

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON OCTOBER 9, 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, October 9, 1998.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Martin Jackel gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
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
Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

ABSENT: Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
Ben Price, District Six

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

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Sara Bellino, a senior at Savannah Country Day. She was later joined by Youth Commissioner Crystal Boggs, a junior at St. Vincent's Academy.

Chairman Hair said, we are pleased to have you with us today. Please feel free to comment on anything. If you'll raise your hand, I'll recognize you if you want to say anything. We're glad to have you with us.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR MS. ANNIE PLUMMER, "THE DICTIONARY LADY" (CHAIRMAN HAIR).

Chairman Hair said, it is my pleasure this morning to be able to make a special presentation to Ms. Annie Plummer. Most of you probably know Ms. Plummer. She's been around a long time and she is affectionately known as "The Dictionary Lady" and if you know anything about education in Chatham County, you know how supportive she's been and the wonderful work she's done, so it's a pleasure for me at this time to present her with this appreciation, and I'd like to read it for the benefit of the audience.

Chairman Hair read the following Certificate of Appreciation into the record:

Chairman Hair said, thank you very, very much for all you do. Would you like to make a comment?

Ms. Annie Plummer said, to Chairman Hair Dr. Hair, I'm so happy to be here, and all the members, and I'm sure y'all know I've been working since 1992 trying to give dictionaries to our children, and I would like someone, if you can give

Chairman Hair said, we want to thank you very, very much for all you do. Ms. Plummer said, thank you. Chairman Hair asked, would you like to make a comment?

Ms. Annie Plummer said, to Chairman Dr. Hair, I'm so happy to be here and all the members. I'm sure y'all know I've been living since 1992 trying to give dictionaries to our children, and I would like someone, if you have any suggestions that I can use to get to our children. Please feel free to call me. Now I'm into positive black history, trying to get in the schools to our children all over the nation. The end of last weekend [sic] I was with the NAACP State. They passed a resolution in regard to my positive black history trying to help the children. Now this is the book that I'm trying to get over. I think we need to get rid of some of this slavery stuff we're talking about and give our children some positive stuff. All children. So this book, I hate to tell you, the price is \$5.00, but if someone please like to buy this book, please help me out and help our children. Thank you so much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Plummer. We appreciate very much what you do.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, the next is a proclamation for a retiree that's not here, so we'll skip that and come back at a later time. Commissioner DeLoach said, he retired. Chairman Hair said, yes, he retired. He retired early. So we'll continue the agenda and by unanimous consent we'll come back to that item if the gentleman arrives.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**1. LIBRARY REPORT ON COLUMBIA/CHARLOTTE TRIP (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. As some of you may know, the Board—, Library Board went to Columbia, South Carolina, and Charlotte, North Carolina, to look at the setups up there of how they do things, and I think the trip was quite a success and they got a lot of information and they just wanted about 20 minutes to go over what happened up there, so that's the reason they're here today. Lon [Dickerson], would you come on up with your group.

Mr. Lon Dickerson said, thank you very much. That's exactly what happened. As you know, we set out our strategic plan to try to decide what a good library system should be and could be. As an example of that we went and visited a couple that aren't too far away that we think are fairly strong systems and had a cameraman with us who did this video, and we've edited it down here to just about eight or nine minutes, so we'll watch that first and then I'll have a couple of comments. Thank you.

The Commissioners then viewed the video prepared on the Columbia/Charlotte trip.

Mr. Dickerson said, well, that's the film. I think it's a pretty good depiction of what those people are doing and, as you can see from the trailer particularly there, we use it in connection with our foundation efforts too to try to drum up some private support for it. It's not copyrighted so if anyone wants to use it for any means or anything, it's available and we'd like to see it used as much as possible. I want to take this opportunity to just thank the Commission for what you've done for the library in 1998, the special book money and the support. We noted with very much pleasure the inclusion of the library as one of the top three items for focus in the future. We appreciate that and think it's a vote of confidence for the general direction we're trying to take the library. We're—, I'm sure we have a joint goal of getting to in the not too distant future. I just want to mention that there was a meeting last night with concerned citizens for libraries in the central city, and one of the things that came out of that meeting was an agreement that we have a little 10-day kind of a study with representatives of the various inner city neighborhoods and representatives of the staff and board of the library to try to get a better understanding of the potential tradeoffs between closing tiny, inefficient libraries versus delivering service through what we call an outreach program. Since there are some illusive financial considerations in that tradeoff, they wanted to be sure that we mention to you before you came to any conclusion budgetary-wise, that you'd wait, and I don't think there's anything imminent in the next 10 days on the budget, but that we could complete that work and get a report and feed that back to you as well. So I'm doing that. So, at this point I would just entertain any questions or anything that you have to ask of us. Otherwise, thank you very much for your time.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you very much for that presentation. Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I say something? Chairman Hair said, yes.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just wanted to publicly tell each member of the board that we appreciate all the time that y'all have put into this. We appreciate the work the staff has done. I'm sorry about a lot of ridicule y'all received on and off, but we do appreciate it. As private citizens trying to help Chatham County, and of each one that goes to a meeting, realizing that this is private citizens trying to help Chatham County and to go in with that attitude, then maybe long term we'll get us a good library that we can be proud of. Thank you a lot for all y'all have done.

Commissioner Saussy said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say a couple of things too. I think all of us know that over the years we've really let this library system go down. I think the Commission does support it and I think if we had know it was going down this—, as much as it had over the past years, that we would have done something much sooner. I think the Library Board that we have now has really grabbed whole of what needs to be done, and we will certainly work with them very closely in the future, and I do congratulate you for what you're doing.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, while they're here I wonder if we could get some information on the proposed branch closings. I've been getting a lot of calls about that. This would be the proper time to get some information. Chairman Hair said, if it's brief. If you could make a brief comment. I think we need to have a—.

Mr. Dickerson said, I'd be happy to sort of cut down what I said last night what the facts are right now, and that's sort of as follows. We have looked at the service that is provided by some of these smaller inner city branches and looked at the amount of traffic we have and amount of circulation we have from them, and recognize that we're not getting to the people in those communities and in the total community that's in the Bull Street service area, and recognizing the size of those

facilities, it would be impossible to ever get it up to speed. Even if we increased the traffic a lot and the circulation a lot, we still would not be getting to a lot of the people. So, therefore, we decided what would be better is to use an outreach program, take it to a lot of locations, a lot of homework centers, a lot of daycare centers, a lot of senior citizens homes, et cetera, on a regularly scheduled basis, and we're testing some of that now, and thought that we could get a broader coverage of the service area that way. The budget numbers that we've put in presume that some of those branches would be closed and that we'd implement an outreach program. The fact is it would cost us a little more money for the outreach than it does to keep the branches open, but it, as I mentioned last night, it's a service issue, not a financial issue, and we are convinced, until proven otherwise, that we can get to more people through the outreach and get better service, so that's why we did it. There have been no decisions made, the board has not voted on any closings. The only vote that we've taken in the board on a branch is to absolutely keep Carnegie branch open. So that's the only finality that's been done with the board. And now—, and all of that depends on what kind of budget we get approved for 1999 because, you see, Bull Street is going to expand the total square footage in the system by 40%. So, just like that you've got 40% more library to operate and man, et cetera, et cetera. So, it's a tough time for this, but that's the status of the branches. If you have any other questions on it, or—.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, just people have told me, I'm sure what you've already heard, that they can go to their local branch and in one day they can have any book that they want. They feel like they'll be losing that. They feel like the local branches—, oh, it's kind of like your car. You may not use it, but just that you know that it's there gives you that good feeling and if you want to use it it is there, and they feel like that's been taken away from them. They feel like they'll lose a sense of community, and I think we need to go real slowly before we consider closing any of our branches. Mr. Dickerson said, well, I agree with that and last night it was filled with anecdotal references to grandchildren and the kids going there, and that's all true. The question is if you think goodness is going only three blocks to the library, there are a lot of people who can't go three blocks to a library now that would think, gee, if it's good for them, why not us, and we'd have dozens of branches like that, which would be nice because, I mean, there's nothing like just taking a little stroll a couple of blocks to the library and picking up a newspaper or a book and sitting around. But I think it's unrealistic. We can't get enough people served, but that's the status of the matter anyway.

Commissioner Rivers asked, Mr. Chairman, can I ask a question? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask you this. Why did we decentralize the library? Mr. Dickerson said, well, I'm sure that it was to make libraries accessible to more people, and I'm sure that it's because a lot of people in the disadvantaged areas don't have an easy means of transportation to get to a library, but that's why we're trying to take the library to them. Commissioner Rivers said, basically we're talking about children, and some of these libraries that we established back some 20 or almost 30 years ago that we established those libraries in the neighborhood and evidently there must have been a need for those libraries there over a 30 year period, and now we're looking at taking that away. I'm concerned about the young children, young minds that's within these housing developments that don't have the opportunity to go to a library at a far distance. To give you a for instance, take Hitch Village Library. The closest would be Carnegie, so you're talking about eight, nine, ten year old children ambling that far to a library. That's a pretty good distance. You take Yamacraw, for instance. Again, a long distance. You take the Ogeechee Road Branch. Again, a long distance, and I think we need to look particularly at the usage of those libraries and if we can't up the usage, then consider doing away with that branch and looking for alternative needs and uses. Mr. Dickerson said, well, I think that's right, and I think that frankly there's some disagreement as to what the usage really is, what our numbers show versus what other people say, and that's part of the thing we want to scrub up in the next 10 days. Commissioner Rivers said, usage is important in numbers to a lot of people, but usage to me if we save one, two, five, ten minds that keeps them going in the right direction, that teaches them how to read, that's very important. I don't think you can put an intrinsic value on that of how many children we give access that go on to develop their minds. Mr. Dickerson said, that's exactly right. Now one of the things that we're testing, part of this outreach program right now, and we've got a program that now goes to about 450 third—, three and four-year-olds in those areas every week, brings books to them, reads to them, lets them have books to take home, et cetera, and that's—, we've got to get to those people, you're absolutely right. You shape it young—, we just started a program in connection with Memorial about born to read where—, when a new baby is born, they'll get a book and an application for a library card to give to their parents and when they come down to get that card for the child, they'll get another book, et cetera. It's a program with Memorial and I think it's going to be great.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner—, I'll get to you. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Jackel and myself.

Commissioner Odell said, my concern is that if we close the inner city libraries, basically what we're doing is those people who theoretically need the services the most will be denied the services. I would be interested in looking at the analysis that those people use it. I think we can gain a lot of information from determining the utilization, who uses, why it's being used, so that rather than generalized kinds of terms with questions [inaudible], that we can deal with those in a specific manner. In addition, the library in the inner cities were 20 or 30 years ago. I think most intelligent people know why we went to a decentralized system versus a centralized system. Mr. Dickerson said, I wasn't ducking that in the question. I mean, that's a fact. You're absolutely right, because they couldn't use Bull Street. That's the real reason at that [inaudible], but I'm trying to get over that to—, closer to the day. Commissioner Odell said, I know looking from a business standpoint of purely what is in the best interest of all those who live in Chatham County, some cynics cannot be defended economically. You know, we did not, and it is kind of unfortunate that probably one of the best boards that we've had in 20 years, and I think our library board that we have today is probably the best that we've had in 20 years, have decided that they would tackle the problem, which I commend the board for doing, and there's a lot of past history which does not relate to why we logically do things, that we're faced with limited monies, which you all have to deal with. I think having more community involvement, especially those individuals who will feel disenfranchised, I agree with your comments. Every citizen desirably would like to have a library within several blocks. That is not possible. That's not possible on the Westside, that's not possible on the Islands, that's not possible in the outer areas of my district, but we do have a situation where many individuals have had these services, utilized or underutilized, and I really think getting their involvement in it is going to minimized the impact with any final decision because I'm not certain if it's a logical reason that there is opposition versus an emotional [inaudible], but I tend

to think that people are committed to a decision if they participated in it. [NOTE: Feedback from sound system.] Commissioner Odell asked, was that my cue to stop? Chairman Hair said, that was your cue, yes. I just pushed my button. Commissioner Odell said, Billy [Hair] pushed his button. Mr. Dickerson said, I agree with you, but on the other hand, there's nothing wrong with emotion either. Emotion is what's going to get people involved in going to the library, so that's fine. Commissioner Odell said, but you all ought to be commended. Mr. Dickerson said, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, I think y'all have done an excellent job, and I know the decisions are not easy, but I do want to see as much community involvement as possible. Mr. Dickerson said, fair enough.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, one of the things that I think a lot of people, especially in your inner city, are missing is situations out in Sandfly, Pinpoint, Burnside Island, and those, they have to go an awful long way to get to a library. They don't have enough on the Southside, they don't have enough on the Westside, and while it's giving up something in the inner city, this is to help the whole, and I think this outreach program, if it can be explained to the public, I think in a way it will be much better for everybody. Nobody wants something closed in their neighborhood. That's just a given. That's human nature. But this program that they've got going, or going to start up, I think is probably an answer and a blessing in a way to getting more people into the libraries and getting more books out to people than we've have in the future [sic]. I think the board is doing a very good job on it. Nobody wants to close the libraries. My wife called me this morning at breakfast after reading the paper and said don't you close Ola Wyeth Library. Well, you know what that's going to mean if we do, but it might come down to it and just have to do it. And I don't want to do it either, but it's a matter of economics and it is also a matter of getting more to people than they've got right now. I have to—, I really do commend you for sticking to your guns and holding up. Mr. Dickerson said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, I would just like to say I agree with you. You guys have done a good job, but at the risk of sounding like the Grench who stole Christmas, I just think you guys are going to have to be very realistic this year, and I would say that when it comes to being crunch time in the budget, you're going to be competing with pay raises for employees, monies for consolidation of services to make them more efficient, so you're going to be competing against some pretty strong issues that you're going to have to do a hard sell on me personally to say that that's more important than pay raises for employees and things like that. The second thing I would point out to you is that—, and I've said this before, but I'd like to reiterate it again today. In a budget the size of your library budget, you have options other than cutting branches, and I think you're going to have to look at those. I can tell you I'm going to look at those when we get the budget, line item by line item, and I think that you're going to have options other than cutting branches. I don't think we ought to cut branches either, but I can tell you that there's not going to be a lot of money out there this year, and you're going to be competing against some things that are very, very important to the—, and, quite frankly, more important than the library in some cases and certainly as important in other cases. So it's going to be a tough year. I just ask that you be realistic in your requests and we'll look at everything to be cut.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have trouble when we talk about other areas that have a long way to go to the library, and not to pick on Burnside Island, but those people knew they had no services out there. They really don't want not only libraries, they don't want anything else out there. And we're also got to talk about population density when we talk about the inner city. It's much greater than some of our outlying areas. And there's a story told about the railroads in this country in the early 50's. They were having some trouble competing against the trucking industry and the airlines and someone came up and said well let's look at these marginal routes that are not producing the numbers, and they closed those down, and then all of a sudden there was no one on their main routes. And I'm concerned about that about the library. If we don't have the local branches and people aren't in the habit and don't associate the library, are they going to make it to our main branch? I'm not sure they will. I don't want to say just absolutely don't close them, I'll just say we have to use an abundance of caution, and to look at these neighborhoods and compare them to the other neighborhoods that are nothing like these neighborhoods, I don't think serves any real purpose.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got to differ a little bit with what Martin [Jackel] said about Burnside Island or—. I'm from the Westside over there and one of the proposals is to close the library at Port Wentworth. Now those folks aren't interested in closing the library at Port Wentworth. The entire community is being closed out. They can't walk to another library. There's not one near there. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's what I'm saying. Commissioner DeLoach said, but the point is we've appointed a board and asked them to determine what is the best way that we can possibly service our community. It used to be that the bookmobile came by your house back when I was a kid. I loved that bookmobile. I looked forward to that bookmobile driving by and going in there and picking me out a book and getting that book. I loved that. And it came every two weeks, you were able to get a book and you took it, you kept it and then you turned it back in in two weeks and you got another one. I loved that service. That's the same service they're talking about now. Maybe a different style or different approach, but it's the same service that we had there because there was no money to put libraries out in the woods in West Chatham. There's no money to put libraries in downtown Savannah either, just like it wasn't whenever I was living out there and they didn't have the money there either. But they offered a service that I guarantee you will touch more people when they ride by than if you expect those kids to walk into that library in downtown because the numbers aren't there. We've already been through this one time before you even came on the Commission. We've already been through this about we need to close some of these branches because there is nobody using them. They will use them if you've got that service, that bookmobile. It's just a—, it was a great service when I was coming up. I hope it's something that we can, you know, put into service again so that we can reach more people because I think we'll reach more with that than we will if we've got a library sitting down the street.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm going to—, this item really was on the—, we're supposed to be discussing a trip to Charlotte and Columbia and we've gotten way off track here. I'm going to recognize the Youth Commissioner Boggs, Commissioner Murray and then one gentleman from the audience for about one minute, and then we're going to end this debate, okay. I think that's fair. Mr. Dickerson said, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, I think we've gone far beyond the item that was on the

agenda, which was to discuss a trip to Charlotte and Columbia. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did you have a good time? Mr. Dickerson said, yes.

Youth Commissioner Boggs said, personally I understand why, you know, you're [inaudible], but when I sit back and think about how many minds you'll be destroying if we close the Bull Street Library—, well, locate it somewhere else because personally living on the Eastside, I know it's kind of hard for me to, you know, to get an assignment on the weekend and try to go to Cloverdale Library or even Hitch Village. It's out of the way. I know a lot of teens, as myself, you know, once you think about it, if you move the Bull Street Library to another location, it will be hard on teens. Crime will start going up because the teens are not either going to the library on a frequent basis and going to the Bull Street [inaudible] busy where they're going to have time to get into trouble. So when I sit up here and think about it, it will be a lot—. I mean, it's good, but it also will be mean badder [sic] things that will happen if you do that. Mr. Dickerson said, we're not going to close Bull Street. The question is closing the smaller—, smaller libraries, in some people's mind, in favor of Bull Street. So Bull Street is certainly going to be there, but some of the smaller ones might close. Youth Commissioner Boggs said, okay, so the Bull Street Library is still going to be there. Mr. Dickerson said, oh, sure, sure. It will still be there.

Youth Commissioner Bellino asked, is the goal to be to make Bull Street so attractive that people won't go to the little branches and they'll drive there or just to—, that's like taking [inaudible]? Mr. Dickerson said, well, one goal is to get a lot of people to use Bull Street, to use any library. The other goal is to, if they can't get to Bull Street, then take parts of Bull Street to them. Just as Commissioner DeLoach was saying, it used to be just a bookmobile. Now it might be a van with a rack of a hundred books and we could leave it as a center for a week or something and people can use it—, sit around and then exchange it, et cetera. A lot of things going. Youth Commissioner Bellino said, to [inaudible] the books and bring them around. Mr. Dickerson said, that—, and maybe that technology at a homework center connected to the library so you can get it remote information, et cetera. There are a lot of things, a lot of facets to it, yes.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I know that there are a lot of adults that also use the libraries, and that's fine, but my major concern are the youth and what happens to them, and I don't know what approach the Library Board has taken to get more involvement with the youth using them. I think a prime example is for the Board of Education report that just came out on the schools. May Howard School on Wilmington Island got high ratings. The reason they got high ratings was because of the parent involvement and teachers' involvement, their staff involvement and the community involvement. This Commission even gave funds to help build a park facility for the handicapped on their property down there strictly because of the involvement the parents were taking and their PTA's was taking, and that's why that school is surviving right now as well as it is, and I think in order to get these things done and these other libraries, whether you close them or keep them open, you aren't going to get the usage from those libraries unless you get the parents and the communities in those areas involved in it and start doing things. That is my major concern right now is the youth. The other side of this is I see us building one mega-facility on Bull Street, and that's going to happen. I mean, it's obvious. It's almost there now, but what happens to the other facilities that we have, the ones that are not closed down, the ones that needed to be expanded before this was even done? I know we went through the process with the architects and designers for the facility. Some of us talked about the smaller branches and upgrading the electronics and things, the computers and those type things so they could communicate more and have more of the up-to-date equipment in there that we needed and for the libraries all around, and of course that did not happen. I think an example on that, and I think the school is over in South Carolina, that was on the news this week, that just gave I don't know how many hundreds of laptops out to their students, a public school, so these students can learn. They can learn the value of the computer. That's the age we're in now, and I think that's where we need to be moving to, and I just don't see that happening in Chatham County. Mr. Dickerson said, that's the next step in the plan, of course, but—.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. I'm going to recognize the gentleman in the audience and this is going to end the debate.

Mr. Timothy Mackey [phonetic] said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this minute, and to the Commission, good morning. My name is Timothy Mackey with the Cloverdale Civic Improvement Association, and I attended that meeting last night and I've been in some discussion for quite some time with the Library Board about—, not the Library Board, but the Library Director and his staff about certain things. I just want to bring to your attention that at the meeting that was attended last night, it was well attended, and it was the consensus of those who were there that, number one, the community has never been involved in any input whatsoever by the Library Board or its staff, immediate staff, as to what's been going on. We talk about the closing of the libraries, [inaudible] closing of the libraries. It was also brought to our attention last night that there—, after the closings of these smaller satellite libraries that there was a grander plan to build 10 more libraries. Now, some of the numbers that were given to us last night, in our opinion, does not justify the means, meaning with the bookmobile, as it was described to us by the board, the chairman board for the library, it is still far less than what it would cost to operate some of the satellite libraries. In terms of beans and oranges, it just doesn't stack up. I just ask this board that you follow the same thing, we concur with what the Chairman said that there are other options that we can use outside of closing libraries. We will bring this back to your attention at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. We appreciate your comments.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

No Action taken. Report received as information.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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

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Upon adjournment of the meeting of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

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

- * 1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: TRADE CENTER RECONCILIATION AS FOLLOWS: ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) TRANSFER OF \$9,500,000 FROM U.S. 80 INTERCHANGE TO THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE, \$1,000,000 TRANSFER FROM CONTINGENCY TO HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE FOR TRADE CENTER ROADS AND \$3,300,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE FOR RIVERWALK PROJECT. NOTE: Item was tabled at the meeting of August 28, 1998, to be acted on at meeting of September 25, 1998. (See attached new staff report offering reconciliation.)**

Commissioner Murray said, I know we aren't bringing it up today, but I'd just like for staff on the tabled item that we have, before that comes back to us, can we have some guarantee in writing on the State reimbursing us back that money. County Manager Abolt said, the Chairman has asked for that. Chairman Hair said, I have. County Manager Abolt said, I believe the Chairman yesterday signed a letter to Commissioner Shackelford—. Commissioner Murray said, if we don't have some kind of time frame or guarantee when that money comes back, I certainly will not support it.

Chairman Hair said, I've already requested Commissioner Shackelford to do that, and that—, I had the same concern you had, Commissioner Murray, and we've already made that formal request.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This action was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT OF \$3,140 FOR A SALARY INCREASE AND AN ADDITIONAL \$12,000 INCREASE IN JUVENILE COURT'S COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES PURCHASE OF SERVICES GRANT, AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$139,520 FROM TERMINAL PAY ACCOUNT TO REPLENISH CONTINGENCY, CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$30,000 TO TEMPORARY POOL, \$2,000 TO SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIARY FOR 4% STATE C.O.L.A. FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITIONS, \$13,660 TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR 4% STATE C.O.L.A. FOR ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND \$14,110 TO HUMAN RESOURCES FOR TERMINAL PAY AND AN INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$25,920 FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ACCOUNT TO SALARIES FOR TEMPORARY HELP; CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND CNT CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$31,840 FOR AUDIO AND VISUAL TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND \$2,000 FOR MEDICAL ARMOR LAW ENFORCEMENT GLOVES; A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND/M & O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL DRUG CONTROL AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT FORMULA GRANT FOR ACQUISITION OF TWO ADDITIONAL CANINES FOR THE REGION 3 K-9 RESOURCE TEAM; A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT POLICE DEPARTMENT INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$30,000 FROM EQUIPMENT RENTAL OBJECT CODE TO OVERTIME AND A CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$20,000 TO TEMPORARY POOL.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Murray said, I've got a couple of things I want to discuss. Chairman Hair said, let's get a second first. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], where do we serve—, our Canine Unit, where do we serve—, what do we serve that other than just the County? Chairman Hair said, the Sheriff probably can answer that. County Manager Abolt said, the Sheriff will be the person to respond. Chairman Hair said, yes, Sheriff. Commissioner Murray asked, isn't that the only unit that's in Chatham County now? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, that's the only Canine Unit we have and they go out for any calls whether it's bomb threats or anything else anymore, isn't it? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's correct. Also, regional and a subgrantee for the State of Georgia through other task force teams and so forth, they have to be approved what we do. In return, the State is paying for everything we're getting, including salaries of like Lt. Derryberry, and so forth. All of this stuff is a hundred percent reimbursable by the State. Commissioner Murray said, I was not opposed to it, I just wanted—, I thought that the general public needed to know more about what on with the Canine Unit rather than just we have dogs out here that go sniff at the schools. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, and what we're doing—, the demand on dogs for bombs is getting so great that we're trying to bring more in and train them and get them out to other areas they can use them so they won't be calling on us as much as they have.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? Commissioner Murray said, the other question I had would be on the last item, the Special Service District Police Department Intra-Departmental transfer of \$30,000 from Equipment Rental to Overtime. We don't have enough in there in the Overtime Budget to cover the overtime? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. The Chief—, I don't know if this is a first, it could be a series of transfers. You'll recall that we were hard hit in turnover in our ECO's and what he's been having to do for a while is actually work uniformed officers into those positions. He gave you an oral report on that about two or three months ago. This is just reflecting covering the dollars needed for overtime. We have now hired and are about to hire additional ECO's that will eliminate this, but the Chief, like all other department heads, before coming and asking for any addition to Overtime, would look to his budget first. In this case, that's where the intra-departmental transfer is justified. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Chairman Hair said, so he just moved money within his budget. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. If I may, sir, if I—, you'll probably [inaudible]. I would like to—, speaking of the Police Department, I would like to compliment Chief Sprague and his department as managers. The one item that the Chairman read, the \$139,520 transfer, that came about because initially going into this year you'll recall 17 jobs were eliminated from the Police Department. Those were the School Resource Officers. We were given six months to make transition. Because of what Chief Sprague and his department has done, we are now turning it back to the County and it's being used now in Contingency that \$139,000 figure. That would have been terminal pay because 16 of those 17 officers had jobs immediately, and I'm please to report the 17th one is coming back on the department this week, I believe, or next week. It's a testimony to management and how management cares.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? Commissioner Murray said, no. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the following: A General Fund M&O Budget Amendment to recognize additional Alternative Dispute Resolution Program reimbursement of \$3,140 for a salary increase and an additional \$12,000 increase in Juvenile Court's Council of Juvenile Court Judges Purchase of Services Grant, an inter-departmental transfer of \$139,520 from Terminal Pay Account to replenish Contingency, Contingency transfers of \$30,000 to Temporary Pool, \$2,000 to Superior Court Judiciary for 4% State C.O.L.A. for Administrative Assistant positions, \$13,660 to District Attorney for 4% State C.O.L.A. for Assistant District Attorneys and \$14,110 to Human Resources for terminal pay and an intra-departmental transfer of \$25,920 from Administrative Services Contractual Services Account to Salaries for temporary help; Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund CNT Contingency transfers of \$31,840 for audio and visual technical equipment and \$2,000 for medical armor law enforcement gloves; a Capital Improvement Fund/M & O Budget Amendment to recognize an additional \$20,000 Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant for acquisition of two additional canines for the Region 3 K-9 Resource Team; a Special Service District Police Department intra-departmental transfer of \$30,000 from Equipment Rental Object Code to Overtime and a Contingency transfer of \$20,000 to Temporary Pool. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Price and Thomas were not present.]

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2. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH IMPLEMENTING CONSOLIDATION OF THE INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENTS.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman—. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve. Let's get—. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, please if you will, just for the benefit of the media, I certainly want to compliment the Board. You have been a leader in consolidation for so many years, too many to count quite frankly. This is genuine progress. You're in the position of making a solid offer to the City of Savannah not only through intergovernmental agreement, which staff will craft, but also I am, with your permission, volunteering the services of Mr. Anderson to take care of the leadership of that department. Greg [Anderson], as you know, was Georgia's Building Official of the Year. With Jon Hart's work, which we definitely appreciate, along with the City Attorney, we feel we now can do it.

Chairman Hair said, I think this is a great move. I just hope this is the first of many, many. Okay, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Price and Thoms were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize preparation of an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Savannah implementing consolidation of the Inspections Departments. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Price and Thomas were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE 90-DAY HIRING FREEZE AND AUTHORIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO ADVERTISE POSITIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS MORE COST EFFICIENT TO FILL.

- ? **CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT - CLERICAL ASSISTANT II (ONE POSITION)**
- ? **CENTRAL SERVICES - CENTRAL SERVICES CLERK II (ONE POSITION)**
- ? **JAIL - CLERICAL ASSISTANT II (ONE POSITION); STOREKEEPER I (ONE POSITION)**
- ? **PARKS AND RECREATION - EXTEND WAIVER APPROVED AT APRIL 10, 1998, MEETING THROUGH DECEMBER 12, 1998**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? No second? Commissioner Odell said, I'll second it. Chairman Hair said, okay, a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, if in fact we aren't going to start questioning this, could we at least have the department heads come up every time they have one of these to justify why this needs to be done. What we're doing is—, and we've had this for several terms, and all we do is it comes up, we vote yes, we don't ask questions, and we keep on moving. I'm not saying these jobs are not justified or not. What I'm saying is I think the department head needs to come up here and justify to us that that's why they need to waiver the 90-day hiring freeze.

Chairman Hair said, as a possible option to that, Commissioner Murray, I might suggest that maybe, Russ [Abolt], if you could have the department head give a justification for each one, like a paragraph or two paragraphs or something, and we still could ask questions at the meeting. Would that be helpful to you? County Manager Abolt said, it's in the staff report, but it depends on how formal you want to make the presentation. Chairman Hair asked, I mean, how much detail do you want? I mean, certainly we have the right to question any of them.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I guess my point is since we've had this in place, every meeting it comes up, but no questions are asked, the motion's made, second's made, the vote's taken, it passes and we move on, and if that's the case and we're going to continue to do that, I really don't think we even need to have it on the agenda. Chairman Hair said, well, it might need to be moved to the consent agenda and then if somebody wants to pull it off, we could always pull it off and discuss a particular one. If we just move it to—, does anybody object that we move that to the consent agenda, and then—, to the Action Calendar, and then anybody can pull it off if they want to. Does anybody object to that?

Commissioner Odell said, I think there is a valid reason for having it here, and that is it gives us an opportunity—. I think it slows down the process. There's some things that we're doing—, looking at in our budget for 1999 regarding management engineering. We will have sufficient information then so that we can make an intelligent decision as to the necessity of these positions. Now if the department head says I need this position, there is no way that we can say based upon the volume in your department you do or do not need it. It's left to their discretion. I think this process slows it down.

Chairman Hair said, okay, well, we'll just leave it like it is then. Okay, any further discussion. The Chair will entertain the vote. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy failed to cast a vote; Commissioners Rivers, Price and Thomas were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Clerk of Superior Court - Clerical Assistant II (one position); Central Services - Central Services Clerk II (one position); Jail - Clerical Assistant II (one position) and Storekeeper I (one position); and Parks and Recreation - Extend waiver approved at the April 10, 1998, meeting through December 12, 1998. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of four to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy failed to cast a vote; Commissioners Rivers, Price and Thomas were not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Action Calendar. Commissioner Jackel, what would you like to pull off? Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I got my book on Tuesday and I read it Tuesday night, I went over it again Wednesday night, and I stayed up until the wee hours last night, and I could not find anything to pull off. Chairman Hair said, boy, that is just amazing. Commissioner DeLoach said, a first. Chairman Hair said, I think this needs to go down in posterity here. Commissioner Murray, you want to pull some off. Commissioner Murray said, I have four—. Chairman Hair asked, did you discuss this with Commissioner Jackel? Maybe this is just a surrogate. Commissioner Murray said, no, no. Commissioner Murray said, I have 4, 5-F, 5-I, J—. Chairman Hair said, wait a minute, 5-I. Anything else? Commissioner Murray said, well, I had the one on O, but let's—, don't pull O because I think that was brought up when we dealt with the [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, all right, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve—. Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to pull D, 5-D. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Saussy said, just for information. Chairman Hair said, sure. Anybody else?

County Manager Abolt said, I apologize for the lateness of this. I was advised this morning—, we have a memorandum at your desk. Item C, dealing with the Aquatic Center management contract. Chairman Hair said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, if the action would read, rather than a renewal, an extension of that contract for 90 days. Chairman Hair asked, 90-day extension? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, make that in the minutes, Madam Clerk.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any further pulls? Okay, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 4, 5-D, 5-F, 5-I and 5-J. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1998, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 25, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period September 17, 1998, through September 30, 1998, in the amount of \$3,713,174. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE STATE FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS BY THE COUNTY INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to authorize the Chairman to sign an agreement with the State Safety Fire Commissioner's office for the enforcement of the State Fire Safety Standards by the County Inspections Department. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN STAFFING WITHIN THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS OFFICE.

Commissioner Murray said, I see Gary [Udinsky] in the audience. I'd just like for him to come up and explain what they'll be doing, and is this going to help the evaluations go up higher or what? Mr. Udinsky said, the long and the short of it is that for probably the last seven or eight years we've been working very hard to reduce the number of management staff within the Board of Assessors and to try to put more trained appraisers on the street, and this is the final step in that process. Commissioner Murray said, all right. What is a trained assessor? In other words—. Mr. Udinsky said, trained appraiser. Commissioner Murray said, appraiser. Do you send them off to school or something, or what? Mr. Udinsky said, all the appraisers on the appraisal staff are required by State law to be certified by the State at different levels of training depending on the course work they're taking and the years of experience that they've attained plus a certification testing that has been administered. Commissioner Murray said, so this is going to put more people on the street to do the actual assessing. Is that what is happening? Mr. Udinsky said, that is correct. Commissioner Murray said, in other words, instead of the same places getting hit every year, we're going to have the whole community get hit. Is that—? Mr. Udinsky said, well, I think it's—, I don't know that that's the result of this. I think the result of property values changing is the result of people buying and selling properties—. Commissioner Murray said, I was just being sarcastic. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, Frank [Murray], no.

Chairman Hair said, we didn't recognize that. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did you pick that up? Chairman Hair said, [inaudible] point it out to me, I didn't recognize that at all. All right, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a change in staffing in the Board of Assessors office. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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5. 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 annual maintenance contract for outside repair services for John Deere equipment	Fleet Operations	Industrial Tractor Company	\$48 per hour	•General Fund/M&O - Various departments •SSD - Various departments
B. First renewal option to annual contract for providing bond counsel services	Finance	Oliver, Maner and Gray, Attorneys at Law	Same terms and conditions	Funding requirements will be defrayed from proceeds of each bond issue
C. 90-day extension of First renewal option to annual contract to provide management and operations of the Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center	Sports Design, Inc.	\$2,000 per month	General Fund/M & O - Aquatic Center
D. First renewal option to annual contract to provide professional audit services	Finance	Tindol and Smith	\$93,900	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various •Special Revenue Funds - Various •Enterprise Funds - Various
E. 1,500 gallons of Malathion	Mosquito Control	Cheminova, Inc. (sole source)	\$35,325	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
F. Property lease agreement for one year, with automatic renewal (not to exceed 3% increase)	EMS	Ms. Alice Walls	\$1,500 per month	General Fund/M & O - EMS (no cost for remainder of 1998)
G. One-year service agreement to remove and install blue light equipment on an "as needed" basis	Various	West Chatham Warning Devices	Various	•CIP - Vehicle Replacement •SSD - Various •General Fund/M & O - Various
H. One-year renewal option to provide bridge maintenance and repairs	Bridges	Alloy Industrial Contractors, Inc.	Various	General Fund/M & O - Bridges
I. Final renewal option to the annual contract to provide concessionaire services	Tybee Pier and Pavilion	Riptide Bait and Tackle	41.5% of gross sales paid to the County	Revenue producing
J. Renew the annual contract to provide concessionaire services	Skidaway Narrows Boat Ramp	Bandy's Bait Shop	\$250 per month paid to County for "use of premises" lease	Revenue producing
K. Installation of security system upgrade	CNT	ADT Security (sole source)	\$13,385	Confiscated Funds - Counter Narcotics Team
L. First renewal option and issuance of Change Order No. 1 to annual contract to provide microfilm processing services to include microfilm processing of historical deed record books	Superior Court Clerk	SDM, Inc.	• \$.05893 per copy • \$.59 per copy for historical deed record books	•General Fund/M & O - Administrative Services • General Fund/M & O - Superior Court Clerk
M. Final renewal option to annual contract to perform appraisals of damage caused by County drivers to claimants vehicles	Finance	All-Claims, Inc.	\$75 per appraisal; \$.40 per mile outside of 25 mile radius	General Fund/M & O - Claims and Judgement
N. Copy machine	County Manager	Herrin Business Products	\$10,500	General Fund/M & O - County Manager
O. Confirmation of emergency purchase of two (2) drug dogs and two (2) bomb dogs	Sheriff	Global Training Academy (sole source)	\$24,600	CIP - Sheriff K-9 Grant Addition
P. One (1) unmarked vehicle	Police	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$16,230.10	CIP - Vehicle Replacement Fund

Items 5-A through 5-P, except 5-D, 5-F, 5-I and 5-J

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve Items 5-A through 5-P, except Items 5-D, 5-F, 5-I and 5-J. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

Item 5-D

FIRST RENEWAL OPTION TO ANNUAL CONTRACT TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES, TINDOL AND SMITH - \$93,900.

Commissioner Saussy said I think I bring this up every year, but—. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. It's his annual job.

Chairman Hair said, let me read that for the record. Item D is: First renewal option to annual contract to provide professional audit services. The recommendation is to go to Tindol and Smith and the amount is \$93,900. Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Saussy asked, I can't speak? Chairman Hair said, oh, I thought you had already spoken.

Commissioner Saussy said, no. I again think that this is not good practice to have the same firm year in and year out, a CPA firm, and that's what we have. I think we've had them probably for 15 years or better. County Manager Abolt said, but you've always bid it out. Commissioner Saussy said, I understand that, I understand that, and I'm sorry we can't get somebody in town or even out of town for that matter to bid on this thing and give us a better bid. Commissioner Murray said, we have the option to put this out for bid. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's like insurance. Sometimes you just keep good policies. Can you identify with that, David [Saussy]? Commissioner Saussy said, no, I can't put those two together. But anyway, go ahead.

Chairman Hair said, it's standard one-year—, three-year, two one-year options. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy and Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Item 5-F

PROPERTY LEASE AGREEMENT FOR ONE YEAR, WITH AUTOMATIC RENEWALS (NOT TO EXCEED 3% INCREASE), THIS IS FOR EMS AND THE SOURCE IS MS. ALICE WALLS - \$1,500 PER MONTH.

Commissioner Murray said, first of all, I'm not opposed to it. The only reason I pulled this one is, you know, several months ago we went through a long spiel about the regions that were going to be set up for EMS, MedStar and, I guess, Candler/St. Joseph's, or Southside who has it now, and we had—, one of those other services was on the Island in this very location. They were supposed to stay until the end of the year when all this new regional set up with our emergency service started taking place. That unit, without any discussions from anybody else, has already been pulled. The County is having to pick up that now for the last three months of this year, so we're actually moving into our region sooner than we were supposed to, but I—, as far as the location, as far as where you're going with it, I don't have a problem with that. I'll support that. I just wanted to bring it up strictly because of what's taking place and why we're having to do this now instead of in January. I move for approval.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussions. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

Item 5-I

FINAL RENEWAL OPTION TO THE ANNUAL CONTRACT TO PROVIDE CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES, TYBEE PIER AND PAVILION, RIPTIDE BAIT AND TACKLE - 41.5% OF GROSS SALES PAID TO THE COUNTY.

Commissioner Murray said, okay, what do you have—, what total figures did we get back on that on an annual basis? Mr. George Lynch said, I do not have the—. County Manager Abolt said, we'll get them for you. Mr. Lynch said, precise number. I'll be glad to get that for you. We get the percentage of gross. Commissioner Murray said, all right, when that money comes back in, what budget is it put in? Mr. Lynch said, I believe it's put in the General Fund, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, there's no way that those funds—, I thought the purpose in doing this was to help support the facility itself for maintenance and other operations. Mr. Lynch said, and indeed it does, sir. It's simply that it doesn't—, typically when funds come in, they go into the General Fund and then subsequently are reallocated. Commissioner Murray said, well, I would much rather see those funds that come in on the pier and pavilion—, it couldn't be a whole lot of money—, be restricted to use on maintenance and upkeep on the pier and pavilion. That—, I mean, we've discussed the charging a fee when we go out there and these other things, and if we're going to do that, it needs to be utilized on that facility and not some other facility in some other part of the community. Mr. Lynch said, let me raise that with the Finance folks, sir. County Manager Abolt said, we'll be glad to—. Mr. Lynch said, I really am not the expert on that. Commissioner Murray said, I think we should do that on any facility we have that we charge anything on.

Chairman Hair said, I have a question. Do we audit their sales records? Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir, they're—. To the best—. Chairman Hair asked, how often do we audit their records? Mr. Lynch said, I can't give you a time interval on that, sir. Chairman Hair said, I'd like to know that—. Mr. Lynch said, okay, sir. Chairman Hair said, because I think that's important. We've got to trust their numbers. I mean, if they're going to say they're going to give us 41.5% of gross, we need to be able to make sure we're getting the right gross numbers without just relying on their figures, you know. Maybe asking for income tax reports or whatever and something that would be verifiable. Mr. Lynch said, yes. They—, the Parks and Rec people don't wait just for an annual or quarterly audit. They check them as they come in. Chairman Hair said, yes, but I mean but if they're

just checking what they put down on a piece of paper—. County Manager Abolt said, we'll respond in writing. Chairman Hair said, okay, very good.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to table this until we get the income figures and we get the information on the audit. Chairman Hair said, the motion is to table. Do I have a second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor of tabling vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

Item 5-J

RENEW THE ANNUAL CONTRACT TO PROVIDE CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES,
SKIDAWAY NARROWS BOAT RAMP, BANDY'S BAIT SHOP - \$250 PER MONTH PAID TO THE COUNTY.

Commissioner Murray asked, who built that facility out there? Mr. Lynch said, my understanding is, sir, Bandy, or the gentleman who does business as Bandy, built that many, many years ago. This, in essence, is, if you would, land rent from the County—. Chairman Hair said, a lease. Mr. Lynch said, to have the structure built there. Commissioner Murray said, so in other words he pays us \$250 a month to operate out of there. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. And several years ago, just to make sure that was the best deal, the County went out and solicited invitations for bid and didn't get any takers. Commissioner Murray said, okay, I move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second?

Commissioner Jackel said, let me just—. The position of those two items is amazing to me. Commissioner Murray said, that's why I highlighted both of them and asked questions. Commissioner Jackel said, we're charging one person 41.5% of their gross and then the other we're charging \$250 a month. County Manager Abolt said, two different approaches. Chairman Hair said, we don't own the facility. We're leasing. Mr. Lynch said, we're leasing him the land—. Chairman Hair said, totally different. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand there are those differences, but the difference between the amounts is extraordinary too, and I just—. Commissioner Odell said, it could be. We don't know—. Commissioner Saussy said, it might be better than 41%. Commissioner Jackel said, it might be.

Mr. Lynch said, we asked precisely the same question, which is the reason we went out to see if we could stir some interest in a more traditional concession and didn't get takers. Commissioner Jackel said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay. We have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve Items 5-A through 5-P, except Items 5-D, 5-F, 5-I and 5-J. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 5-D. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy and Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 5-F. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to table Item 5-I to until we get the figures after they have been audited. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 5-J. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

- 1. **TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS TO REFLECT STATE REVISED SETBACK STANDARDS FROM MARSHLANDS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT BE APPROVED.
MPC FILE NO. 98-12339-C
NO DISTRICT/TEXT AMENDMENT**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Item read into the record as first reading.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to go into Executive Service for what purpose? County Manager Abolt said, personnel. Chairman Hair said, personnel. Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

* * *

Following adjournment of Executive Session, the meeting of the Chatham County Commissioners reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. TERMINATION OF C.E.M.A. DIRECTOR AND APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM DIRECTOR.

Chairman Hair said, I recognize Commissioner DeLoach to make a motion on a personnel matter.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion at this time that we terminate Dr. Robert Smith as C.E.M.A. Director effective today to take effect, and we'll continue to pay him and compensate him through the end of the year. Chairman Hair said, that's December 31st. Commissioner DeLoach said, December 31st, 1998. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Do I have a second to the motion? Commissioner Rivers said, don't let it die. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion on the motion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll also recognize Commissioner DeLoach for another motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, also at this time I'd like to appoint Phillip Webber as Interim Director for C.E.M.A. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to terminate the employment of Dr. Robert Smith as C.E.M.A. Director effective today and continue payment of his salary through December 31, 1998. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]
- 2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to appoint Phillip Webber as Interim Director of C.E.M.A. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and Thomas were not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1998

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK