

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MAY 8, 1998, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 8, 1998.

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II. INVOCATION

The Reverend John Savage gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

- PRESENT: Dr. 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 (Arrived approximately 9:05 a.m.)
- Ben Price, District Six
- Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven (Arrived approximately 9:10 a.m.)

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

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, because we have some scheduling conflicts today I'd like to ask for unanimous consent to make some minor changes in the structure of the agenda. We've had a request to move Chatham Area Transit's agenda up to the front of the agenda and also Item #4 under Information, which is Commissioner Powers' presentation on the Tag Office, and I'm going to suggest that we do the proclamations first and then we go to the CAT agenda and then that presentation and then follow the normal agenda. Does anybody object to that?

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Does anybody want to second it? Commissioner Price said, anybody want to second it? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion's approved. Okay, so we'll first do the proclamations.

[NOTE: The order of business was changed and Items VII-1 and VII-2 were heard at this point on the agenda.]

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I see that two people have just joined us from MARTA. We're having a transportation official meeting in Savannah and we have in the back Ms. Laura Larsen, who is Chairman of MARTA's board. We also have Doug Brown, the Deputy Director of MARTA. So welcome, y'all, and enjoy your stay here. I know y'all are spending plenty of money.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. We're glad to have you with us.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Chairman Hair declared the meeting of the Board of Commissioners in recess and the Board reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

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Following adjournment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the Board reconvened as the Chatham County Commission.

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V. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. TYBEE PIER FEES.

Chairman Hair said, I've had several discussions with the Mayor of Tybee and he has made what I think is a very reasonable request, and I'd like to get my fellow Commissioners to consider it and approve it. He has asked that anytime that the City of Tybee itself has a sponsored event on the pier that we waive the fee. I think that's very reasonable because I think if we realize that if we charge a fee as a County, it's got to come from tax money at Tybee Island, and he's only asking for city-sponsored events. He's not asking for any other waiver, and I personally think that's a very reasonable request. In essence, from a tax standpoint, it's taking it out of one pocket and putting it in the other. You're taking it out of Tybee Island's taxes and putting it in Chatham County's taxes, and I just think that's a reasonable request and I would encourage my fellow Commissioners to approve that. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, how will this affect other groups from coming in and asking for waiver of fees? County Manager Abolt said, sir, Mr. Golden's in the audience I believe. We do make it available on a first-come, first-served basis so the City of Tybee would have to be in the queue and if they come in in advance and have it reserved, they get it. If it's already reserved, obviously it goes to the first person that asks.

Chairman Hair said, he has not asked for any authority to bump anybody. He's just saying that when they do use it, when it is scheduled to be used that we waive the fee. Commissioner Murray asked, so they would still go through the application process and all, we just wouldn't —. Chairman Hair said, we just waive the fee, that's all we'd do. County Manager Abolt said, I believe what happened to, and the last time you discussed this two meetings ago, we had several requests for waiver. One did come from the City of Tybee. I think that they had, and I don't want to be held to it, but I think five or six dates for the balance of the year in which they would like to have use of the pier at no charge. Chairman Hair said, they would follow the normal process, we'd just waive the fee. Commissioner DeLoach, do you have a comment?

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I just —, my concern with that is that we have a band shell that we're moving around the County that municipalities have asked to use also, and if we want to not charge for the pavilion, we don't need to charge for the band shell. As long as the municipalities use it, I don't see any difference in one and the other. Chairman Hair said, I personally would have no problem adding that to the item. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, that would be fine with me. I think that's also very reasonable. The Chair will entertain a motion.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second to approve the waiver of fees for the Tybee Pier for Tybee-sponsored events and also waive municipal fees for the use of the band shell. Commissioner Murray said, so what this motion is actually saying is that any municipality or government —, governing body we'd waiver the fees on for the band shell or the pier. Chairman Hair said, municipalities.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have some problem with the band shell because I want to make sure that in fact it is a municipality that's using them, that they just don't get the shell and have someone in their municipality using it. Chairman Hair said, I think that's a good point, Commissioner Jackel. We could request that it be —, the waiver [sic] be on municipal stationery or something to that effect, I think that would be —. Commissioner Saussy said, [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, yes, municipal use. I think we should require an official request from the municipality on municipal stationery or forms. I think that's —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I think that's the case on all —, on the pavilion also. Chairman Hair said, absolutely.

I think that's a very reasonable request. Commissioner Murray said, I think they still should have to go through that application process.

Chairman Hair said, absolutely. This has nothing to do with the application process, it's only waiver of fees if they are going to use the facility. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to waive the fees for use of the Tybee Pier and Pavilion by the City of Tybee Island for Tybee-sponsored events and waive the fee for use of the band shell by municipalities and that a formal request for waiver be made by the municipality on municipal stationery. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. APPRECIATION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN YOUTH RALLY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, I am indeed happy to make the following presentation. First of all, let me say that I was delighted that the first annual Youth Rally, which was held at Lake Mayer on April 18, 1998, was very successful. We had over 1,000 Chatham County youth gathered without any incident at all, and I think we need to give them a big round of applause for that because it took a lot of hard work and preparation in order for this to have happened. So, I would like for us to thank them by giving — [Applause.] Commissioner Thomas said, also before I make the presentation of the certificates, I would like to thank other staff members. I would like to thank the Chief of Police, the Police Department, the Emergency Medical Services Department. They did an outstanding job of being there just in case we needed them, and they were very happy to be there. I had an opportunity to speak with each of them and to go around and to thank them for the services that they were rendering at that time, so we'd like to thank them as well. [Applause.] Commissioner Thomas said, and, most importantly, I'd like to thank Mrs. Beverly Whitehead, Mr. Van Johnson, and Ms. Wanda Meier. Wanda [Meier], I'm always getting your name mixed up. Okay, I think I got it right this time. These people —, Louise Copeland, I don't want to forget her. They did an outstanding job in coordinating this event, along with the Youth Commission, and I feel that it was because of their coordination along with the Youth Commission that everything went off without a hitch. So, let's give them a hand. [Applause.] And what can I say about our Youth Commissioners? You would have been very proud just to see them in action, and I hope that next year that we will be able to, as a total Commission, to come out and support these young people and that we need them very, very much. So, I'm going to ask the Chairman if he would come down and assist me at this time, and I want to say to the persons receiving these certificates, we do need the signature of the County Clerk, so please return these back to us and Ms. Copeland will see that the signature is there.

Commissioner Thomas said, WEAS Radio, Jewel Carter, Program Director; Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department, Mr. Golden. Thank you all for a job well done. That is a massive job out there. Our Youth Commissioners: Alonzo Alston, Sara Bellino, Carice Brantley, Pauline Bryan, Glynnece Campbell, Whitney Cox, Marisa Drexel, Reuben Formey, Paul Friedman, Adam Greenberg, Leontyne Jones, Lisa Meier, Lazarus O'Sako, Courtney Pennington, Posey Ragen, Delanda Robbins, Yen-Chieh Tseng —, did I get it right? Amanda Wells, Patrice Whitehead, Kandace Williams, Nicole Williams, and Denise E. Wright. Let's give them all a hand. [Applause.] Thank you so very much. You did an outstanding job. Chairman Hair said, thank you. That was a great job.

Commissioner Thomas said, now we come to County Government Week. We're very happy that we were able to do this again this year. We have had three coordinators. The first coordinator was Gwen Coovert, the second was Louise Copeland, and this year's coordinator was Lori Griffin. Lori did an outstanding job along with Diane Moore from the Police Department. These two individuals I know worked very, very hard to make things happen for County Government Week. So where's Lori [Griffin]? There's Lori [Griffin]. Take you bow. You never know, you may not get a chance to do this again, and Diane Moore. Is Diane [Moore] here? [Applause.] Okay, the other committee members, along with staff —, as I said, they did an outstanding job. Louise Copeland, again, and we appreciate all that she has done. Hugh Bauer, Lorenzo Bryant, III, Alberta Carter, Andrea Clark, Gretchen Cole, Louise Copeland, Sebrina German, Kesha Gibson-Carter, Lori Griffin, Jeff Heusel, Derrick Hillery, Van R. Johnson, II, Ethel King, Virginia Lamb, Charlotte McCraw, Diane Moore, Cathy Morton, Linda Reed, Anthony Russell, Randy Slay, Beverly M. Whitehead; and Tom Woodard. Our Youth Commissioners also assisted us during this time and we want to thank them, and they were Pauline Bryan, Leontyne Jones, Patrice Whitehead, and Marisa Drexel. Let's give them all a hand. [Applause.]

Commissioner Thomas said, these people made it happen in Chatham County for 1998, and without their hard work and their support, Chatham County would not have had witnessed the kind of activity that we had, representing the entire County of Chatham. So, thank you so very much and we look forward to a great year next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, I certainly don't want to leave anybody out. Mr. Johnson just reminded me that I certainly want to thank the Sheriff Department, the K-9 Unit, and who the other one was, Mr. Johnson? Mr. Johnson said, the Sheriff's Reserves. Commissioner Thomas said, the Sheriff's reserves. Without them, this could not have been possible. We had zero tolerance degree of any drug activity, any type of negative activity out there, and they were just wonderful and we were delighted. I also want to thank WTOC for coming, even though they were a little late, but they were there, and also I believe the *Savannah Morning News* was there, so we want to thank everybody.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. I had the privilege of attending many of the events during County Government Week, and I can tell you they were extremely well done, and I've received a lot of comments from the citizens. They express to me that they seem to be getting a lot more visibility about the County now, the County services, and so I was very pleased.

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2. DISCUSSION REGARDING FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY AND COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Chairman Hair said, which one wants to go first? Commissioner Saussy?

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the light that we have been mandated by the State to increase the coroner's salary, which he probably deserved, but I think it was a couple of years ago we looked into the fact of providing a forensic pathologist, and it seemed to be somewhat infeasible because of the cost. Now the cost has risen on this, and we feel like it's sorely needed. I would like to ask staff to look into this again to see if we can maybe do this.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I would support that also, and I think that even to go a little further than that, no one on this Commission I think would disagree that Dr. Metts in that position now does deserve more than what he was being paid, but I have a real problem when our local delegation goes to Atlanta and mandates that we raise the salary in the middle of someone's term. I think it would have been fine, and I think we probably would have raised that salary the start of the next term, but they chose not to do it that way. They felt like we needed to do it within —, starting the first part of next year, and I just feel like that anybody from this County or community that was elected to any position, if you're elected you know what the salaries are when you go in and you start that term, and I think it should be that way to the end of the term. If there's an increase in it or any benefits after that, but fine, let it start the next term. So —, but I do support looking into this or have staff look into it to see whether it would be feasible for us or not financially to go into that. I think there's a need for it here. We certainly would not have to be sending our —, sending bodies to Atlanta. There are a lot of benefits from it, but I don't know how the dollars will outweigh that or if they will. So, if y'all can look into that. That basically is why we wanted it on there is to take a look at it and then when we start our budget for next year, then that could be part of it.

Commissioner Odell said, I would like to also, Russ [Abolt], to know the cost on both sides: current cost versus if we were to follow this proposal, those costs, and what need or problem that this is resolving. I voted in the minority. I think what we paid Dr. Metts was hideously low. I think that the Legislators corrected an error, and I'd be very interested in this.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, as referenced by Commissioner Saussy and Commissioner Murray, we did study it I think three or four years ago. Commissioner Price was one of the leaders in it and worked closely with Dr. Metts and Spencer Lawton, District Attorney, had excellent cooperation with the one hospital that was the site for Dr. Metts' work. We can come back to you, assuming we'll still have that same cooperation, for planning figures, and Commissioner Price was as close I think as I was to it. I think at that time —, again, three or four-year-old figures, we were like \$175,000/ \$200,000 bracket. We were about recruiting for a person to fill this position plus with the cooperation of Candler Hospital at the time, we thought we had an incremental additional cost, around \$200,000.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I just follow up with a question and I would yield —, Dr. Metts has come in. I'm not certain —, in fact, I know you did not hear the beginning of the discussion, Doctor, but on our agenda item we have discussion regarding forensic pathology [sic], and I'm certain that you have some words of wisdom in that area, and I'd be interested in hearing those, whether it be today or at your convenience. Commissioner DeLoach said, let's hear from him now then. He's here. Have you got time to speak on it now? Please, sir.

Dr. James Metts said, good morning. I didn't come prepared to speak, but I'm glad to do so. I think it's essential that we do have a forensic pathologist. I think that [inaudible]. We were fortunate, Dr. Bill Medart [phonetic] was a forensic pathologist and had been for 25 years. Commissioner Price said, excuse me, Dr. Metts, speak more directly in the mike. Dr. Metts said, I'm sorry. I said we've been fortunate. Dr. Bill Medart, who had been our pathologist, was a forensic pathologist as well as a clinical pathologist, and he had been one for 25 years. He's —, of course, he's deceased. I think it's essential that he be replaced by a forensic pathologist to give credibility to your law enforcement legal system. At the present time we're using the GBI headquarters in Atlanta for our forensic autopsies, which are likely to require court appearances. For our routine cause-of-death autopsies we utilize a local pathologist from Fort Stewart, who has been quite cooperative in coming in. You're likely to incur quite a lot expense now as you go from Dr. Medart's services, which were on an as-needed basis, to hiring a full-time forensic pathologist. I don't know what the going salary is, but I'll estimate it's in the neighborhood of \$200,000 or \$250,000 for a salary, and that does not count any of the ancillary expenses which you would incur with maintaining a morgue facility. Now there's some confusion in people's minds between a medical/legal examining system and a forensic pathologist, and in our system —, the coroner system, the forensic pathologist does the autopsies and gives the cause of death and medical/legal testimony. The coroner is, in effect, the judge who makes the ruling as to the causes of death and conducts a coroner's inquest and that type of thing. I am in favor of a forensic pathologist. It's my opinion that going to a medical/legal examiner system only invites bureaucracy and it will be a step backward.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I believe Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Price.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'd give a hundred dollars to hear him. I tell you, I would. I can't hardly hear him. Commissioner Jackel said, I can't —. Commissioner DeLoach said, you can turn that —. Dr. Metts said, I'm sorry. Mr. Fred Thompson said, I've got it turned up as high as I can get it. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, I'm going to have to sit up there next to him. I'm deaf I reckon. Commissioner Saussy said, how about cutting the air off. Commissioner DeLoach said, what I wanted to know, a lot of the smaller counties do the same thing we do, they send the bodies to Atlanta to have them checked and determine the actual cause of death in some of the homicides, or is that type —, questionable deaths? If we were to set up a system here, I suppose with the forensic pathologist that we would be incurring a lot of expenses. Would it be something that we would want to contact the local counties in our area to possibly use as —, Savannah as a site to do this type work rather than sending it to, say, Atlanta? Dr. Metts said, I will encourage that by all means. One of the expenses

that you don't realize that you incur when you use a GBI lab in Atlanta, when you send a body to Atlanta for autopsy, you also have to send usually two police officers, one a photographer and one an evidence collection person, and they spend the whole day traveling to Atlanta, up there and back, so you have two police officers gone for at least a whole day in addition to whatever expenses you have. So that —, so this is an expense that you make each time you send somebody to Atlanta. I would encourage the County if you get a forensic pathologist, to get an arrangement with the GBI so that outlying counties could send their bodies here. They —, many of them have only one or two autopsies a year as a means of helping to defray that expense. Commissioner DeLoach said, and we could possibly contract with them on a —, just contract with them and keep an on-going process here and then they could send them here, and —. Dr. Metts said, right, you'd have to discuss that with the GBI. I don't know what their fiscal arrangements are. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's just the idea of offsetting the cost of operation. Dr. Metts said, it would be a lot easier for them to come to Savannah, 50 or 60 miles, rather than, you know, 300 miles to Atlanta. Commissioner DeLoach said, right.

Commissioner Price said, Dr. Metts, we've heard from the District Attorney, Spencer Lawton, we've heard from other of our top law enforcement officials here in Chatham County that there is a real need for a forensic pathologist here, for many years now. Why is it that they feel that way and you have a different opinion of that? Dr. Metts said, I don't have a different opinion. I said a forensic pathologist is essential. I don't have a different opinion. Commissioner Price said, but you're saying that for us to employ a forensic pathologist would be too bureaucratic or too —. Dr. Metts said, no, no, no. I said the medical/legal examiner system. I'm telling you that you all are confused about the difference between a forensic pathologist and a medical/legal examiner system. A medical/legal examiner system gets into bureaucracy for death investigation. I'm telling you that I'm not in favor of that. At one point in time I was in favor of it. Experience has taught me otherwise. Now that's not —, has nothing to do with the forensic pathologist. A forensic pathologist is essential and I don't know of anyone who has a contrary opinion, but the County faces the problem of are they going with a forensic pathologist in Atlanta at the GBI or are they going to employ their own forensic pathologist, and I'm telling you that it will be expensive to employ your own forensic pathologist. It's also very expensive to send two police officers to Atlanta for a whole day each time you have a simple shooting on the street. Commissioner Price asked, is Dr. Medart a forensic pathologist? Dr. Metts said, yes sir, and has been for 25 years. Nobody here seems to realize that. Commissioner Price said, I'd like to also hear, as long as we're hearing from the County Coroner, if there is a desire from any of the other law enforcement officials here, regarding this matter.

Chairman Hair asked, is there anyone from law enforcement that would like to speak to this matter? Commissioner Price said, the Sheriff looks like he wants to. Chairman Hair asked, Sheriff, do you want to say anything on this issue? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, only that I agree with Dr. Metts. Chairman Hair said, would you come forward please just a minute for the record, Sheriff, so we make sure we get your comments in the record. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, only that I agree with Dr. Metts. This is something we've talked about for years. Dr. Metts, being the Coroner, has to have someone to do the autopsies, and if we're going to start sending all these bodies to Atlanta, it's going to get very expensive. I totally agree with him, and I think that it's a problem that needs to be solved. I don't know of anybody in the law enforcement that would disagree with forensic pathology. Chairman Hair asked, Sheriff, do you also agree with the Coroner that you are in favor of the forensic pathologist, but not the medical examiner system? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, I agree with him. Chairman Hair asked, Chief, do you want to make a comment?

Chief Thomas Sprague said, yes. I concur with what Dr. Metts said and what the Sheriff said. We also have some time frame problems in sending them up for autopsies in Atlanta. We also have expenses involved with the Atlanta people coming down for trial to Savannah. I don't know what State could furnish a pathologist down at this end of the State or all the surrounding counties. We're not getting much support from the State.

Commissioner Odell said, not a direct question to you, Chief, but any report that comes out of this prior to coming to this Commission, I would personally like to see that it go to our Chief and our Sheriff and our Coroner for their review and input —, and the DA, Spencer Lawton, so that we're all in accord. This body appears to be in accord, but let's [inaudible] agreed by the Sheriff and agreed by the Chief. I would like to see our review process to keep that same level of involvement. Chief Sprague said, I thank you for that. Chairman Hair said, okay, that's a good point, Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I think one of the other things that we can do that the Chief just brought up, the State needs to do something to help us on this thing, and I think we need to contact our Legislators to really do something for us. Chairman Hair said, I really think that would be preferable for a lot of reasons, not just from a cost standpoint, but also from a consistency standpoint. I think it would be good if we could get the State to fund that position. I think maybe that's what our chip should be is to get our delegation [sic] to fund that. I think that's an excellent approach. Commissioner Saussy said, why should there just be one in Atlanta when we've got so much other area in the State of Georgia. I mean, to make it fair. Chairman Hair said, and it should be an easy sell if we make it a regional position and not —, as opposed to saying we're going to serve 12 counties or whatever, some number of counties, it should be a lot easier to do that than saying we're just trying to ask you to do something for Chatham County. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Chairman Hair said, plus, I think again it's consistent with our concept to continue to try to regionalize thing and cooperate with our fellow counties about things.

Dr. Metts said, I'd like to emphasize a very important point that the Chief brought up, and that is when you do have the trial, you then have to bring the forensic pathologist from Atlanta to Savannah, room and board and time and testimony, which again becomes quite expensive, but since you had the autopsy in Atlanta, that person who did the autopsy is the only one who can testify as to the cause of death and the circumstances. So you're running up a huge bill sending people to Atlanta and a huge bill bringing people to Savannah to testify, and I think the idea of a regional area perhaps funded at least in part by the State, if not totally, is an excellent idea. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Doctor. I think we could certainly put that on our legislative priority list.

Commissioner Jackel said, first I think we need to have an inquiry whether we have enough cases to keep a forensic pathologist busy. I think that's probably the initial inquiry, and then I just wonder —, I know it's heresy, but Jacksonville is just two hours away and Charleston's about the same, and they have a great medical hospital over in Charleston. Is there any possibility of working out something with either of those places? Dr. Metts said, I don't know what it costs us to use the GBI facility, I don't know if they charge us on a per case basis. I am sure if we send them to Jacksonville, out of state, or Charleston, out of state, we will incur a per case fee. The best fee that I have heard is \$2,000 per autopsy. We are currently

paying our local pathologist \$400, not \$2,000, per autopsy, and I won't be able to hold the line on that very long I can assure you. The best mass volume figure I've been able to get is \$1,500 per autopsy. So your cost is beginning to jump up very rapidly as you begin to go out of state or to other areas. I would like to say one thing if I could. The one thing I would like to see the County do is to initiate a metro death squad type organization whereby the same officers and same individuals conduct all death investigations where instead of going from one municipality to another, and then having to bring people in from outside to assist, that one group of individuals would attend all homicides, and I think the District Attorney would probably endorse that too.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Metts. Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, you know, perhaps procedurally it would be good if we were to determine to have a forensic pathology [sic] assigned to this part of the State rather than everything being centralized in Atlanta. If we make that determination and then —, just one second, and then if we were to go through the Georgia county government association and attempt to solicit their assistance in achieving —, having an individual brought to this part of the State, and beyond that perhaps the Bulloch County, Effingham County —, it would be an advantage to them too because they have to go through that two officers, a photographer, ship to Atlanta, room and board, return. If we could be the central focus in contacting the surrounding counties and take the initiative on that, I think we'd be surprised that we might have a problem that is relatively easy to solve.

Dr. Metts said, the GBI is definitely stressed by having to do what you've discussed. When their people are down here, then they're short. This is my deputy coroner.

Ms. Sarah Smith said, I came in a little bit after Dr. Metts started talking so I may have missed something and I may be recovering it, but some of the —, you're talking about South Carolina and Florida. We get —, when I get the death calls a lot of time, I have coroners call me from over in South Carolina over the bridge that they're asking if they can get, when we had Dr. Medart, or if they could get an autopsy done by our pathologist over here. In the same sense, our pathologist here, Dr. Medart, and now we have a couple from out of Hinesville, Fort Stewart, that have been helping us out, but they also have been doing some for Liberty County, and the people over in South Carolina have talked to them. So these areas are needing help also because they expressed in South Carolina they have to send theirs to Charleston or somewhere else. But as far as the State, the State did a couple of years ago or last year put a forensic pathologist down in Moultrie, and their goals then that they talked about at the association meetings and all, their goals are to have regional centers, but Moultrie was the next one that they did after Atlanta, and I think y'all guys just need to push them to make Savannah a regional area, and have somebody come in here to do —, we have the perfect setup out there that I think belongs to the GBI with a morgue and all in it. So, just you need to push them. They have the plans. They claimed then that they didn't have the funding a couple of years ago, so that is in their planning to have regional. Make Savannah the next one. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I think that Commissioner Saussy and myself accomplished what we were trying to do. We got it out for discussion. Staff now knows this Commission supports looking into this, and, Russ [Abolt], I would like for staff to go ahead and move forward with the State and people that we need to talk with and if we need to set up a meeting with the local delegation, then we do that. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Commissioner Price said, one thing along that way, Russ [Abolt], is also include what the historical costs have been for carrying people to Atlanta and the cost of the testimony of those who were doing the autopsy as compared to what money we would save by having a forensic pathologist here. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, at least a three-year period so we could see the [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Commissioner Price asked, is Dr. Metts finished? Chairman Hair said, did you want to make any final comments? I mean —.

Dr. Metts said, yes, one last comment. The GBI on occasion refuses to do autopsies when I request them, and this has led to at least one case of infant homicide being bungled. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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3. CONSIDERATION OF RFP, COUNTY'S WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS (COMMISSIONER PRICE).

Commissioner Price said, we have looked at and toyed with the idea of going out with requests for proposals for the County water and sewer system. We actually did that, what —, about four years ago, somewhere along those lines, and we have a true valuable asset with our water and sewer system. Fred [Thompson], can you turn the volume down a little bit. Commissioner Jackel said, and the air up. Commissioner Price said, and the air up. I think it's time that we do some asset allocation when we take a look at shifting our assets. One of the ways we can do that is we can take a look at what value and what fair market value our County water and sewer system is worth. We know that we have a need in another area. We know that there is a need for books, a need for technology, a need in the library part of what the government does here that we have not even begun to scratch the surface of, and I think as one idea, not to commit if we were to go out with an RFP and get appropriate bids that were what we deemed to be fair market value or worth it, we could take the proceeds from the sale of the County water/sewer system and we could transfer it to the needs of the library so that, you know, you would be able to handle what is going to benefit all of the citizens of Chatham County compared to what currently only benefits less than five percent of the citizens of Chatham County. I think it's worth going out and taking a look at. We're not committing ourselves to sell the system by doing this. There's nothing that says we have to have the sale, and that could be stated in the RFP, but, Jon [Hart], I think you looked at the idea of doing that type of transfer of asset. Do you have an opinion on that? I know that —.

Attorney Hart said, well, last time that this discussion was had was some years ago, and at that time there was a request from —, to the County Attorney's office back in 1991 concerning what would happen to the money. This specific plan was not put forth, but if —, you do have the right —, option to go out with a request for proposal, you do obviously have the right to sell

the system. You'd have to follow all the procedures under State law for sale of property, which we'll just have to follow the steps there, and we've done that on plenty of occasions. If you sold it, the question then becomes what happens to the value of the money coming back through the water and sewer system. That would have to go in the General M&O Budget. That is not to say that once it went into the General M&O Budget that the Commission at that point could not designate that fund or portion thereof to be used for whatever budgetary means y'all so choose. So, yes, you could do it that way. Commissioner Price asked, have you looked at where the County would stand, either through an RFP or through some type of agreement with a private company that would buy the water system about rates, about what could be done to make sure that the rates aren't jacked up or the rates don't go up, you know, in a large increase over a period of time. Attorney Hart said, well, as far as your RFP, you could put conditions in there for acceptance of that. You could also enter into a water/sewer agreement with that private group or a management agreement if you chose not to sell it, but just do a management agreement insofar as that. What they would be willing to agree would obviously be a function of what they pay for it and the economics of the situation, but, yes, you could sell it with some type of stipulation that rates won't go up more than "X" over such a period of time or whatever. Commissioner Price said, well, we know that the system already has a positive cash flow. I mean, it is a money maker. The problem is we can't get our hands on the money that is made there for any benefit other than the water and sewer system, and that's where I have a hard time dealing with the fact that we're serving less than five percent of the population of this County and a great majority of the citizens of this County have other needs that are, in my opinion, greater than that, but I would like to hear comments from my fellow Commissioner and I would hope that this is something we could possibly go forward with and look —, at least to go out and take a look and see if it's feasible to do this.

Commissioner Murray said, first of all, I'll say I will not support it, and I'll tell you the reasons why. I do question one thing from the County Attorney. All this system is in the unincorporated area, is it not? Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, well, if it's all in the unincorporated area and it is sold, then why does the money not go back in SSD? Why would it go in the General M&O? Attorney Hart said, the general consensus of opinion has been in previous legal opinions has been that it would go in M&O rather than the Special Service District. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'd like you to look at that again and I'd like to find out why because it's in the unincorporated area and those are the people who are utilizing it and subscribe to it now, and to me that money should not come back and go into the M&O if the votes are out here to sell it. I hope it's not. The reason —, another reason that I think, Ben [Price], you brought up that you'd like to look at as far as we can't get our hands on that money, I don't think we should get our hands on that money. That money goes back in to upgrade the system and to keep the system running and to keep it functioning properly, and that's the only thing that money's used for so, therefore, those people that are paying those fees now are the ones that are paying for the maintenance and the upkeep on that system and for any improvements that might need to be made with it. The third problem I have with this is it's coming up at a meeting when we had a public hearing on this several meetings back and the public was notified about it. Everyone that spoke at that time was opposed to selling. These were the users of the system. And now we're bringing it up again to send out an RFP on it and none of these citizens have been notified that we're even going to discuss it again. Fourth, I know that there are several groups out there that have been lobbying the Commission fairly heavy. I've had calls from different group. I've talked with them. They know where I stand on it. I've told them I'm not in favor of the County selling the system, and I'm not at this point. I think we need to keep it. It takes care of itself, and the citizens that are utilizing that, all of them that I've talked to seem very pleased with it. I would just be opposed to even putting out the RFP at this point.

Chairman Hair asked, any other Commissioners have any comments? [No response was given.] Chairman Hair said, I'll make —, I feel —, [inaudible] not on this issue, I personally think there's nothing wrong with sending out an RFP just seeing what's out there. I think that's prudent. I think we would not be committing to a sale. I also share Commissioner Price's and Commissioner Murray's concerns though. The only way I would be in favor of selling it, period, would be if we can control the rate increases. I would not be in favor of selling the system if we did not have some —, exercise some control over rates. If we can't do that, then I'm totally opposed to it as well. But if we can negotiate some way to control the rates and still maintain control over that, and the quality of the systems, then I would have no problem selling it, but I don't necessarily see anything wrong with just seeing what's out there. We've done this on many other occasions for many other assets, just do our fees and then reject them all. I think that's all Commissioner Price is asking for is just saying see if it's out there, do it, and if there's, you know, it might be that [inaudible]. We did it on the golf course, you know, and we still haven't made any decisions about the golf course. So, I don't think the decision today, and I think Commissioner Murray is correct in a sense about public input, but the public input would come at the time we were discussing whether we were going to, you know, accept any bids or anything like that. So, I think that would be the appropriate time for that.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd just rather think that puts it one step closer to selling. Chairman Hair said, well, I think it probably does, but, I mean, it also —, but it also gives us data that we don't now have. We don't have the data as to what it would cost or what we would receive from it. I think it would make a big difference in terms of that debate if we knew what we might be able to get for it, and I think Commissioner Price is simply asking for let's just see what's out there.

Commissioner Odell said, my only concern is that if it's not broke, why are we trying to fix it? Commissioner Murray said, I agree. Commissioner Odell said, if the water system pays for itself and our goal is to utilize the excess funds to fund other items, then I think what we're doing is that we are avoiding doing what ultimately we're going to have to do. We cannot sell off County assets to fund things that should be in the budget. Either we need to do it or we don't need to do it. My additional concern is that although if you look at our water system in Chatham County and the City of Savannah and you bounce that against the State, we have perhaps more different systems than in any other county or we're substantially up there. My concern in that regard is that the most valuable asset, other than the air that we breathe here, is the aquifer and I think that if we were to sell it or seriously consider selling it, what we're doing is we are taking an additional step closer to contamination of a very valuable resource. I think we have substantial funds out there which we're going to need to address. This is a very small section of my district, but if we were to sell it, I wouldn't want to use the money to fund something else. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I feel basically the same as Commissioner Odell does and Commissioner Murray. I am really concerned about selling a piece of property or a facility that we have and have control of it now and losing control of it. I can't see that. Water is one of the most valuable things that we have on this earth and we've got to make sure that it is preserved and is dealt out to people as needed in a proper manner. The other thing, I'm very much in favor of money going to the library. I don't know that this is the way to do it. I think Harris [Odell] is right on the fact that we have got to put the money into the budget for that, but I feel that to sell this property is detrimental to the public, and I don't think I could vote for it.

Commissioner Price said, to make the assertion that private industry, private companies, would do less of a job than what the County government would do, would also defeat the idea, David [Saussy], that our EMS Unit should be privatized, and any of the attempts to make improvements to a water system, a private company would have to do that as well. They would —, they're required to do the minimum that is necessary to make sure that the water is safe to drink and make sure that the pressure is there, make sure that all those things happen. Commissioner Saussy asked, who controls that? Commissioner Price said we make the assumptions the government is the answer to everything and that —, in my opinion, you know, less government is the better direction to go in instead of having more government. But, you know, I'm simply raising this up the flagpole to see if anybody's going to salute it. If we don't have the votes to go forward with it, then we don't, but I would like to certainly hear from some of the other Commissioners to find out if we do.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I think that if we don't look at —, the County either has to be in the water business or they have to be out of the water business. Five percent control does not take any —, I mean that is absolutely minimum as far as that goes. I'm concerned about the rates. I would want anything that we had some control over the rates, but we've been asked to participate in water projects and we've turned them down. We've told everybody we're not in the water business. Well, we're not in the water business until we get to where we've got five percent of the water and we want to sell it because we're not in the water business, as everybody says up here, but then nobody wants to sell it because we need to keep it because we're going to control the aquifer and all this with five percent. My problem with it is we've got one government out there, the City of Savannah, who controls what happens in the Chatham County because they're the only one who is in the water business because Chatham County is not in it. Chatham County dabbles in it, but Chatham County is not in it. So, if we're going to participate in this program and if we want another water supplier in this program, we're going to have to get it to somebody that's going to do the job. Chatham County is not going to do it. There's nobody up here going to vote to expand the water system out here, or they haven't done it since I've been here and there have been proposals to that effect. We should have water out in the West Chatham area right now controlled by Chatham County, but there wasn't the political will to do that then and there won't be later. So we end up with the City of Savannah coming out there and supplying water and actually annexing based on the fact they had the water and they said either you —, you either annex in or you get no water. And we need more than one person up here playing the ball game, and that other —. You know, what —, I don't care who it is, you know. I don't care, but you can't sit back there with five percent of the water saying that you're controlling and you're making everything good for everybody and sitting there and having the City of Savannah annex all of West Chatham County based on the fact that they're the only one that's got water. And that's what we're doing here. If you —, you know, if you're going to be in it, be in it, and if you're going to be in it, get in it and set up a system that we can control it, make it an authority and get the job done. Take it County-wide and tell them we're going to be the water man, you know. But you can't sit here with five percent of the water and act like you're controlling the destiny of the County because you're not. I'm sitting out there having Savannah tell me what I'm going to do based on development based on whether they want us to have any water or not, and that's just the name of the game now. You've got folks out here that's bidding on this that want to participate, want to bring water into Chatham County. I don't care what —, you know, I'm not getting into whether everybody believes that's the greatest thing or not. I'm not into that. My point is I've got somebody that wants to play ball in the water business. I've got to have water for West Chatham and the rest of Chatham County. Right now we don't have that. Now if we can use this with our controls over it to develop West Chatham and the rest of Chatham County, we need to go forward with this. We don't need to sit back and say we're going to control the water because we've got five percent, we're not doing anything. We've got people out here that private water systems has got more control over water than we do, and yet we're sitting up here saying we're going to control it with that five percent. I can't see it.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to take issue with what Commissioner Price said. First of all, when someone has water and that's the only one can service your house, that's a monopoly. It's the same as the electric and gas that comes to your house. You don't have a choice. It's a monopoly. Monopolies must be regulated. We don't have any way of regulating these things currently. If it's ours, we regulate it. If we sell, then we no longer have a franchise or why to regulate it. Something has to be put in place so we can adequately protect our citizens to regulation when you create a monopoly. It's not like EMS, it's not like Burger King and McDonald's where there's competition. When you're on that water system, that's the only one you can use. You can't say I don't like the service, I'm going to get other water. You have no other choice, and to say it's like these other things, I don't think that is the situation. So we have to figure out if we're going to do this a way that we can regulate it, and I don't know whether [inaudible] us getting a franchise fee for us to do that. Commissioner DeLoach said, put in the RFP. Chairman Hair said, well, I think the lawyer has already said there are ways to do it. Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, just a point of clarification. Isn't there a meeting, Mr. Chairman, with this Commission and the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah regarding our concern for [inaudible] water? Chairman Hair said, I'm not aware of any meeting that's been established for that purpose at this time. Commissioner Price asked, you mean, like a water management program? Chairman Hair said, I'm not —. Commissioner Price said, maybe —, I don't know of a joint meeting. Chairman Hair said, I don't know of any joint meeting that's scheduled at this time. Commissioner Odell said, Pete [Liakakis] is here. Chairman Hair said, Pete [Liakakis].

Alderman Pete Liakakis said, we discussed that at City Council yesterday. Chairman Hair said, would you come forward, Pete [Liakakis], so we make sure we get your comments in the record. Most of you know this Alderman Pete Liakakis from the City. Alderman Liakakis said, I am Pete Liakakis, Vice Chairman of City Council. Yesterday we had a discussion about this water matter, and the City Manager was going to prepare a letter for Harold Reheis to ask him that we need to have a discussion between the City and the County concerning this water situation, and I also recommended that we pass a resolution to the Georgia EPD concerning this because it's a vital issue to our community. As I mentioned to you one time before, one of the big problems is what TSG wants to do is to use this public resource as a storage container and they want to pump their treated wastewater into that and then, of course, what they'd like to do is drill a hole somewhere else in the aquifer and distribute it to whatever customers they might have.

Chairman Hair said, well, Pete [Liakakis], that's really not the issue on the table. The issue —, that's a separate issue. That's already been dealt with by the County Commission. We dealt with that at the last meeting. This is on simply the County-

owned water system and TSG might or might not be a bidder along with five or six other people. You're talking about the issue that we settled last two weeks ago, but that's been settled. That's not an issue before us now.

Alderman Liakakis said, well, we have asked, and we are going to ask for a meeting with the County Commission to discuss this water situation, Chairman Hair, because we're concerned about it because this particular issue, too, you're asking to change this water plan that was agreed by the municipal —, all the municipal governments: Chatham County, Savannah, and the other six municipalities, and that's a concern of the City because this particular issue you're speaking about right now would change that overall plan that was already agreed to.

Chairman Hair said, it seems to me —, we've got Commissioner Saussy, Commissioner Murray, we have two options: We can continue to discuss this or we can wait until —. You want to try a motion. Commissioner Price said, I could. Chairman Hair said, okay. I think that's probably appropriate at this point. I mean, we've had a lot of discussion and we're getting a lot of redundancy now. Yes, Mr. Walker. Yes.

Mr. Walker said, hello. Thank you for allowing me to say something here. Chairman Hair said, you are going to be very brief? My name is Jim Walker. Yes, I'm going to be very brief. My name is Jim Walker. I'm the President of TSG. We are the company managing the Chatham County system now for you and I believe we're doing a satisfactory job. I would like to just make a very brief comment. One, the question is, and I agree with Commissioner DeLoach, it does —, the County system only represents five percent of the community, and the question is if it's not broke, why fix it. Well, I suggest it is broke because it only represents five percent of the County. I had a meeting yesterday with a developer on the west side of Chatham County who does not have water or sewer and is continuing to postpone the groundbreaking of his development because he doesn't have water. What we're proposing is simply to begin the process of bringing these single systems back to the County that can provide all the citizens in the County and, most importantly, in my opinion, the biggest asset you have —, you do have an asset in the water system, but you have an asset of the County itself. Until you can deliver water and sewer to the entire County, then you are not taking advantage of the greatest value you have in this community, and that's the County —, and the opportunity to develop this County in the future. I suggest that you pick the time to go forward with it. Don't make a decision, but get the information in front of you, digest it and make the final decision after you have the facts before you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Walker. Commissioner Price, I'll recognize you for a motion. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Price said, I yield. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I would like to determine one other thing also, and I think I've been around here wrestling with this water system for a long time and we've been up and down and come out and said we're not going to sell it. What I want to know along with whatever you do an RFP is whether it's feasible for the County to get into the water business, whether this is a direction that we want to go, or whether we want to get out of the water business. Commissioner DeLoach said, exactly. Commissioner Rivers said, those two determinations need to be made. Commissioner DeLoach said, get out. Commissioner Rivers said, once those decisions are made whether we're going to provide this County or whether it provides us with an economic base, whether we have to develop that economic base, whether that's an obligation to us, it isn't feasible for us to do that, and I would like to know that before I make any decision on whether I would sell it or whether I would keep it.

Chairman Hair said, well, I think it would be appropriate at this time, let's try a motion. I mean, I think we're just being very, again, redundant. Commissioner Price, why don't you make a motion and let's just see what's out there. Commissioner Rivers said, that's not being redundant, Mr. Chairman. I was —. Commissioner Murray said, that's not redundant at all. Several of us —. Commissioner Rivers said, I want along with that motion —, I want, and I'm going to make myself clear —. Commissioner Price said, he's asking that —. Commissioner Rivers said, I want along with the motion —. Commissioner Saussy asked, why don't you make a motion? Commissioner Rivers said, that we have a feasibility study as to whether the County can operate this system efficiently or whether it can't. Chairman Hair said, I'd be happy to entertain a motion if you want to make one. Make it, make a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, and extend it. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, well, I was going to say, and also to extend it and look into whether we need —, it's just like Eddie [DeLoach] was talking about on the west side, do we want to get into the business over there, do we want to get it on Wilmington Island or anywhere else? I think we need to look into this total thing. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Saussy said, sending out an RFP is not going to do that. Chairman Hair said, I can tell you that a feasibility —, I'm all for a feasibility study, but I can tell you right now we can't afford it. We couldn't do it if we wanted to do it. We couldn't raise that much money. You talk about tax increases, it's going to be an extremely expensive process to do, but I think —, I support a feasibility study. I have no problem with that, but I don't think they necessarily need to be mutually exclusive. I think we could proceed with both at the same time. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair said, I think you could do both. I think you could put it out and also do the feasibility study, and then we've have both sets of data that we could use [inaudible]. Commissioner Rivers said, that's all I said, Mr. Chairman, if you were listening, that's all I said. In order for me to make a determination of whether I want to sell it or whether I want to keep it, I would need that feasibility study and some direction as to which we [inaudible].

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Price says he's finally prepared to do a motion this time. Okay, we're ready to do a motion. Commissioner Price said, I move that we go forward with an RFP for selling the County water and sewer system concurrent with the feasibility study being done to determine whether or not the County is going to go further into the water and sewer business or whether or not we're going to get out of it. Chairman Hair said, okay. I have a motion, do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All right, Commissioner Murray first and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Murray said, I'll yield to him and see what [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like the RFP to be submitted to us for approval before it goes out. Chairman Hair said, uh —. Commissioner Jackel said, I mean, sometimes these RFP's go out and then we get them back and it's not what we really wanted in the RFP, the conditions that we wanted —. Chairman Hair said, I think a better approach, Commissioner Jackel, would be for us to tell the staff what you want to make sure is in the RFP, but I don't think we need to get in the business of

approving RFP's. If there's something specific you want in there, I think you need to direct the County Manager to put it in there, and I have no problem with that, but I don't think we need to approve the RFP. Commissioner Jackel said, there needs to be some process on how we're going to regulate it if it's sold. Chairman Hair said, were you —, okay. We want to make sure we include that. Obviously, we want to include how it's going to be regulated if it's sold. I think that's something that's got to be in there. I mean, all of us agree to that. None of us would support selling it if we can't control the rates. I don't think anybody —, there's no votes up here for that. Zero. So that would be included in the RFP, Mr. Manager. We've got to make sure that's in there, okay. Now we have a clarification of the motion. Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'm still opposed to it. First of all, I don't think anybody's talked about trying to take over and control the water in Chatham County. That was not anybody's intent to my knowledge. I don't remember anybody ever discussing expanding the system, and I would not be opposed to expanding the system to take care of the people, and I would stay opposed to selling our system under any circumstances until our local delegation allows us to set up a water and sewer authority, which we have asked every year for the 10 years that I've been serving up here, and I feel like before we can go in and sell the system, and I don't care who it's sold to if it's sold, we need that water and sewer authority so we'll have some say-so on what takes place, how we can control rates, and the quality of the service being given. You know, we just went several months ago talking about replacement wells for people that own wells right now and making people tie into private water systems and not get an opportunity —, and here yet we want to talk about selling ours to a private company to do the same thing over again and make people tie into it. I just don't think it's right.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second on the floor. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that we go forward with an RFP for selling the County water and sewer system concurrent with a feasibility study being done to determine whether or not the County is going to go further into the water and sewer business or whether or not we're going to get out of it. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.

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4. MOTHER MATILDA BEASLEY PARK BEYOND PHASE I (COMMISSIONER RIVERS).

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, there's some additional property at Mother Matilda Beasley Park when we looked at it about a year or year and a half ago that cost —, would run us about \$165,000. We brought that before the Commission and we sort of left it kind of lying because we didn't have the funds for it. I would like to encumber any future funds that we would head in that direction and acquire that property, and I would like to ask staff to follow that up and see what it would cost at today's going rate. Chairman Hair said, so basically you're asking staff to look into how much it would cost and how we —, might be some options for funding it. Is that basically —? Commissioner Rivers said, right. Chairman Hair said, certainly I don't have any objection to that. Russ [Abolt].

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas and Commissioners, as I understand it, having met with Commissioner Rivers on this, essentially he's asking in the event there is additional SPLOST interest in the future that it would be given a priority and [inaudible] to this, at the same time we would proceed with the negotiations, the contacts that would have to be done relative to possible acquisition, that it be brought back to you and some time in the next many months you would be able to have both pieces of information and decide what you want to do.

Chairman Hair said, so it would just be brought back to us as an alternative with the costs and sources of funding. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. Certainly nobody has a problem with that, I don't think. That's a good point, Commissioner Rivers. Thank you.

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VII. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL TOURISM MONTH.

Chairman Hair said, the first proclamation deals with tourism. I see a number of people representing tourism. Who's going to actually receive it? Chairman Hair read the following proclamation:

[INSERT]

Ms. Ann Wickham said, I am the Vice President of the Savannah Hospitality Association. On behalf of the Hospitality Association I'd like to thank you all for your support of the Hospitality Association and thank all the residents of Chatham County. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you. We appreciate everybody being here.

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2. PROCLAMATION FOR ABATE - MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS AND YOU MONTH.

Chairman Hair said, our next proclamation deals with motorcycles and motorcycle awareness. Do we have someone that's going to receive this proclamation? Commissioner Price asked, does anybody own a motorcycle? Chairman Hair said, anybody —? Come forward. Chairman Hair read the following proclamation:

[INSERT]

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3. PROCLAMATION FOR TRY TRANSIT WEEK, MAY 11-15, 1998.

Chairman Hair asked, Scott [Lansing], do you want to do that proclamation now before we get to your agenda or do you want to do it —? [Inaudible response.] Chairman Hair said, okay. We have a crowd to receive this one. I'll read the proclamation first. Chairman Hair read the following proclamation:

Mr. Scott Lansing said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, thank you very much, and on behalf of the community and the people that work for CAT, I would like to thank you for declaring next week Try Transit Week. We brought a few of our employees. These are some of the employees that have won —, that are rodeo winners and some of the top performers and some of our best employees that we have at CAT and we're real proud of them. We had a rodeo several weeks ago and over here we have our top three finishers —, operators. Immediately to my left is Gene Solomon, B. L. Smalls, who won our rodeo this year, and followed by Junior Ginn. I think Junior [Ginn], you were second or third? Mr. Ginn said, second. Mr. Lansing said, second, and over here we have Robert Gosha, who placed second —. Mr. Gosha said, third. Mr. Lansing said, third, I'm sorry, in our rodeo. On the far right is Gary Smith who was first. Thank you, Gary. Gary [Smith] won our rodeo, and Calvin Kenny [phonetic], who is our union president for Local, and we asked him to come today as well and represent the employees. We thank y'all very much for declaring next week Try Transit Week.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Scott [Lansing].

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

<p>your agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (*).</p>

- 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.**

Commissioner Price said, I move to untable. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to untable. The motion to untable —. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a second. All those in favor of untabling it, vote yes. The motion to table [sic] overrides all motions. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, okay, the motion passes. We have the motion —, we have the item on the floor at the present time. Russ [Abolt], you want to open it up, or —.

County Manager Abolt said, I'll summarize it again. Mr. Garrison, who's in the audience, but this is the issue you discussed at length I believe two meetings ago. We have a contract that has expired. It's been competing now for a few weeks for the health care to our County employees. We've been about soliciting, with your permission, through the intervention and contractual responsibility of Jones, Hill, Mercer, a new provider of health care. The recommendation has come in that that provider be Candler/St. Joseph's. That's where we are.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any discussion? I think we've had a lot of presentations on this. We've had a tremendous amount of background data on this. Is there any Commissioner that would like to ask any questions or either staff or anybody in the audience. I don't know that going through elaborate proposals today is the best way to do it, but if that's what the Commission wants to do, that's what we'll do.

Commissioner Price asked, what was the motion that was tabled? Was it a motion to approve? Is that what was tabled? Chairman Hair said, this item was tabled, I believe. I don't think that motion —. Commissioner Price asked, was there a motion at all? County Manager Abolt said, I don't believe you ever got to a motion that was tabled. Chairman Hair said, we didn't get to a vote on it. Sybil [Tillman], is that correct? The Clerk said, I don't recall and I don't have the item with me. Commissioner Price said, all right. I'm going to move for approval of the staff recommendation to get the motion actually on the floor. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to approve staff's recommendation. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Okay, the motion is on the table to approve staff's recommendation of St. Joe/Candler. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Ross.

Mr. Rusty Ross said, good morning. I'm Rusty Ross and I'm Vice President and General Counsel at Memorial Medical Center. I spoke to you last time on this very subject. I think that what we're dealing here of course is, and I think we all have to remember this, the health of this entire community. This is one small part of it, but it's a very important part for us. This is a very important contract, the employees of our County government. Welcome to the wonderful world of managed care. If you people haven't been in the business world and seen it at work, this is what happens. You have tremendous competition, you have prices that are cut to the bone and then, as some Commissioners spoke about last time, you start having problems with wait times in doctors' offices and other problems. We at Memorial are very happy to be asked to bid on this contract. Now, of course, we understand it was negotiation and not a bid, but we were very happy to be able to come forward and offer our services. Late last year we were asked to submit a bid on the Chatham County employee health service plan. As we now understand it, we together with four others bid on this plan. Of course, the two hospital systems were the primary entities in all four or five of these bids. We believe today that our proposal was the low bid of the original proposals. We offered pricing for health care services that were as favorable as any offered to any employees in this area. In addition to very favorable pricing, we offered a very detailed transition plan for any employees who would come over to Memorial and have their health care services. I might add that based on 1997 usage and because the physicians involved in both of our plans are very similar panels, very —, same physicians sign up for both of us, there were only two physicians, two physicians that were heavily utilized by Chatham County employees that would have had to have been added to our panel in order that almost all the County employees would not have to shift their physicians in order to accept the Memorial plan, and we committed to allow those two physicians in the plan when Memorial received the favorable nod. We have a net worth of about 700 physicians around our area, approximately 400 of which are located in Savannah. Additionally, we offer a net worth of 17 hospitals with obviously Memorial being the principal provider for Chatham County —, for Chatham County employees. As we discussed at length the last time, Memorial has the most comprehensive health care system in this area. That should be obvious by the fact that even if you do accept the staff's recommendation today, many of the higher tech services will still have to be provided at Memorial. They'll have to come over to us. What do we do? We've spoken about many times before, and any of you haven't been out there recently and seen some of this, really ought to come out there and see what we have at our facility. All these services are located at our main campus on Waters Avenue. We have trauma services, we have high risk care in all —, almost every specialty area you could imagine. We have the only perinatologist in town. We have the only neonatology intensive care unit in town. We have the only pediatric intensive care unit in town. We have the only pediatric infectious disease specialist in town, and I might add this young lady spends all of her professional time dealing with AIDS patients, HIV positive patients. We have the only pediatric hematologist in town. We started the sickle cell clinic here in town many years ago. We have the only pediatric board certified surgeon in town. We have the only pediatric ophthalmologist in town. We have pediatric rehabilitation services. The list goes on and on. These are our services that we provide, that we are going to provide to this community. Memorial also is unique in that we have physicians on campus 24 hours a day. With all of this, Memorial provides the best choice for full comprehensive care in this community. We also had the lowest price on the initial bids. There was a rebid, and so be it. We will work within the system. I think one last thing that I wanted to say, and it came up last time regarding indigent care in this community. You were presented with some numbers from the podium. You received additional numbers, and I think the one thing that I got up here and said last time and it still applies, is come out to our place some time and look and see who's out there. As Mr. Colvin said last time, we have doors that are open and facilities that are available to fill the needs of these patients. Numbers are one thing to talk about. Our numbers show that in 1997 we provided \$15 million more in the way of indigent care costs than did the other system in town. There's a dispute about this. They're saying we get all sorts of reimbursement, but the focus here is not on reimbursement, the focus is on who does the care of these citizens of Chatham County, these people who cannot afford to pay for their care. Who does this? I'd submit to you that Memorial does the vast majority of it. Of the \$15 million of charity and indigent care in 1997, 70% of that, or \$10.5 million, were to residents of Chatham County. Of the \$5.3 million that Candler/St. Joe provided in charity/indigent care only about 50% of that or \$2.5 million was provided to Chatham County indigents. Again, why the big difference and why does it matter? Well, it's part of our mission to provide this social service to this community. We were created by and are a part of this County. Competition has led to a number of things. It's led to the decreases in prices that I started off talking about, it's led to the severe competition and, as you saw in the paper this week —, last week with the HMO's, it's also started to backlash a little bit. Once again, when talking about indigent care, focus on programs, and one of the things I'd like to do if I could real quickly, and they promise to be very, very brief, I'd like to introduce a couple of people and have them say a couple of words because it directly bears on this subject of who provides the indigent care services in this community. I first would like to introduce Dr. Bob DiBenedetto. He is the head of our internal medicine program which sees some of the sickest people in this community.

Dr. DiBenedetto said, good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. I have been in Savannah practicing medicine since 1969. That's a long time. I was in private practice as the first pulmonologist here from 1969 to 1990 and I founded the pulmonary clinic at Memorial when there was no pulmonary clinic. I ran that clinic until 1990 while I was in private practice as a volunteer four times a month, and I'm presently running the education program for the internal medicine residency, which means that we take care of anybody who shows up in the emergency room without a physician, without insurance. Sometimes if you have insurance you wind up on our service, but basically there's a door through which people come, and we're there all the time, 24 hours a day. Last year, just for your interest, the internal medicine service took care of 450 people in the hospital who had absolutely nothing. I'm not talking about medicare, medicaid, I'm talking about zero. These are the homeless, these are the people who have absolutely no resources. I think the important thing is that I mention the emergency room, but we don't just see you in the emergency room and then send you somewhere. We —, as other hospitals may where you get admitted and then you're sort of lost in the system. We have, and have as I said since the 60's, a clinical system, a clinic that operates. You may say, well, what is this clinic. Well, internal medicine meets four times a week. That's four full days. On the average session it runs about three hours and we see well over 40 patients. We have gastroenterology, which meets three times a week, nephrology three times, neurology three times a month, dermatology several times a month, endocrinology, breast clinic, rheumatology, GYN, cardiology, rheumatology [sic], oncology weekly,

and I could go on, but suffice it to say that surgery as well. We're talking about a major operation. You may say, well, that's nice, and I would tell you that it certainly is because last year in our clinics we saw 5,266 patients who had absolutely no resources. That's a lot of people and they got good medical care because you can check our outcomes, and our outcomes are as good as anywhere in the country. Finally, I should point out that each of those clinics that I mentioned have at least four reserve slots, at least, for indigent patients, new indigent patients. Not those that we continually see, but new patients. So there's another door for the indigents to come in besides the emergency room, and I think that's what separates us out from the other hospitals. We really provide a total package, and these patients come to us whether it's through the emergency room or the clinic. They are ours, we take care of them, they don't go away, and they really like it because, depending on your level of income, basically you can get all your medications free. Chairman Hair said, Doctor, Commissioner Odell has a question. Dr. DiBenedetto said, yes sir.

Commissioner Odell said, good morning, Doctor. Dr. DiBenedetto said, good morning. Commissioner Odell said, Memorial does an excellent service and it is unfortunate that today in this country, not just the State of Georgia, we have forgotten about those who do not have insurance, and that's just not those who are on government assistance because those on government assistance do have insurance. Dr. DiBenedetto said, I'm not talking about those. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely. It is those who work in some of the service industries where no health insurance is provided, and they work five days a week, a 40-hour week, and yet they're below the poverty line. I understand the substantial stress that reduction in the Indigent Trust Fund by our legislators through the State of Georgia is going to have on Memorial Medical Center, and I think that it's shameful. I think the impact of that is that we can no longer say that we are a state that cares about all of our people. Memorial does an excellent job, and I don't think there is any Commissioner up here who would disagree with that, and thanks to your fine president, we've been provided a fair amount of background information, and I personally appreciate your comments, but I think I have all the information that I need to make a decision.

Chairman Hair asked, does any other Commissioners have any questions about Memorial's proposals. I think, again —, we'd be happy to listen if there's information that you're going to provide us, Rusty [Ross], that we don't already have. If you've got any new information that we don't already have, we'd be glad to sit here as long as you need, but if you're just going to go rehash what we already have, I think Commissioner Odell is correct. I think there's no need for us just to rehash what we already know.

Mr. Rusty Ross said, I appreciate that. Chairman Hair said, and if we could stipulate that —. Mr. Ross said, no, we did bring a couple of ladies here, one of them who's worked at Memorial since 1971 in these clinics, but we —, in the interest of time we'll pass on hearing from her, but I would ask that Bob Colvin step forward and wrap up. Chairman Hair said, okay, very good.

Commissioner Odell said, yes, Bob [Colvin], my only concern is that we probably need to do that with Candler and St. Joe's also just to be fair and equal time. We have been provided with a fair amount of information, and, Bob [Colvin], you and I went to lunch [inaudible], and I appreciate the input that you've provided, but —. Mr. Colvin said, well, —. Chairman Hair said, unless you have a call for the question, I —. Commissioner Odell said, no.

Mr. Bob Colvin said, I will keep my comments very brief, Commissioner, I appreciate that. I know you all have given a great deal of thought to this. I know you're all very concerned about this. I also recognize, in talking to most of you, that you're also very concerned and very supportive of what we do as a health system for this community. We appreciate that and [inaudible]. But let me just close our thoughts here with a couple of pieces. Rusty [Ross] indicated that we do believe that in initial bids we were the low bidder. I think that's substantial and significant. Certainly different circumstances led to some different numbers on the table. We won't get into that, but in the initial bid we were the low bidder. We have been very clear and I think you're very clear that we have the most comprehensive set of services of health care in this region. No question. You look at our clinical outcomes, and we've demonstrated some of this to your Jones, Hill, Mercer TPA, our clinical outcomes are unexcelled. And, quite frankly, we exceed the standards for teaching hospitals nationwide in our clinical outcomes. We're as good as it gets in terms of clinical outcomes [inaudible] institution as a health system. Rusty [Ross] has gone through the list of the kind of services we uniquely provide. We think that's very important because they're services that in many cases are not profitable and that are, in fact, community service kind of organization services. An important piece. We have the open doors, we have the clinics. Dr. DiBenedetto and our staff that are here staff those clinics with the anticipation that if somebody comes through the door we determine whether they can afford to pay or not as opposed to a determination of bad debts, which all health systems do after you've made attempts to collect the money. We isolate those folks at the front end and say we're not going to harass these people with collection. If they cannot pay these services, let's provide the services in the most comprehensive fashion we can, and we do. We as part of our Indigent Care Trust Fund reimbursement from the State, those dollars that have decreased by about two-thirds over the last five years, we pass a significant portion of those dollars on each year in a voluntary fashion to other primary care efforts in this County. Quite frankly, we need to note here that over the last two years we've donated almost \$2 million of those funds to the Chatham County Health Department for the provision of primary care. Dollars that we've voluntarily chosen to do because we believe those are important community services. We also were instrumental in the development of the primary care program for the homeless. Michael Elliott [phonetic] is here in the audience today. He was instrumental in coming up with a vision. We helped him as the founding partner to generate funds for that program to provide primary care for the shelters in this community. Something we didn't have to do, but it's the right thing to do. We are in a competitive environment in health care right now. Y'all have some excellent prices on the table for health care services for your employees, and you should be delighted with that. But that competitive arena that we're in causes some interesting questions. We right now receive no —, Memorial receives no direct funding from the County and, as I indicated to you, the reverse of that, over the last two years we've given you \$2 million. The State Trust Fund was decreased by two-thirds for the care of indigents. Our funding has dropped dramatically. Medicaid funding for us has also dropped dramatically. To be able to continue to serve the kind of community primary mission we were talking about here takes pain and patience to help us subsidize the overall operation. We think we're good at that. We think organizations like Gulfstream have recognized that we're good at that and have signed contracts with us. We think it's very symbolic that if Chatham County decides to go elsewhere for their health care, that that's a turning point and a decision point in terms of support. In this competitive arena of health care you're making a choice to go with the health system that does not offer the same sort of community systems support that we have built into our system by definition. We would simply say to you as part of your taking a vote today, I believe symbolically you are making some decisions about those levels of care as well. [Inaudible] support could be an enigma. What I would suggest to you instead of accepting the staff recommendation is to advise your staff, and we believe the staff have been very diligent in their efforts on this project, we would ask you to

advise the staff to go back to the original set of bids bidden in January and to negotiate a contract with the health system who is the low bid at that point in time. Thank you for your consideration.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Bob [Colvin]. Commissioner Odell said, may I just ask Bob [Colvin] —. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Bob [Colvin]. Chairman Hair said, Bob [Colvin], a question. Commissioner Odell said, what you're saying is that you were the low bidder in January and that's not the current bid now, that Memorial Medical Center [inaudible]. Mr. Colvin said, that is not what we're saying, Commissioner. We're saying there was not a secondary bid process. There were questions for clarification of some piece of our original bid, but we in no sense believe that there was a rebid process, but there are alternate numbers, we believe, on the table at the present time. I don't know enough details to go beyond that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Bob [Colvin]. We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion of the motion? We have a motion and a second to approve staff's recommendation. Commissioner Murray, do you have a question?

Commissioner Murray said, in other words, we're getting ready to vote. Chairman Hair said, correct, staff's recommendation. The motion is to approve the staff's recommendation and we have a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, yes, I came into this —, well, as of yesterday I was —, I had pretty much made up my mind that I was going to support the staff's recommendation. I got a phone call late yesterday afternoon, I stayed on the phone for about 40 minutes with a local doctor who I respect quite highly and to me had very high integrity, and he went through the process of what's taking place and explained some things to me like no one else has explained them. And based on that phone call yesterday, I would have to vote against this motion. I think both the plans are good plans, I just feel like that the other plan is a better plan for us, and based on that conversation I would have to vote against the motion that's on the floor right now.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have —, Commissioner Saussy before we vote.

Commissioner Saussy said, this very much concerns me on how this whole thing was worked out, and I don't think I've gotten an answer yet as to whether it was rebid or not rebid. Rebid or not rebid. I'm just really concerned about that, but beyond that, as I brought out in the last meeting, Memorial does most of the indigent care, and I think we have to consider that in what we do as a County for our employees too. We've got to consider that in it, realizing that Candler and St. Joseph's are not doing —, and maybe they will step up to the plate in later years, but I just don't think they're doing what should be done in this town with indigent care. Now, there again, that concerns me and I, frankly, really —, and I think I've got to go against staff in this.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, is that based on the information that the staff's got the lowest bid is the —? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas. The term bid does not apply here. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, well, whatever you want to call it. The best selection —. County Manager Abolt said, this is not —, and the recommend —, now please understand. You know, staff is very capable of righting [inaudible], but by contract the third-party administrator, Jones, Hill and Mercer, is the one that's technically making this recommendation. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, and so, I appreciate the use of the term staff recommendation, but I also fully acknowledge that staff does not have the type of technical or school training necessary. This is a recommendation from our third-party administrator, which in effect is their responsibility. But, yes, staff concurs in it. We also want to remind you it is not a bid, it's a solicitation for professional services.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any further questions? Everybody's satisfied with the questions? Okay, all those in favor of the motion, vote yes —. Eddie [DeLoach], I'm sorry. Go ahead. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's all right. Let it roll. Chairman Hair said, pardon? Dr. Thomas? Commissioner Thomas said, no, I'll just reserve it. Chairman Hair said, okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to untable this item for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy and DeLoach were not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to accept the recommendation for 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. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, let me tell you how we're going to proceed in the next, because we've got to squeeze in Commissioner Powers, who has to leave very quickly, and Mr. Shay, but Frank [Murray] has asked that the two items dealing with the gambling boat liquor license stay, that it stay on the table for two more weeks. If there is a motion to take it off the table, then I'm going to recognize Danny [Powers] first and get that discussion out the way because he said it would be a maximum of

10 minutes [ITEM XIII-4]. If that —, if there is no motion to take it off the table, then we'll deal with that issue and then go to Danny [Powers], so we're just going to deal with the motion first, and Frank [Murray] has recommended that we not take it off the table. Is there a motion to take those two items off the table —, Item #6 and Item #7, which deals with the excursion boat liquor licenses? Is there any motion to take it off the table? Hearing no motion then it remains on the table for two weeks. I'll recognize Commissioner Powers and Mr. Shay's going to make a 10-minute presentation on a tax office relocation.

Commissioner Murray said, before you start, can I make a comment please. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Murray said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, what I would like to do some time within this two weeks, if at all possible, is have staff to poll the Commission and either get a bus or a van for each of us to ride down to the Islands area and look at the proposed site for this and look at where the parking is planned for and look at the development that's going on on Wilmington Island right now and on those roads, and while we're out I think we could ride by some other areas and look at traffic flows and those type things, and I'd like to request that we do that. Chairman Hair said, I think a better idea would be for all of us to make sure we ride by there. I don't know if we want to get on a bus and ride by there, but —, I mean, I've been by there many, many times. I was out there last week, but if that's what the Commission wants to do, that's fine with me. Commissioner Murray said, well, I think it would be better if we're all there as a whole so if they have questions we can answer them.

Commissioner Price asked, are you opposed to [inaudible]? Chairman Hair said, if I've got to ride it there and ride it back, yes. I'd rather ride in my own car out there, but that's fine if that's what they want. Commissioner Odell said, Saussy's next door, he and I can ride out there together. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, we could. Chairman Hair said, but I think it would be good if we all went out there —. Chairman Hair said, we definitely need to see it, that's for sure. Commissioner Odell said, if we all met there at a convenient time, then —. Chairman Hair said, that would be appropriate, I think.

Commissioner Murray said, well, there were a couple of other areas out there that I wanted to show y'all too, but —. Commissioner Price asked, would this include those individuals that are asking for this permit? Are they going to be there as well, Frank [Murray], to show what their plans are? Commissioner Murray said, I don't know whether they're going to be there or not. I haven't talked to them. I really don't know one way or the other why it would matter whether they're there. I think that we need to look at it.

Chairman Hair said, well, why don't we do this. Why don't we have staff attempt to do that, and if it fits, you know, and then I think that would be the best way. Poll —, as you said, poll them and see if they're able to do that, and that would be fine. Commissioner Murray said, I certainly wouldn't be opposed to doing this same thing in somebody else's district if you've got something that comes up, but I think we all need to be able to see areas and understand what we're talking about before we take votes on them. Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you.

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- *6. **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). TABLED AT MEETING OF APRIL 24, 1998. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- *7. **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). TABLED AT MEETING OF APRIL 24, 1998. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- *8. **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.]**

Chairman Hair asked, do you want to take that off, Frank [Murray]? Commissioner Murray said, no.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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***9. REJECTION OF BIDS TO PURCHASE HENDERSON GOLF COURSE.**

Chairman Hair said, on #9 I don't want to take that off today either because we've had a call from the representative of the company, the high bidder on the golf course. They want two more weeks. They're now looking at a cash bid, making a full cash bid and, of course, they asked for two more weeks to see if they could work out the numbers and they'll be ready to come back on the 22nd either with a bid or with not. So, we'll leave that one on the table.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) BUDGET AMENDMENT TOTALING \$1,785,350 TO RECOGNIZE \$800,000 REIMBURSEMENT FROM CITY OF SAVANNAH AND FUTURE TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND M & O OF \$985,340 FOR THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND UTILITY EXTENSION PROJECT; A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE \$71,040 IN REVENUE FROM A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT AND TO APPROPRIATE \$71,040 FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; A CONFISCATED SPECIAL REVENUE FUND POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$3,340 FOR EQUIPMENT FOR THE BOMB SQUAD.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following: One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Budget Amendment totaling \$1,785,350 to recognize \$800,000 reimbursement from City of Savannah and future transfer from General Fund M & O of \$985,340 for the Hutchinson Island Utility Extension project; a Special Service District Fund budget amendment to recognize \$71,040 in revenue from a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and to appropriate \$71,040 for purchase of equipment for the Police Department; a Confiscated Special Revenue Fund Police Department Contingency transfer of \$3,340 for equipment for the Bomb Squad. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 2. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM DARRYL F. PETERMANN, D/B/A DFP MANUFACTURING CORPORATION, LOCATED AT 101 COLEMAN BOULEVARD FOR WAIVER AND REFUND OF LATE PENALTIES PAID FOR TARDY BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Chairman, reading this into the record, you're aware of the appeal procedure, but I want you to —, the Board understand clearly what our understanding of Mr. Petermann's attempt. You have a chronology of events given to you by staff in the Inspections Department, and I'll read verbatim: On or about the 24th of April, Mr. Petermann called Ms. Kimmer, who's a staff person in Inspections, advised that he wanted to be removed from the agenda. Ms. Kimmer requested this be put in writing and faxed to her. It was never received. After two weeks and other phone calls to Mr. Petermann requesting this document, a letter dated the 29th of April was faxed to Mr. Petermann advising that we could not remove this item from your agenda until we received this request from him in writing. No reply has been received to date.

Chairman Hair asked, is Mr. Petermann in the audience or anybody representing Mr. Petermann? Okay, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll move to table it and see if I can —. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to table. Commissioner DeLoach said, two weeks. Chairman Hair said, table it for two weeks, motion and second to table. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved that the request from Darryl F. Petermann, d/b/a DFP Manufacturing Corporation, located at 101 Coleman Boulevard for waiver and refund of late penalties paid for tardy business tax certificate be tabled to the next meeting. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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FOUR

3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO SURPLUS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE THREE PARCELS OF COUNTY PROPERTY.

Chairman Hair said, the next item, request board approval to surplus for subsequent sale —, your thing says three, but it's actually four, parcels of County property. The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve. Do we have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got a question. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] four parcels —. Chairman Hair said, let's get a second first. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, okay, we've got a second. Okay, Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner DeLoach said, the property at King's Ferry —. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach asked, does it run along the river at all? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I've got a problem with selling that. Chairman Hair said, it ought to be very valuable. We don't need it. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, but I hate to have a public development —, I mean, why can't we keep it as far as public park is concerned? Mr. Lynch said, it's rather low, sir. I'm not sure —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, are you saying no one can use it? Mr. Lynch said, no, I'm not. I'm saying that it's lower than you would normally look at. I'm not saying it's a jurisdictional wetland. There has been a delineation. I'm simply suggesting to you that it's not bluff property. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is there a possibility we could use that and turn around and use it for delineation on wetlands and take that property and put it into a bank so that we can keep that property because it is valuable and it is low lands and it is wilderness area. Mr. Lynch said, I'd like to have that looked at, sir, by some folks that are a heck of a lot better technically qualified than I am. I can't answer your specific question. Commissioner Saussy asked, can we pull that out. Commissioner Thomas said, pull that one. Commissioner DeLoach said, pull that one and let the other two go, but I'd like —.

Chairman Hair said, I mean, obviously, I'd have to go along with that, but I'm —, you know, this is a classic example where we're not in the real estate development business. The staff has already reviewed this. Staff's already said this is surplus property, we have no use for it for the County, and, you know, if the staff says we have no use for it, then it's surplus property and we ought to put it back on the tax rolls. I mean, we had a process, we followed the process, everybody agreed to the process, the staff would determine what's surplus, they determined this was surplus, we have no necessary use for it, and I don't think it's the Commissioners' role for us out here to talk about what we might use the properties for, you know, to get in the development business or to prevent development. I mean, that's not our mission. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I beg to disagree. I mean, I was elected by the people in my district and they told me to make sure that I spend the money right, so, by golly, I think I want to take the thing and look at it and if it won't work, that's fine. If it will work —. Chairman Hair said, we're saying we don't want to spend it at all. We're saying we don't want to sell it. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, if we don't want to sell it, I mean, why not make it a wilderness park or whatever? You don't know. I mean —. Chairman Hair said, well, the staff has already said that it has no useful value. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I just asked George [Lynch], and he said I haven't determined that. Okay, so obviously —. Mr. Lynch said, sir, I was referring to the wetlands bank. Chairman Hair asked, George [Lynch], how did it get on the surplus property list? Commissioner DeLoach said, right, right, okay, the wetlands bank. We haven't determined the wetlands bank. That's a valuable piece of —, I mean, that's valuable along there. Commissioner Murray said, 90 acres. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I'm just agreeing with Eddie [DeLoach]. I think we ought to pull that. Chairman Hair said, so we're going to decide we might have a use, right. Commissioner Saussy said, well, sure. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're going to have staff —. Commissioner Saussy said, we're going to decide whether we want to sell this property too. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner —. Commissioner Saussy said, it's our decision. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'll withdraw my —, I'll withhold my comment. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Jon [Hart]. Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, since that property is a lot of wetlands, can it be used? Attorney Hart said, I'm not as familiar as I need to be to give you an opinion of that. We're doing that in other places and it's certainly a possibility. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's what I'm talking about. At least if we could use that for some of the mitigation on some of these roads and things, then I think we need to keep it for that purpose. If not, then we need to do something with it, but we need to be able to answer —, somebody be able to answer that question for us before we just get rid of the property. Attorney Hart said, I don't know the answer, but we can find out the answer.

County Manager Abolt said, we'll assure it one way or the other.

Chairman Hair said, okay, the Chair will entertain a motion for the remaining three pieces of property absent the 90 acres. The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Rivers said, move for approval. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

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Commissioner Odell said, just a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, did we not have a motion on the table that was made by Dr. Thomas, I seconded, to approve the four and then we had no action on that motion —. Chairman Hair asked, are you talking about [inaudible] motion? Commissioner Odell said, no, I'm talking about the motion to sell the surplus. Commissioner Saussy said, it wasn't seconded, was it? Commissioner Odell said, yes, I —. Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Chairman Hair said, there was a second. Commissioner Odell said, I just —, just procedurally —. Commissioner DeLoach said, we messed up. Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, are you saying the motion was for all four pieces? Commissioner Odell said, yes? Attorney Hart said, yes, I think it was. Chairman Hair asked, Sybil [Tillman], was that right? Attorney Hart asked, for the three or the four? The Clerk said it was for the four. Commissioner Thomas said, I made the motion for the three —, for the four, or whatever. Commissioner Odell said, and you clarified it and said it's four, and I seconded it at that point. Chairman Hair said, okay, then we'll enter it —. Commissioner Murray said, I'd like to move that we reconsider that motion. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion to reconsider. Do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor of reconsideration vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, now —. Commissioner Thomas said, I move that we —, yes. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, I thought I heard you say three. Chairman Hair said, well, this was an error by —, the staff made an error, they —, on your paper here it says three, but the backup gives you four, okay. So that was the —, we discussed that error this morning. Mr. Lynch said, that was my fault. Chairman Hair said, yes. I discussed that with the County Manager this morning, Mr. Lynch. I'm sure you'll be hearing about it. Mr. Lynch said, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, I hope not.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Thomas moved that the County declare surplus for subsequent sale the following parcels of County property: 90 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to King's Ferry Park (PIN 11030-1001a), North Bunger Tract (PIN 10831-010001, approximately 10 acres of "landlocked" undeveloped property; a residential lot at 407 West Duffy (PIN 20052-25004), approximately 3,255 square feet; and a residential lot at 712 Lavina (PIN 20066-21006), approximately 3,750 square feet. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion.
2. Commissioner Rivers moved that, excluding the 90 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to King's Ferry Park (PIN 11030-1001a), the County declare surplus for subsequent sale the following three parcels of County property: North Bunger Tract (PIN 10831-010001, approximately 10 acres of "landlocked" undeveloped property; a residential lot at 407 West Duffy (PIN 20052-25004), approximately 3,255 square feet; and a residential lot at 712 Lavina (PIN 20066-21006), approximately 3,750 square feet. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
3. Commissioner Murray moved to reconsider the motion on this item. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
4. Commissioner Thomas moved that, excluding the 90 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to King's Ferry Park (PIN 11030-1001a), the County declare surplus for subsequent sale the following three parcels of County property: North Bunger Tract (PIN 10831-010001, approximately 10 acres of "landlocked" undeveloped property; a residential lot at 407 West Duffy (PIN 20052-25004), approximately 3,255 square feet; and a residential lot at 712 Lavina (PIN 20066-21006), approximately 3,750 square feet. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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4. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF COUNTY FUNDING FOR SEPTIC TANK STUDY. Final proposal yet to be submitted from Health Department.

Chairman Hair said, we need to delay that one because we've not heard from the Health Department yet as of the staff's recommendation this morning, so we'll leave Item #4. We just need to delay it and put it back on the agenda.

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5. **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.**
 - **JAIL - CLERICAL ASSISTANT II/CASHIER (ONE POSITION)**

• CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - CHILD SUPPORT SPECIALIST I (ONE POSITION)

Commissioner Odell said, I'll made the motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to Request Board to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Jail - Clerical Assistant II/Cashier (one position), and Child Support Enforcement - Child Support Specialist I (one position). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Action Calendar. I have two —, I just have questions so I guess I'll have to pull them just to get my question answered. I have a question on E and G, just a quick question. Anybody else want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Okay, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 11-E and 11-G. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach 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 24, 1998, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 24, 1998, as mailed. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 16, 1998, THROUGH APRIL 29, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 16, 1998, through April 29, 1998, in the amount of \$3,176,889. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, EAGLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR ST. JAMES PLACE, PHASE 2, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND CREATE A STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 1.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Eagle Development Group, to record the subdivision plat for St. James Place, Phase 2, accept the financial guarantee and create a Streetlighting Assessment District. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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- 4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE TWO REVISED CONTRACTS WITH GDOT FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION FOR THE HIGHWAY 17 WIDENING PROJECTS FROM BRYAN COUNTY LINE TO S.R. 204 (ABERCORN) AND S.R. 204 (ABERCORN) TO DEAN FOREST ROAD. [DISTRICTS 6 AND 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve two revised contracts with GDOT for right-of-way acquisition for the Highway 17 widening projects from Bryan County Line to S.R. 204 (Abercorn) and S.R. 204 (Abercorn) to Dean Forest Road. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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- 5. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF THE SEWERAGE LIFT STATION FOR THE MIGHTY 8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM TO THE CITY OF POOLER.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize the sale of the sewerage lift station for the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum to the City of Pooler. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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- 6. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNOR’S CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR A 1998 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL DRUG CONTROL AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM, AND COMMIT \$28,052 FROM THE POLICE CONFISCATED FUNDS ACCOUNT AS THE CASH MATCH REQUIRED BY THE GRANT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a grant application to the Governor’s Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a 1998 Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant Program, and commit \$28,052 from the Police Confiscated Funds Account as the cash match required by the grant. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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- 7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AND FORMALLY SUBMIT THE GRANT APPLICATION (ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COMMISSION) WRITTEN BY THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT. THE GRANT APPLICATION IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH REIMBURSABLE FUNDS ALREADY APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION FOR CONTINUATION OF A STATEWIDE K-9 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND REGIONAL K-9 TEAM AND ALSO TO INCREASE LOCAL K-9 RESPONSE TO EXPLOSIVE (BOMB) INCIDENTS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve and formally submit the grant application written by the Sheriff’s Department, which application is in conjunction with reimbursable funds already approved by the Commission for continuation of a Statewide K-9 certification program and regional K-9 team and also to increase local K-9 response to explosive (bomb) incidents. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE \$51,900 IN DISASTER MITIGATION FUNDS FROM THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND TO CREATE THE POSITION OF "PROJECT IMPACT COMMUNITY COORDINATOR."

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to Request Board approval to apply for and receive \$51,900 in disaster mitigation funds from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and to create the position of "Project Impact Community Coordinator." Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE CONTRACT WITH GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR USE OF ARMORY BY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO TRAIN POLL WORKERS ON NEW VOTING SYSTEM.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to contract the with Georgia National Guard for use of Armory by Board of Elections to train poll workers on new voting system. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF QUITCLAIM DEEDS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the execution of the following quitclaim deeds, the indebtedness for delinquent taxes having been satisfied: The Estate of George S. May, PIN 20033-07013, \$2,173.62; Sadie Quarterman, PIN 10637-07002, \$51.01; Willie Mae Perry, PIN 20050-10002, \$117.74; and John Sheppard, PIN 20042-12008, \$90.99. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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11. 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.)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Approve surplus property for sale (see staff report for list)				Revenue Producing
B. Exercise the first renewal option to the annual contract for automotive repair parts to replenish inventory stock on an as-needed basis	Fleet Operations	Brook Auto Parts	Same terms, conditions and no price increase	General Fund/M & O - Fleet Operation Inventory Account
C. Change Order No. 2 to the contract to raise DMCA 13A dikes and install weirs, underdrain pipe and construct additional dike embankments	Harbor Maintenance	Tri-State Consultants	\$3,667,505.50	General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT)
D. Agreements to provide funding to Chatham County for construction of dikes and drainage structures in DMCA's	Harbor Maintenance	GDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No. 50927-23-00-005, \$487,614 •No. 50927-24-00-001, \$406,020 •No. 50927-24-00-002, \$3,350,000 	Agreements make funds available to reimburse Chatham County for expenses incurred in maintenance of the Savannah River Harbor DMCA's
E. Forty (40) computers (less monitors)	Police	Dell Marketing	\$51,800	SSD - Police
F. 300 software licenses	I.C.S.	Entré Computer (MBE)	\$13,500	CIP - NetPlan
G. Amendment to lease/purchase agreement for the optical scan voting system	Board of Elections	Global Election Systems	\$8,395.32	Lease/Purchase - Board of Elections

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 11-A, 11-B, 11-C, 11-D and 11-F. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

Chairman Hair said, E. This is 40 computers less monitors for the Police Department for \$51,800. My question, Chief, is what are these going to be used for? Why 40? Can somebody tell me? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. This is part of the previous budget amendment you made on the law enforcement grant from the Department of Justice. They set up a special committee back in November and they made a recommendation —. Chairman Hair said, stop. I understand how it's being funding. My question is what are they going to be used for. What are we going to use 40 computers at the Police Department for? County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to Chief Sprague.

Chief Sprague said, Lt. Hopkins is the best source. Lt. Hopkins said, sir, these are replacement computers. We're running 386's now. We can't run it with —. Chairman Hair said, so all 40 are replacements. None of these are new computers? Lt. Hopkins said, no sir. Chairman Hair said, very good. Lt. Hopkins said, excuse me. There are some new computers in there. Chairman Hair asked, what are replacement and what are new? Lt. Hopkins said, 30 are replacements, 10 new. Chairman Hair said, so you've got 10 new. What are you going to use the 10 new ones for? Lt. Hopkins said, for people that don't have them now, sir, so they can access our data base system in the department.

Chairman Hair said, okay. The Chair will entertain a motion to approve Item E. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

Commissioner Odell said, let me just ask one —. What will we do with the old computers that have been replaced. County Manager Abolt said, what we do, sir, we declare them surplus. In the past there have been, as you know, some institution, educational and others that have expressed an interest. If they qualify, we'll come back to you. In the place of just selling them, we can in effect, with your action, approve a transfer of ownership. But again the issue of if they're so darn old, who wants them, but —. Commissioner Odell said, yes, but a lot of nonprofit organizations —. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, and you've done it before, I believe. Mr. Lynch said, schools and —. County Manager Abolt said, yes. Chairman Hair said, I'm sure we have —, don't we have —, we have a set of policy and procedures that deals with that I'm sure. Commissioner Thomas said, Summer Bonanza. Chairman Hair said, Dr. Thomas says Summer Bonanza. Thank you, George Lynch]. Commissioner Thomas said, we need them.

Chairman Hair said, the next item is Item G, amendment to lease/purchase agreement for the optical scan voting system. My question there only is we just approved this two or three weeks ago, why are we all of a sudden got a \$8300 amendment to this? County Manager Abolt said, the staff report documents a sequence of events since that —. Chairman Hair said, Georgie [Lynch], just give me a quick answer to that. A quick answer. Mr. Lynch said, quick answer. The financing was offered to us by Global, the manufacturer, at no stipulation that you had to meet a special criteria of being a bank qualified government, that means you borrow less than \$10 million a year. We were over that amount obviously because of the TAN's. Chairman Hair said, yes, we borrow a lot more than that. Mr. Lynch said, yes, unfortunately. Chairman Hair said, unfortunately. Mr. Lynch said, okay, the financing folks who were handling financing for Global said y'all don't qualify. Global, out of its pocket, the manufacturer, picked up over \$20,000 of the difference. They came to us and said how about you all picking up, the County, \$8,000 and change. We said no. We wanted to keep that 4.95 financing, which is great. We said, what are you going to give us for that addition? They offered us a third year warranty. The value of that warranty is around \$18,000, and we're recommending that we go ahead and take the deal. Just to give you something to compare with, one day of service on those machines after they are out of warranty, not counting transportation to and from Dallas, is \$800 a day.

Chairman Hair said, okay, my final question is why would we not know that before you submitted that to us for approval? Why would we not know we didn't qualify? Mr. Lynch said, because at that time, sir, the issue had not been raised by the finance company. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, I move to approve. Commissioners Saussy said second. Commissioner Thomas said second. Chairman Hair said, I have to approve and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 11-A, 11-B, 11-C, 11-D and 11-F. Commissioners Jackel and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]
2. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve Item 11-E. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
3. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Item 11-G. Commissioners Saussy and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was 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. AMENDMENTS TO RETIREMENT PLAN.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

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2. OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT ORDINANCE.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

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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. NOTE: AT MEETING OF APRIL 24, 1998, RECONSIDERATION WAS REQUESTED FOR THIS ITEM.

**MPC FILE NO. 98-12104-C
[DISTRICT 1.]**

Chairman Hair said, this first one has been withdrawn by the petitioner. We do need a motion just to remove it from second readings. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second to remove it from the agenda. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to remove this item from Second Readings at the request of Petitioner. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion —. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt the 1998 Revenue Ordinance. Commissioners Saussy and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was 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. STAFF RESPONSE TO STATE OF TREES III REPORT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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4. PRESENTATION BY ARCHITECT PAT SHAY AND STAFF COMMENTS REGARDING AN ALTERNATIVE OF RELOCATING TAG OFFICE TO SOUTHCHASE PROPERTY.

Chairman Hair said, we're going to have a presentation by Commissioner Powers and I think Pat Shay is going to also —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't think Pat [Shay] is here yet. Commissioner Jackel said, we need to hold that. Chairman Hair asked, is Danny Powers here? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, he's here, but he's not —. Chairman Hair asked, Danny [Powers], are you going to —? Tax Commissioner Powers said, I'm not ready yet. I'm waiting on Patrick Shay. I'll wave to you when he gets here. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, we won't recognize him. How soon we forget. Chairman Hair said, we'll go to our regular agenda and then come back to that item one Mr. Shay shows up.

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Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize [Tax] Commissioner Powers and Mr. Shay's going to make a 10 minute presentation on a tax office relocation. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Powers. Commissioner Odell asked, is this Mr. Danny? Chairman Hair said, this is Mr. Danny [Powers]. He has 10 minutes.

Commissioner Powers said, absolutely, 10 minutes. Chairman Hair said, and the clock has started, Danny [Powers]. Commissioner Saussy asked, who's that fellow you've got with you? Commissioner Powers said, we're here to do a brief presentation on the possible relocation of the tag office and if you'll just give us just a few minutes here we'll let you have it.

Mr. Patrick Shay said, good morning, Commissioners. My name is Patrick Shay and I'm with Gunn-Meyerhoff-Shay Architects. We were engaged by the County through a proposed process to do a feasibility study for a proposed new tag office in a location that's certainly familiar to me and I think familiar to most of you. The existing tag office has been evaluated from time to time on Hodgson Memorial Drive and found to be grossly inadequate to serve their needs. The idea has been forwarded that a site in the area of Southchase be considered as a possible location for a brand new tag office facility on the south side of our community. What we did was we took that charge from the County staff and we did a number of surveys. We met with Commissioner Powers and his key staff people. We toured the facility at Hodgson Memorial. We also toured the new facility on the west side and saw the conditions out there. Based on that, we formulated what we call a program. That program identified what the special needs were in order to accommodate the functions, both now and in the near future. One of the things that we discussed was rather than trying to design a facility that would only meet the needs as we see them at this moment, we also tried to crystal ball-gaze a little bit and look ahead in the next three to five years and project for those needs as well. Commissioner Powers let us know that there was already a very large growth —, increase in the growth rate as well as in the number of tags that are being issued, probably indicative of the growth in Chatham County as a whole. So we built that into the program. We also did some evaluating of the existing site conditions. We toured the site on foot, selected an area that looked like a high probability location for the building, and through Mr. Lynch arranged for there to be a soil investigation of the property. We also had access, through our site consultants, EMC Engineering, on the property, to some of the topographic work and some of the engineering work that was done for the adjacent shopping center. So we feel like we have a pretty good handle on the existing conditions there in terms of topography and vegetation and underlying soil conditions, and those are figured into the costs that I'll explain in a minute. After we had all that information, we prepared a preliminary design, really sort of a glorified sketch of how the building itself might be laid out. I have copies of that here and I can show those to you if you'd like to see the floor plan itself, but perhaps more importantly I have the site plan that's here. I don't know whether you got a copy of the site plan in your staff report or not —. Oh, you did? Okay, good. Well, I'll refer to it up here and you can refer to it from your package. Essentially, the land fronts on Abercorn Extension, in this area [indicating]. This is the existing shopping Center parking lot. There's actually on this corner right here a Christian book store, so you can orient yourselves, and further on down some other restaurants. Lowe's and Home Depot are also located in this same area. There's an area in the front here that was reserved for the arrival of the Phase V of the Truman Parkway at such time as it's able to tie into Abercorn Extension. That was the subject of some controversy during my tenure on the Commission. As a result of that the Commission decided to go ahead and early acquire all of this parcel to prevent having to buy it, as I recall, at major high prices as opposed to post-development price. What we did was we looked at placing the building and the necessary parking between that setback and the Wilshire Canal here within a site area of about four acres. In the middle of that reserving the area that would be necessary for the interchange at a later date, and also saving up, I think, about another 10 acres that's on the back side of the site itself. After going through this exercise, we met with Commissioner Powers and reviewed our plans. He at that time, at least, was satisfied that we'd done an okay job of getting everything written down on the plan. And after we received blessing, we received a cost estimate. Now our cost estimate was not extremely detailed because we did not do a detailed set of construction documents, but you did meet with an estimator that is currently doing estimates in the market place, review the plans, also we got good feedback on the site development costs numbers. We were especially concerned. We didn't want to present to you the cost to do a building and then come back and say, oh my gosh, we have a big cost overrun because of the site development. I think we've all as Commissioners had enough experience with that over the past several years. We didn't want to put you in that position. The total amount of the estimate that we prepared for you is approximately \$1.2 million. That would include the cost of the building, the cost of the site development, the parking areas, the utilities, and so forth, and it would also include the furnishings. If I read the staff report right, the staff also recommended setting aside another \$100,000 for reserve for technology We didn't figure office machinery, telephones and those kinds of things. We're not qualified to make a recommendation in that regard. Since that time we've also had an opportunity to meet with the County Engineer. He was furnished a copy of this report and had some concerns, I believe, about making sure that we not only reserve the amount that was originally indicated, but also that there be an additional buffer in case the alignment of the interchange changed, and we reviewed that and we still feel comfortable that although we would have to modify the site layout somewhat, that it would fit within the area —, the target area that we were asked to study, and that the cost estimate would still be, at least as good as we can predict at this point, on target.

Chairman Hair asked, any questions? We —, Commissioner Powers and the County Manager and the County Engineer and myself, and I think —, I don't know if that was all. We met out there about —, probably what? About six weeks ago, Danny [Powers], something like that, and to look at the site, and it is —, it's an excellent site for this type of facility. Great access, very convenient and it fits —, Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Thomas said, when you're through. Chairman Hair said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Thomas said, whenever you're finished. Chairman Hair said, yes, I'm through.

Commissioner Thomas said, oh, I just wanted to say that I really feel that this is needed. I don't believe in patching. I think, you know, the more we continue to patch, in the long run as we move towards the new millennium and as we look for greater services to this County, we really need to look forward to expanding that facility. I would like to ask what other resources would you have for this project other than what you're requesting at this time? For instance, the building itself, I mean, will you be —, will we sell that building? Commissioner Powers said, well, that's —, that's one of the proposals that we're talking

about. We right now have \$400,000 that's been set aside —. Commissioner Thomas said, for this. Commissioner Powers said, for renovation for Hodgson Memorial, okay. That money could be used. The sale of the Hodgson facility, and then, you know, whatever that would turn out, and then go beyond that. Commissioner Thomas said, then you may have to seek some —. Commissioner Powers said, seek other funding, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, funding for it.

Chairman Hair said, I can assure you that if we were to sell that facility that would more than make up the difference and probably —. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Chairman Hair said, would give us some buffer there in addition. I thought it was \$500,000, Danny [Powers]. You said 400, I thought it was half a million. Commissioner Powers said, well, it started out, I believe, at 400, 450, 430, somewhere in that range, but I understand some of that money's been dwindled out of there, but it's down to about 400. Hopefully we're going to be back to the 430. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price asked, Danny [Powers], where do you envision this going and at what pace and by when do you —? Commissioner Powers said, pardon me, I was listening to George [Lynch]. Commissioner Price said, that's okay. How soon are you trying to get this done is the real question? And the reason I asked that is because we haven't yet been given the determination from the Federal Highway Administration nor the EPA about Phases III, IV and V of the Truman Parkway, so we don't know for sure exactly —, we have a pretty good idea of where this is going to end up, where the overpass is going to come and what part of the front of this we're going to need, but we don't have the official approval of it yet, and even in some of the engineers drawings on what your site plan is about, it shows that maybe more than what was originally thought would be needed, and I don't know how that —, how your footprint or how that affects your footprint, you know, in that regard. Commissioner Powers said, well, Ben [Price], in regard to that I think if push came to shove we could move it beyond that canal. I mean, I don't think that that site would actually be set in stone. Chairman Hair said, I can also say, Ben [Price], in answer to your question, that was one of the reasons we went out there. We spent an hour or so out there. We walked that site and you take the greatest fudge factor that you want for that intersection, and we used Al Bungard, our County Engineer, as the person giving that fudge factor, and he's comfortable with that layout, that maximum amount of acreage that will be needed for any proposed intersection.. Commissioner Price said, he may be comfortable with the fact that it's feasible, but I don't think that the County Engineer is comfortable forging ahead with this at this point. I mean, I've heard for some of the staff at the County Engineering Department, and I'm not saying, Danny [Powers], that I'm opposed to this, I just want to go/ —, I want to be cautious about how we do this, and let me show you —. Commissioner Powers said, well, you've given news that I haven't heard. Chairman Hair said, I haven't either. Commissioner Price said, well, let me tell you why. One of the things that concerns me is that is going to be a very valuable out parcel of land. Certainly, it's going to be highly sought after. I asked the question, what has this investment that the County has made, what is it worth now? And, Pat [Shay], when you were on the Commission, we made that decision, and it was a controversial decision to go ahead and buy these 20 acres. I think it was somewhere around four and a quarter —. Mr. Ken Earls said, \$4.2. Commissioner Price said, \$4.2 million, and they're saying that now per acre it's \$260,000 to \$300,000 per acre, so, I mean, that's, you know, that's a pretty good return from I think was around \$200,000 an acre is what we paid for it, somewhere in that neighborhood. My point is this. We need to be able to take at some point in time and use that property to fund the rest of the right-of-way acquisition for Phase V of the Truman Parkway. What I don't want to do is see us come in and do something that's going to lessen the value overall of the property that we have there as an asset to recoup and be able to do that with. I don't think, and —, is any of the Engineering staff here? County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Bungard had to be away, sir. Commissioner Price asked, Is anybody else here? County Manager Abolt said, not on this. I can respond a little bit to it. I can explain, I think, what you may have heard. I don't know if you talked to Mr. Bungard or not. As the Chairman said, we have walked and we are aware of the situation. The caution from Mr. Bungard is that he wants, as you're saying, to ensure that whatever happens with the balance of the property or if you choose not to do it here, that the resale value, including the Legislative intent would be that that money would be used to continue the right-of-way acquisition for Phase V. Absent that\ we're in trouble financially. Chairman Hair said, or some of it. Not, not —. Commissioner Price said, well, let me read what I'm hearing from Engineering, as well as some of the people that we have, like with Moreland-Altobelli that are working on the right-of-way acquisition and some of the concerns they had: Please note any develop —, any plan to develop a portion of the property located between the proposed Truman Parkway right-of-way and the existing 60-foot drainage easement could effectively landlock the remain 13 acres, plus or minus, portion located north of the drainage easement. Please see the attached plat which illustrates the available access via the interior funded growth behind Applebee's. It should also be noted that carving up the property in a piecemeal fashion at this time could negatively impact the remainders value [sic] and it's future marketability. Chairman Hair asked, who is that from? Commissioner Price said, that's from Billy Gordon. He's the project manager for all of our right-of-way acquisitions with Moreland-Altobelli, and I'll be glad to share this with any of you, Billy [Hair]. I mean, it was copied out —, but my point is I don't want to kill the project, I'm not opposed to the project, I just want us to go with caution in understanding all these variables before we make any final decisions. You're not here today for a final decision from us, are you? Commissioner Powers said, well, I'm here —, yes, I am to just get —, let's move forward. Commissioner Price said, well, I mean, you know, there's a lot of questions we have as to where's the money going to come from to build it. Commissioner Odell said, you've got \$400,000. Chairman Hair said, you need a million two. Commissioner Powers said, we've got four —, that's what George [Lynch] was —, well, we've got 478, okay. Chairman Hair said, so you need 730. Commissioner Powers said, so we need about 730, and the sale of the Hodgson facility should bring that. Commissioner Price asked, is the sale imminent? I mean, do you have a contract —. Commissioner Powers said, no, we don't, but don't you have it out on —. Chairman Hair said, well, you have —, you would also have to —, as far as —, you've got a timing problem, too, because you'd have to vacate the facility before you could declare it surplus, and then when you declare it surplus you've got to follow the State law in terms of getting rid of the surplus property, so you'd have a cash flow situation that we'd have to find some source to fund that 730,000 from, and again —, of course, again, if that facility didn't bring in that amount of money, we'd have a deficit there too, but I think that —, I don't know, Danny [Powers], if —, it seems to me that maybe we need to maybe get staff and you to come back and sort of deal with these issues we're talking about and bring something back to us in two weeks as far as how we're going to address these issues, how we're going to address the cash flow issue. I mean, they're all workable, they're all doable, but I think that to make a decision today without those questions being answered would be —, not to be —. Commissioner Powers said, that's, that's —, yes, that's fair enough. Chairman Hair said, and I think two weeks would be enough time for you to get with staff and address these issues and how —, what our alternatives are in dealing with each one of these issues, and then I think bring it back in two weeks and I think we can give you a decision.

County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, sir. We're that close. I think you've got some sequence issues, like the Chairman said, and the issue is, yes, there's almost \$500,000 there to remodel the facility that I think from the get-go that there was always interest in doing some place —, something some place else. Realizing the request of Commissioner Powers, which

is a facility larger than he has now, we know we have a challenge in making the dollars work out. Just as the Chairman said, our plan had been, and this was not site specific, but essentially we'll be allowed to, and not be creative, but be —, go out on the market and say we have the Hodgson property, we have this timing of relocation, we have state law for redistribution, and in effect begin to advertise it and see what we have. We've done it before. It gives you maximum options. Whether it goes on Southchase or whether it goes someplace else, we would know we have an asset in the name of the Hodgson property, and we have just under a half a million dollars. Now what can we do to satisfy the tax commissioner's [inaudible]? That's fairly easily done.

Chairman Hair said, so let's direct staff to do that, and in the next two weeks, and then come back in two weeks and we'll have some options. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Saussy said, one of the concerns of the Engineer was the location of this. Is there a possibility, Pat [Shay], of locating it any further back that it wouldn't affect the overall —? Commissioner Powers said, yes, that was the comment I as going to make. That could definitely be done. Chairman Hair said, see, that's very good. I think that's the options they need to work on, David [Saussy], and bring back to us in two weeks. I think just come back to us. So, Danny [Powers], are you comfortable with that, Danny [Powers]. Commissioner Powers said, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, give it two weeks, get with staff and deal with these issues. I'm sure Pat [Shay] will be glad to assist you in any of the site location issues, okay. And then come back in two weeks, and --.

Commissioner DeLoach said, Billy [Hair], I need to make sure that we get the most value out of the property that we have out there. Chairman Hair said, absolutely, absolutely. Commissioner DeLoach said, so whatever we do, design or whatever on where we stick it, the main thing is we need to recoup all the money we can for right-of-way acquisition. Chairman Hair said, absolutely, and also that was one of the reasons that we walked that property that morning was to —, you know, we looked at all kinds of alternatives out there, and I think that's a good idea. So we'll proceed with that, Danny [Powers], we'll have the staff work with you in the next two weeks and bring back something on the 22nd.

Commissioner Price said, Billy [Hair], one last thing. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Price asked, can we have any —, can we get a —, in two weeks, Russ [Abolt], can we get some type of reading on what effects on the value of that property this would have from an appraiser or somebody who could give us some estimates. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, sir, I believe the County Attorney is very much on top of that and at a later time he may want to discuss that with you. Commissioner Price said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, in another setting, sir. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Thank you, Danny [Powers], thank you, Pat [Shay]. Commissioner Odell said, I think the Sheriff wanted to support your program [inaudible]. Commissioner Powers said, I'm sure he did. Chairman Hair said, Danny [Powers], let the record show your 10 minutes went to 24 minutes, but that's okay. I know you're much better at keeping up with our tax money than you are with your watch, okay. Commissioner Powers said, thank you, sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff directed to come back in two weeks with options for the Board's consideration.

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5. STATUS OF MOTHER MATILDA BEASLEY PARK CONSTRUCTION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE CONSENT AGREEMENT WITH GALBREATH CLEARING AND GRADING, INC.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to place this item on the agenda and approve a consent agreement with Galbreath Clearing and Grading, Inc., and Ron Spann, Owner, in the matter of Galbreath Borrow Pit, Bush Road, Savannah, Georgia. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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APPOINTMENTS:

1. CHATHAM-EFFINGHAM-LIBERTY REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to reappoint Michael Terry and Theodore M. Albert and appoint Oscar L. White and Richard Riley to serve on the C-E-L Regional Library Board with terms to expire June 30, 2001. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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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