnold site is one, which is across from —, that is the site that's been considered, but it's going to take some funding from the Board of Education to make the necessary renovations to make that building user friendly. Mr. Earls said, okay, also the new technology to —, so everyone can access the Internet. It is being taken into consideration to make all the computer technology accessible to the blind? Mr. Kaster said, yes. Mr. Earls said, okay, then one final question which was in your plan we were reading back here is a statement that a goal to end all local subsidies to sub-regional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped by 2000. What exactly does that mean and what impact would that have? Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Earls. Lon [Dickerson], could you answer that one.

Mr. Lon Dickerson, Library Director, said, currently we receive funding from the State, which is really Federal funds that come to us to serve a 10-county area for the blind and physically handicapped services. That funding that we receive is not adequate to provide the services that we are currently providing. We are using Chatham County funds to supplement what is being provided in Bulloch County or some of the other counties that we serve. What we're trying to do is to ensure that the money we receive from the State is adequate to serve the needs for this program, and we think that's the fair way to go to do it. We're not projecting any cutbacks in services. We're asking for equitable funding. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Lon [Dickerson].

Commissioner Odell said, Lon [Dickerson], before you leave. The \$400,000 that has already been —, we have that money. Mr. Dickerson said, yes, we have assurances —. Commissioner Odell said, was not vetoed by the Governor. Mr. Dickerson said, that's right. Commissioner Odell said, we probably need to thank our State Legislators who especially —. Mr. Dickerson said, Senator Johnson has been very, very instrumental in giving us that, and we really do appreciate the support that we've had from the entire delegation, and we support you —, commend you and the City of Savannah for all of your efforts to get that money. It's wonderful.

Commissioner Murray said, I've just got one short question. Since the question came up about the three counties that are involved in this Library Board, all the funds collected that come through Chatham County, are they spent within Chatham County or are they spent in other counties also? Mr. Kaster said, they're spent within Chatham County. Commissioner Murray asked, they don't go outside of Chatham County? Mr. Kaster said, no sir. Commissioner Murray said, okay, thank you.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, just one quick comment. I'd like to thank our lobbyist, Bob McAlister, for the job he did in getting us that \$400,000. I know it was our delegation that worked hard, but I think he helped coordinate, kept his eye on it and kept it moving forward, and we ought to acknowledge his efforts. Chairman Hair said, thanks, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Price said, he's worth every cent we pay him. Chairman Hair said, that's very true. Commissioner Price said, he really is. Okay, that takes us —.

Commissioner Rivers said, one other comment. I would like for them to look at attaching —, when they do look at the proposal that Frank [Murray] made, attaching a sunset law clause onto that. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, so it sunsets in one year. Chairman Hair said, very good. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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3. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO COUNTY'S LONG-RANGE WATER PLAN TO CONSIDER PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIERS AS OPTION TO MEET COUNTY'S FUTURE WATER NEEDS (COMMISSIONER PRICE).

Commissioner Price said, we have a long-range water plan that certainly this whole area is engaged in and looking at through the City of Savannah to Chatham County to a lot of municipalities around this area. As far as Chatham County is concerned, I would like to see us consider an amendment to the long-range water plan that would allow, at least allow the County to consider private water suppliers as an option to meet the County's future water needs. Currently, it's my understanding that that's not in place and, Jon [Hart], I don't know if you've had a chance to look at this issue, but have you in fact looked at it and do you have an opinion on it?

Attorney Hart said, well, the question as I understand it is just basically to say that the County will consider alternative private sources as part of the general concept to supply water within the County and the community. It doesn't require the County to do it, but say the County is going to do it is just saying that that is an alternative option as part of the source for providing water within the community. The request appears on its face to sort of broaden flexibility of the County in its master plan for providing water as well as within the region, so I don't think it's a commitment one way or the other by the County, but primarily just a statement that we're going to broaden our viewpoint on how we look at it. Commissioner Price asked, do you see that as a positive thing? Attorney Hart said, from a developmental standard in the private sector there's no question that most of the development in our community is driven by the availability of water and sewer capacity, and on the coastlines of Georgia —. Commissioner Price asked, [inaudible] the City of Savannah. Attorney Hart said, we're going to be pretty well faced with that issue for here ever after.

Commissioner Price asked, has there been any hurdles in the way of private water developers in the past? I mean, is this simply a general comment or general statement that we would make that would say that we're in favor of using as an option, at our option, as an alternative at our option, private water suppliers? Attorney Hart said, well, it would be a situation in which if the private water developer were to come in and propose a plan, they would obviously have to go through the permitting process at the State level and then there would have to be a decision made by the City and the County whether they wished to avail themselves of that. Commissioner Price asked, what would we need to do to approve this amendment? Attorney Hart said, the Commission, from a practical standpoint, would just have to make a motion and a decision to amend the plan to consider that as an alternative source and direct MPC staff to incorporate that into their portion of the plan. It could be done with a one or two sentence statement that we'll consider alternative private sources —, from the County's viewpoint now.

Chairman Hair said, basically what this does is the EPD in Atlanta will not issue any permits to any water systems unless the County amends its plan allowing that as an option, and so they've got everything on hold at their level because they're saying we have to amend our plan, and —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, will we need a motion made —? Chairman Hair said, yes, we do, just to allow it. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I make that motion. Commissioner Price said, I'll second. Commissioner DeLoach said, I want to make that motion that we do amend ours so that we have the alternative. Chairman Hair said, okay. We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, this is just amending our plan, it's not setting up anything to sell our present system or anything else. This is to amend the plan so they can come in —. Chairman Hair said, all this will allow —. Commissioner Murray said, basically so they can compete against the City of Savannah. Commissioner Price said, that's right. Attorney Hart said, well, I don't even know if you can even say that. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's what I'm saying. Commissioner Price said, well, that's what it is. Commissioner Murray said, that's what I'm saying, and if that's the case I'm in favor of it because they charge 50% higher rates in the unincorporated area than they do within the city limits.

Attorney Hart said, from a practical standpoint my understanding at this juncture, what you're asking —, all that's being asked to be done is for the County to send a statement from the MPC considering alternative sources, or private sources, so that the State will proceed with any regulatory permitting. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that you're having to speak from a legal standpoint, but the bottom line is we're going to, by approving this, if they get the permitting from the State, they will be in competition with the City of Savannah in the unincorporated area. Is that right or wrong? Attorney Hart said, I don't know that I can answer that. Commissioner Murray said, well, I think it's right. Chairman Hair said, it would allow that. Attorney Hart said, it would certainly allow that. Chairman Hair said, it would allow that. Commissioner Price said, it would allow competition, which is what we need. Chairman Hair said, also I would remind my fellow Commissioners that they asked me to sign a letter, Harold Reheis asked me about a month or so ago to sign a letter stating that we would amend the plan. I did not feel that as Chairman that I had the authority to do that without taking it to the Commission, so I think that what this does is, if this motion passes, then I can write a letter to the EPD saying that our plan will be amended because it will be an action of the Board. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy asked, this would in no way reduce any powers that we might have to control rates and so forth? Attorney Hart said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, that's —, yes. You're talking about amending the plan, primarily at the MPC level.

Commissioner Murray said, we don't have the power to control the rates right now. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I know, and —, well, I'm getting back to the selling. I think we've got control there.

Chairman Hair said, okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Odell said, I think Russ [Abolt] wants to comment on it. Mr. Abolt said, I appreciate what you've done. I was going to speak in support of it. You have repeatedly now, every year when we've met with the legislative delegation encourage the creation of a Water and Sewer Authority. You've talked about regulation. I literally feel, just as the Attorney has testified to and you picked up on, that competition is very good in a situation like this. I believe that much of the growth primarily on the west side has been inhibited because it was at the pace of the one major provider, namely the City of Savannah, and I think this will create an opportunity for the County Commission to provide a balance for all citizens in the County, just not a few of them. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to amend the County's long-range water plan to consider private water suppliers as an option to meet the County's future water needs. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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VII. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE WEEK OF MAY 4TH THRU MAY 10TH, 1998, AS SCOTTISH HERITAGE WEEK.

Chairman Hair said, our first proclamation today is to declare the week of May 4th through the 10th as Scottish Heritage Week. We appreciate —, we don't usually come in with such fanfare as we did this morning, and we appreciate that very much. Commissioner Saussy, if you would join me.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation:

[INSERT PROCLAMATION]

Mr. Jim Vejar, President of the Scottish Games, said thank you, sir, we appreciate that. As you're all are probably aware that Scots people have made valuable contributions to the world. Two such contributions are the telephone and the television. I think your families appreciate both of those, especially teenagers. One that they have that everybody knows about we'd like to make sure that we present to the County a little libation so that you can enjoy and toast the Scottish heritage. We'd also like to invite all of you to come to the games, and I have tickets for every member and I look forward to having you there. Chairman Hair said, we appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Commissioner Saussy said, I just wanted to say one thing. These men here today represent the Scottish community, three organizations: the St. Andrews Society, of course the Scottish Heritage Society and SAMS, the Scottish-American Military Society. We're proud to have them here today and we're proud to be a part of this organization. We know that the games will be on May 9th, will be very successful as they have been in the past. How many years now that —? An unidentified gentlemen said, 27. Commissioner Saussy said, the 27th year that we've had them. It brings a lot of people into Savannah from all parts of the Southeast and hopefully some of y'all will be there to attend it and also to see what the Scottish heritage is about. Thank you.

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2. PROCLAMATION FOR FRANK CALLEN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB (COMMISSIONER RIVERS).

Chairman Hair said, the next is a proclamation for Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers read the following proclamation:

[INSERT PROCLAMATION]

Mr. Nathaniel Glover said, on behalf of the Frank Callen organization, the board, staff and the club members, Boys and Girls Club Week kind of marks the efforts of many, many Boys and Girls Clubs professionals. This week in particular we're going to celebrate by doing several things. We have a parade tomorrow and a festival for the young people. We'd also like to give some

T-shirts to the Chatham County Commission and verbally and vocally thank the County and citizens fro all the support that it has given us over the years. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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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 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.) TABLED AT MEETING OF APRIL 10, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) TRANSFER OF \$20,000 FROM CHARLENE STREET PROJECT FUND AND \$25,000 FROM TARA AVENUE PROJECT TO PERRY COVE ROAD PROJECT; ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) RESERVE FOR SPECIFIED PROJECTS TRANSFER OF \$7,463,000 TO THE JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY/HIGHWAY 21 INTERCHANGE PROJECT AND A CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$185,000 TO FINISH PHASE I, TRIPLETT PARK PROJECT.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion?

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], on the \$20,000 coming out of Charlene Street and \$25,000 from Tara Avenue to Perry Cove, is that backing those two projects up? County Manager Abolt said, no. All three projects are being built. Commissioner Murray asked, it's still going to be done at the same time? County Manager Abolt said, yes. There was just an almost arbitrary estimate of what the costs were. You've got later on you're awarding the contracts for these. We're just shifting. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Chairman Hair asked, any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the following: One Percent Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) transfer of \$20,000 from Charlene Street Project Fund and \$25,000 from Tara Avenue Project to Perry Cove Road Project; One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Reserve for Specified Projects transfer of \$7,463,000 to the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway/Highway 21 Interchange Project and a Contingency transfer of \$185,000 to finish Phase I, Triplett Park Project. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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2. **APPROVAL OF THE GMP CHANGE ORDER (NO. 11) WITH MTCB AND CONFIRMATION OF FURTHER BUILDING REDUCTIONS. (DELAYED FOR TWO WEEKS AT MEETING OF APRIL 10, 1998.)**

Chairman Hair said, before I open this up for debate I'd like to make a statement. I spent most of yesterday looking at this item and dealing with this issue and there are a number of unanswered questions in my mind about this. I have received information from the staff that has been in direct conflict with information I've received from the company, and as a result of that I called Mr. Reidel, who is here today, I called him yesterday in Atlanta, and advised him of my concerns and set a meeting up for next Thursday, this coming Thursday at 7:30 in the morning, to maybe see if we can get some, some of these questions answered that I have in my mind. I think we're talking about a, basically an \$11 million decision, \$8.4 in cut and \$3 million in additional funding, and I just believe that we might need to delay this until we have time to sit down and really discuss this, and I don't think we're talking about any major delay in the project if we do that, even if we had to have a special-called meeting next week after that meeting on Thursday, and I would just ask you to consider that. I just think there's a lot of things that we don't know about this. Anybody have any comments or —?

Commissioner Murray said, I would just like to make a statement if we're going to end up tabling this before the table is made, and that's the fact that we went through this process several months ago to make reductions. We made those reductions and everybody involved from the County side and the contractor's side assured us that would be it, and I'm not willing to give an inch on going up on the funds and I'm not willing to give an inch of reducing any of the things on the project, and if the reasons that

I've seen and the reports that we've gotten about materials, I don't buy into that. I know materials go up and they go down, and drywall is one of the items that was used. Drywall several months ago was being bought for the same price it was five to ten years ago. It goes up and down like a roller coaster, and I do know that you can lock those special projects in place and get prices from the manufacturers that will be guaranteed on that. If you want to lock it at the side, you know, that's somebody else's problem. I don't think that should be us as a County.

Chairman Hair said, I agree. That's one of my concerns. I think I expressed my feelings about this yesterday. I just think that probably are other alternatives that we can do that will keep it within budget and not making these drastic cuts, but I think it's going to take us time to sit down and talk about these, and I just ask for that delay until the meeting is held on Thursday and then we can —, as I said, if it becomes time critical at that point, I would be willing to call a special meeting just to deal with that one issue or either if it's not, we can delay it until the May 8th meeting and come back at that point and time, but I just think that there's a lot of unanswered questions out there and I have some real serious concerns about this and I just think it would be wise for us to do that to delay it, so I would ask you to give consideration to tabling it.

Commissioner Rivers said, before we do that, does anybody want to make any comments or —? Commissioner DeLoach said, I want to. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I think we ought to hear from the people who deal with it. Commissioner Saussy said, right, I think so too. Commissioner DeLoach said, I think we ought to deal with first Pat Monahan as far as that goes. I'm more concerned with what he thinks than I am, and basically would bank everything that —, my opinion on what he recommends here. I'd like to hear from him right now. Commissioner Odell said, I would too.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we'll do a full blown discussion. Chairman Hair recognized Pat Monahan. Chairman Hair said, before you start, Pat [Monahan], I would want to agree with Commissioner Murray a hundred percent. I mean, regardless of the discussion, I am opposed to this, and so I just want to go on record.

Mr. Pat Monahan said, just let me clarify one point before I outline the two alternatives before the Commission. It's an \$8 million problem. The \$3 million you're talking to would not be added to it, it would be subtracted from it. So the question is do you add approximately \$2 million as a transfer from the Sales Tax Contingency, add some additional reduction items and then also cut \$5 million from the project. The two alternatives before the Commission would be first, as staff committed, we provided you a list of \$8.4 million worth of reductions to bring the project back into balance. The project has gotten out of balance primarily from three factors. Some, based on the early stages of some of the design work, the construction manager underestimated the value of some of those reductions that the Board discussed last November. Part of it is due to increases in certain construction values, in drywall —, it's not just the drywall, Mr. Murray, I know you're involved in that —, it's the installation of drywall. It's finding the people to do it. One of the reasons, the problem with the drywall is, it's a good price, it's because of the demand. There's a lot of work going on in our community and elsewhere in the State of Georgia, so —.

Commissioner Murray said, so drywall's on allocation right now. Mr. Monahan said, trying to buy —. Commissioner Murray said, six months from now it won't be.

Mr. Monahan said, the second alternative before the Board would be to do approximately \$5 million worth of reductions, allow us to take some additional savings areas and then transfer \$2 million from Contingency. I might add, one of the problems with this project has been the struggle to maintain a budget that has been in existence for three years and there have been some increases in construction values. We have seen it in this project over a three-year period. The budget's the same, but inflation has taken its toll. I can remember a meeting where Commissioner Price asked me that very question about, you know, about the delays we were looking at until the hotel reached the financing, and I expressed that I would hope during that time as inflation took its toll that the project would sit there and the sales tax money generated would also increase —, increase interest earnings. And so, theoretically, we thought that they would offset one another. I asked the Finance Department to do an estimate, a projection of how much interest earnings the sales tax would generate over the life of this project. \$10 million because of the delays, because of the cash flow to construct the Trade Center. That \$10 million is, none of it's gone to the Trade Center. I mean, it has helped build other projects, to try to meet the quality standards that this Board set, and I think in order for us to reach a similar level, just a basic level of those quality standards, it will require the transfer of \$2 million.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any questions of Pat [Monahan] before we get Mr. Reidel up? Commissioner Price and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Price said, Pat [Monahan], that number and that money would not necessarily go to the construction manager. Mr. Monahan said, absolutely not. Commissioner Price said, it wouldn't go —. Mr. Monahan said, the money goes to the building. The construction manager, I tried to make this point yesterday, is on a fixed fee. The construction manager does not make one more dime whether this project is \$73 million or \$71 million. Commissioner Price said, okay. What has happened with the structural —, the architectural work on the structural steel? That's hard to say. I understand that there was some delays involved there. Mr. Monahan said, yes. I mean they're having to —. Commissioner Price asked, are we seeing, are we seeing costs increase because of delays from, you know, from work that should have been done, design work that should have been done by now? Mr. Monahan said, I think what —, you might recall that when the Commission adopted that strategy in November we had three goals: maintain budget, maintain schedule, maintain program. It did require a considerable amount of rework. There has been some difficulty within the design team. The structural engineer out of Atlanta, which is not associated with TVS and is under contract with TVS, did run into some personnel problems and that did cause some delays. Commissioner Price said, but I understand that the original person working on that, the designer working on that, is no longer the same person, that there's a new architect working on that. Mr. Monahan said, yes. Because of that problem, because of that engineering firm's ability to turn out the documents in a timely manner, the construction manager and the architect, particularly the design team, agreed to use a different structural engineer. That is back on schedule because of those efforts.

Commissioner DeLoach said, the \$2 million would come from interest earned off of monies that had been set aside. Is that the understanding? Mr. Monahan said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, or that's the direction it's going in. Mr. Monahan said,

yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach asked, can you name any other projects where we've had to add additional funding to them as far as the sales tax projects are concerned? Mr. Monahan said, I think I could —, it probably be —, work the other way because, and that's not to —, I mean, to add those that hasn't because there have not been many.

County Manager Abolt said, I concur in that, sir. You have over the life of this particular entitlement, going back to 1993, made almost an adjustment per project. We can quantify it if you want us to, but there —. Commissioner Murray said, except the pier. Right? County Manager Abolt said, except for the pier. I think you're right, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, something in the Fourth District. Chairman Hair said, okay. Any other questions of Pat [Monahan] before we get —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just —, I want to follow up and just go with Pat [Monahan]. Based on the information you have and the fact that you deal with it every day and you're involved in it every day, what is your recommendation as far as what we're doing here, to give us a first-class facility similar to the things that we've already developed in Chatham County? Mr. Monahan said, well, the reason you see for Board's consideration, Mr. Abolt and I discussed this very point, he felt that it was important to maintain the Board's view that the project would remain the same and then if it was the Board's decision to put back, the level of basic quality back, then that ought to be the Board's decision. Did I dodge that properly? Commissioner DeLoach said, no, usually, and I'm pretty direct when I ask. What do you recommend, Pat [Monahan]? Commissioner Odell said, yes we do it or no we don't. Commissioner Price said, let's let the buck go with the Commissioners and let them be. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't have a problem with it, Pat [Monahan], I mean —.

Chairman Hair said, I think it's appropriate to ask for staff's recommendation. That's why we have staff is to recommend. I think it's very appropriate for him to answer the question. What do you recommend?

Commissioner DeLoach said, I mean, you're in it every day and I understand it's going to put you in an awkward position. It's —, but let's just say this. Do you feel like the request —, do you —. Mr. Monahan said, let me just preface my remarks this way —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mr. Monahan said, and then I'll give you an answer, and perhaps maybe the design team should show you some of the changes, what they mean. We did bring some of the interior drawings. Even though they're older drawings, I think they'll show you the level of changes —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mr. Monahan, but if it's the Board's goal to create a memorable civic project on the river front, which was the basic goal that this Commission set when this project started, one of the reasons is because it's on the river front. And because it's so highly visible in the community, which will add to its marketability, it needs to have a certain level of quality. I don't think you get that level of quality if you allow the full force of the cuts to go into effect. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's all I need.

Chairman Hair asked, so you are recommending what? Commissioner DeLoach said, don't go recommend, just —. Commissioner Rivers said, he doesn't have to recommend at that point. Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, we've got options on the table. What is staff recommending to us to vote on today? County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, if I may. Chairman Hair said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, not to avoid, we truly are coming to you for direction. You gave us very specific direction. You said build it for \$71.5 million. We'll flat build it for \$71.5 million. Chairman Hair said, not if this motion passes. County Manager Abolt said, no sir. We did not want —, seriously, let me establish a point with y'all. We did not want to find ourselves having someone interject between you and us what you've already told us to do. Certainly if the design team wants to make their case, they certainly can. I got clear directions from y'all on what you wanted to build it for back several months ago. I did not want to ever put staff in the position of second guessing that. I appreciate the validity of your questioning, but in interpreting the answer, I'm apprehensive of the fact that it will be misinterpreted.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I finish up with my questions? Chairman Hair said, I don't know how you can misinterpret yes or not, but that's fine. Commissioner DeLoach said, let me finish up. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, on that. My problem with that and, you know, I understand, Russ [Abolt], you don't want to answer out in public what your opinion is on it, but my —, every program, I mean, let's take the pool, for instance. I don't know what the original budget was on the pool, I don't even know what the final total is. I so know about Triplett Park though how far we're over on it. I mean, I'm well aware of that one. I'm carrying that one around my neck. My point is throughout all of these issues, you basically said you gave your opinion about what you thought, you basically told us what your opinion was on it, and we reacted based on that. Now, I'm understanding, I'm not looking for a recommendation from Pat [Monahan] based on this, but in his opinion if he were a "County Commissioner" sitting up here and he were looking for a "good facility across the river," he would recommend those additional —. County Manager Abolt said, I want Pat [Monahan] to. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't want him to have to answer that. County Manager Abolt said, because if I may I want —, Pat [Monahan] obviously because he's closest to it to respond, but I also want the Board to realize this is one of those few projects you were very specific in direction, and I do not want to create situations in other events where developers, builders, contractors, might figure, well, the Commission said this back whenever, but we can somehow interject ourselves between staff and the Board and staff won't do what the Board told them to do. I'm telling you, we're doing what you told us to do, and it's legitimately, as it is today, per your call. We'll build it for \$71½ million, you told us to do that. There is obviously a good case that can be made to add the \$2 million to it. There's nothing wrong with that. But when you look me in the eye and I don't blink and you don't blink, and you say build it for \$71½ million, we build it for \$71½ million. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, but I know that. But he point is —. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, I understand. Commissioner DeLoach said, the point is that if it's not going to be a facility that 20 years from now that we're not proud of it being in Chatham County, then we need to take another look at the situation, regardless of what the reasoning is and there's nobody argued the point for the \$71.5 million, but I'm not going to let us build something over there that is not an adequate representation of Chatham County, regardless of what the political outcome is. The fact of it is if the facility based on a person who working there is in it every day, he feels like these are something that we just can't stand and have this program develop, now if he feels that way, then I'm willing to —, I make a motion that we go ahead and spend the additional \$2 million. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second, okay. Commissioner Price asked, is that not Alternative #1. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Price asked, is that what it is? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, have you got other things? Okay, we have Commissioner Odell, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Rivers, and Commissioner Saussy, but before I recognize Commissioner Odell I would like to ask a couple of questions. My

problem with this is everybody, staff, the construction managers, everybody clearly understood when we went to a guaranteed maximum price, that this was the facility —, it was already, we knew what we were bidding on, we knew what we were going to build. There were no surprises in there and we got a guaranteed maximum price of \$71.5 million. We delayed this project for seven months so we could get a guaranteed maximum price so we wouldn't be here doing what we're doing today, which is adding more funds to this project. That's why we delayed it seven months, and we delayed it seven months to get a guaranteed maximum price and now we're up here wanting to dump another two or three million dollars in this project, and two or three months from now, six months from now, you're going to be back up here and you'll want another two or three million dollars. The whole concept of a guaranteed maximum price is that it doesn't go up. So what good is it for us to get a guaranteed maximum price and then ask for three million dollars more? That's just not —, and you can't say to me that you didn't know, the staff didn't know, Beers Construction Company didn't know. Mr. Reidel and I had a conversation. We knew exactly what we were bidding on, and when we told the public we could build this facility as it was designed for \$71.5 million —. Commissioner Odell said, redesigned. Chairman Hair asked, why can't we build it and why do you have to come up here and ask us more money for this project, or take cuts in this project?

Mr. Monahan said, the —, as you might recall, when the Board adopted that, the recommendation in November to reduce the items, reduce 266 items, at that point we did not know what we were going to buy. The design was not even complete on some of the portions of the building due to the redesign. That's —. Chairman Hair said, well, let me ask you this. If you didn't know —. Mr. Monahan said, at that point the documents were not complete. Chairman Hair said, let me ask you then, if you didn't know, how could you come up with a figure of \$71.5 million? If you didn't know what you were building, how did you come up with the number? Mr. Monahan said, that's the point. That's the budget that has been with this project since schematic design, which was July of 1995 when the documents were ten percent complete. Chairman Hair said, but the staff and Beers Construction agreed when we got the guaranteed maximum price that the facility could be built for that. Mr. Monahan said, well, Mr. Chairman —. Chairman Hair said, everybody agreed to that. Mr. Monahan said, if you look, if you look at the change order and the conditions upon which the construction manager, which is Maritime Trade Center Builders, it outlines a basic building: 100,000 square feet of exhibit space meets the program, 25,000 square feet ballroom, 20,000 square feet of meeting space, and a 4,000 square foot conferencing center. They're meeting those requirements. What level of finishes do you want on that building? I mean, that's the issue here. They can meet those requirements by going through the reductions. That is Alternative #2, if that's what the Commission wants to do, and Maritime Trade Center Builders builds it for \$71.5 million. Chairman Hair asked, did they not know at the time they gave us the guaranteed maximum price that they had a limestone finish on the building instead of stucco? Did they not know that? They knew that. Mr. Monahan said, yes sir, they did. Chairman Hair said, they also knew the amount of drywall in that facility. Mr. Monahan said, no, they did not. I don't think they did. Chairman Hair asked, you're telling me they don't know how much drywall it's going to take —? Mr. Monahan said, if you recall, on the November 7th list, it targeted savings of drywall, but that number has not even been reached until the past two to three weeks. Chairman Hair said, okay, let's go back to the finishes. You said that they knew it was limestone finish. Now why are they saying now —, they bid it as a limestone finish for \$71.5, now you're saying you want to cut out \$400,000 or \$500,000 and put a stucco finish on it. You knew at the time that it was going to be a limestone finish. That's what the price was based on. Mr. Monahan said, but there are other items that were not known, and the difference is in order to achieve the full reductions of \$8.4 million, then the limestone finish, the GFRC must go and some alternative material must be placed. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell. Commissioner DeLoach said, I want to comment, okay.

Commissioner Odell said, yes, I'll be brief. Pat [Monahan], I know this has been a major headache for you. It appears to me that we started off with a plan and there were many uncertainties in the plan. Over that time period we collected money from the one cent and that money was deposited, and that money over the time period accrued approximately \$2 million, and the request is whether or not we put in X number of dollars —, what is the request? Mr. Monahan said, \$2 million. Commissioner Odell said, \$2 million to compensate for the overage. I recently attended a game in Jacksonville at the new stadium and I concluded one thing. It is a gorgeous, done right stadium. I mean it is absolutely —, they, it was done right. For the amount of money that we're going to spend on the Trade Center, and I was never in favor of the Trade Center being on Hutchinson Island. I say that every chance I get. I wanted it to be on this side of the river. I think it is insignificant in the largest scheme of things five years down the road if we spend an additional \$2 million. I think it will be significant if we go from the treatment of the exterior from limestone to stucco. I think the maintenance cost alone would exceed that and the aesthetics would just —. Mr. Monahan said, just to remind the Commission, I did bring along samples. It's not limestone, it's GFRC. Commissioner Odell said, I'm —. Mr. Monahan said, and I also brought a sample of the stucco. The stucco is about an eighth of an inch thick on a backer board. The GFRC, as you can see over there, is that three-quarter inch piece of material. Commissioner Odell said, as long as it's not vinyl siding. I have nothing against trailers, I just don't want them —. Mr. Monahan said, these two come in large sheets. This is the material that we planned to use, but if we've got to go with the full reductions, this is what we'd use in its place. Commissioner Odell said, you know, just in conclusion, I think our Chairman was absolutely right. When you go to a maximum —, a guaranteed maximum price, that's what you're supposed to get, a guaranteed maximum price, but from our standpoint and realistically if we want a building that looks like we made that kind of investment, someone to trim \$2 million as compared to a \$71 million investment on a project that is several years old to me is not unreasonable, but out of the line and this is not a science. Mr. Chairman, I yield the floor.

Commissioner Murray said, the Chairman's already answered most of the —, or asked most of the questions I had, but I still, one that has not been answered, or at least if it has I didn't hear the answer. At our last meeting when this came up, when we made the reductions we were all told that was it. We were going to build the facility with these things in it, we weren't going to do any more cuts to the [inaudible] of the building or anything else. We did all the cutting we were going to do. Everybody agreed to that. We were to move forward with that, and that's why I don't understand now —. First of all, I don't understand how somebody could bid a job and not know what's going in that job, and why can't we hold them to the original agreement at the last meeting we had about this, this is what you're going to build and this is the price you're going to build it for and everybody agreed on that. I understand you said some of the stuff wasn't in there, but if it wasn't in there how did they bid it? You have to know what's going in a facility to bid a facility. Mr. Monahan said, so much of the building has been redesigned, at least integral parts of the building has gone through a major redesign since that meeting in November. Commissioner Murray said, well —. Mr. Monahan said, to say that the plans were complete at that time, they were not complete. Commissioner Murray asked, well, how could they give us a guaranteed price on that then? Mr. Monahan said, well, the idea was guaranteed price and they'd make the project fit within

that price, and they can make the project fit within the price. Commissioner Murray said, yes, but we were told there would be no more reductions in any of this. At that meeting —, I answered those questions and several other people asked those questions. I understand you're in an awkward position. I'd hate to be in it, and I respect the job you're doing on it. I think you're doing a terrific job on it, so I'm not trying to take it out on you, but these questions all came up the last time and we were guaranteed the facility would be built as it was shown to us with the reductions that were taken that last time, and now it —, I guess the next question, if this is approved today and we move forward, and I agree with Eddie [DeLoach], I think we've got to have a facility we can be proud of and one that they can market to this whole country so we can get the people in here to pay for it, but when's the next one coming up? When is another change order going to come up, another reduction that we're going to have to do or add a couple more million dollars into it? We aren't getting a guarantee today either. Mr. Monahan said, the design process has progressed to a much higher level than it was last November. I mean, much more is known about the project as that design has progressed, so the chances of that happening are very slim. Commissioner Murray asked, what kind of guarantees will we have today if we approve this motion that we won't have to do this again? Mr. Monahan said, well, I'd like to say my guarantee, but I don't fully control it. Commissioner Murray said, you can't guarantee it because you aren't the contractor. Mr. Monahan said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, and you aren't the design team, and I hold them at fault for this regardless of what's been said, and we should have taken Eddie's lead the last time and done away with all of it and started over again.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Rivers, Pat [Monahan], I —, there's a statement you made that I want to clarify because it was not what we were told. You just made a statement that the \$71.5 million was we wanted to build a project within that. That was not what we were told. We had lots and lots of drawings. We knew what we were bidding on, what we were planning. We were told this was the kind of facility we were going to get for \$71.5. We were not told we're going to have to make this project fit \$71.5 million. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's not right. You're wrong. Chairman Hair said, I was not told that. Commissioner DeLoach said, you're wrong. You are wrong. Chairman Hair said, well, that's your opinion. That's —. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, it's my opinion and the fact of it is that program was set in front of us and they said we can do this, this, this and this and it will fit there. Chairman Hair said, I wish you'd produce the minutes to where I was told that. That was not a meeting where I was present. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, please bring the minutes you're talking about then. Chairman Hair said, I was told. Commissioner Price said, let's not get to that level, guys. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm tell you. I mean, to sit there and have, you know, put it on the staff that they were told this, this, and —, it's not true. Chairman Hair said, I was told by staff and by Beers Construction Company that it could be built for that, not just Pat [Monahan]. Commissioner Price said, we're going to have to break open that bottle of scotch here in a minute. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, how many facade changes have we had during the course of this project? Mr. Monahan asked, you mean the exterior material that you're passing around? Commissioner Rivers said, exterior material. Mr. Monahan said, well, originally it was priced at limestone, and I'll give you an example of how the market changes. You might recall, limestone when it was originally priced, was carrying an estimated cost of \$25 a square foot. When we got the bids back —, now these are bids and not estimates, the bids came in between \$40 and \$60 a square foot. Based on that we did some value engineering. The architect suggested the idea the GFRC, which is the thicker material that you're passing around, and that was priced somewhere around \$20 a square foot. Through some aggressive pricing, I think it now has been reduced to \$19 a square foot. The —, when we went to the Board in November, if the Commission had not approved all those changes, then we would have gone to the synthetic stucco at that point. The Board decided to add that back into it by the vote. So we basically looked at three materials, to answer your question. One was limestone, the second was the GFRC, and the third was the synthetic stucco. Commissioner Rivers asked, why were the projections so far off on those material estimates? Mr. Monahan said, it was the difference between what the estimators thought it could be purchased for and what the market said it could be purchased for, the market place meaning the contractor saying, you know, we're busy, we've got a lot of other work going on, and subsequently the prices went up. Commissioner Rivers said, but, you know, usually it's customary, and I don't know how it works over in that arena, but usually when we've got a bid we look at what is called for and then bid what the specs are and then we go out to the manufacturer with a price on that for Beers Manufacturers [sic] who produce that, and then get a locked in price for a certain period of time. And I'm sure at times that we go back to the manufacturer and get extension on those prices. Sometime they will be a little different, sometimes I don't know if they would be any lower, but —. Mr. Monahan said, and that was done. I was in a meeting where TVS identified contractors it had worked with. I remember some were —, one was in Alabama. Maritime Trade Center Builders and Beers Construction identified other contractors that they had worked with on the limestone and contracted them personally to discuss the project, the scope of the project and the pricing. And based —, even at that the prices were coming in too high. At that point TVS suggested the GFRC, which was —, I happen to think it's just as good as the limestone. Commissioner Rivers said, and I can respect that. It's my concern now, being with all the reductions that we have made, the lowering of the building and the deletion of material, of course, yes, maybe we have Cadillac with all of the ancillaries in it, but now I'm concerned about the quality of this building and what we're going to get in the final analysis. I think that's key, and if we have a functional building, yes, we can get a functional building within the \$71.5, but a functional building with those things in it that's going to enhance the opportunity to broaden that whole scope over there to expand on it, to get enough people coming in here to offset all of the cost that may go into it over an extended period of time, then this must be a quality building, and that's my concern. I'm very concerned about that. Commissioner DeLoach said, I am, me too.

Chairman Hair asked, do you want to respond, or —?

Mr. Monahan said, well, he's right. Chairman Hair said, I was just wondering if he wanted to respond. Do you have other things you want to say? Commissioner Rivers said, no, I don't have anything other than that, but I want —, I do want to hear from the contractor to see where they are because I'm going to have to leave shortly, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, all right. Well, I still have Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Price, do y'all want to hold your questions until —. Commissioner Price said, yes. Commissioner Saussy said, I'm going to be very short. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, my question would be to the —. Chairman Hair said, well, Commissioner Saussy first. Commissioner Price said, that would be fine. Go ahead, David [Saussy]. Go ahead.

Commissioner Saussy said my concern also is the fact that I think we're losing a lot of quality if we don't go ahead with something like this. I don't like that we have to do this, and I too want to hear from the contractor, but, if we don't go with the quality building,

we've got nothing but a civic center, and I cannot see that. That's not what I started out with this thing to begin with, and I will not, will not, let the quality be sacrificed for this.

Chairman Hair asked, who's going to represent MTCB or Beers? Mr. Reidel are you going to do it or someone else or —? Commissioner Price said, let me ask a question. Chairman Hair said, I think it would be appropriate to let him make some comments before we ask him questions. Commissioner Price said, go ahead. Chairman Hair said, he's heard the discussions, so —. Mr. Reidel said, good morning. Chairman Hair said, good morning. Mr. Reidel said, yes, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you and I think what I —, I'd point out a couple of things. In the process that we engaged in as a team last September, it was really clear that the project as bid in last Summer of 1997 was over the budget. There was a lot of discussion about what —, why the reasons, Commissioner Rivers, and we can go back and discuss that, but I think the wise decision that y'all made was that you would trust us to get that budget —, excuse me, to get that building back into the budget. In the process of doing that, we documented what our commitment to Chatham County was in a couple of letters, and our commitment was to lead a team to bring the project back into a \$71.5 million budget and to meet the fundamental programs that were approved early in the 90's written by HNTB. In that process, the documents were completely torn apart and redrawn in many cases. You're aware of the process, you're aware that we had to do that because you in November approved a lot of those changes, and during this period since you set the budget in mid-1995 to today, there has been considerable increases in the cost of construction put in place. Those cost increases vary from time to time for different types of work, but in total they've averaged over that period of time enough to accumulate well over 10% in this part of the country, and I think what the design team is saying to us, and I think what the whole team is discussing with you today, is that, yes, you can get a building for \$71.5 million. The work has been done to redesign that, but what you might want to consider is that the opportunity for that building to be truly a sparkling facility, or in the words of the architect yesterday, really an exceptional building, may be lost because of the time delays, things that have driven the time delay on the project on Hutchinson Island. So I think what people are saying today is you've got a choice. If you want to, you can make those enhancements in the building which will make a very big difference, and that's I think the topic on the table as we see it. One of the —, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Reidel, you say that a lot of this cost increase is because of the time delay from '95 until the present time. You didn't bid this job in '95. This job was bid last year, very recently. Mr. Reidel said, we never bid the project. I'm sorry. Chairman Hair said, well, not the bid, but the guaranteed maximum price that was given, we weren't given that price in '95. Mr. Reidel said, no, and that was a conceptual estimate. Chairman Hair said, so from '95 —, you can't count inflation from '95 to '97 as a reason for now going up because when that figure was given recently —. Mr. Reidel said, that's right. I'm not —. Chairman Hair said, you already knew what the inflation was from '95 to '97 so —. Mr. Reidel said, and I'm not saying that. Chairman Hair said, well, that's what I thought I heard you say. That's why I'm asking you the question. Mr. Reidel said, all I'm saying, that we agreed to put the project into the budget that you established in 1995, and we can still do that. Chairman Hair said, well sure if you take out —, you keep cutting I'm sure you can. I could build it for the \$71.5 million if I go there and cut, you know, \$10 million worth of things. Of course, you can. That's not the issue. Mr. Reidel said, we can do that and meet the program and you'll have a functional building that will be a great facility, and I don't —. Chairman Hair asked, so you're telling us we can have a great facility for the 71 without these cuts? Mr. Reidel said, I'm telling you what Pat's telling you and what the architects are saying. Chairman Hair said, that you can't have quality facility without —. Mr. Reidel said, that you really want those enhancements, and I think you should ask the architect about what kind of enhancements we're talking about because he understands that and speaks well of that.

Commissioner Price said, one of the lead members on the design team was quoted in the paper saying if we didn't do this we would have a mediocre trade center. Is this a question of \$2 million being the difference between mediocrity and something better. I mean, you need to speak to that because that was one heck of a statement to be made in the press. Mr. Reidel said, yes, you know, and, Ben [Price], I tell you, I don't know how to answer that question because personally it's not a —, I'm here to build what you decide. Commissioner Price said, right, I understand that. Mr. Reidel said, but I would support what he's saying to you, you know, if I were a citizen here, if I lived in Chatham County. Commissioner Price said, so then you're saying that to put \$71.5 million it's a mediocre trade center. Mr. Reidel said, yes. Commissioner Price said, \$73.5 —, \$2 million more may take it from mediocre to what? Mr. Reidel said, a big difference in terms of the finishes and the durability of the skin. Commissioner Price said, well, I never thought we would get to the point of mediocrity with the relationship we have with you, and the design team and everybody, but these, you know, these are games that if they're being played, are games that are not going to work. I mean there are a lot of words being used there that it's surprising to me that this design team and this group is using these words in the press in the first place and it makes me wonder what's going on here. Now don't get me wrong, you know, I will support this because we've got to get it done, but I am not happy with this and I'm not happy with the idea that you could come back at a later date and say, oh, by the way, things have gone up again, things have changed a little bit here. Can you speak to the specificity of what we can expect going forward? How specific is this last number? Is it the last number? Is \$73.5 million the last number or is it going to be a greater number later on? Mr. Reidel said, Ben [Price], I see no reason why that's going to change. I see no reason why that should change. We've got a Contingency that we've worked on. There are things that we still haven't designed. The frame of the building is still in design, the skin of the building still needs lots of design work. Obviously, the interiors need final design. I see absolutely no reason, but the most important thing is that when you execute this, the documents as they stand today with the emendations to the documents are a commitment for us that's very, very specific. What we made a commitment to you last Fall was that we would take the —, the team would take all the work that had been done and we would put it into this \$71.5 million budget that had been established. What I'm saying right now is that there were not documents to represent that. They had to be taken apart and redrawn. What you have today are documents that are very specific about those areas and we've got very specific budgets and each one had got line items, so I don't see why there should be anything. You know, if you have a situation along the path there, it's a complete unknown to anybody right now. Commissioner Price said, I have no more questions.

Chairman Hair said, Sybil [Tillman], make sure you're got that in the minutes, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm just about like the Chairman is as far as this goes, as far as you hate to add this additional monies to this. I think he's right, I mean, as far as the basic outline. I feel like we did get a commitment from you at the last —,

in November or whatever it was, that we would, in fact, have a quality building, a great building, at the \$71.5 million. I don't doubt that I understand that when you were here and we had this conversation originally, no doubt in my mind. Just like the Chairman said, and Frank [Murray], and I'm sure each one of us up here, that you and your design team and everybody else said that this would take care of it, we can do it if we have the opportunity to build —, to design and build and to go forward. It's now —, it's obvious that we're not going to get a \$71.5 million building that's great based on what's taking place now. So I can sit up here and vote to hold you to that \$71.5 million and basically feel that I'm right, and it's easy for each one of us up here to vote that way and know that we're right because we, in fact, know that it was stated to us by each individual with the team that we would have a quality building at \$71.5. Now, you know, I don't care about all the changes, I don't care about all the drawings, and all that. The fact of it was we were told we were going to have a quality building at \$71.5. Now any way you color it, that's the way it is. But we are here today to decide what's going to be in the future when none of us are going to be here, what kind of quality we're going to leave for people. Whether we like it or not, we have to take the point and just say, am I going to have a facility that is not adequate for the future, or am I going ahead and spend this \$2 million? And it's harder to vote for that today because we know —, we are people that when somebody gives me their —, what I feel like is their word on something, I'm pretty —, you know, I hold that sacred, and we don't have that. But we've got to spend that \$2 million. I'm not saying it's your responsibility alone. I know you're having to fall on the sword up here and I realize that, but we do too. But the fact of it is, we committed to the people of Chatham county that based on your conversation with us that we would in fact have a great building with \$71.5. We're past that now, and sort of like getting married, you get your first fight out the way and you move on. Well, we've got to spend that \$2 million to make the citizens of Chatham County a quality building. If we've got to do that, let's just go ahead and do that and move on, but I would ask you that any way possible for the design team to work this out, we do not need any more increases. That any unknowns, we don't need all this. We need to close out the drawing. I mean, as long as somebody's drawing, the money's going up. If you don't shut that drawing crew done, you're going to come back again with another number for us. I don't know what you've got to do to do that, but you need to shut them down and let's go on and build the facility or otherwise we're going to keep adding to it. I regret that we have this today, I regret that I have to vote for this today, but I realize that I've got to do what's best for the citizens of Chatham County and I'm willing to do that today. That's where I'm going to leave it.

Commissioner Rivers said, you know, I'm truly and totally disappointed with the life of this project. You know, when I first saw this project, it was like you're selling me a Rolls Royce. I had a gleam in my eye. You came back and you said I have to give you a Mercedes because we can't get this Rolls ready. We accepted that. Now you're giving me a Ford with no accessories, and it just doesn't seem right or cut right within my mind that we can do this. And like the Chairman said, yes, if given the parameters you can go in and cut a building and make it fit within the budget, confines of the budget, but then I'm disturbed because as you adjust and make it fit, then when I really look at the final building, it may not even be that Ford that I thought that I was going to get. The quality might not even be there, and that's my concern. One thing that you said, you said the price was in this part of the country, and I said in November that I was at a meeting in Washington and something happened and we were talking about construction and they said the price of concrete and certain things were down in the Northeast. See if we could have took —, got a commitment from other parts of the country if necessary and bring that stuff in. Mr. Reidel said, one of the things that you approved as a Commission in September which made a very big difference in getting from a hundred-ish down to 71.5 was a relaxing, if you will, of the procurement. We had made a tremendous effort to keep everything as close and tight as possible locally, and as we relaxed that slightly knowing that some materials don't travel very far cheaply, we've gotten a long way there. So you're right, you relaxed that requirement and we did. We did get the people and materials from different parts of the region. Yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers asked, what is the possibility of this building coming in under budget? Mr. Reidel said, there —, if it comes in under budget, the one thing that's important that you realize is that by virtue of the GMP you get the savings. You get the money that's not spent. You have the choice then to spend that money in other places or to roll it back into further upgrading the savings. That is common in this type of building endeavor. You have the money that's not spent. It's all audited. Commissioner Rivers said, with that said, I would wish that this design team and construction team would move expeditiously to save us some money and thereby putting some more quality back into this building. You know —. Mr. Reidel said, we're working —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm still dreaming and I'm still hoping that the right thing will be done. And if we have to spend this \$2 million today, I may be willing to do that, but I have to express my dismay for all of the things that have gone on over the long period of time because Hutchinson Island has always been a dream of mine, and this is one way that it goes a little farther than just having a building. It helps us to broaden the tax base, thereby helping the citizens within Chatham County. That's the one and only reason that I favored Hutchinson Island. Mr. Reidel said, I understand. Commissioner Rivers said, because when we run that line over there, the price of the property is going to go up and we're going to increase the taxes that we collect on that property to broaden our tax base. That's personally why I supported this project *in toto*. It will enhance this community. That all it is, an enhancement for this community, and if we get something over there that's not a functional building or not a building that's going to be able to lockability —, have the lockability that we want and get the kind of conventions that —, people that we want coming in, it's going to be all for naught, and I'd had to see that. I don't need an albatross. So I would ask you to do whatever you can, in all sincerity, and I'm very sincere that I'm going to support this, but I want your commitment and the design team and everybody else that they will do everything and make every concentrated effort to bring this project in under budget and try to enhance this building so that we come out with a quality building that all of this community will be proud of. I don't want another government building like we've got over there where people can come in and look at it in amazement. Mr. Reidel said, I know which building you're talking about and you have our commitment and I think I can speak for the folks from TVS&A and their commitment to do that, and we're working in terms of procurement strategies, we're working in terms of design, detailing, everything we can think of. We've doubled the number of people that are working on it to make this happen.

Commissioner Murray said, I was opposed to this project to even go on the referendum until a gentleman that's sitting in this audience right now, Alan Beals, came to me and explained to me how we were going to collect the money for the operating deficit for the first several years it's open. That changed my mind to support it. I had no idea we would be running into this kind of problems as far as the construction of the facility. I know it's a large facility and I know you have changes that have to be made, but if this motion, which I have no doubt to believe that it will pass, is passed, what exterior is going to be on the outside of the facility? Mr. Reidel said, I'm going to have to bring the team up here to describe it in detail. Commissioner Murray said, no, no. Are we going with limestone or are we going with stucco? Chairman Hair said, he just wants to know which —. Mr. Reidel said, it won't be limestone. It will be the GFRC, which is the thicker panel which you saw there. It will not be the stucco. Commissioner Murray said, we came up short about \$400,000 for the library. This Commission voted to put \$400,000 back in so they would put the granite stone back on that facility —. I've already seen it, I don't need to look at it. I personally think we're making a

mistake by going with that over a long term. Mr. Reidel said, as opposed —. Commissioner Murray said, as opposed to the limestone. Commissioner Murray said, so what are we actually going to lose? We were told before that what we sold to this community on the referendum was the model that we have sitting somewhere now, I don't know if it's still downstairs or not. It's not even going to look anywhere near what that model looks like that we told the community this facility was going to be. The interiors of this facility are not even going to be the same. We cut back on the tile floors, from what I understand, to go with carpet in a lot of areas, which we accepted the last time we made cuts, but that is not what the citizens of this community voted to have when they voted this one percent sales tax referendum in, so we've sold the citizens a bag of goods that we can't live up to. I just still have some real problems on some of the cuts that are being made right now to fall within this budget, and I don't even think the \$2 million is going to put it where it needs to be. I think it's going to be greater than that. If it was entirely up to me, and it's not, I only have one vote, I'd tell y'all to pack your bags and go home. I think we've gone too far with it. We've got to go forward. I won't support the motion because I don't think the \$2 million is going to be near enough to finish it like it needs to be done, and I guarantee y'all will be back, somebody will be back wanting more money.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Odell said, when I first came on the Commission we had the design team and our staff to do an elaborate presentation and the building was extremely beautiful and we said that we would do it for \$71.5 million, and that was a guaranteed maximum price. If we give a guaranteed maximum price, and we did not know what the exterior of the building would be and there would be a variety of options, then we don't have a guaranteed maximum price, and my concern is on the occasions that I've been in meetings where the design team and the contractor and everyone else had looked at us and given us that warm and fuzzy feeling that this is the last time, but what it's akin to and Joe Murray Rivers talked about cars, what y'all have done is you said we're going to sell you those cars and then after we buy the car you said you might need a steering wheel, and my question is what other parts, like tires, were those included in it, you know, because if we talk about sheetrock, I mean, I'm no scientist, but if you're given a bid of \$71.5 million, then sheetrock should have been known, and I'm probably wrong in saying that. The exterior finish and —, I haven't finished my statement yet —, should have been known. My concern is, and I agree totally with Frank [Murray] and the Chairman, just as convincingly as you all stood before us and said \$71.5 and just as convincingly someone on the team tells the newspaper that we will have a two-story mobile home that will be over there if we don't spend the \$2 million, we will be back here again, and I just want everyone to realize that and know that, that this is just the beginning of the bleeding. I don't know if we have a choice at this point because I don't want a two-story mobile home over on Hutchinson Island, but I don't think that anyone can ever say, if you're talking about \$71.5 million, that the difference between a good building and a mediocre building is \$2 million. When I read that in the paper, I was extremely upset because what it appeared to me like you were doing was —, that you were forcing us to decide based upon the information that you all have supplied us. If we've been led down the primrose path, then you all have been doing the marching. We've been following you. So to put us in a box and to say you have garbage if you don't spend the \$2 million and then on the other hand you have a guaranteed maximum price, which isn't a guaranteed maximum price, the paper should report it, it is not because if it was, then we should sue you all and make you build what you said you were going to build. It cannot be, and to say we will give you these: A, B, C, D, that's not what I saw in the Green Room. We saw tile, we saw diagrams, and drawings, and now what you're telling us basically is that, no, we could give you —, I'd like to know what it's going to look like. Can anyone tell us, if we approve this additional money, what do we have now? Can —, what will it look like? Do you have something that you can show? Commissioner Murray said, we've seen all that before. It changes every time you see it. Chairman Hair said, show us something that is not going to change, okay. Commissioner Murray said, it will change if the money keeps coming. Chairman Hair said, yes, if we keep giving them two or three million dollars every three or four months. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Murray said, I'd rather them say it's going to take \$10 million more to do it right now and be done with it. I'll guarantee you they'll be back in six months..

Mr. Andy McLean said, I'm with Thompson, Ventulett, Steinback & Architects. First let me preface this —, we were talking about the \$2 million, as it turns out, it's really the last money that goes into a project that brings the enhancements to it. The first money gets you foundation, structure, building codes, water tightness, functionality, program, and so forth, and it's really important. Those last dollars that go in beyond the absolute necessary things do go a very long way, and what we're going to show you here are things that we've shown you before and the essence of it is it will be here with those dollars, the forms, the shapes, the exterior material is the concrete product. It's —, you see it's this thick, but it also is constructed where it turns in to create a sense of thickness that as the two pieces join together you get good solid caulking joints, good water tightness from that, and it's a solid material, essentially concrete, and it's called glass reinforced concrete and it's a fiberglass material that provides the reinforcement and allows the concrete to be thinner, and we found somebody who was interested in this project and someone who was willing to do this thing for \$19 a square foot versus the huge numbers that we were getting from one precast contractor who came to the table. And all these forms here will be —, you will see that as you look at the building from the exterior. There's —, Bill, if you could just put the one up that shows the conference center, the other —, the lecture hall. The one difference in the building that has happened, and it was part of what we discussed as we did the list back in November, the profile or the height of the conference center has been reduced a little, but still the auditorium component is there. It's just not double-decked with meeting rooms beneath it. The meeting rooms have been moved to another location within the envelope, but this is the building and it will all be constructed with GFRC material, and as you move inside —.

Commissioner Odell asked, are those drawings after the change you just indicated? Mr. McLean said, yes. These drawings are —, yes, they were —, the renderings that we had previously have been altered to primarily to get the conference changed. That's the only change in form to the exterior that's really taken place. And if you'll look here, the black and white drawing to the right, you see those —, these are some of the drywall forms. This building was measured in hundreds of feet and there needs to be some detail within that building to provide interest and then every 30 feet you see those drywall forms are broken to produce a repetitive kind of rhythm down the concourse to add interest to the building and so forth. It's that that we're trying to retain and not to have to take those ceilings to a flat just simple lay-in kind of construction there, and the last money going in buys those things. It's that —, the enhancements come on top of all the necessary things. So we believe it can go a very long way towards producing everything that you see in terms of form.

Chairman Hair asked, any questions? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I, like everyone else on this Board, is very, very disappointed with what's happening here. Extremely disappointed. I think I was, like most of us here, thinking that this was a guaranteed price, that it was not going to be any more, and here it is \$2 million more. I'm in the situation right now I don't know whether to vote for it or not except for the fact that I want quality in this facility, and what we're talking about here is \$2 million. In the scheme of things that's 2.8% of the whole project, which isn't a lot, but it's the principle of it. When we —, when y'all came to us, and I really need this answered, when y'all came to us, did you have —, before, did you have any idea that this was going to happen? Chairman Hair asked, can somebody answer that question?

Mr. McLean said, I think when our team came before we didn't realize that it was going to be as difficult to do. We knew we had a hard task ahead of us and we knew we may have to make some tough decisions and we may have to make some deep cuts, but we were optimistic and hopeful that we wouldn't be at a point like this, we'll have to say. We certainly had no idea that we wouldn't be as successful as we had hoped at the time.

Commissioner Saussy asked, can you give us a guarantee now that we will not have to come back for another million or \$2 million before this project is completed? Commissioner Murray said, I think the way to ask that is there won't be any more cuts because they can do it without coming back for funds if they make more cuts. Chairman Hair said, yes, you need to --. Commissioner Saussy said, without cuts, right. Chairman Hair said, no cuts or no more money.

Mr. McLean said, well, I believe that we have the project defined, I think that the additional dollars that we're talking about here will get us the building that we set out to do, and I see no reason to be coming back. Commissioner Saussy asked, so you feel the design is far enough along now that you've got pretty well in hand the cost of the materials and the labor and so forth that it's going to take? Mr. McLean said, I think —, we think we do. Commissioner Saussy asked, without changing any other things? Mr. McLean said, right. Commissioner Saussy said, okay, if that's all I'm going to call the question. Commissioner Price said, call the question.

Chairman Hair said, we have a call for the question. All those in favor vote of the motion yes, opposed —. Commissioner Odell said, restate the motion. Chairman Hair said, the motion is to approve —. Commissioner Price said, Alternative #1. Chairman Hair said, Alternative #1 in the staff [sic], which is to increase it by \$2 million and to approve also the —. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Rivers said, I thought you wanted to hold it up. Commissioner Saussy said, no, that's not what the motion was. Chairman Hair said, no, the motion is to approve the \$2 million, a motion and second. Commissioner Saussy said, well, we've already had the discussion. What do you want to hold it up for now? Chairman Hair said, well, there's —, has everybody voted? Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Next item —.

Commissioner Murray said, before you do that can I just make one comment? Chairman Hair said, sure. Commissioner Murray said, I know the motion's already voted on and passed, but I would much rather if y'all had told us it was going to be six or seven or eight or ten million more dollars than to say it's only going to take two million more because I don't believe that. To this day I do not believe that's all it's going to be. We'll have change orders coming back in, they will be other changes, and we'll be asked to do other cuts.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Change Order (No. 11) with MTCB and authorize changes to the Trade Center project as presented in Attachments 2, 3, 4 and the strategy outlined in "Facts & Findings" #5, thereby increasing the construction budget under the GMP from \$71.5 million to \$73.5 million based on a transfer of \$2 million from Sales Tax Contingency, 1993-1998. Commissioners Saussy and DeLoach seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 3. 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.**
- **CENTRAL SERVICES - EQUIPMENT MECHANIC III (ONE POSITION)**
 - **CEMA - DEPUTY DIRECTOR-HAZMAT AND RISK ANALYST (ONE POSITION)**
 - **ENGINEERING - TRAFFIC ENGINEER (ONE POSITION)**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Central Services, Equipment Mechanic III (one position); CEMA, Deputy Director, Hazmat and Risk Analyst (one position); and Engineering, Traffic Engineer (one position). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, I want to pull Item K. I've discussed this with the staff and —, with both Russ [Abolt] and George [Lynch] and —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did you say K? Chairman Hair said, yes. We've had a request from the high bidder to sit down and talk about those items, and I think if we just pull it and we'll come back in two weeks. That's on the rejecting of all bids for the golf course. We'll have a meeting —, we already have a meeting that will be set up with the high bidder and discuss those items and then if the staff wants to make additional recommendations, they'll do that at the next meeting. Commissioner DeLoach asked, do you to table it? Chairman Hair said, we're just going to pull it off and then they'll put it back on, Russ [Abolt] will just put it back on when he's ready. Okay? So, K is pulled. Anything else on —? Commissioner Murray said, #5. Chairman Hair said, #5. Commissioner Saussy said, just for information, G and H. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair asked, G and what? Commissioner Saussy said, G and H. Chairman Hair said, G and H, okay. Commissioner Murray said, and also #11. Commissioner Price said, #11. Chairman Hair said, #11. Okay, anything else? Okay, I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

[NOTE: Please refer to Items 5, 10, 11, and 16-G, 16-H and 16-K for discussion thereon.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 5, 11, 16-G, 16-H, and 16-K. [The motion was later reconsidered as to Item 10, and Item 10 was considered separately.] Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas 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 APRIL 10, 1998, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 10, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2, 1998, THROUGH APRIL 15, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 2, 1998, through April 15, 1998, in the amount of \$1,850,663. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR INSTALLATION OF A STREETLIGHT ON TRUMAN PARKWAY (ON AND OFF RAMPS) AT THE INTERSECTION OF PRESIDENT STREET. [DISTRICT 2.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve installation of a streetlight on Truman Parkway (on and off ramps) at the intersection of President Street. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 4. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, GREAT AMERICAN BUILDERS, INC., TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR VILLAGE GREEN, PHASE 4, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THE SUBDIVISION INTO THE EXISTING GEORGETOWN STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve request from engineer for the developer, Great American Builders, Inc., to record the subdivision plat for Village Green, Phase 4, accept the financial guarantee and recombine the subdivision into the existing Georgetown streetlighting assessment district. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 5. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, WILMINGTON ISLAND ASSOCIATES, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR OLDE TOWNE, PHASE 8, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THE SUBDIVISION INTO THE EXISTING OLDE TOWNE STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], has anything —, I know this does not really pertain to it, but some other things going on with that development, some things that are supposed to be back through MPC. Has that come to MPC yet? Is it scheduled, or when is it scheduled to go back to MPC? County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to Mr. Saxman on the timing of it. As you know, we've had a little bit of a problem with [inaudible] on the part of the development. They've addressed some drainage problems. I'll defer to Mr. Saxman.

Mr. Bill Saxman asked, you're talking about the single-family subdivision that's proposed? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Mr. Saxman said, that's scheduled to be on the MPC agenda I think on May 5th. Commissioner Murray asked, have all parties been notified of that? Mr. Saxman said, as far as I know. Commissioner Murray said, I think that there was possibly a request that y'all received to put that off to another meeting. Mr. Saxman said, I'm not aware of it if we have had a request, but I'll have to check with Gary Plumbley. Commissioner Murray said, I've got a copy of the letter on my desk. I'll be glad to fax it to you. Mr. Saxman said, I haven't see it, but if that's the single-family subdivision with Mr. Diamond that they have a plan on the agenda —, they've submitted a plan that's scheduled to be on the 5th, but I'll have to check with Gary Plumbley.

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], have all the problems that we've had with drainage and other things been taken care of in there by the developer because I know we were running into some problems at one point? County Manager Abolt said, sir, we're monitoring it very closely. As you know, the developer and the builder have been put on notice to immediately correct some of those items. I do want everybody to know and I don't want it to be perceived as any conflict. This is the subdivision in which I live, so I do try to distance myself from it from the standpoint of not getting involved in something that I would also have a responsibility as a homeowner and member of the property owner's association [inaudible] paid for. But that aside, I do notice going into the subdivision there's still a problem with standing water on the —. Commissioner Murray said, I move that we table this until the developer has taken care of all the problems that we've had. Chairman Hair said, do we have a —. Commissioner DeLoach said second. Chairman Hair said, motion to table and a second. All those in favor of tabling vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion is tabled.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to table, until the developer has taken care of the problems we've had, the request from engineer for the developer, Wilmington Island Associates, to record the subdivision plat for Olde Towne, Phase 8, accept the financial guarantee and recombine the subdivision into the existing Olde Towne streetlighting assessment district. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion to table and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 6. REQUEST FROM EAGLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP OF SAVANNAH, INC., DEVELOPER, TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS AND TO REDUCE THE SUBDIVISION BOND BY 50% FOR LAUREL GREEN, PHASE 3.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Eagle Development Group of Savannah, Inc., developer, to approve the construction of the required improvements and to reduce the subdivision bond by 50% for Laurel Green, Phase 3. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 7. REQUEST CHAIRMAN, COUNTY ATTORNEY, CLERK OF COMMISSION AND COUNTY ENGINEER BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE CHATHAM COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL ASSISTANCE ROAD PROGRAM (LARP)WITH GDOT TO RESURFACE BLUE JAY AVENUE.
[DISTRICT 5.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request that the Chairman, County Attorney, Clerk of Commission and County Engineer be authorized to sign all required documents to enable Chatham County to participate in the Local Assistance Road Program (LARP)with GDOT to resurface Blue Jay Avenue. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 8. REQUEST CHAIRMAN AND CLERK OF COMMISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN A REVISED CONTRACT AGREEMENT TO THE S.R. 204 AND KING GEORGE BOULEVARD PROJECT WITH DRAYTON REALTY & DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, INC., AS AGENT FOR FOREST COVE PARTNERSHIP (GUS BELL GROUP) FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG S.R. 204 AND FOR REQUIRED TRAFFIC CONTROL ON KING GEORGE BOULEVARD.
[DISTRICTS 6 AND 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request that the Chairman and Clerk of Commission be authorized to sign a revised contract agreement to the S.R. 204 and King George Boulevard project with Drayton Realty & Development Company, Inc., as Agent for Forest Cove Partnership (Gus Bell Group) for drainage improvements along S.R. 204 and for required traffic control on King George Boulevard. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 9. REQUEST BOARD APPOINT AN AGENT(S) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ISSUING CITATIONS TO OWNERS FAILING TO PROPERLY DISPLAY MOBILE HOME DECALS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to appoint Chief Appraiser/Receiver of Returns Gary B. Udinsky as the agent authorized to issue citations to owners for failing to properly display mobile home decals, with the additional authority to designate members of the appraisal staff to carry out these duties. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 10. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1998 IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW EXCURSION VESSEL "SOUTHERN ELEGANCE." APPLICANT: ERIC M. RAHN, WINNING STREAK, INC., D/B/A SOUTHERN ELEGANCE, LOCATED AT 618 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD, FORMERLY THE LIGHTSHIP TAVERN (FOR SALES AT THIS LOCATION).
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request of Applicant Eric M. Rahn, Winning Streak, Inc., d/b/a Southern Elegance, located at 618 Wilmington Island Road, formerly The Lightship Tavern (for sales at this location), for a new beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1998 in conjunction with new excursion vessel "Southern Elegance." Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

* * *

Commissioner Murray said, Mr. Chairman, it was my oversight and if I have to ask for reconsideration, I'll go through that process, but my intention was to table 10 and 11. We'd already voted on one of them, so if that's the case, I'll ask for reconsideration. Chairman Hair said, Jon [Hart], how —. Attorney Hart said, he'll have to make a motion to reconsider. Chairman Hair said, to reconsider. Commissioner Murray said, I making a motion to reconsider. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor of reconsideration vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, now, 12 —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, it's 10 isn't it? Chairman Hair said, 10. Commissioner Murray said, 10, 10 and 11. Commissioner DeLoach said, it was 10 and 11. Chairman Hair said, well, they're the same. Commissioner DeLoach said, together. Chairman Hair asked, you want to make a motion to table that too? Commissioner Murray said, no, one was tabled because —. Chairman Hair said, I'm saying you've got to table 10 though. Commissioner Murray said, yes, I make a motion now to table that. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor to table vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve the request of Applicant Eric M. Rahn, Winning Streak, Inc., d/b/a Southern Elegance, located at 618 Wilmington Island Road, formerly The Lightship Tavern (for sales at this location), for a new beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1998 in conjunction with new excursion vessel "Southern Elegance." Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to rescind the vote on this motion. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]
3. Commissioner Murray moved to table this item to the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioners Saussy and DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Price and Thomas were not present.]

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11. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1998 IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW EXCURSION VESSEL "SOUTHERN ELEGANCE." APPLICANT: ERIC M. RAHN, WINNING STREAK, INC., D/B/A SOUTHERN ELEGANCE, LOCATED AT 618 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD, AT SAIL HARBOR (FOR SALES ABOARD THE VESSEL WHILE AT SEA). [DISTRICT 4.]

Commissioner Murray asked, what —, what is this? What kind of boat is this? Chairman Hair said, a gambling boat, isn't it. Mr. Gregori Anderson said, this is a gambling excursion boat, exactly. Chairman Hair said, yes, it's a gambling boat. Mr. Anderson said, what's before you today is a request for a wine and beer pouring license as part of the amenities on that boat. Commissioner Murray asked, well, how did the boat get there to begin with? Commissioner DeLoach said, it pulled up there. Mr. Anderson said, it's a new company that came in town seeking to set up these excursions leaving from —. Commissioner Murray asked, who —, I guess my question is, who gave approval for the boat to go in? Mr. Anderson asked, for the boat to go in at this particular location? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Mr. Anderson said, well, we issued a license. I mean, it went through the —. County Manager Abolt said, we issued the license there. Mr. Anderson said, well, they're going through the license process. County Manager Abolt said, [inaudible] the issue, but this is for an excursion boat. Commissioner DeLoach said, but they're not here yet. Commissioner Murray said, wait a minute, wait a minute. What I'm getting at though, here we're being told that we're getting ready to issue a license for a gambling boat that we haven't even heard about yet. I've got a real problem with that. Chairman Hair said, well, Mr. Rahn is here, I believe. He was here earlier.

Ms. Ziblut said, if I may, Mr. Chairman, my name is Triece Ziblut and I'm with Hunter, Maclean, and I represent Winning Streak, Inc. They were here and they've stepped out just for a moment to try and reschedule an appointment they had this morning, but I'll be happy to give a summary of what they're doing and answer any questions you want to ask. Commissioner DeLoach asked, do you know about it, Frank [Murray]. Commissioner Murray said, well, my —, no, I don't know about it. Chairman Hair said, they've been in —. Commissioner Murray said, this is the first I've heard about this particular company. I heard one was coming to the Sheraton and then the person that was purchasing it told me that was not going to happen if he bought it, but I have a problem with gambling boat coming to a facility like that in that area with the traffic that we already have on the roads, I've got a real problem with all of it. We talk about the subdivisions and the developments we do, but here we're can put a boat in there and none of us know about it until the last thing. I've got a real problem with it and I don't support it at all. It happens to be in the Fourth District and nobody's talked to me about it. I don't support it and I'm telling you that up front, and I don't care who you represent. You're the attorney, I'm telling you I do not support it. The votes might be there to put it down there. I hope they're not, I hope they will support the person that represents that district. I am opposed to it one hundred percent. Commissioner DeLoach said, I second that.

Mr. Anderson said, well, I'll just identify what the process is. I mean, this is a typical business occupational tax certificate application. The process requires us to take that, go through the zoning. That has been satisfied. We went through the parking requirements that's part of the zoning. What's before you today is the liquor license portion of that, which is required to come before the

Board. Chairman Hair said, can I ask —. Commissioner Murray said, I just want to ask, what kind of zoning is required for a gambling boat? Mr. Anderson said, well, sir, the gambling is not allowed in the State of Georgia, so certainly we have not issued —. Commissioner Murray said, well, let's don't forget that is a gambling boat. They asked us for a liquor license, but it's a gambling boat tied up to a dock on Wilmington Island. That's exactly what it is. I don't see any way of getting around it, stepping around it or anything else. That's what the boat is, that's what it's there for. Certainly they want to sell the whiskey when the boat's out.

Chairman Hair asked, can I ask a legal question to Jon [Hart]. Jon, if they have gone through the process that Greg [Anderson] outlines in his zoning ordinances or whatever, we still can legally deny if they've met all the requirements for a license? Attorney Hart said, well, there's a couple of issues there. Chairman Hair said, okay. Attorney Hart said, number one, the issue of the boat being there. The boat has the right to travel upon the navigable waters of the United States wherever it intends to go and Chatham County cannot deny the boat the access to dock as long as they pay the dockage fees and meet Coast Guard regulations. Two, Commissioner Murray is correct. They could not gamble from that dock, but that would not prevent them from going out beyond the three-mile limit and then opening up a gambling facility out there, and my understanding is that is what they anticipate doing. Three, they have the right to apply for a site location license, which they're attempting to do at the old Shiplight [sic] Tavern, I believe is the name of it, and they do meet the requirements for that, and they're paying a fee for that. The County ordinance in regard to liquor license, and staff after reviewing it determined that since we felt that the boat was a separate site location, that they would also have to meet all the requirements for a liquor license on that, which they agreed to do. Insofar as the statute as presently written insofar as the pouring license, it appears they meet all the requirements to obtain a license. They could challenge the Commission if they so chose depending upon what the Commission did obviously. We would just have to deal with it at that time. Chairman Hair said, I just don't remember us ever denying something that they met all the requirements. That bothers me a little bit that if we —, you know, we've shown them all the hoops they have to jump through and if they jump the wrong hoops, I don't know that the approval stage would be the point to really deal with this.

Commissioner Murray said, let me ask you a question. Wouldn't it be much better to go to The Landings harbor and rent space there since it's closer to the Sound to get on outside? I wonder if that would make any difference. Ms. Ziblut said, actually our client did look at several sites around town to find those that were most suitable for both boating traffic, the size of the marina, available parking. Marketability issues, location, you know, feasibility to downtown. They want to obviously draw into some of the tourist business to provide another, you know, resource for it, the tourists here in town, and they decided upon this location and we looked at all the factors and it seemed to, as has been discussed, meet the criteria for approval. We talked to the Coast Guard and the Corps of Engineers about the navigability issues and the traffic in that area, and we expect to have our Corps permit Monday or Tuesday. Actually, they're not even requiring an individual permit. They're —, you know, we've gone to them with all the plans in mind and have responded to their questions, and I'll be —, as I said, if you have a specific concern in mind, I'll be happy to —. Commissioner Murray said, yes, I've got a question. Why weren't the citizens in that area notified that this boat was coming in? Why is this the first that we've heard about this boat being there? Ms. Ziblut said, we've not tried to make any kind of secret about this. We've come to town and we've —, the proper notices were made in the newspaper advertising the liquor license application. A number of citizens in the area have been visited and talked to about it. I deeply regret we didn't come to you ahead of time. I apologize personally for that, and if —. Commissioner Murray said, it's not the first time. Ms. Ziblut said, well, I'd like to think it's the first time for me personally, sir, but I'd like to correct that if we could. Commissioner Murray said, well, I can tell you now, it's not going to do you any good because it's not going to change my mind regardless of what you have to say, and I don't take bribes anyway, so forget it.

Chairman Hair asked, shouldn't we have a motion? Commissioner Price said, I don't think that the petitioners are in here right now. Commissioner Murray said, I'd just like to table it. I'm going to make a motion to table it until the next meeting. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion to table. All those in favor of tabling vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion is tabled. The Clerk asked, to —? Commissioner Price said, the next meeting.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to table to the next meeting the request of Applicant Eric M. Rahn, Winning Streak, Inc., d/b/a Southern Elegance, located at 618 Wilmington Island Road, at Sail Harbor (*for sales aboard the vessel while at sea*), for a new beer, wine and liquor pouring license in for 1998 in conjunction with new excursion vessel "Southern Elegance." Commissioners Saussy and DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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12. REQUEST BOARD EXTEND THE JONES COMMUNICATIONS CABLE TV FRANCHISE TO JUNE 12, 1998, TO ALLOW FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS AND PREPARATION OF THE FINAL VERSION OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to extend the Jones Communications cable TV franchise to June 12, 1998, to allow for final negotiations and preparation of the final version of the proposed agreement. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 13. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TURNER’S CREEK FLOATING DOCK FACILITY, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE DOCUMENTS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and Resolution between the Department of Natural Resources and Chatham County for the construction, operation and maintenance of Turner’s Creek floating dock facility, and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 14. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF KING’S FERRY FLOATING DOCK FACILITY, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE DOCUMENTS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and Resolution between the Department of Natural Resources and Chatham County for the construction, operation and maintenance of King’s Ferry floating dock facility, and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 15. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE FY1998 GRANTS-IN-AID CONTRACTS FOR CULTURAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES. (NOTE: The specific contracts comprise in excess of 300 pages. Copies can be made available for perusal if the Board wishes.)**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve FY1998 grants-in-aid contracts for Cultural Arts and Social Services agencies. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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- 16. 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. Final renewal option to the annual contract to provide mowing of the Savannah River Harbor Disposal Area Dikes and Frontage roads	Engineering	Myers and Son	Not to exceed \$65,667.60	General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT)
B. First renewal option to the annual contract to provide door mat rental service	Various	Riverside Uniform Company	Estimated annual cost of \$10,419.29	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various
C. Award an annual contract, with option to renew for two additional one year terms, to provide a supply of bulk liquid CO ₂	Aquatic Center	Southern Welding Supply	Estimated annual cost of \$2,146.50	General Fund/M & O - Aquatic Center

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
D. Award a contract for construction of one new parking lot, repair of another parking lot and repair of Artley Drive drainage	Engineering	R. B. Baker Construction	\$366,527	Funding will be provided by AASU and GDOT
E. Award a contract for paving of Charlene Street, Tara Avenue and Perry Cove Road	SPLOST	APAC-GA	\$127,291.02	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Charlene Street and Tara Avenue (pending transfer)
F. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Hope Crest Pump Station, for a plug valve replacement	Engineering	PINCO, Inc.	\$7,983	Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund
G. Award contract for utilities to Hutchinson Island - Division A	SPLOST	Harrison-Wright Company	\$1,962,007.85	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Hutchinson Island Utilities (Budget amendment required on May 8, 1998, for \$1,785,340)
H. Award contract for utilities to Hutchinson Island - Division B	SPLOST	Southern Champion	\$2,339,943	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Hutchinson Island Utilities (Budget amendment required on May 8, 1998, for \$1,785,340)
I. Award contract for the excavating and hauling of 44,000 cu. yds. of material	SPLOST	Clifton Construction (WBE)	\$154,000	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Tom Triplett Park
J. Approve Change Order No. 3 to contract for Triplett Park	SPLOST	Shuman Construction Company	No change in contract cost	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Tom Triplett Park
K. Reject all bids received for the purchase of Henderson Golf Course				

Item 16-K:

Chairman Hair requested that Item 16-K be pulled as a result of a meeting scheduled with the highest bidder. This item will be placed back on the agenda when it is ready for action by the Board.

Items 16-A through 16-J, Except 16-G and 16-H:

Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 16-A through 16-J, except Items 16-G and 16-H. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

Items 16-G and 16-H:

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to do G and H together, Commissioner Saussy. I'm going to read them both. G is award contract for utilities to Hutchinson Island, Division A, to the tune of \$1,962,007.85, and H is to award contract for utilities to Hutchinson Island, Division B, in the amount of \$2,339,943, and funding for this comes from SPLOST, 93-98. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, the main question I've got, it says budget amendment required on May 8, 1998, for \$1,785,000 [sic]. What is that? You mean it's going to come before us again on May 8th, or am I reading this wrong? The last column under funding, it says —. County Manager Abolt said, no sir, what it is is we come back on the budget report for May 8th and we make the shift in the funds. That's what it is. Mr. George Lynch said, formal shift from SPLOST to this particular thing. Consider it an apportionment. Commissioner Saussy asked, so it's not an additional —? County Manager Abolt said, no. Commissioner Saussy said, because the numbers aren't the same. Mr. Lynch said, no, it's [inaudible].

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions? Commissioner Murray said, not on that. Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Item 16-K was pulled from the agenda and was not considered by the Board.
- 2. Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 16-A through 16-J, except Items 16-G and 16-H. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]
- 3. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve Items 16-G and 16-H. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas 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.

1. REQUEST BOARD ADOPTION OF 1998 REVENUE ORDINANCE FOR CHATHAM COUNTY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

**1. 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.]**

The Clerk said, Mr. Chairman, you received a letter on yesterday —, a fax on yesterday requesting that that be delayed for two weeks. Chairman Hair asked, from the petitioner? The Clerk said, from the petitioner. Chairman Hair said, so we'll table it for two weeks. Anybody have a problem with that? The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, motion to table. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all in favor —.

Commissioner Saussy said, just wait a minute. We had some people, and this happens a lot and I —, but I think they need to be explained to. We've had people that have been here all day waiting for this to come up to oppose it. Commissioner Murray asked, the petitioner that asked to have it excused did not notify the people involved in it? Commissioner Saussy said, obviously not. Commissioner Murray said, well, I think we need to address it today then. Commissioner DeLoach said, I agree. Commissioner Saussy asked, can they speak. Chairman Hair said, my problem with that is that if the petitioner had known that, what I'm saying is that maybe she would have been here, and it bothers me a little bit —, from just a sense of fairness. I mean, I —, hear both sides —. Commissioner DeLoach said, let's pen it on when they sent the fax. When did they —? The Clerk said, yesterday afternoon. Chairman Hair said, but my point is, if we hear the opposition and the person —, the petitioner is not here to counter that and then they're going to have to come back on May 8th to do that. It's a —, I understand that you've been here a long time and I appreciate that. I'm just trying to be fair to both sides. We've always been fair to both sides, and if we listen to the opposition today, but the petitioner is not here to give us the pros, I think we might make a bad decision. Commissioner Price asked, why is the petitioner not here? Chairman Hair said, she asked for a delay and we routinely do that when a petitioner asks for a delay, we routinely delay that. Commissioner Price asked, when did we need to table it for? Chairman Hair said, we need to table it for two weeks. Commissioner Price said, so moved.

Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, this has been advertised as a public hearing, so if the folks do want to be heard, they can be heard. Now y'all can defer action on that, but technically this was advertised as a public hearing. Commissioner Price said, let's

do that. I know that —. Chairman Hair asked, how long do you think it will take, sir, for your —, to give your point? An unidentified gentleman said, not long, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, come on up.

Mr. Norman Luten, Jr., said, good morning. I'm a resident of the Sandfly/Skidaway area right adjacent to where this particular lot is supposed —, was petitioned, you know, for rezoning. With respect to the Commissioner and the staff, I'd like to recognize the residents who are here this morning. Commissioner Saussy said, stand up. Mr. Luten said, everybody stand. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you for coming.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I ask one thing. Your name is Luten. Mr. Luten said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, but is it —, I've got a Perry E. Luten —. Mr. Luten said, yes, that's the person who is selling. He is not a resident of this particular —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is he related to you? Mr. Luten said, he is related, but —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, your brother? Mr. Luten said, no, he is my —, he is my cousin, my father's first cousin. Commissioner DeLoach asked, was this property left to him by some relative? Mr. Luten said, it's a family —, heir's property, presumably. But we are —, we are —, the family members and also the residents of Skidaway Road are in opposition to this particular rezoning petition because of the fact that it disrupts the homogeneity of our area. What they are proposing, Chairman, is that they're going to put a Dollar Store adjacent to three residential dwellings, less than 150 feet from the existing business area, and this would disrupt the homogeneity [sic] of our neighborhood, and I don't know if you have any visuals of the proposed area, but I have a —. Chairman Hair said, we have it in our package. Mr. Luten said, okay, you have it in your package. Chairman Hair said, we have it in our package. Mr. Luten said, it's —, we have residents and homes on that particular side of the street. We have had residents there for many years and we also have a business quadrant right across the street, and we would like to —. Commissioner Saussy asked, that's a shopping center, right? Mr. Luten said, yes, see that's —, that's across from Piggly Wiggly Plaza, Norwood Shopping Plaza, and [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray asked, what you're talking about is adjacent to Newton's Package Store, is that —? Mr. Luten said, well, it's not adjacent to it but it's on the same side of the street. It's about three residences down, yes, and that's adjacent to a road, Elmhurst Street, that divides the area between the package store and the residences. We think that this particular rezoning would, you know, disrupt our community and we were —, we were pleased with the recommendation of the MPC. They voted to deny this request, and we ask the Commission —, we ask the Commission to also deny this request. Now we don't mind the sale of the particular property, but only for residential use because of the fact that we've elected to keep this particular area residential. If it's in the minds of the Commission at this particular time and with the force and the —, of the —. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach has a question.

Commissioner DeLoach said, we're going to come down Montgomery Street —, Crossroads. We come up here and we take a right like we're going to Sandfly. Mr. Luten said, right. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. First house on the right, is there a house on the right where you turn? You've got several houses right along there, right, on the right-hand side? Mr. Luten said, right. Commissioner DeLoach said, and right in the middle of it you want to put a Dollar Store? Mr. Luten said, right, right. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Saussy said, he doesn't. Commissioner DeLoach said, I know, his cousin does. I mean, his cousin doesn't —, he doesn't live here. Mr. Luten said, no. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion we deny. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to deny. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion denied [sic].

Commissioner DeLoach said, my concern is that the petitioner was given the impression that it was going to be postponed for two weeks. Chairman Hair said, that was my point earlier. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't understand. How was he given the impression it was going to be delayed? Chairman Hair said, well, he requested it. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, he faxed it. Hey, he didn't call anybody. The Clerk said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, life's short, then move on. The Clerk said, she called and —. Commissioner Murray said, well, we had a unanimous vote from the MPC to deny it. That's the same thing we did. Chairman said, I think it's a fairness issue though. Commissioner Murray said, well, let somebody else move for reconsideration. Chairman Hair asked, Jon [Hart], what's your concern? Attorney Hart said, all I'm saying is this was advertised as a public hearing. We did have a request for the matter to be taken off of the calendar, okay. I don't think we can take it off the calendar without allowing those people that were here to be publicly heard because we advertised it as a public hearing. I think there is a question of fundamental fairness and due process here that both sides ought to be given the opportunity to be heard. Chairman Hair said, that was my concern earlier. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, since I made the motion, can I just say, we'll have it reconsidered at the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, you can make a motion to reconsider. An unidentified individual said, you already voted on it haven't you? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, well —. Chairman Hair said, you can reconsider. Commissioner DeLoach said, you can —. Commissioner Price said, if you're on the prevailing side you can make a motion to reconsider. It does have to be voted on today whether we do that.

The Clerk asked, may I make a statement, Mr. Chairman? Chairman Hair said, certainly. The Clerk said, the reason given for the request for delay was that they were attempting to meet with all of the neighbors and they had not had the opportunity to meet with them and —, to discuss the issue with them. Chairman Hair said, I think it would be appropriate to reconsider it and then allow the person two weeks from now to come back. Does anybody have a problem with that? Does anybody —, give me a motion to reconsider.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to reconsider. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Murray said, I'll vote to reconsider, but it won't change my vote —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't think it's going to change anybody's vote, but we've just got to be [inaudible]. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Saussy voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. Chairman Hair said, that's all right, that's fine. It passes anyway.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach made a motion to deny the request of Petitioner, Fran Williams (Realty Executives), Agent (for Perry E. Luten, Owner) 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. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Odell moved to reconsider this item at the next meeting. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Saussy voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

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2. 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.

Mr. Anderson said, what you have before you today is staff's attempt to address an issue that was brought to the Commission late last year in reference to massage therapy as an occupation in the unincorporated area. At that time massage therapy was lumped in with other topics of similar nature, such as masseuse, massages, et cetera. At that time we had a request from a massage therapist —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, can you be a little more detailed? Commissioner Odell said, I think you've got the picture. Commissioner Price said, it keeps coming up before us and won't go away. Chairman Hair said, well, if you vote on it today, it will go away. Commissioner Price said, I think Gregori [Anderson] keeps massaging this thing. Mr. Anderson said, Commissioner Price, thanks for the assistance, but —.

Chairman Hair said, Greg [Anderson], let's get back to some order here before —. You can tell it's getting late in the day. Greg [Anderson], do you have any other pertinent comments to make about this? Mr. Anderson said, I'm afraid to make any other comments. Chairman Hair said, wise choice, Mr. Anderson, wise choice. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I make a motion to approve to accept it. There's a big difference in what is being asked for here and just a massage parlor. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, if you remember, we had somebody up here —. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to amend 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 business. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel and Thomas 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:

Report received as information.

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2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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3. STATUS REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF RECREATION AND INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENTS WITH THOSE OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Status report received as information.

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4. STATUS REPORT ON GOLF COURSE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSITION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Status report received as information.

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5. BRIEFING ON ROAD AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair 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