

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON JUNE 12, 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, June 12, 1998.

=====

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Thomas introduced The Reverend William E. Gardner, Jr., Minister of Music, Bull Street Baptist Church, who gave the invocation.

=====

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

=====

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 9:45 a.m.)
- Ben Price, District Six
- Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

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

=====

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, first we're going to have recognition of the Grants-in-Aid. We just need your consent. We don't need to take a vote on that if there are no objections to it. Okay.

[NOTE: By general consent, the order of business was changed and Proclamations and Special Presentations, Items VII-1 through VII-3, were heard at this point on the agenda.]

=====

V. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. TRAFFIC CONCERNS, WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD (LEE BOURNE).

The first one is an item that I placed on the agenda. We have Col. Lee Bourne here today, that's going to express some comments and concerns about the traffic, I believe, on Wilmington Island. Chairman Hair recognized Col. Bourne.

Col. Bourne said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. Several of the Commissioners said, good morning. Col. Bourne said, the Islands Citizens for Logical Growth, which I'm the founder, has been for the last six years bringing to the attention the Chatham County Commission and Metropolitan Planning Commission and others the need for maintaining the quality of life on Wilmington Island. The last six years has seen Wilmington Island grow from about 10,000 or 12,000 population to about 22,000 population. We have been bringing for your attention the fact that Wilmington Island Road has been bearing the brunt of this particular expansion and that there is a need for improvement along the Wilmington Island Road and the Johnny Mercer Complex. This is from the area and point of view of safety as being one of the requirements and demands of the citizens and of the government for Commissioners to ensure —, in the protection of their citizens. The majority of the development on the Islands unfortunately has been peripheral to Wilmington Island Road and, therefore, Wilmington Island Road has not been under too much consideration. The —, however, it has become one of the major arterials that has connected it —, has become —, has come to the forefront just recent —. As you recall, at the last meeting of the Commission you were talking about the gambling boat and the fact that there was some traffic problems involved in addition to some other problems, and Wilmington Island Road as it now stands, there are three major developments that are under development along Wilmington Island Road: the Turner's Cove, which is at the juncture of Johnny Mercer Boulevard and Wilmington Island Road, will have 72 town homes, the Summer Breeze Assisted Living Facility, which will have 55 in-house patients plus 26 cottages for the elderly, the Sheraton Inn and Golf Course with plans for 52 condo town homes plus the development and improvement of the golf course clubhouse that will have a new curbcut on Wilmington Island Road. The expansion will have a direct effect on traffic along Wilmington Island Road because the present 220 membership at the golf course I'm sure is not going to be Mike Foster's goal. I'm sure with 100 golf carts underneath the clubhouse he wants a lot of people on the golf course. Future development of the old hotel, that's call the Sheraton Inn, is still under development because they've not turned loose where they want to go with it. We would —, (coughing). Excuse me, I have not worn a tie for many years. I don't wear [inaudible] any more, so it's a little difficult. The —, as these developments have intensified over the years, we've talked to everyone involving the public safety, we've talked to Commissioners and, as I said, the Metropolitan Planning Commission, and we've even raised the issue at the beginning when our first difficulty came up with the Publix in 1992 when they put the Publix on the juncture of Johnny Mercer and Wilmington Island Road, that there was a traffic —, pending traffic problem and a traffic problem. Of course, the developer hired a County —, a traffic engineer who came out, but since he works for the developer, he said there was no major traffic problem, however, there was a need for a traffic light. The traffic light was installed. The feelings that developed out of that perhaps were negative insofar as the ICLG was concerned, but I assure the purpose and function of the ICLG is not negative. We are for development and we are for concerns for maintaining the quality of life on the Islands, particularly the safety of the citizens. The development, or the pressure that has come to us from the various residents and the members of the ICLG to do something about Wilmington Island Road in particular, I guess came to fruition Monday when I met with the County Engineer and Mr. Vince Grevemberg. We sat down and we looked at the situation. I gave you some —, I gave Commissioner Murray some maps a couple of weeks ago for y'all to look at. I don't know if you saw them or not, but the area of the complex of Johnny Mercer, Wilmington Island Road and Wilmington Village Road forms a triangle. It is a very complicated triangle that needs something done to it. The County Engineer agrees that something needs to be done to it, and, however, he says there's no money for it. And I guess that's the main reason that I'm here to ask you to, as the Chatham County Commissioners, the ones who have to grant money and grant the authority to do this, to take action now to correct the situation at the Wilmington Island Road and Johnny Mercer juncture in order to improve not only the quality of life of its citizens on the Islands, but the safety factors. Wednesday I was in Columbia at the Forest Hills —, going through the Forest Hills community [inaudible], and I noticed that although people talk about traffic lights and too many traffic lights, that in the Forest Hills area in a place, I went a distance of about a half a mile, there were six traffic lights. Their were merging roads and what have you, there were other shopping centers, and these traffic lights were about almost a block, or some a half a block away, and the traffic moves very efficiently, but it also moves very slowly. One of the problems we have on Wilmington Island right now is when they come over the bridge they look at it as a speedway when they hit it in at least 10 miles in excess of the speed limits. Since summer is here and schools are out, there's a lot of construction going on on the Islands, I think this was be the more appropriate time for this matter to be directed, and I call upon you, the Commissioners, to take action immediately. Do you have any questions?

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Col. Bourne. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], the drawing that they gave us, where does that stand right now as far as any recommendations on it? County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Bungard is very familiar with it. As Col. Bourne said, there was a meeting earlier this week. We can come back at your next meeting with not only an analysis of the proposal, but also some funding options. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Murray said, you know, there is a funding option out there because we have a project that we haven't done that could be deemed infeasible to do and use those funds to do this because it would have to be used on roads to do it, and that would give us plenty of funds to do what needs to be done on the Wilmington Island Road and other areas. County Manager Abolt said, we'll come back to you —, if it's permissible, we'll come back to you on the 26th.

Chairman Hair asked, and that would —, that flyover would be considered at that time? Commissioner Murray asked, how did you know it was the flyover? Chairman Hair said, because you and I talked about it. Thank you, Col. Bourne. Thank you very much. We'll have staff come back with us with some options we can take.

Col. Bourne said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I hope I'm not taking too much of your time. Chairman Hair said, no, not at all, sir. Thank you.

=====

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel, with your permission I'm going to move Virginia Edwards up since you've got three items —. Commissioner Jackel said, sure. Chairman Hair said, that you're going to present.

[NOTE: By general consent, Item VI-2 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.]

=====

VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. COUNTY HEALTH PLAN (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Chairman Hair said, next we have Commissioner Jackel, and I'm going to suggest that since you have three items, Commissioner Jackel, you just talk about them all at one time, the health plan, the planning retreat —. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't want to overwhelm you now. Chairman Hair said, well, just be aware [unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time]. Commissioner Jackel said, y'all come back in about two hours. Commissioner Price asked, do we need a recess for this? Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel, be aware of the size of our agenda today.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, this is somewhat along the lines of what Ms. Virginia Edwards was up here talking about, and I was really glad to see her up here bringing this to our attention. My wife had a small thing checked with her doctor and we have had some problems getting the bills straight, and one of the bills came in and it said the plan does not pay for routine Pap smears, and I talked to a couple of other County employees and they told me that's true. And then I heard other things about, well, you get \$150 for a physical every two years, and that can be applied to it. And then I called our insurance —, the people that take care of our insurance plan, Jones, Hill & Mercer, and of course it took them a full week to return my phone call, which surprised me a little bit, but after they finally got back to me they told me that that was an error and what had been printed on the bill was incorrect, that they would pay for Pap smears. But I'm not sure what the real story is since this was —, looked like it was computer generated and printed on the bill: We do not pay for routine Pap smears. Now, if we're not doing that, we're being penny wise but pound foolish. We're not going to detect cancer and we're going to pay a lot of money down the road. It's not good for our people and it's not good for the health of our people and it just doesn't make economic sense, and I'm also getting conflicting stories on what the policy is about mammograms. Now I have talked with Beverly Whitehead, and she has told me that they would pay for both of those things, that the most that could happen was if it's not covered, then you can pay the \$10 co-payment and you can have these things. I think we need to get this thing straightened out, get it clear. People shouldn't be getting the wrong information on their bills, and we need to put the word out to our employees so all our employees know that they can get these mammograms, they can get these Pap smears, and they're not going to have to pay extra for them, and we need to encourage them to do so. So I would urge the staff and County through their newsletter and make sure that this information is corrected. Whatever the correct information is, and that it gets put out.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price asked, isn't that a matter what the structure of our health Plan is itself? Commissioner Jackel said, well, I'm getting different information. I'm hearing now that that's included, but, you know, I received a printed bill that said differently, so I want —, let's get it straightened out and let's get the correct information out, whatever it is. If it is what I understand it to be now that we do pay for these things, then we're in good shape. If not, I'll be back here telling you that we need to adjust our plan.

Chairman Hair said, maybe we just need to get the correct information on that. Commissioner Jackel said, that's the point. Chairman Hair said, we can make sure, Russ [Abolt], that we do that. County Manager Abolt said, my understanding is there has to be some corrections regarding the coverage of Pap smear, but we'll come back to you on the 26th with a complete report.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff to report to the Commission at the next meeting regarding the coverage of Pap smears and mammograms under the County's health plan.

=====

2. VIRGINIA EDWARDS (CHAIRMAN HAIR AND COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Chairman Hair said, we have with us this morning our Superintendent of Schools, Virginia Edwards, and she wants to talk to us. Commissioner DeLoach, do you want to say anything before?

Commissioner DeLoach said, I can kind of lead into it. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers asked, is it about school? Commissioner DeLoach said, no, no. It's about a School Superintendent. But, no, Ms. Virginia Edwards came to me, it's probably been over a month ago now, concerned about a problem she was having out at Henderson Park with the —, an individual builder out there, and in the process of talking through it, we have met with the builder, we've had —, Cecil Abarr's attempted to meet with the builder who is —. Cecil Abarr is the one that is selling lots out there for Henderson Park. We made an attempt to try to come to some understanding on

this. Ms. Virginia [Edwards] has made a number of attempts to try to take care of the situation and we've not been able to do it. We just couldn't get anywhere with it, so she asked for an opportunity to come here to speak and I felt like she deserved that opportunity due to the fact that this is a —, this is a County development as such, and I wanted her to have an opportunity to speak based on that fact. So, Ms. Virginia Edwards, if you would please come forward. Chairman Hair said, come forward please.

Ms. Virginia Edwards said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Ms. Edwards said, I want to take you for giving me an opportunity to be here before the Commissioners this morning to speak about an issue as a citizen and also as a home owner. Hopefully, it will be long term in the Henderson community, a community I think holds promise not only for the County, but for the community and this City as well. But if the quality of construction in Henderson, if my home is an example of the quality, then the promise for that community is going to be short-lived and that promise diminished by the quality of work that's going on out there, if my house is to serve as an example, coupled with a cavalier and insensitive attitude on the part of the builder. And from what I can see, the builder has substantial building projects out there, and I would hope that there will not be a repeat of the construction that I'm having to deal with, the problems I'm having to deal with since January of this year. If you will indulge me for a few minutes. My house was supposed to have been completed December 31st of '97. It was not, it was behind the time line, and I imagine, based on the way the house was thrown together, the contractor took his time and when his loan time line was running out, then he just threw the house together. For example, I moved in February 28th of '98, and as soon as I moved into the house I realized there were problems. Now I'm not into construction, I'm an educator, but I do know what quality is and I do know what I expect to get for my money. I do not expect to get a \$200,000 house for \$161,000, but I do expect that what I pay for that it's going to be quality and I'm not going to have to go in there and do anything to that house within less than two months. I informed the builder that there was a leak under the sink in March and that the hot water and cold water, the lines were reversed. No attention was given and on Thursday, April the 9th, my house flooded. By the end of the day they pumped 117 gallons of water. I have been living in one room since this happened. The contractor was out of town, he made no effort to get in contact with me, and when he returned to town, it was a very cavalier attitude about when and how this was going to be taken care of. In addition, at the closing there were some items that were outstanding, but because we have the same attorney and I was assured that if I closed these items would be taken care of. Very simple things. For an example, I've yet to have installed in a palladium window some decorative art work. That only happened in April. The turnkey for a gas fireplace remains not there. A screen porch was constructed not using quality wood. In fact, I've hired someone to come in and inspect the quality of construction, and they found 25 outstanding construction problems, and this is from a trained contractor. The tile in the bathroom, in the master bath, is cracking. There are cracks in the walls. The flooring in the dining area is not level. I had furniture delivered the other day. They couldn't place it on the floor because it won't stand level. It's leaning. When the deliverymen came to the door, they rang the doorbell and the doorbell fell out. They was handing —, when I opened the door, they said, Ms. Edwards, here's your doorbell, what you want us to do with it. There are uneven eaves on the side of the house. Maybe he thought because I am a woman that I wouldn't pay any attention to these things. Well, I'm not stupid, and I do not plan to accept this house and I plan to do whatever I need to do to be satisfied and happy. So I'm here this morning to ask you who inspected this house in the County? Who signed off on a house where there are walls that are bowing out, that are off line? And I don't mean they're subtle. Very obvious to the eye. As a result of the flooding, water got into the sheetrock and the walls are swollen. You can see that they're pregnant around the bottom. And you're asking and promoting Henderson as a promising community. I don't think so if you're going to allow construction work of this type to take place. And if there are County inspectors going out there inspecting and signing off, then I wonder what's going on. So I'm here today to ask your assistance in addition to legally assistance that I have gotten to get some attention to the problem. I do not plan for the warranty to run out and be there a year before I get attention. So I'm here today to ask you to assist me because I think that Henderson is an investment to this County and to the community, and I do not think that the Commission wants to lose money in Henderson, and I plan to have my own open house. I have a list here of the outstanding problems, and if you're welcome, I'll take you on a tour. I've got pictures and a video tape. Let me know when you're ready. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Ms. Edwards, thank you very much. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Price said, Virginia —.

Commissioner Murray said, the only thing that you brought up was probably the first item that could have been due to rain that we had during that time of the year that —. Ms. Edwards said, it was not rain. I had —. Commissioner Murray said, no, I'm not finished. Wait a minute. I not defending the contractor. I don't even know who the contractor was, but the only thing that could have taken it longer than December 31st to be built with all the rain we had during the latter part and the first part of this year, but the rest of what you said, I agree with you. The Inspections Department should have caught a lot of it, and I don't know who inspected the house, but I've got complaints from other people. I've talked with Russ [Abolt], I've talked with you a little bit about some of the things from time to time, and I just think something needs to be done. I don't know what from a legal standpoint, what we as a County Commission can do with the contractor, but we can certainly have the inspections addressed and that side of it because things like that shouldn't happen. It's not just happening in your area, it's happening all over this community, and we've got some real good contractors out there. It's unfortunate that we have some that try to take advantage of people. But the other thing I would recommend too that you might check, and you've been there long enough that if it hadn't been done you would have seen it, but to make sure that even though they give a signed affidavit when they do a closing that all the bills have been paid to the suppliers. That does not always happen. They sign off on that without a lot of bills not being paid. If they hadn't been paid, I'm sure someone would have filed a lien on your property by now and you would have known about it, but that also happens too, so there's a lot going on that needs to be corrected, but there's a very few of the contractors out there doing these type things. Most of them are good contractors and do a good job with it, but some try to get by as cheaply as they can and charge you as much as they can.

Ms. Edwards said, well, and you bring up a point, if you would allow me to make one other —. Commissioner Price said, sure. Ms. Edwards said, comment, and that is when I purchased the house and they have a price list, and the lot was listed for \$29,000. I recently asked for an updated price list and they're showing my house listed as \$105,000. Well, the bank loan is \$137,000 and I've invested \$161,000 in it, and I called and I asked, please explain to me the cost of \$105,000 listed next to my house on this list, and I was told that's the cost of your house without the lot and any upgrades. Well, if you add the cost of the lot to \$105,000, it's still not a hundred —, the house sold for \$144,000. That still doesn't add up to \$144,000. So where's the money? Why is my house listed as \$105,000 on a published price list and I'm —, as I said, I —. Commissioner Price asked, [inaudible] County Assessors on this? Ms. Edwards asked, pardon? Commissioner Price asked, Tax Assessors' office did this? Ms. Edwards said, no, this was done —. Chairman Hair said, she's

talking about the listing for sales —. Ms. Edwards said, the sale is \$105,000 when I've got \$161,000 invested in it and then it was listed as \$144,000.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Rivers in just a second. I think it would be appropriate, Russ [Abolt], for us to have —, look from our standpoint to see —. County Manager Abolt said, we'll give you a complete report, sir. Chairman Hair said, and make a report to all the Commissioners as to what you found out. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, that's what I was going to ask, that the staff —. Chairman Hair said, all right. I think that's —. Commissioner Rivers said, because we're looking at the Inspections Department. The people who inspected the house, and I would also like to ask Jon [Hart] —, Jon [Hart], what kind of exposure do we have in that case being that our inspector —? County Attorney Hart said, well, matters pertaining to County liability, if any, I'd like to discuss that in Executive Session, but insofar as what Commissioner Murray stated earlier, the County's ability is basically limited to those powers granted to the Inspections Department. Any other matter beyond those matters contained in the Inspections Department Ordinance is really a matter of a private contract between two parties. I mean, I certainly sympathize with Ms. Edwards with that situation. It's a horrible situation to be in, but the County's going to probably have to address it from an Inspections Department standpoint, and that's probably the limitation that they can. Commissioner Rivers asked, Mr. Chairman Hair, is it possible to move that our Executive agenda for discussion? Chairman Hair said, I think we could today. If you want to add that, we could always add that. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Chairman Hair said, we can always add that. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, exactly. Thank you very much. Commissioner Jackel has a question, I think, or a comment.

Commissioner Jackel asked, how did you wind up with this contractor? Ms. Edwards asked, pardon? Commissioner Jackel asked, how did you wind up with this contractor? Ms. Edwards said, when I toured Henderson, it was highly recommended by the realtor, and when we went into the sales office one of the brokers in the sales office recommended this contractor. And in relation to the flood damage, the problem was, and I have the bill for it, that the drain lines were improperly connected and they broke loose. That's what caused the flooding, the flooding in the house. Commissioner Jackel asked, did you check any references of the builder or check to go see any houses that he built? Ms. Edwards said, yes, the model house was a much better quality of house than he built, from the eye. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand. I don't know all the ins and outs of Inspections, but it's my basic understanding that our inspectors inspect mostly for safety. They don't go in and inspect it from an owner's point of view, but they do check certain safety type things, such as the basic support of the building and whether gas lines are connected properly or the heater is installed properly, those sort of things. I don't —, we'll have to look at how much more we can do or what we need to do. We certainly need to do that. Ms. Edwards said, well, any assistance that you can give, I'll appreciate it. In the teacher's profession, if you have poor quality of work you lose your license. Maybe that's the answer.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Edwards. Commissioner Murray has one quick comment.

Commissioner Murray said, I've just got one other comment. You'd said that the realtor and several people had recommended the contractor. I'm certainly not an attorney, but you might check with your attorney. We've been told as a company that if we recommend people to do jobs for people and something is wrong, we're just as liable as that person who did the job, so we don't recommend. So you might look at that side of it too. Ms. Edwards said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Edwards. Thank you, Commissioner, for bringing that to our attention.

=====

3. COMMISSIONERS' PLANNING RETREAT (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Commissioner Jackel said, I am very proud of what this Commission has accomplished in the last year and, of course, I would like for us to do better in the future. I believe a short retreat where we could do planning for the future would be beneficial. We need to set some definite goals and priorities. I think this meeting is somewhat a model of how we go from putting out this fire to that fire. We need to do some immediate planning and some long range planning, and I think it's time for us to have some sort of retreat. I would hope that this retreat could be in Chatham County. I would hope that maybe we could do it on a Friday and a Saturday, maybe have the Friday count as a meeting, so we wouldn't necessarily tie up the whole weekend, but anything that we could do to isolate ourselves, pool our resources and knowledge, have the staff come in with a plan where we could set goals and priorities. I think it would help us a great deal often with certain issues. It would clarify it. We hear a lot of things that really sound good and a lot of things I would like to do, but taxing our people and not taxing our people any more, reduce the taxes, I think, everybody agrees is a primary goal, and if we set that and we talk about it, then we can hold certain of these good ideas up against that goal and maybe we would reach different decisions. But there are many good reasons for it, and I would like for us to consider that.

Chairman Hair said, I think that's a good idea. I would like to see us, however, combine that with some of the other things we do, like budget workshops and all those kinds of things, so we don't have, you know, we don't do it in separate meetings. I think we could do all this together and really accomplish the goal a lot quicker. Does everybody agree with that, or do y'all have any —? Commissioner Price said, sure. Chairman Hair asked, does anybody have any objections to that if we sort of maybe think about planning one, but also maybe combine it with some general workshop kinds of things as well? Do y'all —. Commissioner Jackel said, that would be great. Chairman Hair asked, would that be appropriate?

Commissioner Saussy said, since we've got the budget coming in, we might be able to [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, that's what I'm thinking. Maybe, Commissioner Jackel, do you agree with that? Maybe sometime in September and do it in conjunction with the budget workshops and do it all together, I think, as opposed to having —, because I think if we do the planning retreat and then do the budget workshops separate, I think that, you know, we're not necessarily going to accomplish what we need to accomplish.

Commissioner Price said, just remember when any more than four of us meet, the public is invited. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Oh, absolutely. It would have to be a public meeting and open to the public. Commissioner Jackel said, that would be fine.

Commissioner Murray said, you said keep it in Chatham County, and I would agree with that. I see Mayor Parker out there from Tybee, and I'm sure he would be glad for us to come down to Tybee to do some of that and at least we could drive home at night and not stay there and cost another expense.

Chairman Hair said, we may be able to get something in City Hall to use, Mayor Parker. Mayor Parker said, we have a nice little Convention Center down there now that's open that would serve nicely. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mayor. We'll take you up on that probably.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff to schedule a planning retreat some time in September to be held in conjunction with budget workshops, possibly at the Tybee Convention Center.

=====

4. COUNTY NEWSLETTER FOR MUNICIPALITIES (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Commissioner Jackel said, we recently had a meeting of the municipalities in Chatham County with Savannah and Garden City and Pooler and all the different ones, and in talking with people in there I felt that they could be better informed about what we're doing up here. Of course, I have to admit that they were often doing things that I was unaware of, but there are eight different municipalities and it's a little harder to keep track of them than it is for us to get out the information on what we were doing. I would like us to consider putting out some sort of newsletter to the municipalities and we could also pass that on to whoever else might be interested in it. What we're doing, what we hope to do in the future, what we've done, just keep them abreast of certain issues in a concise, short newsletter.

Chairman Hair asked, do you anticipate something like this being quarterly or —? Commissioner Jackel said, I would think monthly. Chairman Hair said, monthly possibly. We —, the foundation document of this should be our minutes. We could take the things that are actually voted on and highlight them, this was done at the previous Commission meeting and those kinds of things. I think probably the best way to do maybe to handle this would be to have possibly Russ [Abolt] and Lori [Griffin] to work together on this. Would y'all agree to —, and then get their heads together and maybe come back to us with some ideas and that sort of thing. Would that be appropriate, Russ [Abolt], for you and Lori [Griffin] to work together? I think that would be the thing to do, and maybe —, maybe when you're doing that to also contact people like Mayor Parker and find out what he wants to know. We don't want to give him information he doesn't want to know, but we can contact the various mayors, Jimmy [Petrea] and Buddy [Carter] and all the guys, and Dean [Kicklighter], and see what they would like to have.

Commissioner Price said, if we do this idea, I would like to —, and it's not just because Ms. Edwards is here, but I would like that we ask the Board of Education the same questions. I mean, we communicate and want to communicate with the municipalities, but our greatest need, I think, is the communication with our education arm. If we do this, I would ask that, Russ [Abolt] and Lori [Griffin], that you include the Board of Education and what they would like to know, that's newsworthy.

Chairman Hair said, that's a good point. Virginia [Edwards] could also give us some ideas, and maybe Karen [Matthews] could —. Commissioner Price said, they are, in fact, another government arm.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I would anticipate it going to all the elected officials. Chairman Hair said, possibly the delegation. Commissioner Jackel said, and the delegation and all municipalities. I mean, once we put the information together, that's the hard part. I think that distributing it is the fairly easy part. We can add or —.

Chairman Hair said, well, the hardest part is going to be —. Commissioner Jackel said, putting it together. Chairman Hair said, you want to do it in a very simple short format so people will read it. I mean, you don't want to give them 20 pages, you want to give them something in a front and back of one page or something like that. That would be very quick so they could read it in a bulletin format, I would think, so that people really will benefit from the information. We just don't want to give them volumes and volumes of data they're not going to use, but if we could keep it very, very short, probably no more than a one-pager, especially if we're going to do it monthly. We could do a one-pager and probably it would be sufficient, and then we could list contact numbers for people to call if they have something they want to ask about they can call that number and that sort of thing. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I think one thing that will be coming up later on in the agenda, of course, the public needs to know about these things too —. Chairman Hair said, correct. Commissioner Saussy said, is the fact that under the franchise agreement with cable TV, we would be allowed another station similar to the one that Savannah's got, and I think a lot of the information could be put on that. Chairman Hair said, I believe that's in the proposal. Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Chairman Hair said, I think that is in the proposal. In fact, I think we get two channels, don't we, or —. Lori Griffin said, a couple of years down the road. Chairman Hair said, a couple of years down the road? But they are —, that is in the agreement though, right? Okay, that's a good point. Anything else, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, that's it, thank you. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

County Manager Abolt and Assistant to the Chairman Lori Griffin were instructed to work together on the preparation of a monthly newsletter for municipalities, Board of Education, and local delegation, to keep them abreast of what the County is doing, and that the mayors and Board of Education be contacted to determine the type of information they would like contained in the newsletter.

=====

5. CONSIDERATION OF A REGIONAL COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE WATER PLAN (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Commissioner Murray said, I put that on there, but I would really like to just table that to the next meeting because I have some other things that have come up with that, so if we can just table that to the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. We have a motion to table and a second. All those in favor to table vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to table this item to the next meeting. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

VII. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. RECOGNITION OF GRANT-IN-AID COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, you know of two very special committees not only in the budget process, but also in balancing the needs of the community, quite frankly, addressing the very issues of the invocation this morning, are your Grants-in-Aid Committees. Today on your agenda you're going to recognize the members of that committee and show them how special they have been in the past and certainly in the future.

The members of the Grants-in-Aid Committees being recognized were: Stephanie Blunt, Robert Brooks, William K. Broker, Theron I. Carter, Maria Center, Ida Cruse, Betsy DeFilippis, Winfield Firman, Horace Hall, Ike LaRoche, Jerry Loupee, Patricia McKenna, James Parker, Jr., David F. Richards, Jr., Carolyn Stillwell, Thomas E. White, and Dr. Louise Williams.

The certificate of appreciation being presented to the members of the committee reads as follows:

IN APPRECIATION

***The Chatham County Board of
Commissioners would like to express their
appreciation for the time and effort you have
put forth serving on the
Human Services/Cultural Task Force***

=====

2. PRESENTATION TO YOUTH COMMISSION BY CASE PROJECT, RICHARD PFISTER (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to call on Mr. Richard Pfister to come before us at this time.

Mr. Richard Pfister said, good morning, Mr. Chair, Dr. Thomas, members of the Commission. My name is Richard Pfister and I come before you today as the Director of Coastal AIDS Support and Education Project, Incorporated. We provide support, education and advocacy for the infected and impacted community in Chatham County. We believe that education is the greatest weapon available to us right now to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS. We sponsored the local AIDS quilt you see on the wall back there. To stop the spread of this disease we must educate the public and especially our younger citizens. Prevention education is vital to the well-being of our community at large. A lack of this education will only mean increases in the number of people, like myself, that have HIV or AIDS. To accomplish our goal of educating teens, we have recruited teens interested in becoming peer educators. Some of these are your Youth Commissioner [sic] members. They have already completed a course on HIV and AIDS education. Now we must gain full access to all of our schools, both public and private, to reach our goal. CASE Project has done HIV education in several of the public —, several of the private schools in the County, but not yet the public schools. We ask for your support in getting this important message to all of our younger citizens. My board of directors, members and I commend and thank the following individuals for completing the course on HIV and AIDS: Adam Greenberg, Amanda Wells, Whitney Cox, Billy Norris, Nicole Williams, Leontyne Jones, Marisa Drexel, Lisa Meier, and one of the advisors with the Youth Commission and one of my board members, Ms. Wanda Meier. If there is anything I or my board may ever be of assistance in this area, please feel free to contact us. You have information packets in front of you. I thank you for your kind consideration.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Pfister.

Commissioner Thomas said, I would just like to add one other thing. I would like to thank Wanda Meier and Mr. Van Johnson, who have served as the liaisons, and the Youth Commission for taking, you know, a step in this direction. Certainly we need to be more educated along those lines.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you, Dr. Thomas.

=====

3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MARVIN VEALE ON HIS RETIREMENT.

Chairman Hair said, it is now my pleasure to present a special proclamation in recognition of Mr. Marvin Veale's retirement, if he would come forward please.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

County Manager Abolt said, ladies and gentlemen, I'd also like to tell you how much I've appreciated Marvin's help over the years. In the last several years, George Lynch, his department head, had asked him to take over our Administrative Services/Records Management. The people I know, like Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Odell, will tell you how much the legal system depends upon easy

retrieval and accuracy of records we've had in the archives [inaudible]. Marvin [Veale] is responsible. I will tell you one thing about him though. As Purchasing Agent he did have the responsibility, I think, initially of acquiring these lamps that we're about ready to give him, but there's one thing that he did miss, and I'll show you all, he forgot to include the light bulb. Now we even pay for that. I certainly appreciate what he has done. I would like for his department head, George Lynch, to say a few words. I've committed some of my thoughts in writing and rather than take your time today, I'll just present these privately to Marvin [Veale], but I would like George [Lynch] to say a few words.

Mr. George Lynch said, Marvin [Veale], thanks. You did a great job, you've helped the people, you've helped the government. We're proud of you, and we appreciate it. Mr. Veale said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Mr. Veale.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I want to tell you one thing for Marvin [Veale]. I wanted to thank him. Before I came on the Commission I was a contractor doing work for the County in different areas, and I just wanted to say it was probably the easiest process I've ever dealt with dealing with this man. He was very detailed, knew exactly the direction he wanted to go in, and if you were a contractor trying to do work with the County, you understood what your position was when you got through and you were able to work through that contract based on that. It's all tied to how the purchasing agent presents the contract that determines how well that contract is fulfilled, and I had the best relationship I've had with the County working through Mr. Veale. I just wanted to let you know that, Mr. Veale. Mr. Veale said, thank you.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, I want to thank you, too, Marvin [Veale], but you're leaving a little early. We were negotiating for that building across the street. It would have been a little sentimental to put you back over there.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Commissioner Rivers. Thank you, Mr. Veale, for your service.

=====

RECOGNITION OF GREGORI ANDERSON

Chairman Hair said, this is not on your agenda. Is Gregori Anderson here? County Manager Abolt said, he's probably up in his office. Chairman Hair said, I can recognize in absentia. We'll also recognize him when he's here. He was —, on Tuesday night Mr. Anderson, who is our Director of Inspections, was selected as Building Official of the Year by his professional organization, and I wanted everyone to know that and we'll recognize him appropriately at the proper time.

=====

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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

* * *

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

=====

VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

Unless action is contemplated at today's meeting, staff report and file material has not been duplicated in your agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (*).

- 1. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES. Tabled at meeting of April 25, 1997. Further note: Assigned to committee at meeting of May 9, 1997.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

=====

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.

=====

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.

=====

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.

=====

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

Chairman Hair said, there is one item on the table that I would request that we take off the table and discuss and that is we are now ready to discuss the sale of the Henderson Golf Course, so the Chair will entertain a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, DeLoach and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, as we said in the previous three meetings, we have been negotiating with a company to purchase —, they were the original high bidder for the golf course, and at the time of the original bid they were approximately \$1.7 million short of buying out the bonds, in essence, so that the taxpayers would come clean in terms of the purchase of the golf course. Myself and a number of others felt like that was not something that we could consider. We went back and negotiated with this company, and today you have a proposal in front of you that basically is a two-part proposal, but it totally eliminates the debt service for the taxpayers of Chatham County on this facility. What it does, in essence, is they will assume the entire \$550,000 principal/interest payment until the callable dates of the bonds in 2003, and then they will purchase the bonds or buy the bonds out at the full principal value at that time. I personally think that this is a good idea. They've also agreed to both conditions that we placed upon them initially, and that is they agreed to keep the golf course public. They've also agreed to keep the name Henderson, which was the concern of some of us and the family, Al Henderson's family. So they've agreed to both of those considerations, that it stays public and stays the name, and we free the taxpayers up from the \$550,000 for approximately 17 more years if we were to keep this —. Commissioner Price said, a year. Chairman Hair asked, pardon? Commissioner Price said, a year. Chairman Hair said, \$550,000 a year for 17 years is what we free the taxpayers from if we accept this proposal. You have a memo from the attorney and basically they —, if the County Commission votes today to proceed with the sale of Henderson, it would be up to the attorneys to work out the final details, but I am assured by the County Attorney and also Mr. Gray that it has met the legal test. There is a way to do this, so if we approve the process. So I would certainly ask your favorable consideration of this. You know, you have on your agenda in a few minutes some very serious requests for funds. For example, from the Library and other things we need to fund that I personally believe are much more essential government service than the golf course. The good thing is, to me, this is a win/win. We keep the golf course in Chatham County, but we free the taxpayers up from the debt service for 17 years, and I would ask your favorable consideration. I would be glad to address any questions or take any comments. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, you also put the property back on the tax digest. I don't know, have you worked any numbers, Billy [Hair], and looked at what that would mean annually to us as opposed to the \$550,000 a year —. Chairman Hair said, I've not —. Commissioner Price said, in scheduled expense. Chairman Hair said, but it's going to be significant. Of course, it would come back on the tax rolls not now, but on 2003 once they've —, it was actually sold. I mean, they're going to, in essence, the first —, now until 2003 they'll pick up the debt service and it will just be a management agreement, and then they have an option to purchase at that point in time. Commissioner Price asked, what about the current employees that are there right now? We have a —. County Manager Abolt said, sir, it's a management contract. It's been extended. That management contract will then —. Commissioner Price said, all right, well, I have concern because I go out there once every other week. I play out there frequently. I'm very, very proud —, you know, I take clients out there, of what we have out there. I'm proud of the staff out there and what they've done and the abilities that they have and how they've managed that course and what great shape it is in and everything else. My big concern is for the protection of their jobs. Billy [Hair], have you had any discussions with them about that?

Chairman Hair said, yes, I have. I've discussed this with the proposed buyers and they have assured —, they also were equally impressed with the staff out there and they have no anticipation of making any staff changes initially.

Commissioner Price said, Jon [Hart], you had in your memo to us that we need to take a two-step process if we're going to do this. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Price asked, can you explain that briefly —? County Attorney Hart said, sure. Commissioner Price said, so that we'll know how to put the motion together —, motions. County Attorney Hart said, when the bond issue was issued for the purposes of construction of the golf course, they're a Chatham County Recreation Authority, which is an authority created by an act of the Legislature, was used primarily for the funding vehicle for that and the issuance of the bonds, and there were certain agreements and technicalities for that bond issue with contracts and leases back and forth between there. We have to structure this deal so that it does not jeopardize the tax exempt status of those outstanding bonds, number one. Number two, we're in a situation in which when the Commission voted to initially go out and look at the various ways of possibly doing this and then making a decision whether they chose to or didn't choose to, that there had to be some information together, and at that time the County put out some feelers and the process was placed in motion from the County's standpoint, primarily from the standpoint that they had the staffing to do that, whereas the Recreation Authority at that time did not have the staffing to do some of those things. However, once we get to the point of trying to consummate the transaction, if y'all choose to do that, then the entity that legally holds title to that is the Chatham County Recreation Authority, so we're going to have to go through their Authority board to implement y'all's wishes. Now, two things need to happen. One, there needs to be a rejection of the outstanding bids so that there are no outstanding solicitations so that the County has a very clean slate there. Number two, it needs to be referred to the Recreation Authority for that board to give its consent, and when I say its consent, to do basically what this Commission so chooses to direct them to do because there are certain agreements under the bond issue back between the Recreation Authority and the original issuance of the bonds that needs to be followed, and it would then have to come back before the full Commission for the full Commission to consent to those changes because any changes in those leases have to be approved in order to ensure that the bonds are not jeopardized.

Commissioner Price said, Billy [Hair], if I could follow up. What if the Recreation Authority doesn't approve of it? County Attorney Hart said, say that again. Commissioner Price asked, what if the Recreation Authority doesn't —? Chairman Hair said, the same question I asked you this morning. County Attorney Hart said, okay, they're going to have to. From a practical standpoint, the Recreation Authority, if this Commission so chooses, and since the Commission has placed the full faith and credit of the County behind that bond issue, does not have a lot of choice about that unless they wish to pay for the bond issue. Chairman Hair said, so they've got —. Commissioner Price asked, what happens if we're not satisfied with the operation of the golf course during the lease purchase period of time? Are we —, we have no say-so? What if the public comes to us and starts to talk to us about an increase in greens fees or the shape of the golf course or, you know, the lack of management of the course, those kind of issues, what safeguards do we have in place to make sure that it's going to go forward? County Attorney Hart said, well, at the present time you have a proposal that lists about eight or nine major points, one of those being your document, so to speak, with the lease, and then you have a separate document that would be their right to exercise an option. The details of those documents have not yet been totally worked out because primarily the negotiations have been how to make the big picture work. That would have to be —, that could be addressed in those documents upon mutual agreement of the parties, and that would be more in the detail. Some of the items within this document may have to be modified somewhat for tax reasons. There's a question right now whether the lease term needs to be 15 years versus 17 for a lot of esoteric tax reason, but I think those things are things that could probably be negotiated.

Chairman Hair said, they have also negotiated with Tom Gray. Their attorney and Tom Gray have negotiated. Addressing your concerns, Ben [Price], I discussed that with them in the negotiation process. They made a statement that I thought was right on. I mean, the company's not going to go out here and invest \$550,000 a year and —, when they've got to recoup that investment and all of a sudden let the golf course go to seed, and they've got to recoup their investment. And if you look at what has happened, right here in the City of Savannah, when the City of Savannah turned Bacon Park over to a golf course management company, the conditions improved dramatically under the private company as opposed to the public. They later since got another public company that didn't do as well. Commissioner Price said, yes. Chairman Hair said, but initially the public [sic] company did a —, put the golf course in a much better condition than the private [sic] company. Commissioner Price said, you mean the private. And again, you've got to realize these folks have their own money invested and they're investing predominantly cash in this project, and that's one of the reasons and one of the questions you get is, and Mr. Sechler's asked me this question and I went back to them yesterday and asked the question, and one of the reasons that the golf course does so poorly as Chatham County being the owner is that we have such a tremendous debt load on this project. They're going to be funding this through cash, and they're not going to have that debt load, they're not going to have those interest costs that we have, and so that's the big difference. That's going to be a substantial savings to them in the sense that they're not going to have the interest costs that we have burdened the taxpayers with for the next 17 years to the tune of \$550,000 a year, and I think that, you know, when they're paying cash, in essence, then you don't have to do that. So, Commissioner DeLoach —, wait a minute. Are you finished, Commissioner Price? Commissioner Price said, well, I was going to try a motion, but if there are more questions that need to be asked before we do that, I'll wait. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Jon [Hart], I just want to —, I want to ask you the question, and it's not that I'm trying to do things one way or the other, because I think the negotiations came out much better than most of us probably anticipated they would, but you made the

comment a minute ago that the other bids would have to be objected —, rejected. County Attorney Hart said, well, all I'm saying is the outstanding County requests for proposal invitations to bid, just everything be rejected to make that clear. Commissioner Murray said, well, the reason I'm asking that, they weren't rejected, yet we negotiated with one of the companies out of the rest of them that bid on this property. How does that affect it if we didn't negotiate with all of them? In other words, we put an RFP out for a particular thing and the bids came back in, those that bid on it. County Attorney Hart said, well, you would be —. Commissioner Murray said, and then we went out and negotiated with one of those groups before we rejected all the bids. County Attorney Hart said, well, you would have the —, the bid RFP clearly spells out that the County reserves the right at any time during the RFP process to reject any bids or all bids, and all I'm saying is that from a practical standpoint there ought to be a rejection of all bids, and then the Authority deal with this particular situation if y'all choose to do that. Commissioner Murray said, okay, but the other question that I have is —, and Martin [Jackel] talked about the retreats about some long range goals for the community, or for the Commission, if you've got a private company willing to come in and put that kind of money into the golf course, it's going to have to make a profit for them. They're just not going to put that kind of money into something and take a loss every year. Is the long term portion of the golf course, if the County would keep it, is that going to be a revenue generator for the County or are we going to continue to have to funnel money into it? County Attorney Hart said, I really don't have an opinion one way or the other about that. That's more of a financial numbers crunching situation and I don't really know. Commissioner Murray said, I mean, I don't think the deal —, I think the deal that we have on the table right now sounds like a good deal. Commissioner Price said, it is. Chairman Hair said, it's a wonderful deal. Commissioner Murray said, I just don't know if we need to make that decision today or if we need to make it the next meeting and give us some more time. I didn't get my book until this week or the writeup on it, and I don't know how many of the rest of the people when they got yours, but it's —.

Chairman Hair said, Frank [Murray], I think that's a good point, but I would remind my fellow Commissioners if today we took the vote to proceed with the sale, that's really what we need to do, and then that takes it legally to the Recreation Authority for them to act on it, and then bring it back to us. It will come back to us anyway for our final approval, but I would hate to see us delay this for two weeks and then delay it another two weeks because, I'll tell you, I've been working with these folks daily for three weeks. We started out a month ago \$1.7 million short, plus they wanted \$100,000 to keep it public and \$100,000 to keep the name on it, so we really were at \$1.9 million short. And I simply told them in no uncertain terms that was totally unacceptable and I wasn't even going to take a proposal like that to you. That I said from day one if you want this golf course, you've got to do three things: You've got to totally come clean with the taxpayers, you've got to cover all the costs, you've got to keep it public, and you've got to keep the name on it, and they kept coming back and coming back with alternatives. We went from \$1.7 million to \$1.2 million, \$1.2 million to \$700,000, and my answer was the same: When you come back with all three to settle, then I'll be willing to take it to the Commission, I'm not going to take it to the Commission. You're absolutely correct, Frank [Murray], this is a wonderful deal for the taxpayers of this County. We keep the golf course, we keep it public and we free the taxpayers from \$550,000 a year for 17 more years. I mean, this is —, this is mom and apple pie and the flag here. I mean, you know, what are they going to do, load the golf course on a flatbed and haul it out of here. I mean, they can't —, there's no way. We keep the golf course, we keep it public and we free the debt service, you know, from the taxpayers. I mean, I really can't —, I'll be very honest with you, I can't see any negatives to this deal. I mean, I really —. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, give me a minute and I'll give you some. Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm sure you will, you know, and I'll be glad to take those negatives, but I think that —, I mean, this is a —, you know, if you talk about —, I mean, again, consider what you've got on your plate the rest of this meeting. You've got tremendous needs in this community that are very essential government services and you've got a chance to free up one that's not an essential government service, so I think that's another consideration. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me —, Jon [Hart], let me piggyback on what Commissioner Murray was saying. From a legal standpoint —. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, the bids that have gone out, that we negotiated with one firm, now seemingly if I was one of the bidders within that process, although you reject all the bids at this particular time, there seems to be some impropriety there of you having me to entertain that bid, yet you go out and negotiate. How can we clear that up? County Attorney Hart said, well, I think it's pretty clear that the RFP in the body of the document says that the County reserves the right to reject bids. From a legal standpoint, this Commission has the absolute right to do that. Whether it chooses to do that is a different question. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, we have the right to reject all bids, and I'm saying if we reject them now —, I mean, we put a motion on the floor to reject all bids, but yet we have not given anybody else the opportunity to negotiate on this particular project or same project. County Attorney Hart said, my understanding was —. Commissioner Rivers asked, is this an exclusive —? County Attorney Hart said, no sir, I don't think so. I think that initially that bid process was put out in the open market. There were a number of bids that came in and out of those this was the high bid and the Commission chose to work with that bidder and has the right to reject bid.

Commissioner Murray said, but I think the real question we had though, shouldn't we have rejected those bids before we started negotiating with this group? That was the real question. I don't —. County Attorney Hart said, that was not legally required for us —. Chairman Hair said, no, he was not legally required to do that at that point. County Attorney Hart said, but it could have been done that way, but that doesn't —, didn't necessarily require —. Chairman Hair said, I would also remind my fellow Commissioners, when those original bids came in, if y'all remember, this company, even though they were \$1.7 million short initially of the full buyout price, they were about \$2 million higher than anybody else that bid this project, so if —, I mean, everybody had an ample opportunity to step to the plate, and this company —, I would also point out, before I recognize Commissioner DeLoach, one thing I would also —, and this is also in your packet and this is one of the considerations that I asked them to provide you, this company is experts in doing this. You have in your packet an endorsement letter from the PGA of Northwest, and these folks are operators and have been operators for a long time, and you have an endorsement from their section. That's the way the PGA is designed, it's in sections. The Northwest PGA section has written a letter of endorsement for this and it's in your packet. It's provided for you to read, so this is a professional operating company that does this all over the country, and they have a sterling reputation in the business.

Commissioner Rivers said, I read that, but the only thing I want to make sure if we're going forward with it, that we've cleared all the legal hurdles and that we don't have no ramifications by [inaudible] the negotiations. Chairman Hair said, I asked the attorney —, I totally agree, Commissioner Rivers, and I've asked the attorney. We had a call yesterday. This has been cleared. The attorney has told me on two occasions in the last 24 hours that he —, all he was outlining was the proper legal steps to do it, but there's no legal restrictions. Tom Gray has already ruled on that we don't jeopardize the tax exempt status of the bonds if —, we can do it the way it's been structured with two contracts. This has been thoroughly discussed by the lawyers, and I totally agree with you, we've got to make sure we follow the steps, and think Jon [Hart] laid that out that if we move forward today, we just need a motion today to move forward, it goes to the Recreation

Authority and then comes back to us, but that sets the wheels in motion in order to do this. I'll tell you one thing too that —, the reason I would think we need to vote on it today, and I don't —, I didn't discuss this specifically with the company, but, you know, this company has a wonderful deal on the table and I'm not sure how long they're willing to leave it on the table, and I think that we can use the numbers they've given us today to go forward with this, and I would hate to see us lose that opportunity. I think we have a window here, and Frank [Murray] raised a very good point and, again, it wouldn't necessarily delay it totally if we just put it to the Authority anyway, which is the next step. Okay, Commissioner DeLoach has some negatives to give us.

Commissioner DeLoach said, no, huh uh. I've got some comments to make. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, the negatives aren't necessarily negatives, so I'll just go ahead and make some comments. Commissioner Saussy asked, Eddie [DeLoach], could we hear from George [Lynch] first because I think he had some things he wanted to say? Commissioner DeLoach said, not —. Chairman Hair said, let's let Commissioner DeLoach and then —. Commissioner Saussy said, okay. Chairman Hair said, our policy has been that we let Commissioners speak first and then —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, the first thing we need to clear up is this is not negatives, okay. This is comments. Selling the golf course is a negative thing to do. We've got the negatives out of the way, so we need to talk about the positives now, okay. I want to give the positives on this. Selling the golf course just —, the first thing to do is take yourself away from selling the golf course. Just forget about that and forget about —, think about why we put the golf course there originally. Think about why Savannah's got a golf course where they've got it and carrying a cost to keep that open. I live on a public golf course. I live at Southbridge. The rates in Southbridge cost about a —, you know, you can play —, get two or three play, \$100. But you go to that public golf course at the City of Savannah at Bacon Park, what would it cost you? \$30? Two or three of you play? Commissioner Price said, no. Commissioner DeLoach asked, how much? Commissioner Price said, it depends on the time of the day. They have a twilight special after four that you can pay \$18 and play until dark depending on their [inaudible]. That's the best deal, by the way. [Laughter.] According to the time of the day, you can —. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Price said, it could be \$50 for two people to play. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, and if I go to —, and if I go to a public golf course, and this is very important, that's one point that the Chairman has really pushed here, like we're going to keep this thing "public." It's public to the people that can afford it. Now, we built the golf course because we needed public courses, and it's noted right now that there was a need for at least five public courses in this surrounding area to make it —, to get the adequate amount of golf to play is what —, I mean, they did the numbers and all that. But we're going to take this thing and we're going to sell it to a private individual. Now he says that, hey, they've got cash so they don't have to carry the cost. Well, listen, if I cash, I'm not going to put it in a hole, I'm going to make money on that cash. That's exactly what these gentlemen will do too. It's said that they know how to operate one, we don't know how to operate one. We've got a professional management company operating ours, just like he made the comment Bacon Park got a lot better when they had one. We could hire them as a management company. I don't have a problem with that. If they're that great, I want them in there. But the point we need to keep in mind here is if you sell this property, if you sell this golf course to a private group, you will not be able to control the prices that these folks charge, and these folk are going to charge enough to make money. They're going to make a lot of money. Whatever amount of money they want to make, it's up to them. But the fact of it is, you're going to limit the people who can play golf in this community because the cost of going there and playing is going up. Period. No problem, fact, fiction. It's always going to be public, possibly, unless they decide later on and vote that it won't be public. It's always going to be public, but the cost per round is going to be substantially higher. I feel like that Chatham County, if they're interested in selling all these things and say we don't have a need and it's not an essential item, I also —, I wanted to add an amendment to the thing to see if we can sell Lake Mayer, Ambucs, Stell Park, and any of the other parks that we have because we can get a substantial amount of money for each one of these. Each one of these costs us money to operate. Regardless of what they say about it and the carrying costs and all that that we have, I don't know what the actual end cost is for us for the parks, but the fact of it is, each one of these places costs us money as Chatham County taxpayers to have open. Now you sell it, you limit people and their ability to play: the person who does not have the money to live at The Landings, the person that does not have the money to live at Southbridge, the person who can't play at The Landings, the person who can't play at Southbridge. The government of Chatham County opened that area there, one, to create an area for people who wanted to play golf, a large number of them on the West Chatham side who do not have the funds to play at Southbridge or The Landings or in the Dunes or anywhere else. The fact of it is, if you keep it public under the auspices of the County and have it managed by a professional group, including the ones that want to buy it, I don't care. If it was such a bad deal for the County, why would somebody want to buy it? It's not possible, okay. It's just not there. This is a great opportunity for Chatham County to offer golf to people who can't afford to pay the \$100 to go out there and play, and we will be able to get most of our cost back, and it is going to cost us some money to keep this open, but it costs us money to play softball, it costs money to play tennis, it costs money to have Stell Park, it costs money to have Lake Mayer. All of these costs money, but just because you can go sell something and get some cash in your pocket right quick is not a reason to go sell something. We as a government are offering a group of people an opportunity to play golf that would not get to play if you don't have a public course that is cheaper than The Landings or Southbridge or any of these other quoted —, well, especially Southbridge since it is supposedly public. They won't be able to play, folks. That's not right, that's not right. And it's going to be the same cost to you for a golf course out there —, and we Commissioners do not need to back off our responsibility as Commissioners. We need to go forward, we need to keep this course, and we need to make it the best course in the Southeast, and if this management company that wants to buy our course would be willing to come in here and manage it and make us money there, hey, I'm for it, but don't limit the people here in Chatham County because you want to make a quick buck on something you can get rid of because it's just not right because you're paying either way. That's my points on it and I'd appreciate y'all not voting in favor of this. If it comes forward, I'd appreciate it. Leave that thing alone and let folks around here be able to play golf that want to play golf that don't live at The Landings and don't live at Southbridge or any of these other exclusive places.

Chairman Hair said, okay, let me address those questions, and then I'll recognize Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Price, because I don't want to leave any false impressions out there. First of all —. Commissioner DeLoach said, now wait a minute. Chairman Hair said, the thing that keeps prices down —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I would like to say one thing. There is no false information in the comments I made. That's the one thing I want to make clear. There's a difference of opinion up here, but there is nothing false about what I said. That's the one thing I want to make clear. Chairman Hair said, the thing that keeps prices down is competition. The government doesn't regulate how much Mr. DeLoach charges for grass cutting. What keeps his prices low is he's got other people that want his customers. There is no way in the world that the government can control prices better than private enterprise. As far as the public not being able to play golf is simply not realistic because let me give you some facts. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, next September there's going to be 27 holes additional public golf coming on line at the airport. We're going to have 27 holes of golf that will be totally open to the public. That's going to be competition. So you're going to have 27 additional holes of golf that anybody

can go out there and pay a green fee. You know, you've already got Bacon Park, a public golf course. You're going to have Henderson as a public golf course, you're going to have Southbridge as a public golf course. You're going to have additional competition. You're going to have 27 holes across the river on Hutchinson Island that's going to come on line. That's going to be 54 holes that's going to come on line within the next 18 months that's going to be open to the public. Now the —, I could promise you that the prices that are going to be paid out at the airport are going to be very, very reasonable. So people are going to have —, we're not limiting anybody's opportunity to play golf, and I will tell you that the prices will go down and not up because competition drives prices down. Competition doesn't drive prices up. I mean, you know, I used to teach economics, and competition drives prices down. So I think that, to say that prices are going to go up is really —, is an opinion, but I think that it's also —, there's an equal opinion that says that prices will not go up, so I just want to keep that in mind and I also want to remind you there will be 54 holes additional public golf coming on line in Chatham County in the next 18 months.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm ready. Can I make a comment against that? Chairman Hair said, yes, and then Commissioner Murray. Commissioner DeLoach said, the point I want to make on that, the one point I want to make is if you can find me one private course in Chatham County that plays at the same price that Bacon Park does, then I'm willing to sell it today. If you can show me one, just give me one, give me one that's within \$10 per round, I'll sell it today right now. I'll make the motion right now, and let me put this on the motion, I'll make the motion that we sell Henderson Golf Course today, recommend it, if you can show me a golf course that's so-called public that works at the same price that Henderson or Bacon Park does in Chatham County. I'll make that motion. Will somebody second that. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second it. Commissioner DeLoach said, you'll second that. Oh, I've got a second. Now go ahead, let's make a motion [sic] on it. Chairman Hair said, the motion is out of order. Commissioner DeLoach asked, why? Commissioner Price said, well, number one, there's certain —, there's certain things we've got to do here though the process of what the attorney has told us to do. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, let me pull it back then and let me reword my motion, Mr. Chairman. I'm willing to sell the public golf course at Chatham —, I mean, at Henderson Park with all the stipulation that the lawyer has to throw in there to make everybody happy if anybody can show me a golf course in Chatham County that plays at the same price as the public courses do in Chatham County. Period. Can I do that, sir? County Attorney Hart said, the motion in its present form is technically out of order. You could make a motion to do that, but not a motion for your individual vote. Chairman Hair said, correct and also you need —. County Attorney Hart said, what I'm saying is, if you want to make a motion that the County adopt the sale based on their being a cheaper golf course, you can make that as a general motion, but you can't condition that upon your vote because you are taking an individual action there. The motion needs to be placed in a form the whole Commission —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, then I —, tell me how I need to say it. Tell me how I need to say it and give me the one that the golf course pays —, or plays at the same price. You write it up where it sounds right. County Attorney Hart said, you could make a motion —, you could make a motion that the sale of the Henderson Golf Course be contingent upon there being no other golf course in Chatham County that has a lower price than the Bacon Park or other public golf course, and then that could be a motion that could be acted upon if you got a second for that. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to make that as a motion, Commissioner DeLoach? Commissioner DeLoach said, sure, I'll make that as a motion. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails for lack of a second. Commissioner Murray said, there's already a motion on the floor. Chairman Hair said, no, we don't have a motion on the floor. We had a motion to take it off the table. We don't have a motion. There's no motion on the floor. Commissioner Murray said, say the motion again. Commissioner DeLoach said, do it again. Commissioner Murray said, I want to make sure I understand what's going on. Commissioner DeLoach said, I want it legal. Chairman Hair said, let's listen, folks. I mean, you have —. Commissioner Saussy asked, don't we have to reject the bids first before we do any of this? Commissioner Price said, that's my point. There's a process we have to go through to make —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm willing to accept the deal —. Commissioner Price said, we don't have a willing buyer at that under those stipulations. Chairman Hair said, you do not have a buyer —, you have a proposal on the table, Mr. Attorney, that's not contingent upon the condition that Mr. DeLoach has put in his motion. So, we don't have a buyer with that motion, so the motion is out of order because we don't have buyer —. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] County Attorney Hart said, the only motion that I have heard is the one to take it off the table. There's been no other motion. Chairman Hair said, that is correct, but he has a motion, but what my point is that the motion is contingent upon a buyer that doesn't exist. Okay, so there is no proposal. There's nobody buying it under your conditions, so you don't have a buyer. Commissioner Price said, I understand your point, Eddie [DeLoach]. I mean —. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, then let's vote for my motion. Commissioner Murray said, I want to hear the motion because I may second it. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, let's do it. County Attorney Hart said, it is my understanding that the motion is that he would like to make the sale of the Henderson —. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, no. My motion is I want to go —, I want to approve this proposal that was submitted by whoever this group is contingent on there being a public course that is not owned by the municipalities playing at the same cost as Bacon Park or Henderson Park, and if they can show me one of those, we're buying to buy this —, we're willing to make this deal right now. That's what I've got. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand your point. Commissioner Murray said, well, even if I second it, it wouldn't make a lot of difference because they can't show you a golf course that's going to be cheaper. There's not one in Chatham County, I agree with you. I don't play golf, I don't have that kind of time, but it's —. Chairman Hair said, I play customer golf. Commissioner DeLoach said, if that's the case then —, if I can't get the motion, the point I want to make is all of this hullabaloo about it being a great place and we're going to get public out there and everybody is going to live happily ever after is a bunch of crock. The fact of it is, you're going to limit a large segment of our community from playing golf because the cost at that golf course if it's in private hands will be substantially higher. Period. And I would ask each Commissioner here to consider that for people in your area that can't afford to play at The Landings, can't afford to play at Southbridge, or any other private course because of the cost. Consider that when you vote to approve this motion.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to make one point before I recognize Commissioner Price to make a motion. Frank [Murray], did you want to make a motion? Commissioner Murray said, I didn't want to make a motion, I wanted to ask some questions. Chairman Hair said, I would ask my fellow Commissioners to consider this. I've said this since day one: Why should we subsidize one person's hobby and not somebody else's hobby? We're subsidizing the golfers to the tune of a half million dollars a year. We don't subsidize bowlers. Those people that go bowling, we don't subsidize the bowling alleys. We don't subsidize people who have sports other than golf, why should we subsidize golfers? I pay full price when I play golf. I pay my monthly dues. Nobody subsidizes my golf. Why should we as taxpayers for the next 17 years subsidize people who play golf when we don't subsidize anybody else's hobbies? And I think you need to consider that when you take your vote.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let me make a comment on that. The point is on that the fact that people go out there, they pay their money. Just like Billy [Hair] goes out there and he pays at The Landings or I pay at Southbridge or I pay anywhere else, they pay too. Up to this

date the amount of money and the people that are playing have not equaled the debt service there. That's the issue right here. It's not \$555,000 right now, or it might be in 10 years or whatever. I don't know —, what's the exact number would you say in five years if everything —, if they go the course playing perfect and we had the same amount of money coming in and the same amount of money going out, it wouldn't be a subsidy. There would be no subsidy. This \$555,000 is an obligation that we've got if the course does not make money or does not break even. That's the issue here. We subsidize playing softball, baseball, football, basketball, every other ball that you can think of, but for some odd reason we've got an opportunity to sell something, make some quick cash, we need to go out there and sell it, that's not right for the community. Long term and the thought of Chatham County, it is not in the best interest of Chatham County to limit the citizens who want to play golf that can't afford to play at a Southbridge or Landings or any other private course because they're twice as high as the public courses. That's the issue here. That is the issue. Make a quick buck and limit your community from playing golf because they can't afford it. That's where we are. That's the vote you're taking today.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, just a quick comment on —, as far as subsidizing one or the other, I think it all falls under recreation if we do subsidize it, if that's the term we want to use, on most sports that we have throughout the County. But my question, again to you, Jon [Hart] —. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, if the votes are there to do this and they go to the year, what, 2003 —. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, and then they purchase it at a flat fee at that time, but they take care of the \$550,000 a year up until that time through a lease thing —. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray asked, is there any clause in there, or will there be a clause in there that if, in fact, when we hit that point, the year 2003, and whoever's sitting on the Commission at that time decides they do not want to sell it, can they back out of it? County Attorney Hart said, no sir, that's going to be a contractual agreement from the authorities signed off on —. Commissioner Murray said, so once it's all signed off on —. Commissioner Saussy said, it's a closed end agreement, right. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir, that's —, the Recreation Authority is a governmental, or a quasi governmental entity, so that will be a closed end contract. Chairman Hair said, the contract obligates both parties. County Attorney Hart said, and the option could have provisions within that option that, you know, could run with the deed or the land to —, that Henderson Golf Course name stays there, that type things. Commissioner Murray asked, but there's no way to put a clause in there to cover that? Commissioner Price said, default provisions are in there. Chairman Hair said, also, too, I'll just point out to you that the way this deal is structured, there are two separate contracts. In order not to disturb the tax exempt status of the bonds, Cascade Pointe has agreed to go out and fund the debt service entirely to the callable dates and they have an option to purchase if they choose to purchase it at that price, which is the principal upon the bonds at that time, they can. If you put in there where they were required to do it, then you disturb the tax exempt status of the bonds, but no one is going to invest that kind of money, and of course if they did, Chatham County would still be much better off because we would have had the debt service covered for five years. Commissioner Murray said, well, in other words, they can pull out at that time, but we cannot. Is that what we're saying? Commissioner DeLoach said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, no. County Attorney Hart said, no, that's not necessarily correct. Commissioner Murray said, that's what it sounded like. County Attorney Hart said, well, they could —. Commissioner Murray said, if you could explain it. Commissioner Murray said, they could agree not to —, they don't have to exercise that option in the year 2003. Commissioner DeLoach asked, does that mean they can pull out —, they can pull out then? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, that's what I understand it to mean. Commissioner Odell asked, isn't it, Jon [Hart]? County Attorney Hart said, no. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, they have the option to either exercise the option or they cannot exercise the option. County Attorney Hart said, to exercise the option, but they've already gotten —. Commissioner Odell said, we don't have that option in the year 2000 [sic]. We don't have the option of that Commission that's seated here then, does not have that option. Isn't that true? County Attorney Hart asked, the option to pull out? Yes sir, if they exercise that option under that agreement, that Commission would have to —. Commissioner Price said, so they pull out, so that the property comes legally back to the County. They've paid the debt service on the bonds —. Chairman Hair said, for five years. Commissioner Price said, for five years. Chairman Hair said, so you still win. Commissioner Price said, we've got the property back. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Murray said, wait a minute. That's not my point in asking that question. I feel like we need something like that tied into it too so at that time that if whoever is sitting here deems that they would like to keep the facility, they could do that. Chairman Hair said, plus, let me tell you, Frank [Murray], that's not legally possible. We discussed that. Tom Gray, who is our bond attorney —. Commissioner Murray said, well, wait a minute though. We keep getting all these questions, and I was willing to go ahead and vote today, but I can't vote in favor of this today because I think there are a lot of questions that we don't have answered that we can't get answered today. Commissioner Price asked, which questions? What's the question? Chairman Hair asked, what's the question that's not answered? Commissioner Murray said, the questions that a lot of us have been asking. Eddie [DeLoach] has had some, I've had some, and some others have. Chairman Hair asked, what do you want to know that hasn't been answered? Commissioner Murray said, I'm not voting for it today, okay. If you want to vote for it, I'll vote against it today. Chairman Hair said, the —, if you —. Commissioner Murray said, now if you want to wait two weeks, I'll be glad to reconsider that, but not today.

Commissioner Price asked, do you understand the questions, Jon [Hart], that everybody's asking? County Attorney Hart said, I think I do. Commissioner Price said, okay, can you —. Commissioner Murray said, well, I keep getting two answers. I get one from you and then I get one from the Chairman. I'd rather one person answer the questions. County Attorney Hart said, ask the —, would you mind repeating your question, Mr. Murray? Commissioner Murray said, my question is if they can legally pull out at the end of that 2003, why can't the County have a clause in there that whoever's sitting here at that time could do the same thing? County Attorney Hart said, well, there's two things we're talking about, two different agreements there. We're talking about agreement number one that is an obligation to lease and pay the debt service for the term, okay. The second agreement, which would be a separate and distinct agreement, gives them the right after 2003 to exercise an option. That option when they exercise it would be at a price sufficient to retire the outstanding principal indebtedness on the bonds. The reason it has to wait until 2003 is that there —, it would —, when we issued the bonds we promised not to recall them other than at certain date times. Commissioner Price said, oh, they're not callable until that time. County Attorney Hart said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what will that cost us if we —? Chairman Hair said, let's get Commissioner Murray's question answered first. Commissioner Murray said, no, go ahead, Eddie [DeLoach]. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what's it going to cost us if they recall the options? Does the County have an obligation to pay something there? Commissioner Price said, it does. County Attorney Hart said, it depends on when the option would be exercised. If they exercise the option during the year 2003 and 2004, there is —, there may be a penalty provision of two percent and one percent, which I think works out to like \$110,000 or something along those lines. Commissioner Price said, that's right. Combined. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's all though, right? Chairman Hair said, that's total.

County Attorney Hart said, and after those two years, the way the bond documents read, there wouldn't be a penalty. Chairman Hair said, correct. That is correct. Commissioner DeLoach said, so anything after 2007 or something like that, you don't have to —. Commissioner Price said, we wouldn't have to —. Chairman Hair said, that's correct, there's no penalty. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd really like to bring this to a close before tomorrow. Chairman Hair said, I would too. Commissioner Odell said, I've got just a couple of questions, not necessarily for you, Jon [Hart], but for the Chairman. One of the motivating reasons to sell or to lease is to reduce the financial obligation that the County currently has which is approximately \$500,000 a year. Chairman Hair said, that's one of the motivations. The other is is a golf course an essential government service. That's my other —. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely, and this is viewed as a good deal primarily because of that. Is that your conclusion? Chairman Hair said, I think it's a good deal because you keep a public facility and you free the taxpayers up for the next 17 years for debt service if you —, and nothing changes at the golf course. The golf course is still going to be there, it's still going to be public and we free the taxpayers up. So, yes, it's basically financial and the fact that it's not an essential government service. We could put those —, we need to buy library books and computers for the library. We need those —, that money for things that are, to me, more valuable than a golf course. But you have options. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. I guess my last question is whether or not, and you indicated you had taught economics, if they assume the golf course, now in order for it not to be a loser to a private organization, the fact that we are public doesn't say that automatically we have to lose money. There's something that we're not doing that they will have to do in order to make a profit, and I'm no expert in golf, but it appears to me that Eddie's [DeLoach] concern was that they're going to have to either substantially escalate the individual green fees in order to break even or substantially increase —, increase the number of the value. That's the only way you can do it. Otherwise —. Chairman Hair said, that's not —. Commissioner Odell said, they're going to be —. Chairman Hair said, let me give you the other of economics. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Chairman Hair said, we're —, most of us up here are business people. There's two ways you can increase your profit. One's to raise your price, the other is lower your cost. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely. Chairman Hair said, so it's not automatic that the price goes up. Okay, these folks operate —, and I quizzed them on that, these folks operate a number of facilities and there will be some cost savings to them in terms of operating a number of facilities versus a single facility. So there's some quantity savings here. So it's not automatic to assume that the profit goes up just because you're —, the only way to raise profit is raise prices. You also can raise your profit by lowering your costs. That's correct. So, I just wanted to make sure I told you. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, you know, Pat Monahan has given us plenty of examples after the course opened as to why the green fees were what they were and why they had to be adjusted. You know, Henderson is not the cheapest place in Savannah to play golf. The idea that, you know, that we're taking away cheap golf to the general public is not there. I mean, that is not the correct issue being stated at all. I remember Eddie [DeLoach] when you came to me back all those years ago and you said, Ben [Price], would you help me with this project, and I was more than willing to help you with it. You sold me on the idea that it was going to be an economic engine, that it was going to help develop that side of Chatham County, that it was going to bring about a lot of business, not only for those building —, what's being built out there right now, but also the residential development, also the commercial development at the quadrant of I-95 and 204 and, in fact, Eddie [DeLoach], you were right. I can't find anyplace else in Chatham County right now that you see as much construction going on as you do right next Henderson. Right next to the Henderson Golf Course, and they've got five hotels being built right now, they've got apartments and condos. If you go out there and see, you won't believe the amount of construction going on. And I agreed at that time pursuant and trying to convince the other commissioners at that time to go along with it, and it was a good idea, Eddie [DeLoach]. It worked. But it's also a good idea at this point and this juncture to turn this back over to the private sector, to put this back on the tax digest, to alleviate the \$550,000 a year in costs that we have to pay on this. We're not —, it's not a money-grab idea, it's not like the water system that we have out there where we have no debt on it where we'd be ending up getting —, we're simply trying to transfer the debt that is owed on this golf course to a private entity that would pay it and pay it off, and then we could focus on —, as I agree with Billy [Hair] in this sense, more essential government services like the needs for the library, like a lot of other needs that we have, the GIS system that you guys might recall got booted and thrown on the back burner and it was going to be a priority, you guys told me, that we would get back to that and get it —, you know, I'm struggling right now trying to find money, how we're going to get back on track with the program for putting the GIS system back in place. But the library system has a very real interest in that being accomplished as well. All these things we need to focus better on what we have to get done, really for everybody's benefit. No everybody plays golf. I often wonder at those that do if they are, you know, what's wrong with them. I mean, you think about someone going out there hitting a little ball around a golf course and losing most of them, and the frustrations and everything else that goes on. I mean, it's a great game, don't get me wrong. It's great because it's challenging, but not everybody plays golf. It's not a —, it is not an essential government service. I'm going to go ahead, for better or for worse, and I hope all the questions are answered that need to be answered. If not, continue to go forward in asking those questions, but I move that we reject all outstanding bids under the invitation to submit a proposal. That would be the first step we would need to take in order to go forward with the next motion to refer this over to the Recreation Authority.

Chairman Hair asked, Jon [Hart], we need two separate motions or can you do it all in one motion? County Attorney Hart said, you need —, probably for clarity purposes, it would probably be better just to do it separate. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to reject all bids. Do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion on the —, this is a motion just to reject the bids. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Odell, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Murray and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Jackel said, all right, what I'm concerned about here is, is that we've got this golf course out here for sale now. All they're —, we not making any money off the sale of this thing. It would appear to me that we ought to be able to make some money. Now I understand some of the other bidders have talked to us about they didn't understand that they could lease it for a while and then buy it and they maybe could adjust their bid. The question I have is are we a little premature on this thing if we're just letting someone come in and buy it for the cost of taking over the payments. It seems to me that there ought to be some profit in there somewhere. I haven't heard that addressed at all.

Chairman Hair said, I can address that briefly, Commissioner Jackel. The highest bid next to this company was \$3 million. We owe almost \$7 million on the golf course. There is no way in the world that you're going to get somebody —, the debt service alone is \$7 million. So you're not going to get somebody to come in here and pay you —, everybody else thought this golf course was worth \$3 million, \$3.5 mil-

lion. And here we owe six and a half on it, almost \$7 million on it, and we've got a company that's willing to come out from under the debt altogether. There's no way you're going to get them to cover your debt service —, I mean, the problem is we owe too much money on this golf course. That's the pure and simple problem with it is that we —, we overpaid to start with, we owe way too much money on this golf course. That's the problem. Commissioner DeLoach said, we did not overpay. Chairman Hair said, so the problem is that we owe so much debt on it that that is —, that the debt service is the drag on this facility. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Chairman Hair said, and that's why this company is coming in with cash and they're —, that's exactly what it is. Commissioner Jackel said, okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, all right. Can I make a comment on that? Commissioner Price said, Eddie [DeLoach], has a —. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, I like what Ben [Price] said. I appreciate that. It was a good move and I'm glad everybody on the Commission felt like it was a good move, and it did move that area of Chatham County forward, and it will continue to do that and I'm glad of that for everybody in Chatham County. Now, we still need to get back to the issue of —, the numbers I see up here is \$4.9 million. Did I —, Mr. George [Lynch], I want to ask you something on that. The information —, Mr. George [Lynch]. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, I need you up here please, sir. Mr. Lynch said, all right, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, I was just curious. What was the number —, was is the sales price for the golf course? Commissioner Price asked, in this instance? Mr. Lynch asked, the actual bids that —? Commissioner DeLoach said, right. What are we selling the golf course for? What's the price? Commissioner Price said, it's a lease/purchase. Commissioner Murray asked, what are they going to pay us for it? Commissioner DeLoach asked, what are they paying for it? Mr. Lynch asked, are you referring to the negotiated arrangement? Commissioner DeLoach said, what we've got going on right now, we're talking about we're selling the golf course and it's my understanding that we paid way too much for it and the numbers Billy [Hair] had were \$6.5 million. What is the numbers we're dealing with here on this golf course? Mr. Lynch said, sir, as I read the information, they would manage the course, pay the debt service at a rate that's in excess of about 560 —, \$550,000 a year until the year 2003. After year 2003, they would have the option of buying or paying off the bonds, and please don't hold me at the second to the exact amount but that would be up in the area of five million plus dollars. Chairman Hair said, right. Mr. Lynch said, now if they don't exercise the option, which would be rather hard for me to believe they would not, they're going to be paying off bonds and Chatham County continues to own the golf course. So that's the best direct answer I can give you, sir, to your question of how much they're offering today. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what is the number? Do you happen to have a number —. Commissioner Saussy said, four thousand six hundred —, \$4,605,000 in the year 2003. Chairman Hair said, plus \$550,000 —. Mr. Lynch said, plus \$550,000 for debt service —. Chairman Hair said, until 2003. [Inaudible] so it's \$3 million. Commissioner Price said, \$7.1 million. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, a little over seven million. Commissioner DeLoach said, and that's a debt service of five hundred and some odd thousand per year. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what is it —, who would know that? What's the cost of the —, what is it costing us now for the golf course? Does anybody know? County Manager Abolt said, if I remember, sir, in our planning for this year's budget based on our business plan, we anticipated a fee of about 300,000 and change. Commissioner DeLoach said, 300,000. County Manager Abolt said, and change, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's 300,000 and change, so instead of 557,000 [sic] per year, it's down to \$300,000. Is that right? Is that what it's going to cost the County to operate the golf course, 300,000? Mr. Lynch said, I'm really not the right person for that. I think Russ's [Abolt] comment on the business plan —. County Manager Abolt said, we'd anticipate —, we don't have the actual for six months, but right now we're looking at about 300,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, about 300,000. Do we know whether this has been getting better every year since we opened up? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, without being held to the figure, I can ask Mr. Monahan to come forward, but the Chairman had asked and we had asked the operator to prepare a business plan about two years or a year and a half ago. At that time he missed the business plan the first year of that. We looked at a fee of about 300,000, but traditionally they have been a little more optimistic than reality, but I believe in the terms of my expert, in this case Mr. Monahan, who is a golfer plus had a equal part of this, helping design and looked at the expense of that course, they had truly hoped that over, you know, less than a five-year period it somehow break even, but in reality in 1998 we're estimating about 300,000 and change fee. Commissioner DeLoach said, so it's not costing us 550 —, it's not costing the taxpayers of Chatham County \$557,000 [sic] per year. Commissioner Jackel said, no, no, it's that less —, it's 550,000 less what we earn on the golf course. If it doesn't match up, we pay the difference. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, and the actual purchase price is 4.6. You can't count —, you can't count the debt reduction payments for those years. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, you can't —, that's just —, that's what they're paying out to use the golf course. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, for those years and when those years are up, they're paying us \$4.6 million to purchase the golf course. Commissioner DeLoach said, for something that Chatham County put 6.5 to \$7 million in. Isn't that right? That's what I understand. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, so we're going to get a golf course bought from us that cost us \$7 million, but they're going to pay \$4.6 million. We're supposed to think this is a good deal, and yet it's only costing us 300,000 as we go down. Now the cost was higher than that when we first started, and we all knew it was going to be when we started, but the cost of this —, operating this thing has gone down every year since we opened it. Now I won't ever tell you that it's going to break even. I don't think it ever will break even. I will tell you that it will work within the same range that we have Bacon Park, 100,000 or 200,000, but that is money that is as cheap or as most —, or as expensive or is about the same amount of money we pay to have people play baseball, play football, basketball, tennis, and so forth and so on. The only issue I'm making here is we need to keep this thing a public course. It's not a good deal for Chatham County. We don't need to vote for this as Commissioners. We need to go ahead and let this thing —, kick it to the side and move on.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price. Commissioner Price said, I'm going to make a motion. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Saussy said, let me ask —. Commissioner Price said, go ahead, David [Saussy]. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Saussy said, because I was thinking about another motion. I would like to know the exact cost that this is going to cost the County and what it's going to cost to buy the place. I'm a little bit confused as to what that is. Can I get one [inaudible] —. Chairman Hair said the cost will vary each year, Commissioner Saussy. It's —. Commissioner Saussy asked, what's the bottom line? Commissioner Price asked, you mean the total purchase price? Chairman Hair said, the total debt service is about \$557,000 and if there is any money from operations exceeding the direct costs, that's applied against the 557. The remaining part of the 557 comes out of the general fund, M&O Fund, okay. There's not way to project next year or year after next how much that's going to be. I mean, it could be more or less. When the new course opens up next year at the airport, that could go down and that number could go back up. There's no way to tell because it's based on the number of rounds that are played and the amount of —, how they control their costs and things like that, so there's no way of telling. It would be somewhere probably between 300,000 and 500,000, somewhere in that range. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, last year it was that. Commissioner Saussy said, 300,000. Chairman Hair said, this year, correct. Commissioner Saussy said, that will go against reducing the principal on the bond issue. Chairman Hair said, no, that's the remaining part of the

difference between 557 and the 300, so it would be 257 from operations basically. That's what's been budgeted now. We don't know that that's going to be the number. That number could be higher. And the way this thing was structured, I mean, it was a very convoluted deal when it was structured originally, but the —, in fact, I have a memo from staff that says that the debt service was always budgeted from M&O and never from the operations. So the original intent was to always pay the P&I out of M&O funds, out of the general funds. I have a memo from staff that says that. So, so it was never intended, I mean, from day one it was never intended to break even. It was always intended that the general taxpayer would subsidize that through —. Commissioner Price said, it was an economic engine —. Commissioner DeLoach said, folks, I'm going to tell you that is not the truth. Chairman Hair said, all right. Commissioner DeLoach said, if you've heard not to —, if you've heard something that wasn't true, that's one of them right there. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach, I'll be happy to provide you with that memo from staff. All right, let's —, Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, I move that a resolution be passed to refer this matter to the Chatham County Recreation Authority for purposes of review of the proposal and appropriate action. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, I'll second it, but I'm —, I'm sorry, make sure I heard you say —. Chairman Hair said, this basically —. Commissioner Jackel asked, you're sending it back to staff? Chairman Hair said, no, no. Commissioner Price said, no. Chairman Hair said, this is the first step in the process. Commissioner Price said, of what the County Attorney is recommending we do. Chairman Hair said, this is the first step of the process that we're got to refer it to the Recreation Authority. They'd vote on it and send it back to us for us to vote on. Commissioner Jackel said, I think it's important that we have a motion on the floor, so —. Chairman Hair said, we do. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm going to table it once I've seconded it if it passes because I think we need —, at least need to be able to go to them and say we've got the motion and it has been tabled and it is being considered. So for that reason, I will second it. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Any discussion on this motion only. This motion is to proceed.

Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to —. Commissioner Murray said, you can't table that after it's voted on. Chairman Hair said, go ahead, David [Saussy]. Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to know that if this goes to the Recreation Authority, is the Recreation Authority obligated to —. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Saussy asked, to pass this thing? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Saussy said, they are. Won't have a choice. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Murray said, well, you have a choice. The Recreation Authority can pick up the debt service. Commissioner Saussy said, [inaudible] can't do that. Chairman Hair said, you guys have so much money over there. Y'all have got money. Y'all just got another million dollars.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, we've got this motion on the floor and I'd like to move to table that. Chairman Hair said, the Chair calls the question. Commissioner DeLoach said, Mr. Chairman —. Commissioner Murray said, I'll second it. Chairman Hair said, well, we have a motion and a second already on the floor. Commissioner Jackel said, and I moved to table it. Chairman Hair said, we've got a motion to table. All those in favor of the motion to table vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell, and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion to table. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Price and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion to table was approved by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion to table passes. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, let's make sure everybody gets the information we need to so we can make the decision. I think I have the information, but I hear —, heard others —. Chairman Hair said, always —. Commissioner Jackel said, I heard others say —. Chairman Hair said, submit your questions in writing to staff and we'll be glad to get those answers for you. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I want to be very clear about this whole thing. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, all right.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to untable this item for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to reject all outstanding bids under the under the invitation to submit a proposal for the purchase of Henderson Golf Course. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Harris, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
3. Commissioner Price moved that a resolution be passed to refer to the Chatham County Recreation Authority for purposes of review of the proposal of Cascade Pointe, L.L.C., concerning the operation and purchase of the Henderson Golf Course. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion.
4. Commissioner Jackel moved to table the foregoing motion. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Price and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion to table carried by a vote of six to three.

=====

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. **REPORT FROM EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING AMBULANCE SERVICE. SEE ATTACHED ANALYSIS FROM FINANCE DEPARTMENT.**

Chairman Hair said, I think it would be appropriate —, Dr. Victor, are you ready to make a presentation. I didn't know if you or Al [St. Lawrence] were going to do it. Dr. Jules Victor said, I'll do it, but Al [St. Lawrence] will be backing me up. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have Dr. Victor that's going to —, you all have received copies of this EMS Advisory Committee report that I sent you that was sent to me by the Sheriff, and so, Dr. Victor, I'll open it up for you.

Dr. Jules Victor said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Commissioners, as you will recall, after the Chatham County EMS was funded for the calendar year '98, it was your suggestion that we have a study made of pre-hospital care for the County. As Chairman of the Chatham County Medical Services Advisory Council, I took the liberty of appointing a committee of which Al St. Lawrence, the Sheriff, was Chairman. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry, we're having a little trouble hearing. Commissioner Murray asked, could they turn that up some. Commissioner Thomas said, turn it up just a little bit. Dr. Victor asked, can you not hear me. Commissioner Murray said, no, it doesn't sound like it's on. Dr. Victor said, I don't think it's on either. Commissioner Thomas said, no, it's not on. Commissioner Murray asked, can it be turned on. Dr. Victor said, anyway, I'll talk louder. How's that. Commissioner Price said, we hear you. Anyway, I appointed a committee, which Al St. Lawrence, our Sheriff, was Chairman, and on that committee was Wesley Meadows from Southside/Mercy Ambulance, David Hall from MedStar and Dr. Robert Smith from the Chatham Emergency Management Agency, Chief Carl Plaughter from the Fire Department, Zach Shuman from Chatham County EMS, and Chief Sprague from the Chatham County Police Department. I'd like to go on public record as thanking Al St. Lawrence and his committee for a job well done. I think it takes the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon to have produced this tome that they have produced and that was signed off by everyone. After they produced this report it was sent to me and presented then to the Chatham County Emergency Services Advisory Council and was voted on and passed. I then sent a copy to Chairman Hair and Al [St. Lawrence] was kind enough to give him copies so that he could have a cover letter and send one to each one of the Commissioners. He is here today to answer any questions concerning the deliberations of this ad hoc committee and Chief Sprague is here to answer any questions about the finances as they affect Chatham County EMS. I am merely the messenger and I'm delighted to be here and any questions can be directed to the Sheriff and Chief Sprague.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I've got several questions. One, I saw the plan and I can appreciate the time that you spent on it; however, I don't agree with it. I can tell you why. It looks to me like those Commissioners up here that they were trying to please, and one was myself, because EMS is going to take the Wilmington River on down, we've only got one ambulance would be down there covering from there to Tybee, where right now we presently have two ambulances and a third that's normally on backup for the accidents and stuff we have. I don't know how in the world you expect to cover it with one ambulance.

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, let me address that if I may. We know what the numbers of calls are between two services, 1284 calls. You divide that by 365, that's three calls a day. The plan provides for the Chatham County EMS to have a second ambulance down there three or four months out of the year because of the summertime traffic to Tybee and what goes on at Tybee, but bear in mind, with the total volume of calls is for last year, which was 1284 calls, the committee —, the providers on the committee in particular, are the ones that worked out the zoning. You know, zoning has always been a problem here in Chatham County because we've never had but one zone, so everybody could set up where they wanted to set up when they wanted to set up, and that's one of the things we wanted to get away. Getting these people to agree was not an easy task, and I commend them for getting together and meeting often as they could to reach some resolution, including some one-on-one sessions. A lot has been said about the private sector and the public sector, and I want to tell you something, these are all professional people, paramedics, advanced life support units, and it shouldn't make any difference to any citizen in this community as to who comes through that door wearing what color uniform. Commissioner Murray said, I don't think anybody's questioning that —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, they're qualified to do what they do. Commissioner Murray said, and that didn't have anything to do with my comments. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I have some familiarity with EMS not only from chairing this committee, but sitting on the council as well as having been out at the Police Department overseeing it. They all do an outstanding job, and per capita, and this is a fact, per capita Chatham County provides better EMS service or more EMS service than any place I know of. We've got problems —, we've got on the street, I think, all the time 17 units. Now that's the public and private sector. A lot is said about the private sector, the public sector should do it all. Well, you can do it with the public sector is you want to triple your budget, at least double your budget, but they need to be thankful that we've got two private firms in Savannah, Georgia, that is doing an awful lot of work for the citizens. I mean, you know, but I think it's a good report. I think they worked hard on it. They've reached agreements. Region 9 is going to work with us on this. They're the enforcement arm. You know, we talked about an authority. I wrote a letter to Emily Garrard, the Assistant County Attorney. It would take an act of the Legislature. I found then that the Legislature would not do it because it would conflict with the Enforcement Authority Department of Human Resources to Region 9, so we've done about everything we can do, but to answer your —, to get back to the answer to your question, there's 1284 calls down there, and Chief Sprague, and he can speak for himself, but his idea is to —, instead of operating five units to go with four and a quarter units, which will take up that slack. In addition to that, they've all signed mutual aid agreements. They can move units around if one's busy. All in all, I think it's an excellent plan and I thank them for hanging with it and working with it so we can reach an agreement where everybody's signed off because, I'll tell you the truth, when I started this thing as Chairman, I didn't want this job, I didn't —, I wasn't optimistic that we could reach an agreement, but we have, and I think it's a good report. Commissioner Murray said, well, I —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion we —. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not through with my questions yet. We didn't rush through the rest of it. Let's just don't rush through this. It's people's lives we're talking about. Commissioner Thomas said, that's right. Commissioner Murray said, that was one of my questions, and I appreciate the fact they all did work together and I think it took a lot for them to come together and make some agreement; however, it doesn't mean that we all have to agree with that. I mean, I read the report and I think it's a good report, but there are certain areas of it that I just don't feel like are right. What happens with the Chatham County EMS right now. That's my major concern. I'm not saying we that don't have good service with other ambulance services, and I don't think anybody's ever questioned that, but my point is you take and you cut down the area that they're using, you're cutting back, I think, on one unit, was this all done from a financial standpoint, or was it done to give the best service for the citizens of Chatham County? That's my question, because I understand there's some financial things being out of it, and that was not part of my motion and our request when we requested that a committee be appointed to do this. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I'd like to explain that financial consideration was not any major consideration in discussions that went on. One of the, you know —, again, the zoning was important. There was a number of other things. I don't think it was a —, again, Commissioner, you can do it all, but you're getting ready to spend some money. I mean,

right now we're very fortunate, we've got two private firms in Savannah, Georgia, that do the same thing that we don't —, the County does not subsidize. Commissioner Murray said, my question is not to sit here and say we should do it all. That's not my comment at all. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I understand. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not saying we should do it all. I'm trying to get some answers on some questions. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I've tried to give you the best —. Commissioner Murray said, my question was, was it a financial consideration given on the way this things was done? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I think there was, at least on my part, and as far as the part of the County, I think that was considered, yes. Commissioner Murray said, okay, the other question I have is I know it's been done this way for years, but why does EMS fall under the Chatham County Police when, in fact, in my opinion, it should fall under the Emergency Management? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it could be an entity of its own for that matter, Commissioner Murray. I mean, you know, I don't —, I think years ago when I was in in the beginning of Emergency Medical Service operation, that we felt it was going to be a public safety issue, and Dr. Victor got this organized and got some seed money from the hospitals and all and I was Chief of Police of the County, they just put them under me. They could have been put separate, they could have been put —, I don't think we had a full fledged Emergency Management Department then. I think we had a Civil Defense, and so forth. So maybe it was proper, but it could be moved out at any time, you know, or put where —, under Emergency Management. I don't, you know —, right now it's still under the County Commission and has been since it's inception. Commissioner Murray said, I know it has been and that's why I was asking. I know that we had the Civil Defense and that's probably a good reason it wasn't done that way.

Chief Tom Sprague asked, can I interject several comments please? Number one, the genesis of the meetings of the ad hoc committee came from this —, from this body, and it was my understanding at that point in time funds were transferred out of SAGIS to keep EMS going through the 12 months of this year. So I —, if I was in error, then I apologize now, but I was under the impression that one of the items that was important to this committee was to see if there were savings that could be made in the total EMS operations. So that was a consideration on my part as we entered the negotiations. However, the primary object of the negotiations from the part of the Police Department, for the part of myself, was the public safety issue. These negotiations, they were very difficult, much like I would assume union negotiations would be because we were dealing with two private services. They had their own agendas to follow. I understand the importance of private enterprise versus a government body, but this body was public safety. Chatham County EMS would reduce under this plan to four and a third ambulances per year. The call traffic that was analyzed in the eastern zone with the number 1284 calls per year, but of the 1284 calls, 55% per transport calls. We were willing to bring up another ambulance during May, June, July and August because that's when the call traffic tells us it's high. Total for the year from Tybee, which was a consideration also from the safety aspect, 368 calls a year. So if you wire that down and you've got 55% of them are transports and the bulk of those calls, the majority per month were in those months. We're not abandoning the safety factor for that eastern zone. We also looked at the western zone, or a portion of the western zone. There was no thought given on my part, and I don't believe on anybody else's to put Chatham County EMS in a certain condition or a zone, Commissioner Murray. That's not accurate at all.

Chairman Hair said, let Frank [Murray] finish. You're not finished are you? Commissioner Murray said, not quite. I will be in a minute. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chief Sprague said, we are asking the coming budget year to be funded at 1998 levels plus 3% in the event there's a pay increase or something of that sort. Where we will anticipate —, realistically, we will be able to save approximately \$185,000 a year under this plan if it's operable. We won't know that until December 31st, 1999, if we activate January 1, 1999. We're not saying from Chatham County EMS standpoint that we can do it, but we think from the call volume traffic analysis we've done, we think we can do it and we think there will be a savings to the taxpayers in doing it this way. There's something else that I think that hasn't been said here is what control is there over EMS and all the services under a new zoning plan? They're not different from what controls you have as a Commission under the current plan. There are safety valves out there and that I, as Chief of Police, looking at the public safety aspect of it, if County EMS or any of the private services, if their response time goes below levels, if their standards go down, if their quality of service to the citizens of the County go down, there is an arena where we can contest it, and that's the arena of public opinion through the press. I don't intend to let it go down on the Islands, although we're reducing by two-thirds of an ambulance. I don't intend for the quality to go down there or on the west side, which are the areas that the County EMS will be responsible for. Also, the County dispatch center with a new CAD system, which we're in the process of getting, is going to be —, they're going to be the judge as whether we, as well as the private services, are meeting our response times in all areas of the County. So, again, this was very difficult negotiations. The County EMS in my opinion is a super organization, but I will not say that the private services are sub-standard either. If everyone keeps up to the standards, only one person wins, and that's the citizen.

Commissioner Murray said, well, again, I don't think any of us have said that other —, the private services are not good services. We haven't even gotten into that, but I think if we go back and look at the motion that was made for Dr. Victor to create a group to study this and come up with the best service that we can have for Chatham County citizens, we didn't ask to go back and see how much you could cut out of it —, a budget. I think it's fine if we can do this and do it satisfactorily, and it's good for the community if we can save some money, but that was not the primary reason we did it, because we didn't feel like we could set a price on somebody's life. Chief Sprague said, yes sir. If I was in error, sir, but I remember that meeting and it started over money. Commissioner Price said, that was part of it. Commissioner Murray said, and the other thing that came out of this, I've talked to several people since then, one of them the CEO at Memorial, who does not feel like the plan will work either because he feels like they're going to continue to lose money on this plan, but even at that and the discussion was, well, if MedStar takes over the EMS, which was one of the proposals at one time, what would happen to the EMS employees, and his comment was they would not have jobs because that would defeat the purpose of them taking them on along with MedStar to be able to help their budget problems. So, I know that's not part of this plan, we're looking at a different plan right now and I hope it works. Chief Sprague said, we submitted another plan also, an alternative, and that was the County EMS to take the entire County. The cost would have been about six and a half million dollars with 12 ambulances, but that was a secondary plan because we did reach agreement with all the services in the committee and I feel it's an equitable arrangement as long as it works, and we're the ones that are responsible to make sure that it works as far as the standards and response times goes. Commissioner Murray said, well, one person it will affect, I see Mayor Parker out there. Do you have any comments?

Mayor Parker said, I'd like some clarifications if I could. What happens at Tybee on a weekend that has only one unit —. Chairman Hair said, Mayor, could I ask you to come to the podium so we can get your remarks recorded for posterity. Mayor Walter Parker said, thank you. I appreciate that. I'd like some clarification on what effect this will have on Tybee when you have a unit —, is it only one unit going to be on Wilmington Island? Chief Sprague said, for eight months of the year. Mayor Parker asked, and what happens if that unit might be tied up, where would the next unit come from to serve the Islands? Chief Sprague said, if we got a call at Tybee, the one unit, we had

the one unit there, and the one unit got called to Tybee, and by the way, we intend to move the station down at the Johnny Mercer —, excuse me, the Williams' Seafood area. That's where our permanent 12-months' station will be. But if a unit goes to Tybee, then we have the mutual aid with the other ambulance service coming from across the river for backup calls. Now if it's during the four months when call traffic says we're getting a lot of calls and where the majority are coming from Tybee, we're going to have two ambulances present, one at the Williams' Seafood area and one at the current location at the Southside Fire Department. Mayor Parker said, but in the wintertime, it's the one unit that's at Williams' or at the Southside, if that one happens to be tied up, where would the next unit be coming from? Chief Sprague said, the next unit would be coming from across the river [inaudible]. Mayor Parker asked, stationed where? Chief Sprague said, right across the river in the City of Savannah [inaudible]. Mayor Parker asked, in the Thunderbolt area? Chief Sprague said, over that way, yes sir. Mayor Parker said, it just seems to me that the response time, especially in the summer, even at Williams', it's going to be close. I mean, we're talking about tied up traffic when we have 25,000 people on the Island. That concerns us. We have an aging population. We would like eventually to see something stationed at maybe the Coast Guard Station on Cockspur Island, and that's something that really should be looked into.

Chairman Hair said, I think one thing, Mayor Parker, that has been —, and this is in the proposal, and I think this committee did a wonderful job —. Mayor Parker said, oh, I agree with you. I don't have a problem with that. Chairman Hair said, I think they have, as the Chief said, they have a monitoring system during this 12-month period to make adjustments. Am I correct, Chief? Chief Sprague said, yes sir, and, Mr. Chairman and Mayor, we want to do this as a test program during '99. Chairman Hair said, right. Chief Sprague said, if it looks like on January 15th we have two calls that have gone over, or we're going to have a 12 minute response time out there, if we're past that 90% of the time, we're okay, we're ahead of that, but if it starts falling, then I'm going to start adjusting because I'm going to have hopefully the full budget to work with during the test period. I'm not going to let anybody get hurt over it and it's not going to be that much different than what's out there now. Costs will go down for the private services as well as for the County, but it's not a cost —, it's not a cost basis that I was making my decision on. The primary thing was public safety.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, the other thing that may change it too that was a consideration that was talked about is that you have a rescue unit down there which do an excellent job, and let's say for some reason you did away with your rescue unit and council's going to have to do something about that because usually they're on the scene long before we are, and the other thing —. Mayor Parker said, but they're certainly limited in what they can do. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I understand, I understand that, and the other thing that was talked about by Chatham County EMS like, say, on Saturday and Sunday of that May, June, July and August, that they'd be down at the beach most of the time anyway. Mayor Parker said, okay.

Chairman Hair asked, do you have any other questions, Mayor? Mayor Parker said, no, I'm —. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Mayor Parker said, better satisfied. I'm not completely, but —. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Well, no one's completely satisfied, Mayor, so —, Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Thomas said, and I'm next.

Commissioner Odell said, just a couple of questions, Chief. The response time for Chatham County, area wide the national standard is eight minutes. Is that true? Chief Sprague said, well, there's not actually a national standard, but eight minutes in your urban situation is a good response, and at 12 minutes in a suburban environment. Commissioner Odell said, 12 minutes in a suburban, and it's this committee's belief that that is as good as it gets in this area. Is that true? Chief Sprague said, no. Right now, the difference in this plan, the zoning if it's approved, look at it the way it is right now. We've got two ambulances sitting side by side at three locations in the County. Commissioner Odell said, yes, you're right. Chief Sprague said, so you have a three minute response time in the City right now. Commissioner Odell said, yes. I'm not certain that that answered my question. I guess my question was in comparing this to other cities in this immediate area, if that response time of 12 minutes is good or bad or indifferent. Chief Sprague said, it's good. It's actually a standard although it's not a standard. Commissioner Odell said, I thought that it was and Brunswick, Georgia, or Glynn County, went from our current type system to a zoning system, and I wanted to know the kinds of problems that they've experienced. As of today, they have a response time in Glynn County of four minutes. We just told the Mayor that we're going to have potentially a 17 minute response time [inaudible]. Chief Sprague said, 17 minutes? Commissioner Price said, 12 minutes. Commissioner Odell said, 12 to 17. Commissioner Price said, he said 12 minutes. Chief Sprague said, 90% of the time we'll make a 12 minute or less response time. Commissioner Odell said, my only concern is do we have any mechanism in place that would evaluate the response time in the various zones that will be mandatory to be checked by the various participants? Chief Sprague said, yes sir. We're —, as I stated, we're working on getting a —. Commissioner Odell said, so your answer to that question is yes, we do. Chief Sprague said, we will. We're putting a CAD system in. Commissioner Odell said, we don't but we will. Chief Sprague said, we don't have it now, but it's a proposal for the —. Commissioner Price asked, you say CAD, do you mean GIS? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Computer Aided Dispatch. Commissioner Price said, okay. Commissioner Odell asked, who will evaluate, say in a particular zone, if they fail —, we've talked about mutual aid and mutual aid basically means that —. Let me finish my question. Mutual aid basically means that if you're responding to Wilmington Island and the next unit, if that unit is already covered, would be from what zone? Chief Sprague said, it would be from the City zone, or MedStar. Commissioner Odell said, okay, MedStar. Do we have a standard that would require, if this is your particular zone, that you have to cover it at least X-percent of the time, and I'm told that the benchmark is 85% coverage for a particular zone. Chief Sprague said, Commissioner, if we call on the mutual aid from MedStar, the overlap time is charged against up. In other words, we're violating our 10% and that will be tracked by the computers and it will be brought to the attention of the EMS Council. Commissioner Odell said, okay. What authority will the EMS Council have if a participant's response time is excessive? What rights and remedies will there be to correct this? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, let me tell you what we've been doing thus far without Computer Aided Dispatch. There's a trip report made. There's a —, all 911 calls for EMS is dispatched out of the County Police Department's Communications Center. There's a trip report that has all the times, upon their arrival, upon their clearing up from there, and all. Those trip reports Dr. Victor gets to see. Anything over what the standard should be he's already reviewing those. Sometimes it's because of extrication, you know, the time from the time they dispatch and they get a person to the nearest receiving facility, which might be Memorial or Candler. That mechanism is somewhat in place right now. Computer Aided Dispatch is going to enhance that a great deal, but they have to account for their times. Chatham County Advisory Council will take any complaint they receive and look into it from the trip reports and so forth and refer it to Region 9, which is the enforcement arm for the Department of Human Resources, and they will also approve this plan, if you people approve it, as far as the zoning and so forth is concerned. But to answer your question again, there's a mechanism in place already to look at response times and the times it takes to get someone based on the condition of the patients, whether there's extrication —, those reports, trip reports are already reviewed by Dr. Victor. Commissioner Odell asked, all trip reports? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, not

just from Chatham County, but from MedStar and all the other players? Dr. Victor said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, and it's not an exceptional report, by exceptional report meaning that only those that exceed benchmark are sent to you for review, but you have the opportunity to review them all. Is that true, Dr. Victor? Dr. Victor said, it's true to the extent that we get a compilation of everything, and if I need to look at a trip report for some sort of thing, actually MedStar does their own, Mercy does their own, and I do Chatham County EMS's of response times that are in excess of the standards. Commissioner Odell said, Doctor, while you're there, if you fail to cover 85% of your particular zone, what remedy do you foresee that we, as the Commissioners, or the citizens of Chatham County would have to correct those? Dr. Victor said, I think we're going to have to monitor this program very, very, very closely and that was part and parcel of my job and the Council's job, and if indeed that occurs, that has to be reported to Region 9 for action. They're the governing body of this area. They will actually have to, if this report is approved by the Commissioners, it will have to go to their Zoning Committee, Region 9, for them to approve before we can actually implement it.

Chief Sprague said, Commissioner, that would occur in the County EMS zone, before it got to Dr. Victor I'd be activating the ambulance and requesting the County to —, the Commission to understand we're activating it for public safety purposes. If the plan became less doable at that time or whatever and in response to Mayor Parker's concerns [inaudible]. Commissioner Odell said, in order to go to a zone, obviously we have to make some determination regarding staffing, and staffing was based on location. If we go to —, one zone to multiple zones, which is the proposal, are there any provisions that you know of that would preclude one of the participants from closing a particular station? Chief Sprague said, no. Each service would be responsible for their zone in the way they saw fit as long as they didn't come below the standards, as long as the quality didn't go down, as long as their response times stayed within that 90%. Commissioner Odell said, okay, we're going to a computer system so that all of the response times can be logically and easily recorded so that it is not an impossibility to determine if there's a violation. My only concern is that if we've got to rifle through paper to make a determination as to whether or not this person was a violator, then we don't have a system that can be evaluated. If we have a mandatory, on the computer, response time and it is centrally reported as part of the agreement, then it can be objectively viewed and reviewed. Chief Sprague said, and you will see that in bold print in the papers you received, and it was the Police Department that —, that was one of our top three requirements because somebody to monitor in order to report back to this Commission as well as the EMS Advisory Board to correct problems if they existed. On the other hand, if problems would exist with EMS or with MedStar or Mercy, we would go to that service and make sure it's not just a, you know, one month occurrence or something and give them an opportunity to correct it and get the quality back up to where it was. Commissioner Odell asked, can we as a Commission, assuming that this is approved here and ultimately it has to go to Region 9 to be approved, can we still receive status reports on a quarterly basis, if not more often? Dr. Victor said, I think you should, yes sir. I think you should. Commissioner Saussy said, we could actually get it on a monthly basis if EMS would get it on a monthly basis anyway. Commissioner Odell said, David [Saussy], I haven't finished yet. I've got one more. Commissioner Saussy said, excuse me, I was just trying to ask him a question. Commissioner Odell asked, do you want to [inaudible] for interrupting? I was just teasing, David [Saussy]. Commissioner Saussy said, I know.

Commissioner Odell said, you know, I read the report and it appeared to me that the lion's share went to MedStar. I think that EMS, unlike some of my fellow Commissioners, is something like police that we need to have. Memorial Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital are not in the business for public good, they're in the business to make a profit. They're obligated to do that. I don't want us to move so far on the [inaudible] that we believe that the purpose of government is to break even and make a profit. That can never be the sole purpose of government. EMS is a necessary, and I was concerned that perhaps we had misled some of our representatives to believe that money was the sole criteria. Money should not have been the sole or the major criteria. It should not have been that and I think we led you all to believe that. You know, we have an obligation to protect and serve. I think our EMS does an excellent job. I'm concerned. I go to Tybee and fish off the pier. We make some faulty assumption and that faulty assumption is that the zonings are based upon statistics, that statistics dictate or drives the coverage. The same time that we're having an increase that the Mayor had spoken about when we just had one unit, the other people are going to have increase, so who in fact will ultimately cover if two people get sick at Tybee at the same time or, God forbid, if one person gets sick at Tybee and one gets sick at Wilmington Island and one gets sick in Thunderbolt, which are all areas we're increasing the age population, it's all based upon the statistical assumption which assumes that they're independent, and they're not independent. Chief Sprague said, no sir, they're not and, as a matter of fact, in 1997 with two ambulances on board in the Islands area, 22% of the calls occurred with both ambulances out; however, keep in mind that there were only —, of the total calls, 1200, only 55% required transport, and we did the analysis and looked at all of these before we drew up the —, that we could do it that way, but we needed that one year to try it. If we can't do it, I'm going to be the first one that beats on your door. Commissioner Odell said, okay. In your view of the plan, and just two other questions. We rode this Henderson Golf Course forever and I don't want to shorten my time, so if anybody is upset, I don't apologize for it. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, only Commissioner Saussy is upset, he's the only one. Nobody else is. Commissioner Odell said, Commissioner Saussy is my neighbor. Chairman Hair said, he might not be for very long. It depends on how much longer you take. Commissioner Odell said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Saussy said, no, I can't run him out.

Commissioner Odell asked, will there be any consistency as far as cost? Chief Sprague said, consistency —. Commissioner Odell said, in talking —, in talking to the people at Brunswick, one of the problems that they experienced, and I [inaudible] determine the problems was that if you looked at what EMS will have, what MedStar will have, if I happen to get sick in one location, is it going to cost me substantially more as to whether or not I am dispatched from Unit One versus Unit Two? Chief Sprague said, I understand a little bit, I believe, of the Brunswick problem down there, and they had a court decision that actually overruled the Commission, I believe, in Brunswick. Commissioner Odell said, no, it overruled Region 9. Chief Sprague said, Region 9, okay, and for the service that was allegedly in violation. Yes, the service can have a mobile point, they can save money by cutting down hours of service is one way of doing it or during crunch times with what the numbers tell you, it might be noon to eight o'clock is your high time. They might dump three ambulances in an area where they will cut back to one, if that —. I don't know if I'm answering you. Commissioner Odell said, let me rephrase the question. I'm sorry for not being more accurate. If I got sick here and Frank [Murray] got sick on Wilmington Island and Eddie [DeLoach] got sick in Southbridge, they're all three different zones. Would he pay the same thing to be transported wherever as I would pay at this location that Eddie DeLoach would pay, or are those three different and left to the sole discretion of the person that we've given an exclusive right? Do you follow the question? Chief Sprague said, yes, I do if you're speaking of that. Each carrier, each service —. Commissioner Odell said, makes it's own choice. Chief Sprague said, is going to make its own. Commissioner Odell said, so —. Chief Sprague said, but if it comes into where a citizen is not —, is requesting an EMS ambulance, for instance, a County EMS because it might be \$50 or \$100 cheaper, now you're entering into public safety again because you've got citizens requesting one pulling

our ambulance out and, again, I would be back here and in that court of public opinion. Commissioner Odell said, court of public opinion gave us a race track, so I'm not —. Chairman Hair said, and a golf course. Commissioner Odell said, I'm not overly moved by the court of public opinion. My concern is that I don't want to make, I don't want my constituents, because there may be some fear because they are lower income and lower middle income, that they're going to be stuck with a higher price simply because of where they live, and this plan, which now makes something exclusive, doesn't cover or protect us, and the answer to that is I am absolutely right. Am I right? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, you are. Chief Sprague said, I agree with you, and the court of public —. Commissioner Odell asked, what can we do to amend that and, Russ [Abolt], [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, franchise, sir. You've repeatedly now, and you'll remember more years than we care to remember, the attempts you've made with the Legislature to get a franchise authority. That's the control. This is an option. This is not franchising, it's not sold that way, but to get where you want to do [sic], you must exercise franchise authority, which right now you do not have. Commissioner Odell asked, how can we do that? County Manager Abolt said, the Legislature gives you the power. Commissioner Murray said, we've been asking every year since I've been up here. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, [inaudible] water rates we have that authority. Cable rates, everything. Commissioner Odell said, this is said. You mean our State representatives —. Commissioner Murray said, that's right. Commissioner Odell said, have been asked to —. Commissioner Saussy said, many times. County Manager Abolt said, repeatedly, sir. Commissioner Murray said, I know for the last 10 years they've been asked. Commissioner Odell said, you know, my biggest concern is that that's going to create an inequity. That's going to create where we give a person an exclusive zone, an exclusive zone so that they can charge anything that they want. Chief Sprague said, Commissioner, I agree with you, and I'd like to point out that back six months ago one of the private services decided to abandon the station and —, for whatever reason, but it looked like a cost-saving gesture. I know I was on the phone to the newspaper, and I know Commissioner Price heard from his constituents, and within days that decision was turned because we're dealing with corporate entities here, not ambulance service, we're dealing with corporate entities, and they spend millions of dollars for good P.R., a good image, and they should have it if they're doing their job, and if you find out your constituents are paying 50 bucks more than the constituents in the next zone, I would hope you would give me a call as well as —. Commissioner Odell said, well, see, the only problem with that is that the people are not going to know what their zones are. What we've done is we've created an exclusive territory for them to charge anything that they desire, and so, consequently, I can live next door, I could be next door to David Saussy, which I am office-wise, and if David [Saussy] were to get sick, if he's in one zone he could pay one thing and I'm in another zone, I can pay another. Going to the same location I could pay almost 50% more or he could pay almost 50% more for an exclusive area. Commissioner Saussy said, I don't think [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, I think y'all ought to ride together and split the cost. Commissioner Rivers said, y'all fight over that. Chief Sprague said, perhaps the private services would be —. Chairman Hair said, just ride together and split the costs, that's all. Commissioner Saussy said, there you go. Commissioner Odell said, but David [Saussy] might [inaudible]. Chief Sprague said, perhaps the private services would be willing to advise the Emergency —, the EMS Council 30 days prior to a rate increase as it pertains to 911 transports. Commissioner Odell said, as long as EMS has Sylvan Terrace, and I think it does, doesn't it? Chief Sprague asked, pardon? Commissioner Odell asked, EMS has —? Several Commissioners said, no. Commissioner Odell said, oh, my God. Commissioner Murray said, it has the east side and —. Chairman Hair said, you might have to move, Harris [Odell]. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, you know, these charges, it may cost you more —, you mentioned, Commissioner DeLoach, Southbridge and you're, say, down on Bull Street, but there's a lot of different things that go into the charges, the mileage, what's used, you know, what your problem is, what equipment they've got to use and so forth. That all figures into it. It figures into it for Chatham County EMS, so it's kind of hard —, and the one thing that we can't do in the absence of what the —, Mr. Abolt said, is that we don't —, we can't get into regulating prices now, you know —. Commissioner Odell said, without a franchise. We can if we had a franchise. Chairman Hair said, that's right. Commissioner Odell said, and one of my —, my question is whether or not if we do this now, if that will preclude us six months or a year from now from going to a franchise system. Commissioner Saussy said, not unless our legislators —. County Attorney Hart said, well, not if you get a Legislative action. Chairman Hair said, he said without. County Attorney Hart said, okay.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, we have Commissioner Jackel then Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, when I started looking at this thing a month ago with the EMS System, the Chatham County system, I —, you know, it seems like a good thing, but the more I look at it, I have some doubts. If we're saying that St. Joseph's and Mercy can operate a good system, and I have no doubt that they can, and that Memorial can operate a good system, and the Southside's operating a good system, and they can take care of those people in there, then the question has to be why does the County have to have a system? Chief Sprague said, it's a public safety issue, Commissioner. Commissioner Jackel said, well, we say these others can do an adequate, an adequate job because I'm looking at it as a \$1.5 million budget item which does not include pensions, which does not include buying vehicles, depreciation on vehicles, all these other things. I'm just asking why do we have to have that expense if the others are willing to do it? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I think that I'm going to have to agree with the Chief. In my opinion, it's a public safety issue. Chatham County is going to have to stay involved in it. It may be on a lower scale or higher sale, whatever you decide to do, but Chatham County should never get out of it. One of these days Chatham County may have to do it all, the private sector may decide to get out of it. It's a public safety service. Kind of like police anymore, it's going to have to be furnished. You're getting some help from the private sector and, you know, you have to —. Commissioner Jackel said, they're doing 80% of the business now, I'm told. They're doing 80% and they're doing that 80% —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I don't know if it's quite that much, but —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's what I'm told. All right, let me, let me —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, if you ever give up your ambulance, you know, or your license, you can't get back in the business as long as there's a service being provided that, so you certainly wouldn't want to do that. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, and the other thing I'm told is that, and as the Chief kept saying, 55% of the time we transport. I think a lot of people that are listening, they don't fully understand that. That means that only 55% of the time that the ambulance is dispatched do they actually bring a body to the hospital. Chief Sprague said, of 911 calls. Commissioner Jackel said, on 911 calls. Chief Sprague said, now that's 55% —. Commissioner DeLoach said, a person, not a body. My God. A person, not a body, a person. Commissioner Jackel said, a person. Commissioner DeLoach said, a body, God dog. Commissioner Jackel said, you're correct, it is a person. If they don't do it fast enough, it is a body. Okay, so 55% of the time on —. Chief Sprague said, that's in the Islands area. Commissioner Jackel said, on 911 areas it's only —, it's a transport. That means 45% of the time they go out with the lights flashing and the siren's on and when they get there they find out they can take care of it on the scene and they don't need to transport anybody to the hospital. I've been told it would help cut that rate if we had a medical —, and emergency medical dispatcher, that they could —, also with a guaranteed appointment, we could cut down on that. Chief Sprague said, well, we'd have to look at that. Right now, it's my understanding that emergency medical dispatchers that operate in priority dispatch are actually on the radio treating a patient on the scene. I would not take

that on from my watch because the liability to the County would —, and dispatch would be tremendous. I know there —, it's some talk at the EMS Advisory Board about that from one of the Memorial doctors, but I don't think that we need to place that type of responsibility on the backs of dispatchers. That's a medical call that an M.D. needs to make, and that's the way it's made now when they arrive at the hospital entry gate. Commissioner DeLoach said, alive and well. Commissioner Jackel said, no, but here's what I'm —, what I understand is they're using it in other parts of the country. Chief Sprague said, one place, I believe. Commissioner Jackel asked, there's only one medical dispatcher? Chief Sprague said, that's my understanding, but I'm not an expert on that. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I thought were —, the call comes in to 911, it's automatically transferred over to medical dispatch, they ask a few questions, they say it doesn't sound like we need to send an ambulance out, is it okay if we guarantee you an appointment the next day. If the person says yes, I think that will be fine, and they don't dispatch an ambulance. Chief Sprague said, they may be doing that several places, Commissioner, but I would —, from what I know about it, unless I find out something different, I'd recommend to this Commission that we don't do that. Commissioner Jackel said, let's look at the other side then, let's look at the other side. The other side is a call comes in and someone just has a splinter in their foot and they call 911 and say I want an ambulance. All right, here go the sirens, here goes the flashing light. That's a danger to the public. Every time they go out in emergency conditions, there are cars pulling over to get out of the way, they're going through red lights, that's a danger to the public, and all the guy's got is a splinter. The second danger to the public is is when someone else needs that ambulance, they get a secondary response. Now somewhere between the danger to the public and the danger from the secondary response —, you take Tybee. Someone calls at Thunderbolt and they've got a splinter. That ambulance goes to Thunderbolt, it's tied up. You've got a drowning victim at Tybee, you've got a second response. If you had an EMS trained operator, they'd said, sir, what's your problem, well I got a splinter in my foot, well you really need an ambulance or we can let you see a doctor tomorrow, then that drowning person at Tybee doesn't get the second response. It's a balancing act. I don't think you ought to just say no out of hand because there are safety benefits to it that we cut these secondary responses. That's 45% of the time someone's going out and not being transported that people, I think, are put in danger unnecessarily. Chief Sprague asked, how about the one time that that splinter is a very thin piece of steel that's gone through the toe and into the throat and the dispatcher is [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's why you have to have a trained dispatcher. I wouldn't make that decision, and when in doubt they would dispatch I would hope. I mean, this is a —. Chief Sprague said, they dispatch now. Commissioner Jackel asked, pardon? Chief Sprague said, they dispatch now. We're training EMD, we're training the operators to give advise on the phone. They're getting that training in July, but not to stop the 911 response to the ambulance.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, quite often you have to work only on the information of some excited person on the other end is giving the dispatcher. You really don't know what you have until you get there. Commissioner Jackel said, oh, I understand that. I don't think we could ever cut it down to zero, but I think if we look into a medical dispatch, we could significantly —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, this is what they're doing. Commissioner Jackel said, reduce the numbers. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, shortly they're going to begin training with that and try to question these people about what the injuries or nature of them and so forth, but you're still going to have to roll 911. Chief Sprague said, the other end of that, Martin [Jackel], is that some, some schools of thought want those EMD's to do it all at the scene —. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Chief Sprague said, and start basically swatting calls —. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Chief Sprague said, perhaps they don't have the money to pay or something and then you arrive at the gate where normally the doctor lets them [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Chief Sprague said, but I would still advise against that, going to that length.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make my remarks very brief inasmuch as several of the questions that I wanted to ask, Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Jackel have already asked those questions, but I would like to follow up on the following. We've talked about the east side, west side, and —, and I'm not sure where the west Savannah, Woodville, Carver Village, Cloverdale, and all that area will be covered, in what area. I know we're on the northwest side of Chatham County. Right now we're being, I think we're being served by EMS. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I think you [inaudible]. Commissioner Thomas said, right now I think we're being served by EMS. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, [inaudible] the maps are in there. I'm not looking at them right now, but —. Commissioner Thomas said, well, the way I looked at it and from some of the people, we would not be. But, anyway, I just wanted to make sure that whomever serves the ever that they would not put anyone in a bind so to speak, because let me give you an example, from a personal experience, and this has been about two or three years ago now. We had a problem, a very, very sick person in my home, as a matter of fact, had a stroke, and the first thing the people, the ambulance wanted to know how was I going to pay for this, you know, the service. And, of course, you know, that made me very, very angry. Last year I had another problem similar to that. Two weeks ago, three weeks ago, my husband had open heart surgery and he came home and he had a little problem the week after that and I dialed for the EMS. The first thing I could think of. And I want to say that EMS was there within a matter of two or three minutes. I mean, they came so quickly and took care of the, you know, the problem right away, and I want to commend them because they were just very, very, very good and their response in their professionalism and everything, and not once, you know, did anyone refer to —, as to who, you know, will be taking the responsibility for the charges. I just want to make sure that people are not able will continue to have those services available to them because that's the reason why EMS, you know, was started in the first place. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, under 911, advanced life support, regardless of who's [inaudible] to answer the call, there shouldn't be a question about who's paying or not. Now if you make a private call, a lot of citizens call the private services on their own, but that's between them and them, but on 911—. Commissioner Thomas said, I'm talking about 911. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that should not be a factor at all. It shouldn't be a question to be asked. Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Well, that's the point, and I'm just —, I'm saying that, just to throw it out for, you know, people to think about that we hope that we will not have to deal with that kind of thing. We want to make sure that whenever we have a problem, that those units will respond to whomever is calling and take care of the matter, of the person for safety reasons. Chief Sprague said, 'mam, if any of the three services don't respond and it's not just a one instance thing, that's a public safety issue in anyone's mind, and I'd certainly like to know about it. Commissioner Thomas said, right, and I'm not just speaking for myself. I've had many, many constituents to, you know, complain to me and I have tried to direct that information to the proper source.

Chairman Hair asked, Dr. Thomas, are you through? Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, we are being asked to go ahead and accept this, approve it, and then my understanding is it goes to the regional from here. Commissioner Saussy said, Region 9. Chairman Hair said, right, they have to approve it. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, there's a little bit more to be done, Commissioner Price. If you approve it, or whenever you approve it, then we've got to get —, if we're going to shoot for January the 1st like we talked about to implement, some of these people have got lease arrangements or leases they've got to

renew and they need to know those things so they can make those arrangements. I mean, not necessary that you have to approve it today, but Region 9 has to be involved as far as it's not going to like take it down tomorrow and it's going to be approved Wednesday. That's not going to happen. But those things need to be done, if you want to, by the Advisory Council under Dr. Victor's leadership or through the committee or whatever the case may be, but there are a number of things to be done. Commissioner Price said, Billy [Hair], I'm going to go ahead and put the motion on the floor. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, and if it needs to be tabled, then we can do that. We table everything, why not? I move that we accept the report with the proposed change in EMS operations. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Commissioner Price said, from the —. Chairman Hair said, second. Any further discussion? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, just a short one. Discussion has been out there about the zone and I think we don't have any choice except to go into a zone right now. We've had problems with the two ambulances, all the ambulance services trying to compete against each other, and this would eliminate that part of it, and I guess it's probably the best option we have out there right now, but I would hope that the Commission can get a report on the monitoring of how these different units, whether it's EMS or MedStar or Mercy, all the responding and those type things are taking place, and if we need to make adjustments in any of these zones because personally I don't think we can put a price tag on somebody's life, and that's what it's all about and that's what we're discussing right now. But I would also urge this Commission, once the vote's taken, to start lobbying our legislators again on a franchise fee, so if we can do that. We've asked them over and over and we don't get anywhere with it. It's something that needs to be done and I think they need to understand why it needs to be done.

Chairman Hair said, I totally agree. Before we even take a vote, Mr. Earls, you want to make a quick question and answer —, a quick question? Mr. Ken Earls said, actually a couple. My name is Ken Earls. I was just wondering under this new agreement, currently the ambulances that were mentioned are —, the private services are allowed to take non-911 private calls. They will be able to continue to do that? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, sure. Chairman Hair said, yes. Mr. Earls said, because, well, I've noticed at times listening to the scanners that it does cause quite a bit of confusion. There has to be shuffling of ambulances, and I did not know if there would actually be the resources under this zone plan to do that correctly and in a speedy manner. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes. Chatham County, first of all, doesn't take the private calls. Now, MedStar and Southside/Mercy, they do take private calls, and we understand that they can continue to do that and in those cases the zonings don't apply, but they have to meet the standards even if they do that. Chairman Hair said, response time standards. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes. Chairman Hair said, yes. Mr. Earls said, and also, as was mentioned earlier last year, Mercy pulled Unit 7 from Georgetown, weekends and at night, and the County got involved with that, and from what I understand basically forced them to put the ambulance back. I'm wondering, under this new plan can you —, you could not do that now, could you? Could you do that again? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, as Chief Sprague has already said, it becomes a public safety issue if some area ain't covered and, then, you know, for some reason —. Chief Sprague said, if I may, if that were to happen, to be very frank with you, I don't think we're going to have that type thing happen from the private services, but if they were to happen and, as the Sheriff says, it becomes a public safety issue, we will still have two ambulances in reserve. We will man them and violate the zoning, I guess, and we'll be reported for violating the zoning of the service that is not kept up to standards. Chairman Hair said, I think the important thing, Mr. Earls, is that it's going to be monitored on a regular basis, and we're going to see those reports, so certainly if we have those kinds of incidents, we need to deal with them. Mr. Earls asked, well, after you see a report at times can be too late. Chairman Hair said, that's true. It helps those in the future anyway. Commissioner Price said, that's a good question. Chairman Hair said, all right, all —, it is a good question.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes —, no, the motion ties, now the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to accept the report from the EMS Advisory Committee on restructuring ambulance service with proposed changes in EMS operations. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.

=====

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, before we get to the next item, I need some —, we need to make a decision as a body here. It's twelve o'clock. We normally go into Executive Session at twelve o'clock. We probably have —, my guess is probably another —, can somebody from the library tell me how long your presentation's going to last? Mr. Jack Kaster said, seven minutes. Chairman Hair said, yes, but that's not counting all the hundred questions you're going to get. Mr. Kaster said, it will be a short presentation. Chairman Hair said, I'll be surprised if your's doesn't last at least an hour or hour and 15 minutes. We just need to decide what we want to do as a body. If you want to go ahead and finish the agenda and then go to Executive Session or do you want to go into Executive Session now and come back and then —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, we've got two things, we've got the library and the cable. Chairman Hair said, well, both of those are going to take some time. Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Chairman Hair said, and I would suspect that dealing with both of those, we're probably looking at 2:30 or 3:00. Commissioner Thomas said, go into Executive Session. Chairman Hair said, so the feeling is —, and it is printed on our agenda, for those of you in the audience, we always print it on our agenda that we do go into Executive Session at twelve o'clock. So the wishes of the body now is to go into Executive Session and come back and finish the agenda. Is that what everyone? Chairman Hair said, all right, then I need a motion to that effect.

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

* * *

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

=====

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION (Continued)

2. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: GENERAL FUND M & O BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR \$16,400 AND A CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$3,800 TO CONVERT A STATE LEGAL SECRETARY POSITION WITH COUNTY-PAID SUPPLEMENT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IV COUNTY POSITION WITH STATE REIMBURSEMENT, CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$3,450 TO STATE COURT JUDGES AND \$1,520 TO JUVENILE COURT FOR STATE-MANDATED SALARY INCREASES, \$4,400 FOR THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT FROM SOUTHCHASE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION AND \$8,000 TO VICTIM WITNESS FOR REPLACEMENT OF A COPY MACHINE; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) UNINCORPORATED ROADS RESERVE TRANSFER OF \$17,600 TO MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT FOR THE ROAD MAP INVENTORY UPDATE PROJECT; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$6,590 TO JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY/I-95 INTERCHANGE PROJECT.**

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. I need one more vote please. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.] Chairman Hair said, thanks. The motion passes. I like the way you vote, Priscilla [Thomas]. I like the way Priscilla [Thomas] votes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the following: General Fund M & O budget amendment for \$16,400 and a contingency transfer of \$3,800 to convert a State Legal Secretary position with County-paid supplement to an Administrative Assistant IV County position with State reimbursement, contingency transfers of \$3,450 to State Court Judges and \$1,520 to Juvenile Court for State-mandated salary increases, \$4,400 for the annual assessment from Southchase Property Owners Association and \$8,000 to Victim Witness for replacement of a copy machine; a One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Unincorporated Roads Reserve transfer of \$17,600 to Miscellaneous Account for the Road Map Inventory Update Project; a One Percent Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) Contingency transfer of \$6,590 to Jimmy DeLoach Parkway/I-95 Interchange Project. Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

=====

3. **BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MR. MANMIT SINGH, D/B/A TIMESAVER, MAMY'S COUNTRY KITCHEN, AND 17 PACKAGE STORE, LOCATED AT 5799 OGEECHEE ROAD, FOR WAIVER AND REFUND OF LATE PENALTIES PAID FOR TARDY BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATES AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES. [DISTRICT 7.]**

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion it be denied. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Anderson has already recommended denial. We have a motion. Do we have a second?

County Manager Abolt said, on this one and the other one, the only opportunity was for somebody to come forward where they choose to be here, so --.

Chairman Hair asked, anybody here from Mamy's Kitchen or 17 Package Shop? [NOTE: No response was made.] Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second the motion. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor to deny vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to **DENY** the request from Mr. Manmit Singh, d/b/a Timesaver, Mamy's Country Kitchen, and 17 Package Store, located at 5799 Ogeechee Road, for waiver and refund of late penalties paid for tardy business tax certificates and alcoholic beverage licenses. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

=====

4. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM MR. J. V. COURTLAND, D/B/A SOUTHERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY, LOCATED AT ELBA ISLAND FOR WAIVER OF LATE PENALTIES FOR DELINQUENT BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE. [DISTRICT 4.]

Chairman Hair asked, is anyone here from Southern Natural Gas Company? Commissioner Jackel said, I move to deny. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to deny and a second. All those in favor of denial vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to **DENY** the request from Mr. J. V. Courtland, d/b/a Southern Natural Gas Company, located at Elba Island for waiver of late penalties for delinquent business tax certificate. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

=====

5. LIBRARY FUNDING OPTIONS.

6. REQUEST FROM LIBRARY BOARD FOR SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REQUEST FOR \$659,694 IN 1998.

7. REQUEST FROM LIBRARY BOARD FOR SPLOST FUNDS.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to suggest to those folks who are going to present to us that we take Items 6, 7 and 8 together —, not 8, I'm sorry, 6 and 7. Commissioner Thomas said, 5, 6 and 7. Chairman Hair said, 5, 6 and 7. We're going to take 5, 6 and 7 together. Just make it one presentation. Talk about your SPLOST funding and everything, and let's discuss it all at one time because they're very much related.

Mr. Jack Kaster said, absolutely. Thank you. There were the three items that were follow up to our presentation that we made to you a few weeks ago. You asked staff to look at the funding options for long term for both —. Pardon me, my name is Jack Kaster. I'm on the Board of Trustees of Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library. I apologize that some of the board members who were here with me had to leave, but I assure you they support everything that we'll be chatting with you about today. So there were two phases to it, one were the operating costs, which you remember were to grow from \$3.6 million currently per year to \$10.4 million annually by the year 2005, and construction projects which for the Chatham County portion would total approximately \$62 million over that time period. On the operating fund piece, the recommendation is that the only really reasonable way to handle this would be to increase the library appropriation by 2.41 mills each year from M&O. That would be \$970,000 a year increase, and it would then be by the year 2005 a total of 1.689 mills increase from what you're allocating for library operating costs now. There was a suggestion made during our presentation, I think by Commissioner Murray, a one year, one mill levy be looked at, which would get almost \$4 million, which would help in a belated way, it would allow a belated opening for the Bull Street Library, but much later than the building will be completed for opening day collections of technology; however, that would serve some good purposes if that were to be done for other short term needs for collection, enhancement and technology in the other branches, as well as, unless something else would be used, it would allow us to do the very much needed rehab of the Carnegie Branch, which is about a \$600,000 item. For the construction and capital projects, the first thing that we all have to do, I think, is, there is to really lobby the State candidates, both for statewide and the local delegation, to try to reinstate some State funding for library construction. A couple of years ago they stopped all funding. The Governor decided that distance learning would take care of everything and you didn't need bricks and mortar, so they weren't going to fund the bricks and mortar kinds of things. Prior to that the State had, in fact, funded some significant portions of the buildings that we did in the branch system and, of course, \$2 million of the cost of the Bull Street expansion. Secondly, it looks like the most prudent thing to do would be to tentatively schedule an election for a library construction bond measure in 1999. That would allow for over several years money to embark upon a construction program. There are some other things that were looked at that are related to this, such as working to get legislation passed that would enable multiple taxing districts to be bound together for, say, the library sort of funding so that you could have, in this case, the three counties working together and let the library funding be done as one item there. But all of that takes some work by legislators to make it even possible. There has been discussion, of course, and the next SPLOST round is a potential for handling the construction portion of that, and while that would be welcomed, it would be seemingly quite late for what our construction needs are because by the time you get into another five years basically that would delay it more than we'd like to see it delayed. So that's the long term thing. On the operating costs, increasing the appropriation by about a quarter of a mill each year would get us to that position where we talked about and then where we'd have operating budgets equal to the average of 25 similarly sized library systems, similarly sized in the number of constituents that they serve. Construction, capital projects, probably the best chance would be to have a library construction bond measure in 1999.

Mr. Kaster said, now the second item was supplemental funding for 1998, and you'll recall that at the time of the last year's budget there was a \$775,000 shortfall that the library needed to basically accommodate the opening of the Bull Street Library, hire more people, get them trained and get them ready to staff up and open Bull Street. We've refigured that with the staff now and with some delay from where we had planned to phase that in, the number now would be \$660,000, and that's imperative that we get that in order to be able to open Bull Street when the building is completed. The third item, and the one that really we'd like you to consider very strongly today, is funding for an opening day collection and the technology for the Bull Street Library, and the funds needed for that are needed now to meet a January 1999 opening to equip the library properly. \$3 million is needed for the collection, so that's books, that's tapes, that's all kinds of materials that you use in today's library systems, and \$1.3 million for technology. We're requesting that unallocated SPLOST funds be used to fund

that so that we could basically get the funding, get it now and get on with ordering those materials and hiring the people to staff it, et cetera, et cetera. If that can be done, if there were, by the way, other SPLOST funds available, we do have the \$600,000 project to get Carnegie stabilized and open and, in fact, serving the community, and that's been closed since last, what, August, I guess. Something like that. But —, so the SPLOST money for the opening day collections really are our number one thing. But summarizing all of those, I'd just say this, that our citizens deserve a vibrant, exciting library system. They need it, they need such a system to help start to chip away at the —, improving the education and learning accomplishments and improving literacy, assisting in economic development, and all the things that a good vibrant library system can and should provide. We should provide, as someone said, the strongest possible environment for people to grow, and that's what we're striving to do as we move forward with this system. If all we offer is a hollow library when Bull Street is completed, we will have failed our citizens, we will have failed the County, we will have missed a very important opportunity to get a tremendous increase in the number of people, young and old, who will get excited about life long learning opportunities. A great library fosters a great a great village. I just say, let's make it happen and let's make it happen now. We respectfully ask that you help us in this endeavor and I think that it will pay off for the citizens and for the County in general. Any questions?

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you. Any questions?

Commissioner Price said, you really need today to get the SPLOST money to open by January. I mean, that's the critical thing that you have of the three in front of us? I know they're all critical, but long term —, what I'm concerned about is we've run out of a few Commissioners in here. I'd like to see you at least get the money out of SPLOST to go forward and get the thing opened, by getting the main branch library open in January. Huh? [Inaudible.] No, this is \$600,000 out of SPLOST. Mr. Kaster said, no, that's operating money mostly. It's the \$4.3 million SPLOST money that we're looking for collection and technology. Three million will put books on the shelves —. Commissioner Price said, okay. Mr. Kaster said, a million three is for technology. The \$660,000 is to hire people to staff that, et cetera. The most important thing is the \$4.3 million, not because it's bigger than 660, but you can't do business from an empty wagon. You've got to have some stuff there, and that's what we really need. Commissioner Odell said, that's a lot of stuff though. Mr. Kaster said, that is a lot of stuff. The three million books —, \$3 million for books though is 125,000, I guess, volumes, 124,000 volumes. They're all itemized, broken down by class of book, et cetera. Commissioner Odell said, I understand your answer, but my question is obviously you have a fallback plan because it cannot be either you give us the four point whatever million or nothing. There has to be something inbetween. Mr. Kaster said, that's right. Commissioner Odell said, it cannot be because we didn't —. Mr. Kaster said, oh, I understand. That's right. Commissioner Odell said, we didn't roll into this position this year, last year. We have gotten in this position over time, and I think it's hard pressed to put this Commission in a position where we have to make the decision exclusively where other Commissioners have not. Now, is there another number other than the \$4 million, and I don't want it to be a crisis oriented situation of either give us the \$4 million or we can't do anything. We can't do it with three, we can't do it at two. There's some happy medium between four million and zero. Mr. Kaster said, obviously —. Commissioner Odell asked, how much? Mr. Kaster said, the main —, one level, of course, is the technology. That's a million three. That number is primarily for technology in the Bull Street, to be installed there, but it also includes capability for you to dial in from your office or from your home, for people in the other branches and the system to dial in, for people in the community to come in and get on the Internet, et cetera, and that's —, you could piecemeal some of that. Instead of having 109 terminals for public use in the library, you could have 85. That would be good. I mean, you can cut some things like that. The collection, I think that to cut it drastically you'd be faced with the same thing of having a beautiful new building, a lot of functional niceties in it like children's rooms and young adults, et cetera, and not having much material. It would look like we'd done it halfway. But, you're right. If you can give us three million three instead of four million three, obviously, we're going to be pleased and we'll do three million three worth of the best doggone library resources you can find.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can we get Lon [Dickerson] —, can we get Lon [Dickerson] up here to find out —, you know, I mean, why 124,000 books? Mr. Kaster said, all right. Lon [Dickerson], do you want to talk about —? Commissioner DeLoach asked, I mean, is that a magic number there? Is that like the ABC's, does that cover it or what? Where do we come up with 124,000 books? Mr. Lon Dickerson said, the capacity of the building is 200,000. We have 139,000 items in the collection when we left, so to have the stacks full we need 124,000 because we're only going to carry 75 back. We can open the building with less than that. How much less? It's not a magic number, you know. It really —, in my mind, if we are going to use Bull Street as the springboard for a renaissance in library services in the community, which I think is really what's going to happen and certainly what's happened in Charlotte, North Carolina. We were just up there a couple, three weeks ago. Their Bull Street Library is what made it happen there. We've got to have close to, you know, a reasonable collection when we open up. Otherwise, people are going to come and say it's not worth coming back to. But, yes, we can do with less and we would appreciate any support that this Commission can help provide to get that library into the state that it needs to be. We're also working with the community public in trying to raise funds privately. If this Commission could provide us with a significant part of the money, we'd go into the community and say the challenge —, it's up to you now, you've got to provide the rest of it. We're not saying this is it, take it or leave it. We're saying we need help and we need help from you. Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I continue? Vice Chairman Thomas said, well, continue [inaudible]. Commissioner DeLoach said, \$1.3 million for the technological part of it, I had called Michael Terry on his answering machine, but he was out of town. I realize that now. The possibilities of —, is that set up on a lease/purchase plan or is that —, what kind of program have you got that on where —, what —, is there a possibility of a program where you lease similar to the way we're doing in the County where you pay X-amount of dollars a year and you —, you're continually updated and all this instead of buying a computer today that will be outdated next year? Mr. Dickerson said, I personally prefer to use the lease plan. We don't have the type of operating budget right now that would enable that, but over the next two to three years, which is really the lifetime of a computer, I would hope that we would be in that position. As I understand it, and I may be wrong here, I think SPLOST money can only be used for capital start up costs or construction for the Bull Street Library, for instance. I think it would be inappropriate to use SPLOST money for leasing equipment because that would be more operational. Commissioner DeLoach said, let's assume that, but what is the figure on that. You'd like to lease it, you have an idea of what we're talking about. What kind of number were they looking at if we were in the lease instead of a let's go buy a million three worth of stuff. Mr. Dickerson said, I'm going to need help from Bill Johnson —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mr. Dickerson said, to answer that question, but that would increase the operating costs then. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, just find out what that number is. Mr. Dickerson said, right. Bill [Johnson], can you tell me?

Mr. Johnson said, my best estimate, Commissioner, is that over the three years your total cost would be about 7% more than if you purchased it outright. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, well, 7%, I mean —, 7% more. Mr. Johnson said, yes. Commissioner

DeLoach said, okay, but if you bought it over a period of time, do you lease this and continue —, in other words, you lease trucks, I lease trucks, I turn them in in three years, I've got another one and I keep on going. Mr. Johnson said, right. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what's that number? If you were going to do the library, I'm sure you estimated the cost of that as compared to the \$1.3 million on the purchase, what is the cost of that for an operational budget to function and keep this program up to date? Mr. Kaster said, it's a little complex because some of the stuff in the 1.3 is hardware, some is software, and the software you wouldn't get on that kind of program, but the hardware you would. Commissioner DeLoach said, on a lease program, you wouldn't on a lease program? I mean, we lease software too —. Mr. Kaster said, well, yes, but —. Commissioner DeLoach said, and a supplemental —, I mean, a supplemental —, the whole nine yards is covered in our programs that we buy. What is the whole nine yards in your program that you priced out before you come to me with 1.3, we've got to buy it all? Mr. Johnson said, I don't have that number. I'll be glad to get it. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's not good. That is not good. We need that number. I mean, we're trying to, you know —, we're trying to make something happen here. We need to know every angle, you know. If we're going to start eating this thing, we're going to have to eat it one bite at a time. The best way to do it is a small bite, not the whole enchilada. Commissioner Odell said, I love that kind of talk. Commissioner DeLoach said, but I —, really, I mean, I really —, you know, I was hoping I would come up with something here that I could shoot and get me a long term program like leasing equipment or something and we were going to drop this number in here and I can plan for the future based on that, because I won't be able to give you \$1.3 million today. I mean, I can tell you that. I mean, as far as my vote goes. There might be other votes up here. I couldn't come up with it to save my life right now. Mr. Johnson said, I apologize for coming to you without that option. Our thinking was that this purchase would be with SPLOST money and that over the next two to three years our operating revenue would increase enough that when it came time to replace it, we could replace it with a lease.

Mr. Kaster said, could I —, could I suggest that we ask Bill [Johnson] to step out to a telephone and I think that you could get a directional idea of the size of this thing, and to say that —. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible] for a ballpark. Mr. Kaster said, yes, call some manufacturers and see what the lease/purchase ratio is. It's probably 25 to 1, so you divide 25 into the 1.3 and I think you'd probably —. Commissioner DeLoach said, some ratio there. Mr. Kaster said, \$40,000 to \$45,000, something like that, but —. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's just an idea on the technological that I had because I know that I can't come up with this vast amount of money that everybody needs. I'm not saying you don't need it, I'm just saying I don't have it. Mr. Kaster said, I think on a monthly basis it would probably be 40 or 45 per month, but anyway —.

Chairman Hair asked, Eddie [DeLoach], are you finished? Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Price said, I think David [Saussy] was next. Chairman Hair said, she's got here Commissioner. Commissioner Saussy said, Harris [Odell] is always before me. Commissioner Odell said, Ben [Price] is running things. Commissioner Price said, no, I was —, never mind. Chairman Hair said, I'm back now, I'm running things. It's Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Price said, actually, Commissioner Thomas had agreed to it.

Commissioner Odell said, we did not look, therefore, as leasing as being a viable option when before this proposal was submitted to this Commission. Is that a true statement? Mr. Kaster said, that's a true statement. Commissioner Odell asked, but wouldn't you agree that we could on a short term lease some items, which would be a substantial reduction in costs in this fiscal year? Isn't that reasonable? Mr. Kaster said, if there's operating money to do that, certainly, certainly. Commissioner Odell said, my understanding is the \$659,694 is simply a restoration to the budget rest. Is that true, Lon? Mr. Kaster said, uh huh. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And it's that money that will be the necessary supplement to staff that will enable us to open and to have staff to open. Is that true? Mr. Kaster said, that's true. Commissioner Odell said, now the \$4 million request —, we really don't know, as Eddie [DeLoach] said, how big of a bite that is. We've made some decision, or the board has made some decision, but we really don't know minimally what we can do at this point. It cannot be either zero or four point some million dollars. That's not the only two conceivable options, but that's the alternative that we're given at this point. Mr. Kaster said, that is —, that's right. There's no question that something less would be a lot better than nothing at all. Commissioner Odell said, you know, my —, and I support this. I think what we've done historically is that we've underfunded the service, and this could —, this board has done something which the community owes you gratitude, and what you've done is you've done a short term and long range plan, but I'm not certain if the community is willing, if you compare the services at the four point whatever million, I guess, of the projected needs that we have in this County that they're going to say give you the entire apple. I'm not thinking that that will be the conclusion they'll make. We need some other number, some rational number that says in order for us to have the technology, looking at all the proposals, we need to have this minimally. No one can tell me that minimally you need four point blank or we won't open. That is not a rational conclusion that I can make. I guess my next question is, if that be the argument, when, therefore, could we receive that information? This is good, and I think we should restore the \$600,000, but what's not good is I don't know how much of the \$4.3 million that you all are going to receive and whether or not it will fulfill your needs minimally. We didn't get in this position overnight, we're not going to solve this problem overnight, and we have other competing programs and project which also are underfunded. If you ultimately save taxes, that means that we don't increase a lot of things. This is a substantial increase, and whether it's called SPLOST money or —, it's an increase. Mr. Kaster said, I agree with you. Let me say this. If you restore the budget underfunded, that would allow —. Commissioner Odell asked, 650? Mr. Kaster said, 660,000, 659 and some. If you restore that, we could then begin to hire people and get them ready to open that building. If, in addition to that, you were to say that we'll fund the technology at one point three and we'll fund half of the three million for materials, just thinking out loud now, but it seems to me that if you would do that, give us 2.8 million today of SPLOST funds and turn us loose to try to get some from the community to fill in, that we'd be obviously in much better shape than we were when we came in here and, now, if you want to work with us building this materials thing from the bottoms up, which it has been built up. Lon [Dickerson] talked about a capacity thing, but I can assure you that the list of materials is done category by category in a hundred category, we'd be glad and happy and willing to sit down and spend two days' time with any staff or yourselves to go through this and see how that process would test against half or three-quarters of the materials budgeted, but —, because you're right. I mean, we —, the first thing we have to —, it has to have some staff and so on to operate it, we have something on the shelves. We don't have to have them chuck full and the more we have, the more leverage we can get to get people in there, get them excited and get them to use the library because we're not doing it for us, we're doing it for the people so that we can get more people interested in books, get more people interested in education, get more people interested in coming to Savannah to locate their plants because the people are getting to be better job candidates because they have a library that shows that the people of Savannah and Chatham County think a lot about the cultural side of things too, the intellectual side of life. Commissioner Odell asked, well, what kind of system, if any, does the Board of Education provide towards the regional library system? Mr. Kaster said, the —, nothing except what —, the most concrete thing is the chance to put a computer training lab in the Arnold school building right across from the library. The possibility of that, we're working with them on. Right, Lon [Dickerson]? Which will be important to us because we want to be able to teach computers not only to our staff,

but more important to the users of the library, and we'd have a facility there right adjacent to the library, which would be a big help. Commissioner Odell said, but we're not duplicating efforts, are we, as it relates to what the Board of Education —, they have participated in this. Is that true? Mr. Kaster said, in fact, I've talked with Virginia Edwards this morning, and of course she's on our board still, and she won't continue there probably because she's got quite a few other fish to fry now, but about working together and doing some more planning on that this morning while she was here, and she agreed that we should do that very, very early, so we will continue that.

Commissioner Odell said, Lon [Dickerson], you could probably at some point give us a number less than the 4.3, right? Mr. Dickerson said, I think, as Jack [Kaster] said, we can work with a number. There is no magic —, 80% of the shelves should be full or 90% or 65%. We want to make sure that that library is successful, and I think that that means that we should have as many books in that library as possible that are going to be attractive to the kids and the other library users, but we can come up with other figures, yes, but don't expect an Einstein —, that this will move the job and this one won't. Commissioner Odell said, no, but certain levels buys —, a certain level of technology buys a certain level of books, we can staff the shelves at X% if we provide two point eight million or if we provide three and a half million, it would buy different gradations and levels of technology and percentage of, I guess, having a complete system. Mr. Dickerson said, right, and as I said before, we are going to continue to work with our foundation that was established over the last several months to try to garner from the public sector —, private sector, excuse me, funds to augment whatever you're able to do to help in this effort because —. Commissioner Odell said, I think you all have done an excellent job. Mr. Dickerson said, because the community wants to put more effort. Commissioner Odell said, especially the board.

Chairman Hair asked, are you through? Commissioner Odell said, I'm finished. Before I call on Commissioner Saussy, the County Manager brought something to my attention. The next item on our agenda is a cable franchise agreement, and our consultant has to be in Effingham County at three o'clock for a meeting. That means he's going to have to leave here at 2:15. If we're going to utilize his services to deal with that item —, I hate to interrupt the library presentation —. Mr. Kaster said, that's all right. Chairman Hair said, but it seems to me that it would be prudent to —. Commissioner Saussy said, I think we can wind up pretty quick. Chairman Hair said, well, if we can wind it up in five minutes, let's do it, but, I mean, we don't want to just go from five to seven to nine, or whatever. Commissioner DeLoach said, let's swap over, let's let them go. Let the other people go. Mr. Kaster said, we'll wait. Chairman Hair said, I think it would be more appropriate. It would be fair to everybody probably if we go ahead and take the cable franchise and come back. We don't want to short change you, but at the same time, it's kind of crazy for us to have the consultant here and we don't have advantage of his expertise.

[NOTE: By general consent, Item IX-8 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.]

* * *

Chairman Hair said, that takes us back the library presentation, or actually questions. I think we'd appointed Commissioner Saussy as recognized. Commissioner Saussy said, let me recollect what I was going to say.

Mr. Kaster said, while you're thinking about what you were going to say, let me respond to your question on the lease thing and with a rather quick response on the thing so [inaudible]. It would be about \$40,000 a month to lease that equipment. There would be about \$100,000 —, \$95,000 or \$100,000 that would have to be SPLOST money that are things that probably you couldn't get in the lease package unless you were to really hire, you know, out source kind of a thing. So, as a general thing, let's say that it would —, so for this year you'd want to —, you'd probably want to get that technology in December because the building should be ready, and you can put it in, so it would be like \$40,000 plus \$100,000 for the odds and ends that might not be swept into that contract, and then about \$500,000 a year additional operating funds to keep that technology in there on lease. Commissioner Saussy asked, how many years? How much a year lease? Mr. Kaster said, this would be a three-year, and so, in addition to that, the \$40,000 for the technology in December, the \$100,000 for the odds and ends that we'd have to get, and then the \$660,000 operating that we talked about, and then whatever we could get for materials from SPLOST to go in there. So, excuse me, Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, that's fine. I'm glad you brought that up because that was one of the questions I wanted to add into this thing. I'd just like to throw this out as a —, after I put in a motion, but I want to see us have a good library when we open this thing up, but I —, Eddie [DeLoach] suggested several things, and you came up basically with the same thing I wanted to do to begin with. I would like to suggest that we fund the library with \$2 million and that the library lease for the terms, some of the terms you just brought up, for the technology and also that we put on the referendum this Fall an increased millage of one mill for one year to pay for the library. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll second it.

Chairman Hair said, I think we have --, well, okay, we have a motion and a second. We have a legal question here, I think, on the SPLOST money. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, under the current referendum and such, I don't think we can lease, take the \$2 million on a lease basis. Commissioner Saussy said, no, no, I'm not talking about —. Chairman Hair said, he's talking about —, no, \$2 million wouldn't be lease. Commissioner Saussy said, \$2 million wouldn't be the lease. This is —. Chairman Hair said, but it would have to be spent for —, Jack [Kaster], which is —, it's got to be spent on technology. It can't be spent on books. Mr. Kaster said, well, I thought that the interpretation was that it was —, that it could be spent for the library and to equip the library, and the materials are equipping the library. Chairman Hair said, not materials. Let's get a legal ruling. I'm pretty sure it can't be materials. It can be technology —. Go ahead, Russ [Abolt].

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, you have a figure in mind as to which you'd like to allocate some of the SPLOST. Rather than try to work that now so we don't get ourselves in trouble, in effect, staff would work with library staff to ensure that whatever they choose to purchase is SPLOST eligible.

Chairman Hair said, David [Saussy], would you accept —. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, to \$2 million, assuming that it's SPLOST eligible. Up to \$2 million. In other words, if only a million seven was SPLOST eligible, it would be a million seven, okay. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Chairman Hair said, up to \$2 million if it —, and spend it on items that are legally defined

as SPLOST eligible. Would you accept that? Commissioner Saussy said, right, right. I would assume they could —, if it's nothing but \$1.7 million, they could come up with \$300,000 —. Chairman Hair said, but I think that's a —, that would be a better motion for staff and the lawyers to work with if we said up to \$2 million. Commissioner Saussy said, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, assuming that the items that are going to be purchased, which means they have to be run by staff and also by the attorney to make sure they're SPLOST eligible. Would you accept that, and, Joe [Rivers], would you accept that as your amendment [sic]? All right, we have a motion and a second on the --.

Commissioner Price said, point of clarification. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Price said, you said —, you had in there put on the referendum for this Fall. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Commissioner Price said, do we have time to go through the legislative process in doing that? County Attorney Hart said, I don't —, I don't know right this second. I'd have to look at that. Commissioner Saussy said, well, let's put it if we can. Chairman Hair said, well, I also think we need to put the other thing, Eddie [DeLoach] that we should not do it unless the other two counties are also willing to put it on their county referendum. Commissioner DeLoach said, exactly. Chairman Hair said, if they're not willing to do it, I don't think we ought to put it on the referendum. Only if Effingham and Liberty agrees to put it on theirs. Commissioner Price said, let's make it —. Chairman Hair said, it's got to be —. Commissioner Rivers said, contingent upon. Chairman Hair said, contingent upon. If those two counties decide not to do it, then ours, we wouldn't do it. Commissioner Saussy said, I'll agree with that. Mr. Kaster said, one time, one mill. Chairman Hair said, only if the other two counties agree to put it on their referendum as well. And if they refuse to do that, we refuse to do ours.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm not certain if we really want to do that, and the reason I say that is, this is a way that we in Chatham County can designate whether or not we want to support the library by doing so is we put it on the referendum and have a chance to vote for it. If Liberty decides they simply want to take it out of property taxes, I think it's their right. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that's true. They could do it that way. Commissioner Odell said, I don't want our way of putting this on the ballot would take [inaudible] —. Commissioner Saussy said, well, we can reword that. Chairman Hair said, well, the problem with that though is then you would still assume —, they would have no incentive to do it, to increase their funding if we're going to go ahead and put a mill on ours, they would have no incentive to increase their funding. What incentive would they have, because we're going to put our mill on and we're going to take care of that part of it, but they wouldn't have any incentive to increase their budget. Commissioner Price said, well, all we need —, all we need is a commitment from them either by referendum or by vote —. Chairman Hair said, yes, they've have to either agree to increase their funding proportionately to equal what one mill would be. If they want to take it out of property taxes, that would be fine, or if they wanted a special one mill that would be fine, but it has to be equal to one mill. Commissioner Price said, there you go. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Chairman Hair said, if they want to do it out of —, however, they want to do it, but it should be equal to one mill.

Mr. Kaster said, in Effingham it's funded out of the Board of Education. Chairman Hair said, well, it still would have to be equal to one mill. Mr. Kaster said, I understand that it —, the parity thing and that's fair enough. Chairman Hair said, and it would have to be —, they could fund it from any source as long as it equals one mill. Commissioner DeLoach said, but it needs to be one mill in addition to the present funding. Chairman Hair said, that is correct, that is correct. Commissioner DeLoach said, not equal to one mill. Chairman Hair said, and it would be an amount of money that would be —, that would be easy to determine that amount of money, and they would have to come up with that amount of money or else we would not put ours on the referendum, and then that would take care of your concern.

Commissioner Price said, all right. What if we don't have —, are able to put it on the referendum this November? Can we amend the motion to include that it would go on the next available date for a referendum? Chairman Hair said, I'm not sure it's time —, I don't think we have time to put it on this one. Commissioner Price said, that's what I'm concerned about. I mean, I don't want —. Chairman Hair said, why don't we just do the motion to the next available. Commissioner Saussy said, the next available. Commissioner Rivers said, well, let's do that and then let's just find out about the time, and contingent upon having the time then we —.

Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Okay, everybody understand the motion? All those —. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand it, but he gave one motion and then you kind of modified it —. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I accepted the modifications. Chairman Hair said, he accepted my modifications. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, well, I think we probably ought to state it so it's cohesive. If we go back and check the records, we've got something that's cohesive. Chairman Hair said, all right. The motion is to fund up to \$2 million, a maximum of \$2 million out of SPLOST funds for all items that are SPLOST eligible, and that will be determined by staff and the attorney, and to put on the ballot at the next available time, a one mill, one year, for Chatham County if the other two counties are willing to raise an equivalent sum of money of one mill in their counties, either through referendum or through the general fund. Commissioner Jackel asked, may I suggest that we split that up into two motions. We'd want to do the SPLOST at \$2 million —, up to \$2 million. Commissioner Price said, that's a good idea. Commissioner Jackel said, and the second motion —. Commissioner Saussy said, we can do that, that's fine. Commissioner Price said, that's a good idea because you don't one dependant upon the other. Commissioner Jackel said, to clarify the —.

Chairman Hair said, all right, would you withdraw your motion and a second and restate it? Commissioner Saussy said, I'll withdraw my motion and just say —. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't know if I want to do that. Okay, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, I'm going to separate the two of y'all. You've been sitting next to Martin [Jackel] too long, I'm going to separate you. Can you come down here and sit by me Martin [Jackel]?

Commissioner Saussy said, I make the other motion that we spend \$2 million in SPLOST money —. Chairman Hair said, up to —. Commissioner Saussy said, up to \$2 million. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Now, second motion is —. Commissioner Saussy said, second motion would be —, well, go ahead Martin [Jackel], you want to —.

Commissioner Jackel said, the second motion would be that we, at the next available election, that we have a one mill increase in taxes devoted to the library if it's concurred by the two other counties that are in our thing, if they raise theirs proportionately, either through —. Commissioner Rivers said, in our district. Commissioner Jackel said, in our district, either through a millage increase or however they

do, but they have to match us. Chairman Hair said, but ours would be a one year —, one year, one mill. Commissioner Jackel said, but only for one year. Chairman Hair said, only one year. Commissioner Jackel said, I didn't say it as smoothly as I —. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you, thank you. All right, next item.

Mr. Kaster said, one minute please. We didn't —. Chairman Hair said, you got a lot of money, you'd better sit down. We might take some away from you. Mr. Kaster said, I trust you. I heard the motion, it's solid. The thing that we didn't talk about is the operating thing for the —. Chairman Hair said, I don't know where we're going to get any money for that. Mr. Kaster said, well —. Commissioner Rivers said, don't be a glutton. Chairman Hair said, I don't think —, Jack [Kaster], I don't think this is the appropriate time. Commissioner Price asked, how much do you need? Mr. Kaster said, I'd just like to mention the leasing of the technology —. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that's the way of doing it. Mr. Kaster said, that's assumed —. Chairman Hair said, I don't know where you could get the \$600,000, that's the problem. Mr. Kaster said, okay. I want to thank you very much for your patience.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Saussy moved to designate up to \$2,000,000 in SPLOST funds for items for the library that are SPLOST eligible. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
2. Commissioner Jackel moved that at the next available election that the millage be increased by one mill for one year with the funds to be devoted to the library conditioned upon Liberty and Effingham Counties concurrently increasing theirs in a proportionate amount either through a millage increase or general funds. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A CABLE TV FRANCHISE RENEWAL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED WITH JONES COMMUNICATIONS OF GEORGIA/SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, this is Mr. Greg Fender of GMA. He's dealt with some members of the Board. As I know Reese White and myself have both testified in the past, it's our opinion Mr. Fender has done an excellent job over several months for, quite frankly, a relatively small amount of money. He's assured me that not only is the product in his estimation one of the best, if not the best franchise options available, but also testified with full cooperation of our current franchisee, Jones Cable. Chairman Hair said, okay, Greg [Fender].

Mr. Greg Fender said, thank you very much. I thought it might be helpful just to give you a little quick background about our program and so you'll have a little more comfort feel about what we're presenting here today. GMA started a program back in 1993 with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act, and we pooled the resources of local governments to provide an ongoing service for telecommunications assistance. We —, but with that, with those monies we enlisted the support and help of Arnold and Porter, a law firm that specializes in telecommunications law for local governments. They're located in Washington, DC. We also employed the —, an engineer by the name of Mr. Bill Potts, who is also one of the nation's noted engineers for local governments. And so we utilized these individuals, or these companies, in conjunction with our negotiations here with Jones Intercable for the franchise renewal we're presenting to you today. We all —, I want to say real briefly I really enjoyed working with Reese White. The staffers and he have put a lot of time and effort to this project. It's —, after several meetings with your department heads and we received information from them so we felt like we had a good bit of information to work with and the County was very supportive. We also have with us representatives from Jones Intercable here today, the General Manager Tom Autry and his assistant. Let me just say briefly, and then I'll open it up for questions, the franchise agreement we're recommending to you today, and since I've been involved with negotiating franchise agreements since we started in '93, this is without a doubt the best franchise we felt that we've ever negotiated for a local government, and I'm pleased to say that, pleased to recommend this to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. When I first came to Savannah and looked at the cable franchise with the City and the County, and we saw that you only had the —, serving the community only —, the system was only providing you 45 channels or less for the consumers, I was quite shocked for a community of this size. And, of course, at that time, it was with Time Warner and then it transferred to Jones Intercable, and we're very impressed with what we've been able to work out with Jones. They are making a significant investment in this community. It's going to be a \$40 million rebuild of the system. \$20 million of that —, well, right at \$20 million is going to be in unincorporated Chatham County. You're basically getting a state of the art system. It's a 750 MHZ system which you will have activated channels, mean when I say activated, your viewers or you yourself will be able to view those —, at least, as a minimum, 80 additional channels by the end of the year 2000, December 31, 2000, and you're going to have significant cable capacity where you're going to have up to 110 analog channels capacity, you're going to have another 100 MHZ for digital compression. That capacity which will tremendously enhance your ability to grow the system as more products and services are provided in the future. This is a —, the other thing that we would look at for service and consumers, the document does include customer service standards, minimum federal customer service standards, and we also look for and into these negotiations another aspect, a major aspect is the revenue that will be paid for the use of the public rights-of-way, and I can say that Chatham County will be receiving the maximum amount of revenue allow by federal law, and you'll be receiving five percent of their gross revenue in franchise fees, and this —, you're going to see these services grow, you'll see your revenue grow, and I can tell you minimally at this point over the life of this franchise term you'll easily see more than a half a million dollars over the term in growth of the franchise fees, and that's a very conservative investment —, or estimate. The —, also the document gives you extensive ability to act if the cable operator fails to perform, fails to perform services or provides to —, or fails to comply with the document. So you basically have —, there's a lot of regulatory aspects that they need to keep the local government informed of their operations, their payments to you, the use of the rights-of-way and also it gives you a pro-active stance for customer service standards. And, finally, we're very pleased to say that it's going to provide you a lot of assistance for a local government operation. We are pleased to say —, and let me also say, so you'll understand the kind of commitment that Jones is making here, under the federal law under rate rules, if they provide you money for, say, PEG, which is known as Public Educational Governmental access, or for an institutional network, the law allows the operator to be able to pass that cost on if it's a franchise imposed costs, allows them to

pass that cost on to the subscriber. It even allows them, if they choose, to itemize it on the bill saying it's a franchise imposed cost for a subscriber. Jones, through the negotiations, agreed to provide the County a capital grant of \$300,000 for your use for institutional network services or for PEG services, with it being —, with none of it being passed on to the subscriber, none of it set off against franchise fees. It's a pure capital grant, so there's nothing itemized on the bill. It's just a pure capital grant, and that's a tremendous investment in the community. I could take you to Atlanta and DeKalb County and others, and you'll see it listed on —, in their agreements as being passed. So, that is really a nice contribution on their part. You will have two by the year 2000, at the end of 2000, you will have two additional channels for your use. One we had conceptually designed to look as if it was a training channel that you would be able to use that would be —, actually the subscribers —, it would be your choice. The subscribers would not see the training or the conferences, a video conference like this Commission, to be on the television now, and all your County departments and various departments of the City throughout the area could see this meeting and you could —, or even have a training session, and it not be on the subscriber network. You would have that ability. They would provide you —, they're going to provide you a hundred converter boxes to convert the signals so it will be —, it will be a scrambled signal on the television, but it will de-scramble with these converter boxes. So they're providing you a hundred of those at no cost. You'll see in the document numerous cable connections for the various County offices, so that gives you the opportunity for those that have TV's and they have the channel —.

Chairman Hair said, Greg [Fender], if I could interrupt you. I think it would probably be appropriate to take questions at this point. I think, all of us have copies of the agreement and we're pretty familiar with it. So I think rather than just to reiterate what's already in the agreement, I think it would be appropriate to take questions at this point. Mr. Fender said, sure. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel first and then Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Jackel said, I've had the opportunity to talk with you and I think we have a pretty good agreement. My frustration is that you negotiated a contract with us —, you negotiated a contract for us with Jones Communications and there was a lot of give and take and hard negotiations going on. You finally get to a space and —, where's Russ [Abolt], is Russ [Abolt] around? Commissioner Thomas said, he stepped out a minute. Commissioner Jackel said, well, the point is then we get a completed agreement and then it's presented to me. So then if I feel like any changes are made, I'm a Johnny come lately to the thing. There's not much I can do at this point, but that is a big frustration to me being here elected to look after the people in my district, the people over the County, that what I hear from you and what I hear from Jones Cable is well we worked real hard and we got a give and take on this thing and here it is and don't be the deal killer and we've worked all this out. You know, somewhere along the line it seems like we should have been asked what would we like to see in this agreement, maybe given some sort of form agreement and say, how does this look to you, would you like some sort of changes, but here we are down at the eleventh hour —, actually we're past the twelfth hour because we've continued this thing over the deadline, and everybody's worked hard. So, within those limitations I'd still like, and hopefully you understand my frustration. I mean, that's —, I don't want to come to you and negotiate with your builder and all of a sudden say here's the deal, take it or leave it, you say well I really wanted two and half baths, I just didn't want two baths in that house. I think you understand what I'm saying. All right, now, I understand it's 15 years, which to me seems like a very long contract. Of course, I learned from Jones Communications that they were going to have to invest some \$20 million, and that's why they needed that time. I have to assume that's valid. I just have no way to judge that. Mr. Fender said, that's a very somewhat common term in the franchise —, the cable industry. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, and that's the other thing I, you know, I keep hearing, this is standard, this is the minimum requirement. My position always is that I want more than the minimum requirements for the people of Chatham County. I'm still concerned about the company only has to provide the cable if someone is within 150 feet of a company feeder cable or there are 25 dwellings within one linear mile, and I think I explained to you the situation a friend of mine is, he lived on White Bluff, they built Old Mill Estates across the street, there were plenty of units in there, and they built the cable in Old Mill Estates. He called up, not this cable company but the previous one, and said I want cable, and they said, well, you're more than 150 feet. He said, I'm just across the street from all these homes, and they said, well, you're over 150 feet. Well, if you apply the linear mile thing and you take it from your cable and you run it out to where he was, after you pass one other house, you run into the marsh, so of course there weren't 25 —, I mean, 25 houses within a linear mile, but if you'd gone from his house back into Old Mill Estates, it would have been way more than 25 houses in a linear mile, so he didn't get his cable. I don't see why we can't be a little more consumer friendly in this thing. Just because someone is across the street from a subdivision, which puts him more than 150 feet away from the subdivision, that single house can't get it. There may only be 175, there may only be 200 feet, and I know what your answer is, is well that's the standard in the industry. Well, my question is: Is that good enough?

Mr. Fender said, well, let me say that, when I say sometimes we use the term standard in the industry, and it's also standard for our negotiations over a long period of time. I will say, and you do —, you're absolutely right in your first comments that you didn't have the benefit of knowing the intricacies of negotiations, but when we first started negotiations, they were like we were going from a density, negotiating with 45 homes per mile, so we're quite pleased to have it down to 25 homes per mile. I also can tell you that there's other cable companies that we negotiate with that we usually start off with those high ranges, they want to try to have, you know, a higher area before they make that investment, but we were pleased that we were able to get it down to 25 homes per mile. I also will say that because of DBS and other types of technologies that are coming in, it only makes sense from a business standpoint for the cable company to sign up as many customers as possible. So, if you've got a situation where you've got 25 homes in say a mile and a half of what it would be to cable, or 50 homes away from it, I would go out on a limb and say I think the cable operator will more than likely make that investment to go out there and meet those homes, but you just have to be careful because over a long term agreement you don't always know, and I'm speaking from their standpoint, you don't always know exactly how many homes or what sort of situation you'll run into. You might have a new subdivision that builds on the river and all the new homes that are first built in that subdivision are built on the river and are many miles away from the feeder cable, so —, but if that subdivision take off and the rest of the —, all those homes don't get built, they're going to have a hard time making that investment to get back there to them. And, so, that's what I'm trying to say. You have to have some —.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I think there are certain problems here with our topography that would make this a much harder area than if you were serving in Atlanta because people will run along rivers, and this will deprive them of the cable. Mr. Fender said, and we knew that was an issue when we came in to help the County with this, and I'm originally from Glynn County so I'm familiar with the topography, and I know that is an issue, but we felt like we got the best, the lowest density for a rural coastal area. When I say rural, you know I mean —. Chairman Hair said, right, yes. Mr. Fender said, there's some part that are rural. Chairman Hair said, parts of it. Mr. Fender said, that we could. Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Jackel, do you have some additional questions? Commissioner Jackel said, okay, then on page 21 when we talked about this, if someone else wants to come in and negotiate with us, if they get a better deal than Jones Communications, we have to renew our contract, and I had some feelings about that that everyone strikes their best deal. We strike our

best deal, you heard some talk about selling the golf course. You always —, as soon as you strike a deal, someone tells you they can do it better, and I'm told that that's standard too, but —. Mr. Fender said, let me —, can I comment on that, just to respond?

County Attorney Hart said, excuse me. We're down to four members. Chairman Hair said, one just showed up. Commissioner Price said, we're playing musical chairs. Chairman Hair said, our attorney was fixing to remind us we didn't have a quorum, Mr. Fender. That's our problem, not yours. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm here, present and accounted for. Mr. Fender said, okay. I would like to say —. Commissioner Rivers said, and I already know what's happening. Chairman Hair said, he's listening even though he's not here. Commissioner Rivers said, I know what's happening.

Mr. Fender said, Commissioner Jackel, I will say this. I can tell you —, you probably thought my name was Ken Starr before I came up here because it's taken us about a year and a half for this, but that issue that you're talking about probably took two or three months just negotiating that provision. That is —, we —, the cable operator, and I'm not just saying this about Jones, it's across the board for them nationally. They will come in and they will —, if you saw what they put on there, you'd really get to the root. They usually start off with lawyers saying, we will tell you when we think there's an unfair deal and we will come in and tell you our document's amended automatically. Of course, we negotiate, and I'm proud of this MFN in that it basically you still in the driver seat. It doesn't affect your franchising authority. You're still the one that has to determine whether they feel like —, whether it's an unfair deal or not, you still have to make positions, but on the cable operator's side, they're making this kind of investment in the community and they don't want to see another company come in and then say to them, to other company, you just get a different density requirement, and that's going to be one of the area they would focus on the most is what you were talking about earlier, too, is the density. So if you just gave someone, say —, say BellSouth came in and you said to BellSouth, well, now you can just serve anyone on your terms wherever you want to serve them. Well, of course, they would be very upset because they had the density requirement that requires them, unless they had that density, to serve those homes. So that's the kind of issues you could be faced with, but you're in a strong position now.

Commissioner Jackel asked, well, what do we do if someone comes in and says, look, there is only —, I know, numerous areas in the County where there are only 15 houses per linear mile, and we're charging —, you're charging Jones five percent franchise fee, but since there are 15 houses per linear mile we want you to charge us three. Would this in some way violate this contract? Mr. Fender said, if it's an area of the County that is unserved by Jones and then that's the area that you have a company —, you've been trying to say they —, I know, there was an instance like that up in Atlanta, South Fulton. They couldn't get anyone to come into South Fulton, so, yes, you can construct the franchise agreement and say, if you'll come into this area and this area —, and we'll put that as the franchise area, and that we would say no franchise fee. Anything to entice you to serve that, you have that right to do so. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. All right, now the other points that I had were the contract says that the phone lines should be answered by a service or automated response system including an answering machine. I understand that they have someone who answers the phone, so I don't even know why they put in including an answering machine. Mr. Fender said, well, actually, actually what we do —, you can probably put that on our shoulders. We put in the minimum federal customer service standards, and it usually —, the reason is under the law, under the rate rules, as long as that's in the franchise, number one, by having it in the franchise it gives you the opportunity if they violate it, you can enforce it, the standard. All right, but if you put something in the franchise that says that you're imposing on them to meet a higher standard than that, then they could say, well, okay, it's going to cost us X to exceed that standard, so then we're going to be able —, under the rate rules they'll be able to pass it on to the subscribers, put it on the bill saying this is a franchise imposed cost for providing —, and if some citizen calls and says well why is it my bill's gone up, say, 15¢ or a quarter, then you say, well, because the County Commission wanted us to answer the phone on two rings instead of four rings, or they wanted us to have a live person after five. So we put in the minimum federal customer service standards so that it protects you on that end, and then what they have in reality, there's nothing to prevent them from voluntarily exceeding those standards, and in their case they are, but by us not having it imposed upon them, they're not able to pass that on to the subscriber. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't understand what you're telling me because this is —. Mr. Fender said, well, it's FCC rate rules and it's —. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand what you said, but I understand it's a negotiated contract —. Mr. Fender said, yes, you could get —. Commissioner Jackel said, you could negotiate it up or down, so I don't —, I'm not accepting what you're telling me. Mr. Fender said, sure, I understand that. The one comment though on what you just had here, we did go back, we did discuss it with Tom [Autry], and I think you had a conversation with him —. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Mr. Fender said, and we can fix the agreement on that issue, and they're willing to do that. Commissioner Jackel said, well, they're already exceeding the service, that's why, you know, I just wondered why that was in there. All right, on 2.3, the appointment window, you know, Eddie [DeLoach] was down here having fits because he had to wait on his doctor a little over an hour one time, it was an hour and 17 minutes I think you timed it. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, well, they want you to wait four hours on something to do with your cable in your house. I don't think that's consumer friendly. You tell me that's the FCC's minimum standard. Mr. Fender said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, I think a one hour window is sufficient. Anyone that's waited or had to take a half day off for different things —. Mr. Fender said, well, again it goes back —, like the Chairman and I were discussing, and you, the topography of Chatham County, and I don't like to be in the position of always trying to defend the cable operator, but the —, you can imagine, it's going to have —, it would be, I'm sure, very costly to have a technician over this entire County that can get to somebody within one hour. So, you know, Haverty's or, I call Haverty's or Sear's, they're basically telling me you've got a four-hour window, but I'm just saying, if you do exceed those standards, they would be able to pass that cost of the client on. Commissioner Jackel said, well, we would be able —. Commissioner Odell said, cable like the EMS. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, but we could negotiate that out. The other thing I said is if there was a billing dispute, cable operator must respond to a written complaint within 30 days. I think 10 days is more than sufficient. Mr. Fender said, I believe Tom [Autry] said to me the other day that after following your and I [sic] conversation that they do that now, and we can fix the agreement to do that. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, and then the other thing is the dispute over billing. I think after they find they do owe the customer money, then I think they ought to return the funds in 10 days. Mr. Fender said, that I'll have to refer with Tom [Autry].

Mr. Tom Autry said, good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. I did look into that very issue, the issue of being able to refund within 10 days, and that's something that our current billing system does not allow us to do. Currently, we're refunding twice a month, which would be approximately every 15 days. Commissioner Jackel said, well that would —, that would be better than the 30 days that the agreement calls for. Chairman Hair said, I think the agreement just addresses the maximum. Mr. Autry said, yes. Chairman Hair said, you're saying that your current system does it within half that time. Mr. Autry said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, that's just a maximum that it could be. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's —, all right. I understand all of that and maybe they are doing in half the time. None of the criticisms I have in here, I think, are, you know, anything major. It's almost like buying a car. Do you get this option or you get that option and how much do you want to spend, and everybody would have differences on it. I think the point I'm

trying to make is some of these consumer things I wish they had been what I consider a little bit more consumer friendly, and I think I've said more than enough. Chairman Hair said, yes, okay. I wouldn't disagree with that. Just trying to be agreeable with the Commissioner. [Unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners began speaking or laughing at the same time.] Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, Martin [Jackel], you missed the last question on that sheet you were reading from. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. Commissioner Price said, that's the one I wanted to hear the most about. Chairman Hair said, don't remind him, Commissioner Price. Commissioner Price said, I know, I couldn't believe he didn't finish it. Commissioner Jackel asked, what was that, what did I leave off? Commissioner Price said, about the high definition television. Commissioner Jackel said, oh, yes, well, they already told me they've got that covered. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, they've got that covered. Mr. Autry said, yes, absolutely. The network that we're constructing is absolutely state of the art. I can venture —, I'll make the assertion it's probably the most advanced technology in the State, if not in the nation. Our technology as an industry is moving so fast that it's —, I kind of use the computer analogy that we only build the latest and the greatest. We're not a company that goes out and buys 166 MHZ pentium machines when 400 MHZ is available. So you are, in fact, getting the 500 MHZ machines in this technology, and to completely —, I'll use a couple of technical terms, it's got a full sonic ring, which means that there's a fiber ring basically constructed around the service area. It's completely redundant and self-healing, which is kind of a technological term that power companies and phone companies have used for quite some time and we're now using, which enables us to feed the signal either way around the ring, so if we have a catastrophic failure at any part of the fiber ring, it senses the failure and redirects the signal. We're looking for vast improvements in reliability as a result of this technology that we're [inaudible].

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Price, do you have a question? Commissioner Price said, no, but I want to make a motion. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to withdraw your question? Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to speak if you don't mind. Commissioner Price said, go right ahead, David [Saussy]. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Price asked, did I interrupt you? Chairman Hair said, no, no, it was next.

Commissioner Saussy said, no, but I've just been waiting a long time. Commissioner Price said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Saussy said, I've just got a couple of questions. I understand that we will be getting as a fee based on the gross intake of five percent. Mr. Fender said, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy said, I was in Washington —, actually the first part of the year, and I understand Baltimore got eight percent. Is there a reason we're set at five? Mr. Fender said, well, five percent is the maximum by federal law on cable revenue, so I'm not familiar with anything beyond five percent, unless it's a state law that's been done in Maryland to exceed that. But in Georgia there is no state law on that and the federal law is five percent. I can tell you, nowhere in Georgia is more than five. Commissioner Saussy said, the other thing is with annexation going on here and we're getting smaller and smaller, what happens in the annexed area, do we lose that? Mr. Fender said, it'd be —, yes, you would lose that, yes sir, if the City annexed that property, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy said, so we really can't depend on the five percent for budget purposes. Mr. Fender said, no, uh —, yes, I couldn't tell you in terms of annexation. You'd know better about that history here on annexation than I would, but I can just tell you whatever —, what you can count on is that the —, from working with Jones, your future growth, your subscriber growth has been in the unincorporated area of Chatham County, that's where the most rapid growth is. Commissioner Saussy said, well, right, but it's also the most rapid annexation area too. Mr. Fender said, okay. Well, in that case, yes, if you've having that much —, if it's that rapid, you may not be able to count on that. Commissioner Saussy said, that's all. I think we've got a pretty good franchise, frankly.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Saussy. Anybody else have any comments? Commissioner Price, I recognize you for a motion. Commissioner Price said, I move that we approve the franchise agreement as worked out by staff. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, gentlemen. Greg [Fender], I hope you make it to Effingham on time. Don't drive so fast because we have good County police. Mr. Fender said, okay. Commissioner Price said, we need the revenue. Chairman Hair said, wait until you get to Effingham before you speed, okay. Thank you, Tom [Autry]. Thank y'all for coming.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the cable TV franchise renewal agreement negotiated with Jones Communications of Georgia/South Carolina, Inc. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP, INSTALL, DEBUG AND MAINTAIN A COMPUTERIZED EMERGENCY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR USE IN EMERGENCY AND DISASTER SITUATIONS AT THE E.O.C.

County Manager Abolt said, very briefly —. Chairman Hair said, yes, go ahead, Russ [Abolt]. I'll just briefly say I was invited to go to this presentation in the Green Room a month or so ago, and I was extremely impressed. This will give us enhanced capability and the way to purchase this is through the lease purchase which has been recommended by staff, and I think it's a great idea and I would highly endorse this.

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion —. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, and second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, actually later on in your purchasing report --, by passing the purchasing report you'll also be sealing the contract.

The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to enter into a lease/purchase agreement to develop, install, debug and maintain a computerized Emergency Information Management System for use in emergency and disaster situations at the E.O.C. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

10. 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 - CORRECTIONS CLASSIFICATIONS SPECIALIST (ONE POSITION); CLERICAL ASSISTANT II (CASHIER) (ONE POSITION)**
- **ICS - COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (ONE POSITION)**
- **CENTRAL SERVICES - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER (ONE POSITION)**
- **BOARD OF ASSESSORS - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (ONE POSITION)**
- **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (ONE POSITION)**
- **BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS - MAINTENANCE WORKER IV (ONE POSITION)**
- **CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT - DEPUTY COURT CLERK I (ONE POSITION)**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. 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 Murray was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Jail - Corrections Classifications Specialist (one position); Clerical Assistant II (Cashier) (one position); ICS - Computer Programmer (one position); Central Services - Administrative Services Manager (one position); Board of Assessors - Clerical Assistant III (one position); Sheriff's Department - Clerical Assistant III (one position); Building Maintenance and Operations - Maintenance Worker IV (one position); and Clerk of Superior Court - Deputy Court Clerk I (one position). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

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, okay, Action Calendar. Does anybody want to pull anything off? Okay, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the Action Calendar. Commissioner Thomas said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar, Items 1 through 12-R, both inclusive, be approved in their entirety. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

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

=====

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 22, 1998, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 22, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD MAY 13, 1998, THROUGH JUNE 3, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period May 13, 1998, through June 3, 1998, in the amount of \$4,202,265. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

3. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY 1998 MILLAGE LEVY CALENDAR.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to adopt the FY 1998 millage levy calendar. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE 1999 BUDGET CALENDAR.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the 1999 Budget Calendar. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

**5. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, SAVANNAH QUARTERS, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR SOUTHBRIDGE, PHASE 13A, TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS AND TO RECOMBINE THIS PHASE IN THE EXISTING SOUTHBRIDGE STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT RATE DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to Request from engineer for the developer, Savannah Quarters, to record the subdivision plat for Southbridge, Phase 13A, to accept the financial guarantee, to approve the construction of the required improvements and to recombine this phase in the existing Southbridge Streetlighting Assessment Rate District. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

**6. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, MR. RICK FITZER, D/B/A A.R.F. DEVELOPMENT GROUP, L.L.P., TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR THE ESTATES ON GROVE RIVER.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Mr. Rick Fitzer, d/b/a A.R.F. Development Group, L.L.P., to record the subdivision plat for The Estates on Grove River. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY (TRACT 103, KNOWN AS THE BARNWELL ISLAND DISPOSAL SITE) IN JASPER COUNTY, S.C., TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the request for conveyance of certain real property (Tract 103, known as the Barnwell Island disposal site) in Jasper County, S.C., to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CONVEY SURPLUS PROPERTY FROM CHATHAM COUNTY TO THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CITY PARK. [DISTRICT 5.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approval the conveyance of approximately 3.4 acres of surplus property (Tract S Side, Mills B. Lane, Pt. Minis Subdivision), PIN 2-0594-06-001, from Chatham County to the City of Savannah as part of the development of a city park. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RENEW A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE WESTSIDE URBAN HEALTH CLINIC TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL MEDICAL STAFF IN "SPECIAL NEEDS" SHELTERS DURING A DISASTER.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the renewal of a contractual agreement with the Westside Urban Health Clinic to provide supplemental medical staff in "Special Needs" shelters during a disaster. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

10. CONCURRENCE IN PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to consent to the planned improvements at the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum for certain capital projects (bomber display and Memorial Chapel). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

11. AMENDMENT TO FEES FOR AQUATIC CENTER REFLECTING CERTAIN DISCOUNT PROGRAMS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following "group" rates to County employees: Daily "walk-in" fees: Adults - \$2.70, Children - \$1.80; Monthly membership fee: Individual - \$10.00, Family - \$22.50. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

12. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS:

(Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.)

| ITEM | DEPT. | SOURCE | AMOUNT | FUNDING |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| A. Final renewal option to the annual contract for outside repair services for Caterpillar equipment | Fleet Operations | Carlton Company | Labor rate of \$52 per hour (an increase of \$3 per hour) | •General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various |
| B. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for the Placentia Canal Storm Water Drainage System to provide soils and materials testing and additional engineering services | Engineering | Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung | \$8,492 | CIP - 1998 Drainage Improvements |
| C. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for Placentia Canal Drainage Improvement project for rerouting of a sanitary sewer line | Engineering | T.B. Powell, Inc. | \$7,179 | CIP - 1998 Drainage Improvements |
| D. Award an annual contract with renewal options for one additional year for contract labor | Public Works | Eastern Personnel Services | \$6.79 per hour per worker | •Solid Waste Fund •SSD - Public Works |
| E. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the paving of Charlene, Tara and Perry Cove Road Project for concrete head walls and backfill | SPLOST | APA-Georgia | \$5,801 | SPLOST (1985-1993) - Various County Roads (pending transfer) |
| F. Change Order No. 4 to the contract for widening of Stephenson Avenue to update and revise plans | SPLOST | Moreland Altobelli Associates | \$10,000 | SPLOST (1985-1993) - Stephenson Avenue Widening Project |
| G. Change Order No. 2 to the contract to raise dikes and install storm drain structures in DMCA 14A and 14B for two additional bird islands and addition of an 8' extension to existing drop inlet sluice structure | Engineering | L-J, Inc. | \$148,950 | General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT) |
| H. Change Order No. 9 to the contract for professional services for geotechnical design of all DMCA's for the Savannah River Harbor to provide for additional engineering services to design an instrumentation controlled drainage system for the underdrain pipe in DMCA 13A as requested by GDOT | Engineering | GeoSyntec Consultants | \$20,832 | General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT) |
| I. Change Order No. 4 to the contract for the construction of slope protection structures for the Savannah River Harbor Banks adjacent to DMCA's for additional construction | Engineering | Tri-State Consultants | \$61,729 | General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT) |
| J. Three (3) month extension to the annual contract for welding and fabrication services in order to allow staff adequate time to revise the specifications, advertise and solicit bids for this service | Fleet Operations | H & H Steel Co., Inc. | Same terms, conditions and no price increase | •General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various •Solid Waste •Water & Sewer |

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>DEPT.</u> | <u>SOURCE</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>FUNDING</u> |
|--|---------------------|---|--|---|
| K. Confirmation of the disposal of unserviceable surplus property | Purchasing | List is attached to Purchasing report | | |
| L. Confirmation of emergency purchase of 37 police cruisers | •Police •Sheriff | Brannen Motor Company | \$762,356.74 | CIP - Vehicle Replacement |
| M. Approve the "short list" of four firms for the design and engineering services for the Whitfield Avenue and Diamond Causeway Widening Project | Engineering | •Jordan, Jones & Goulding •Thomas & Hutton Engineering •Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung •Ralph Whitehead | N/A | SPLOST (1993-1998) - Whitfield/Diamond Causeway Project |
| N. Award of a contract for the Chatham County GDOT Road Map inventory update project | Engineering | Thomas & Hutton Engineering | \$17,600 | SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Roads Reserve (pending transfer) |
| O. Award of a contract for utility audit services | Finance | Utility Audit Services | Percentage of recovery paid to the County | N/A |
| P. Award of an annual contract for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel | Various | See staff report | O.P.I.S. price, plus or minus overhead and delivery charge | •General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various |
| Q. Confirmation of Change Order No. 1 to the design contract for Burroughs Park | Engineering | Hinesley-Hickson Landscape Architects (WBE) | \$2,719.72 | CIP - Burroughs Park |
| R. Lease/purchase contract to provide and install software, hardware and provide staff training on the operation of an Emergency Information Management System | CEMA | Emergency Services Integrators, LLC | \$125,046.72 | Lease/Purchase with debt service payments in 1999-2001 from General Fund/M & O - CEMA |

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Items 12-A through 12-R, both inclusive. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

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. AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ORDINANCE AS REQUESTED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

=====

2. PETITIONER, H, K AND E DEVELOPMENT, LLC, AGENT (FOR GERALD E. CAPLAN, SANFORD V. BERENS AND ARLENE NEUFELD, OWNERS) IS REQUESTING A TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4-5.2 OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS TO ALLOW A NEW USE,

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, WITHIN THE B ZONING DISTRICT. AN AMENDMENT IS ALSO REQUESTED TO DEFINE "FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER" IN SECTION 2 OF THE DEFINITION SECTION OF THE COUNTY REGULATIONS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE APPROVED.

MPC FILE NO. 98-12143-C

NO DISTRICT/TEXT AMENDMENT/UNINCORPORATED AREA

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

=====

3. AMENDMENT TO THE BUILDING PERMIT ORDINANCE TO REDUCE THE REGULATORY FEES AND TO ADD ONE NEW POSITION TO THE INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT STAFF.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

1. PETITIONER, LOUIS C. YOUNG, OWNER (FOR EAGLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP OF SAVANNAH, INC.) IS REQUESTING THAT A 6.1 ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF WHITFIELD AVENUE BETWEEN HENDRY AVENUE AND HALCYON DRIVE BE REZONED FROM R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO A P-R-3-16 (PLANNED MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN ASSISTED LIVING/CONGREGATE CARE FACILITY. THE MPC RECOMMENDED DENIAL OF A P-R-3-16 CLASSIFICATION BUT FURTHER RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A P-R-2-A (PLANNED TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL LIMITED) CLASSIFICATION BASED ON ITS GREATER COMPATIBILITY WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT AND THE LEVEL OF FUTURE PROTECTION IT WOULD AFFORD WHILE STILL PERMITTING THE PETITIONER'S REQUESTED USE.

MPC FILE NO. 98-12109-C

[DISTRICT 1.]

Chairman Hair asked, is anybody here to represent —, Milton [Newton], do you want to make any quick comments?

Mr. Milton Newton said, Mr. Chairman, to our knowledge we have received no calls in objection. Chairman Hair said, nobody objects to it? Mr. Newton said, no one has objected. If you'd like us to go through the presentation —.

Chairman Hair said, there are no objections. Does anybody have any question? Commissioner Price asked, petitioner is in agreement with this? Mr. Newton said, yes. Chairman Hair said, yes. Y'all agree —? Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. All those in favor --.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just want to make sure traffic is okay. Are people going to be able to get out of Halcyon Bluff? Mr. Newton said, that will have to be —, the County Engineer's office, the Traffic Engineers will look at that.

Commissioner Saussy asked, and this is to be used for assisted living? Mr. Newton said, yes. Chairman Hair said, apartment care. Commissioner Jackel said, it's very hard to get out out there. Chairman Hair said, I ride down that road every day. I mean, that's how I go home, and it's —. Commissioner Jackel said, it's hard for those people to get out onto the road. Chairman Hair said, yes, but that's an issue that needs to be —, we've addressed that with DOT and we still need to continue to push that. That definitely needs a light there, but again we don't meet the —, right now we don't meet the traffic count to do that. Commissioner Jackel said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to **DENY** the petition of Louis C. Young, Owner (for Eagle Development Group of Savannah, Inc.), requesting that a 6.1 acre tract of land located on the east side of Whitfield Avenue between Hendry Avenue and Halcyon Drive be rezoned from R-1 (One-Family Residential) to a P-R-3-16 (Planned Multi-Family Residential) zoning classification in order to establish an assisted living/-

congregate care facility, and moved to **APPROVE** the MPC's recommendation of a P-R-2-A (Planned Two-Family Residential Limited) classification based on its greater compatibility with the character of the surrounding development and the level of future protection it would afford while still permitting the petitioner's requested use. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]

=====

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.

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

3. INFORMATION REGARDING EXISTENCE OF THE COASTAL CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM, A NEW RESOURCE FOR PROVIDING CRISIS INTERVENTION ASSISTANCE TO BOTH VICTIMS AND FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE EVENT OF A SIGNIFICANT EMERGENCY OR DISASTER THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

4. UPDATE ON COUNTY-OWNED AND MAINTAINED WATER-RELATED FACILITIES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

5. REPORT ON MEETING WITH CITY OF SAVANNAH STAFF DEALING WITH FURTHER OPTIONS ON RECREATION MERGER.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

APPOINTMENTS:

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the appointments hereinafter listed be approved:

- a) Chatham County Board of Family & Children Services: Reappoint Father William Willoughby, III, to a term expiring June 30, 1998;
- b) Coastal Area District Development Authority (CADD): Submit the names of Kaye Dowell, Martin Jackel and Eddie DeLoach, with the request that Kaye Dowell be reappointed to a term which will expire March 1, 2001;
- c) SeaCoast Workforce Development Board: Private Sector - Camden: Michael Brown, General Manager, TDS Telecom, Camden Telephone Co; Chatham: Patricia Bolden, Human Resource Manager, SITEL Corporation, and Cynthia McGinnis, Deputy Director, Chatham Area Transit; McIntosh: Robert Mucha, Labor Relations Consultant, self-employed; Public Sector - Chatham: Economic Development: Harry O'Brien, Consultant, Business Outreach Service, UGA; Education: Don Stewart, President, Savannah Technical Institute; Public Assistant: Earline Davis, Deputy Director, Department of Family & Children Services; Community Based: Erma Jean Mobley, Secretary, Tatemville Community Association; Glynn: Wayne Anderson, Regional Field Coordinator, Georgia Department of Human Resources; Liberty: Economic Development: Ron Tolley, CEO, Liberty County Authority; Community Based: Sandra Burch, Director, United Way of Liberty County; and At Large: Don Huggins, District Director, Georgia Department of Labor.

Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

=====

ADJOURNMENT:

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

=====

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1998

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK