

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 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 23, 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 (Arrived approximately 9:40 p.m.)
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
David L. Saussy, District One
Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
Martin S. Jackel, District Three
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
Ben Price, District Six
Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

ABSENT: Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four

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

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YOUTH COMMISSIONER

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a today a Youth Commissioner, Marisa Drexel. She's the secretary, a junior at St. Vincent's Academy. Brandon Brown, a junior at Johnson High School, will be joining us shortly. [NOTE: Mr. Brown did not attend the meeting.] Commissioner Thomas said, Marisa [Drexel], welcome and we're very happy to have you here.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**1. PRESENTATION OF “NEWS RELEASE” – CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE HIGHEST AWARD IN PUBLIC BUDGETING, THE DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD, FOR THE TENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR FOR ITS 1998 ANNUAL BUDGET.**

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, we're so proud of Finance staff as well as all of the departments who annually participate in this great endeavor. They've recognized them now for 10 years in a row that this County Commission has a public policy document in your budget second to none. It communicates honestly and in an understandable fashion with the electorate and with all citizens your budget policy. We have a very impressive wall of brass behind me. It will be the 10th in a row on the bottom. That truly, not only this award from GFOA, but also our award for our comprehensive annual financial report and the number of them, in my estimation and my travels around the country, there's no place like Chatham County. This is an excellent reputation that you have in financial accountability, and I'm very proud of what you have done.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we certainly would like to congratulate the entire financial staff. County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, when the plaque is here, because the news release is in advance of the plaque, we will have all the employees—. Vice Chairman Thomas said, great. County Manager Abolt said, we'll have the official hanging and all of that. This is late-breaking and we wanted everybody to know about it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, congratulations. That's wonderful. We're very excited about that.

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2. PROCLAMATION FOR EDDIE CROSBY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a proclamation here. Is Mr. Felton “Eddie” Crosby here? Good morning. I believe you're retiring. Mr. Crosby said, yes, I'm retired. All right. Okay, we have a proclamation that we would like to present to you and it reads as follows:

Vice Chairman Thomas said, congratulations. Mr. Crosby introduced his wife and guests.

Mr. Jim Golden said, Commissioners, I guess you say not too many people retire from Recreation. But Eddie [Crosby] came 22 years ago and he has performed his duties in a variety throughout the County, and we will miss Eddie [Crosby]. We have his supervisors here and we look forward for Eddie [Crosby] to keep going and have a prosperous retirement. Larry Merchinson is his supervisor.

Mr. Larry Merchinson said, good morning. I'd like to say we'd like to thank Eddie [Crosby] for outstanding, dedicated services to the Recreation Department. I wish you a happy and healthy retirement. God bless you throughout the years.

County Manager Abolt said, Jim Golden said it all. You know, it's difficult to understand anybody retiring from Recreation, but in all seriousness, that department is well run and well run because it really has been cut back over the last several years in a very excruciating way, and it's people like Eddie [Crosby] that have gotten the job done in spite of all my desires to reduce the spending and have done it in a fashion that truly is very special to me and this community. I would like to now present Eddie [Crosby] something. [NOTE: County Manager Abolt presented a lamp with the Chatham County seal engraved.]

Mr. Crosby said, I'd like to say that I was well pleased to work with y'all and it was long hard years, rough ones sometimes. You would get discouraged sometimes, but we ironed them out. We got everything done.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, congratulations. Thank you so very much.

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3. PROCLAMATION FOR SAVANNAH TREE FOUNDATION.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do we have a representative here from the Savannah Tree Foundation? Ms. White said, I'm Julie White. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Julie White. Thank you. We have another proclamation that we would like to present to the Savannah Tree Foundation, and I'd like to read it. Vice Chairman Thomas then read the following proclamation into the record.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we congratulate you and we thank you for all your efforts.

Ms. White said, thank you very much. We appreciate your stamp of approval more than you know and we hope to see some of you—, all of you there on the 7th to help us plant some trees. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much. Ms. White said, thank you.

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4. PRESENTATION OF EIGHT-MINUTE VIDEO ABOUT “GEORGIA LAND WATER, WILDLIFE AND RECREATION HERITAGE FUND” BY JO HICKSON.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is Jo Hickson here? [NOTE: No one responded.] Vice Chairman Thomas asked, she's not here? Okay, we'll move on.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

In the absence of Ms. Jo Hickson, this item was not presented.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. REQUEST FROM CITY OF RICHMOND HILL FOR WAIVER OF FEE FOR USE OF BAND SHELL.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we will just hold the Chairman's item until he comes in.

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Chairman Hair said, you have a staff report that basically says let's charge them half the amount we normally charge. Dr. Thomas and I talked about this yesterday at agenda review. My feeling is that we ought to waive the fee. I mean, we're going to see in the next year or two we're going to have work more and more with out friends to the South and North and West as we begin to deal with issues, and I personally think that we ought to waive the fee. I think the \$1,600 that we should waive it. That's my recommendation to the Board.

Commissioner Price asked, what are they going to use it for, Billy? Chairman Hair said, they're having some kind of city festivals or something. It's been a while since I've read the actual. Jim [Golden]?

Mr. Jim Golden said, they have two dates for this year and they're asking for the Spring, which is May—, April and May. So it's four occasions in that one request. Commissioner Saussy asked, four? Mr. Golden said, four. Commissioner Thomas said, four.

Chairman Hair said, yes, they're requesting it—, they're really basically an annual request is what they're doing . Putting all four in the same request.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, to the answer to Commissioner Price's question. From the letter from the Mayor, they're talking about in December the event is a holiday festival and parade, in the Spring of the year it's a Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. Commissioner Price asked, will we have some type of insurance on the stage itself or the bandshell, or are we going to give—. County Manager Abolt said, this is all ours, sir. Commissioner Price said, I understand that, but my point is if there's some damage—. Chairman Hair said, like a hold harmless. Commissioner Price said, yes. If there's a hold harmless or any damage done to the—. Chairman Hair asked, Jon [Hart], can we do a hold harmless on it? County Attorney Hart said, sure you can do that. Chairman Hair said, just do a hold harmless and then if there's any damage to it, they'd have to pay. I don't have any problem with that. County Manager Abolt said, sure. Chairman Hair said, I just really think though that as we think about trying to cooperate with our neighbors—, I mean, there's going to be times where we're going to need them in disasters and hurricanes and things like that. I just think for \$1,600 it would be a goodwill gesture, so I don't have a problem with it. If y'all have a problem, that's fine, but I—.

Commissioner Price said, I move that we waive the fee completely and allow them to use it as they have requested. Chairman Hair said, all right. We have a motion to waive. Do I have a second? Tax Commissioner Danny Powers asked, what happens in the Spring because, you know, the Chatham Relay for Life will request this—. Chairman Hair said, we dealt with that yesterday, Danny [Powers]. What I was told by staff is that these dates do not conflict with any usage of the bandshell. Commissioner Price said, April 30th to May 1st. Chairman Hair said, I asked that question. I asked that question yesterday.

Commissioner Saussy said, that's another thing that if we have conflicts or maybe somebody will come up next week that's in Chatham County that wants to use it, but it's already taken. We need to set some kind of time limit as to when they have to put these things in. Chairman Hair said, well, that's exactly why they're asking for it that far in advance. I think that benefits us though. We could—, you know, I see what you're saying, but I just think we ought to cooperate. That's my personal feeling. If y'all want to charge them, that's fine, but I'd just like to see us—.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not as interested in charging them as not doing it. I mean, my biggest problem with it is if there's somebody in the local community that wants to use the thing, then I think they should have—, they should get it first. I agree with that, but I also think they ought to have [inaudible] like everybody else. I don't think they ought to be able to come up two days before and get something either. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, they're paying the taxes on it and if it's sitting there they would get the—.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion on the floor to waive the fee. Do I have a second on that motion? Commissioner Saussy asked is this just one of them or both of them? Chairman Hair said, no, it's all—, waive them for four times. I have a motion to waive it—. Commissioner Saussy said, I mean, one—, we've got two, right. Chairman Hair said, yes, we've got two, two bandshells. Commissioner Saussy said, this is just one of them. Chairman Hair said, we've got two bandshells. This is only one of two bandshells. We don't have—, we have two bandshells. Commissioner Saussy said, if we could leave one in reserve all times, I don't have a problem with it. Chairman Hair said, exactly. That's exactly right.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just really feel that we need recoup at least our costs in this thing. I mean—. Commissioner Saussy asked, how about moving it down there? Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's what the \$1,600—, we're supplying the maintenance—. Chairman Hair said, well, that's half. Commissioner Jackel said, either way, but I mean, it's realistic that recoup our costs from this thing. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a—. If you want to make a motion—. Let's do with the waiver before—. Commissioner Jackel said, it's going to cost us money for them to use our bandshell. Chairman Hair said, let's deal with the motion on the floor. If that doesn't pass, you can introduce another motion.

Chairman Hair said, the motion on the floor is to waive the fee as requested by staff. I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Martin and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of four to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Barely. Commissioner Price said, barely. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of Richmond Hill for the County to waive the daily rental fees for the use of one bandshell for events to be held on December 4 and 5, 1998, and April 30 and May 1, 1999. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. REQUEST FROM CITY OF POOLER, ADVANCE SPLOST FUNDING, SIDEWALKS (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Commissioner DeLoach said, the City of Pooler has approached the County to ask for a helping hand on having some work done. Originally whenever they asked for the SPLOST program, the amount of taxes they were looking for for the SPLOST program, they were going to use it for sidewalks and that type thing, and it actually won't become available until about 2002 or something. I don't know what the year is, but anyway it's well off as far as the sidewalks are concerned. In the meantime the School Board has decided to build two schools in the after the—, in the Pooler area down Rogers Street and has approached the City of Pooler saying they needed some—, they've got a problem with the safety of the children walking down Rogers Street. There's no sidewalks and that road runs probably a good half a mile to the school. They placed two schools in that area and a lot of kids in that area, and at the present time the School Board is having to bus these kids back and forth because of the safety issue. Pooler has agreed to go ahead and pave the sidewalk. They were asking us for an advance on the SPLOST money so that they can go ahead and do this and contract this out and get it done. The State has already agreed to pay half to cover the cost and advance fund that so that they can move forward with it, and it's just a safety issue as far as the School Board is concerned and the City of Pooler for the kids in that area, and I'm asking that we do that. Pooler agrees to pay interest on this money so it will not be a loss to the County. It's going to be a concern as far as cash flow for us, but hopefully it's something we can work and we can get these paved. It's an unusual situation. It's not something that should be considered a—, setting a—, what, what do you call that? Vice Chairman Thomas said, a precedent. Commissioner DeLoach said, a precedent. Yes, it's not setting a precedent because it's an issue of safety as far as the Board of Education is concerned, and we need to move forward with it if we can. I'm asking y'all for the vote to ask staff to make this happen.

Commissioner Price said, I'll second if that's a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's a motion. Commissioner Price said, I'll second that with discussion.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes. I have got a concern about it being a precedent, Eddie [DeLoach]. Can they not go out for tax anticipation notes just like we can? Commissioner DeLoach said, they could. Commissioner Saussy asked, can't the School Board do that? Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't know about the School Board. The School Board basically—, that's not me. The School Board said that they would pave up to their property line and that's all the School Board would participate in. They won't pave the rest of the sidewalks. Commissioner Price said, a question like that might be best asked

to the City Manager from Pooler. Commissioner DeLoach said, the City Manager, yes, they can bring him up, but it's a problem of timing on the tax anticipation notes.

Mr. Dennis Baxter said, that's the main thing we're looking at now, the tax anticipation notes. We didn't really know where the school was going to be placed. The School Board looked at several locations and so it would not try to pay us [sic] to figure out a plan before we actually got it in, you know, the school got in place. We immediately started trying to find the funds to do the sidewalk. We have gotten a good participation from the State Department of Transportation, almost 50% of the cost of the project. So, you're right, we would have normally done something like tax anticipation except we didn't have time. I might add, I don't know if Commissioner DeLoach already said it, but the School Board is in the process of building another school on the same site right now, an elementary school. We'll have probably, off the top of my head, 200 or 300 children or more walking down Pine Baron Road along Rogers Street. Pine Baron Road—, Rogers Street especially is a small right-of-way and it's really a critical project.

Commissioner Saussy said, so therefore the School Board can't help y'all out with this. Mr. Baxter said, no, sir. We have asked them and they—, like Commissioner DeLoach said, they can't go off—, they can't go off of their school property. They are going to put sidewalks up to their property line, which will help some, but certainly won't be the long haul. Commissioner Saussy asked, Russ [Abolt], how do you see this not having any money, because I know we're tight?

County Manager Abolt said, Commissioner DeLoach is aware. It's not a question of finding the dollars. I'll explain three alternatives and then I'll present my position on it. We have given you three choices. As it was introduced, the issue there was a possible loan against the entitlement which just began in October of this year and will go for five years. We feel that could violate the agreement you have with other cities—, in other jurisdictions who anticipate receiving money for drainage, roads, open space, and what have you. If you want to do it, the first alternative would be the one of choice, and that would be just an outright loan from the five year period that just ended in September that ran for five years, and we have money available from a cash flow standpoint where we could loan it just as we, in effect, sales tax money collected, we expect interest rates to run anywhere from 5½% to 6½%, and that would be then the obligation of the City of Pooler within five years to pay that back. That can be done. There is a potential precedent established because other jurisdictions may come forward and ask the County to serve as a bank. The second option which I've mentioned and Commissioner DeLoach was discussing we feel is very dangerous. It creates a situation where, in effect, as opposed to other years when you appropriated the money prior to a vote and made agreement with the cities, it was a lot less binding than the agreement you have now. We do have, you might recall, several weeks back, in fact several months back, the City of Tybee had made a request to advance fund the Back River project. There may very well be other communities or other organizations and the City to come forward, City of Savannah, and ask for assistance. We know no way of doing that absent violating the agreement that was signed prior to the election by the County Commission and all of the other governments in the area. If you want to do it, Alternative #1 is it. I would though strongly urge you not to do it. I do think it creates a very dangerous precedent. I realize that there's a need here, but in the same breath I will also tell you what is obvious. This County Commission has been a very, very good neighbor to all cities in this County and particularly the City of Pooler. That is not meant to be a self-serving comment or critical of this. I do not want, if you were to choose to vote against this, you to feel that you were anything less than the very best in the way in which you've supported this community. Other options should be open to the City of Pooler. You mentioned tax anticipation notes, but essentially coming to the County in this fashion, though obviously a very legitimate request, I feel will create something that you may not appreciate in the years to come when others come forward and ask for similar advances and similar loans.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I withdraw my motion for that second idea and go to the first motion that Russ [Abolt] talked about where we take it off of the—, the five years? County Manager Abolt said, and if I may explain that to you too, so you'll understand. Commissioner Price said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may explain it so you'll understand. This is not money and over and above what is required for a project. Because of the obvious delay in so many projects, we have money in the bank. We invest that money. In this case, we'd be investing it with Pooler and they'd pay us back annually up to five years. Commissioner Saussy asked, this is money that's already tied up in some other project? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. I mean, it's just like—, all of our projects, as we know, aren't out to bid yet and we can expect over the years, the next several years we'll still be using this five-year entitlement that ended this year for projects. So we're just investing it in the City of Pooler. They have to realize that, you know, in five years after they've paid the interest rate, they've got to come up with the principal. And the down side of any type of—, as Dennis [Baxter] will certainly tell you, and the reason why we've always done pay as you go on our sales tax projects is, they are not burdened then by interest costs. Whatever that sidewalk costs, they're paying that plus the interest.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me—. May I ask a question? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, you said before that you didn't have time to do a tax anticipation note. What if we floated you a loan until you can do that and then when you get the anticipation note, just pay it back? Mr. Baxter said, I can't answer that here. That would be left up to the Mayor and Council. That certainly is something we can look at doing. What our hopes was to do something similar to what Russ [Abolt] was talking about and just really borrowing the money, paying the interest on it, and when five years came up, we'd pay it, you know, just out of our funds that we had built up or either from the next round of the sales tax when it was due. Commissioner Rivers asked, we're talking about—, how much interest are we talking about? County Manager Abolt said, well, right now it's between 5½% and 6½%. If this is your desire, we could work out an agreement, you know, for early payback with no penalty. I mean, if they want to pay it back in a year, they could pay it back in a year. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. What I'm about to ask, Dennis [Baxter], what is anticipation note rates at now? Commissioner Price said, very low. Commissioner Rivers said, it should be very low, and it might be lower than the 5% that we're talking about. Commissioner Price said, it is. Commissioner Rivers said, so it would behoove you to do that and come back and pay this thing off early. You know, I would agree to do that with you going back to your council and explaining to them even the savings—, the bridge between the saving of the 5% and what you may get a tax anticipation note for could very well be a modest savings. Commissioner Price said, maybe as low as 3% to 3½%. Mr. Baxter said, yes, the last loan we looked at was from GEFA. Of course, GEFA doesn't participate in this type of project, but it was 4.3. Commissioner Price

said, rates have even dropped lower since then. Mr. Baxter said, is that right. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner Rivers said, so if we could move in that vein, you know, I can support it. I can support that.

Commissioner DeLoach said, well, the only problem—, and Russ [Abolt], made the point and for some reason if we can give the money to the bank and let them use it, but we can't give it to our local communities and let them use it. That doesn't make any sense. Why don't we loan them the money if we're going to put it in the bank? So we give it to the bank and let them do what they want to, and when we've got a community that comes up and says they need to borrow some for a special project, for some odd reason it's wrong for us to make money on that. What's the problem? Just because—, I know we're sticking money in the bank. What I'm saying is why not vote in favor of this based on the fact that we're taking money and sticking it in the bank, and that bank loans it to whoever they want to. That's fine, but why not stick it in Pooler's bank and let them pay us interest on it? There's no difference. What's the difference, Russ [Abolt]? Is there any difference in that? County Manager Abolt said, my—. Commissioner Rivers said, when you get down to finances, it may be a big difference. Commissioner DeLoach asked, why? Commissioner Rivers said, because you invest money and we invest money, and the way we invest money, we move our money, don't we, Russ [Abolt]? Commissioner DeLoach said, no, no, that's not—. County Manager Abolt said, it wouldn't be that. My concern, and it really—, this is very parochial and I apologize for it up front. I would want any community that would do this to realize the gravity of the loan, and I would not want any expectation, let us say, in four or five years they come in and say, oh, you know, this is for the betterment of the community, you know, forgive the obligation. We're dealing with sales tax money. We're dealing with a trust, literally, with the people. The people voted for certain projects. We have to build those projects as long as they're feasible. There is nothing wrong with what Commissioner DeLoach is proposing with the understanding, obviously, other jurisdictions may come forward, and anybody who would agree to this must realize the severity of the obligation. If you found yourself, and I'm not assuming you would, but if you found yourself in two or three years and then all of a sudden Pooler came forward and say, oh, please forgive it, and you chose to forgive it, I think you'd get yourself in a very tight situation.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just can't imagine that would happen. I mean, we'd—, I mean, it's an obligation, and I've never had any of our communities not pay an obligation. So that's not an issue as far as I'm concerned. The issue is do you want to put it in the bank or do you want to loan it to a community that needs the money to get something done right away.

Commissioner Rivers said, I would like to give it to the community Eddie [DeLoach], but here again if the community looks at, they can save between the 5% and the 3%. That's just a good thing on their part, plus what it does, it tightens our finger if the City of Savannah comes and says, hey, we want to borrow \$500,000, and then we say, okay, we'll loan you this money under these certain conditions, you see. We handle it on a case by case basis—. Commissioner DeLoach said, exactly. Commissioner Rivers said, but I think it behooves them and it would be to their advantage rather than to pay 5%. Certainly, if I was a citizen out in Pooler and you tell me I have to pay 5% more taxes in order to get a loan wherein we can do 3%—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I understand your point there and that's an issue that Buddy [Carter] and Dennis [Baxter] and all them will have to address as far as their community is concerned, but my point is I've got a sidewalk that needs to be built, that needs to be built right away to take care of these citizens out there. I'd rather loan the money to a community that I had to the bank and get the same interest or more interest than we're going to get from a bank and then go ahead and make the issue and move on with it, so I'm going to make the motion that we go with line item two that staff has outlined. County Manager Abolt said, number one, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, number one—, excuse me, number one line item, and loan it to them. If they get it back, paid back early or after one year they could give the money back in one year and not charge them any interest, but if they—, what he's saying—. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. I'm saying we allow them to pay the debt off early. What I want to underscore here, I know it's obvious, and I'll ask the attorney to prepare the agreement. We cannot do anything less than we get from a bank. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's fine. County Manager Abolt said, because there's always a possibility the electorate would come in and say, well, wait a minute, you didn't use these taxes you set for these purposes and you lost some interest. Commissioner DeLoach said, exactly. That's my motion. Whatever makes Russ [Abolt] happy on that one. Commissioner Price said, and we're going to hold Dennis Baxter as collateral. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do we have a second? Commissioner DeLoach asked, do we have a second on that? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second that. Commissioner Price said, I seconded it already. I'd already seconded it.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion? Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Saussy said, he answered my question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a motion on the floor. Are we ready? All in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, no opposes. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Commissioner DeLoach said, the citizens of Pooler thank you and I thank you, and every—. Commissioner Price said, the kids thank you. Commissioner DeLoach said, and the kids thank you. I appreciate it. The only one that's upset is the bank.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board enter into an agreement, to be prepared by the County Attorney, with the City of Pooler that would allow the City of Pooler to borrow up to \$400,000 to complete its sidewalk projects for the new schools, with the agreement calling for a maximum period of five years for Pooler to repay the principal plus the prevailing interest due at this time (5.5% to 6.5%), and as security Chatham County would look first to Pooler's anticipated funds of \$458,703 from the 1998-2003 1% SPLOST, but depend on its full faith and credit should the sales tax funds not be fully realized. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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2. SEND BACK TO MPC ZONING REQUEST ON SKIPPER'S NURSERY (COMMISSIONER JACKEL, COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Commissioner Jackel said, Madam Chairman, Commissioner Murray of course could not be here today and we spoke about this. We'd like to send this back to MPC for their reconsideration and then it of course would work its way back to us for a final decision. If they can come up with the right plan, then Commissioner Murray suspects that he will vote to approve this, but he's not making a commitment at this time. He wants further study. So we ask that that be done, and I do move. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any questions or discussion?

Commissioner Price asked, is anybody here from Skipper's? I mean, how do the people at the Nursery feel about that? Commissioner DeLoach said, they got turned down the first time, so they—. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I think that's where Frank's [Murray] in and he wanted to at least send it back to MPC to take a look. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, they're happy. Vice Chairman Thomas said, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to send back to the Metropolitan Planning Commission for further study the zoning request on Skipper's Nursery. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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3. PROPOSED NEW "REGULAR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION" (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Commissioner DeLoach said, I sent information to each one of you concerning the homestead exemption. Oddly enough, in the paper this morning y'all got a commentary from Ed Garrison concerning the way we appraise property in Chatham County and the fact that I think it's on everybody's mind. It was on mine when I protested my tax returns—, I mean, my taxes this year. I'm tired of taxes going up. We ran into an issue—, I went and spoke to the Commission over at Tybee a couple of weeks ago and ran into a gentleman that was retired, had retired to Tybee. He lived here all his life. He was a member of the 117th with my father and came up to me concerning his issue was again, just like everybody else's, the fact that although he bought the home to live there, his property taxes have continued to go up to the point that it's pricing people out of their homes because of the ability to—, for us to use this tax, a hidden tax, to increase our budget and operate the County. With that in mind, I went to probably one of the smartest men in Chatham County, I know as far as I'm concerned, on issues of what's the best way to take care of a situation, Gary Udinsky, and I spoke to Gary [Udinsky], and although a lot of people had a—, maybe a misunderstanding about his office and his job, he's probably been as helpful a person as you'll find as far as the taxpayer is concerned. He wants to do what's right, and he has always done what's right. It's not necessarily what we all like, but he has followed the law, and that's what he does. Well, he also took that law and basically came up with an idea that—, to alleviate the burden on the taxpayer and the homeowner especially, and it's an issue that I've brought before Ron Stephens and told him and outlined it to him and told him what we wanted to do. Ron [Stephens] is willing to take it up to the Legislature and use it as a basic platform to develop a State law that will take and alleviate the pressure on the homeowner as far as his primary home is concerned. Now how this works basically is we presently have a homestead exemption in Chatham County, which many counties have this and many cities have this, and over the years we've used that homestead exemption to give some relief on tax increases in the value of their home. Well, ours in Chatham County in the M&O is \$12,000 basically is what it amounts to. Some of the areas like the City of Savannah do not have any. The School Board, they don't have any. We offer \$12,000 in the Special Service District. So does the CAT, they offer \$12,000, but all the other areas offer no tax relief to the homeowner as far as the increase in the value of their home. Well, this is something for Mr. Ed Garrison and the folks that Ed Garrison represents and for the folks that live in Tybee, and I know for the folks at Southbridge. What we've come up with is we're going to set the tax and index the tax basically is what we're going to end up doing, and anybody that signs up for a homestead exemption on a primary house, if that house costs \$50,000 or is appraised at \$50,000, say, this year, and for some whatever reason it is that tax goes up to \$60,000 next year, they automatically—, the homeowner that lives at that home automatically gets a \$10,000 homestead exemption right off the bat.

Now as that value of that home goes up, you continually add to the homestead exemption so that whatever that person's got today and whatever he's doing today, he will not have to increase the value—, his home—, the value of his home increasing will not cause his taxes to go up. The only way his taxes will go up from now on is if we vote on up here to increase the millage. That's the only way it will possibly go up. So it puts it back on the people who are running for office, not on the backdoor with the property reappraisal. So it will not reduce our income at all as far as the County or any other municipality is concerned for this year. We'll get the same amount of money next year as we got this year, so that won't effect anything, it won't cause anybody to have a heart attack because they're not going to have any money in the till. We do have the same amount of money coming in, but from this point on if there's going to be a tax increase, it's going to be voted on up here and we're going to determine whether we in fact put a burden on the taxpayers or the homeowners. What has to happen with this bill is it also has to have every community in Chatham County and the School Board vote in favor of this. It's absolutely imperative for this thing to—, because the largest taxing person we have is the School Board. We need to have them stop using the reappraisal and the City of Savannah stop using reappraisal to increase their tax base. To do that, we need to go the Legislature, have them put it and make—, it can be a home rule basically. We can pass this. It can happen and it won't cause any problems, but we have to have the participation of all the communities, and I want to issue this and ask for a resolution adopting this program and let's move forward with it. Whether we can adopt it as policy or a resolution or what, let's take this on so that Mr. Ed Garrison won't have to come write in the paper and we'll be able to move forward from here on out with people being able to live in their home that they bought. It doesn't change from then on, and they live basically in that home, and it doesn't change until they leave that home.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have a lot of concerns about it. Of course, I was out yesterday and just received this piece of information this morning, but first of all, I believe in the free market system in determining values. I stand for the free market system. I believe in free enterprise. I think a lot of people do buy their house as a place to live, but there is also a number that buy as an investment and hoping it will increase in value. I believe in equal taxation for our citizens. I don't understand under this bill how it affects someone that decides to add onto their house.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, do you want me to answer that? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, that particular—. Commissioner DeLoach said, as far as the add-on, if someone comes up and decides they want to add on, this add-on can be based on cost of doing the job adds to the value of the house. You don't have to go out—, it's not based on a, you know, fair market or anything. It's based on cost of doing the job.

Commissioner Jackel said, cost of doing the job. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. So anytime you increase—, if it's \$50,000 and you add a \$10,000 room on the house, it goes to \$60,000, but it's pretty easy to come up with that number. Commissioner Jackel said, if you had a—. Commissioner Saussy said, that would not be included in the—, that would not be included in the—. Commissioner DeLoach said, it wouldn't be included in the exemption. That would be part of the additional cost. That house then would go from a \$50,000 value to a \$60,000 value and be taxed at that point. Commissioner Jackel said, because that's the cost. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's the—, right. Commissioner Jackel said, even though if it made the house worth \$30,000 more. Commissioner DeLoach said, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. Just because I put a whatever inside my house, it shouldn't increase—, I mean, it shouldn't cause my taxes to go up until somebody else buys it. Commissioner Jackel said, and the other thing that I'm against that this sounds similar to me is rent control. A part of the district that I represent has a number of renters and they'd say my landlord's note hasn't gone up, he doesn't have to pay a penny more to the bank than he did, but the value of his property went up and he doubled my rent, I thought I could live in this place another 10 years and the rent is forcing me out. I see this as a very similar thing, and I'm against rent control because I think the market ought to determine value. I also have concerns, as you well know, that I live in a row house and they're all fairly similar, but if someone comes in and I've been living there a number of years, they're going to pay substantially more in taxes because I'm assuming it's revalued when you buy. Commissioner DeLoach said, exactly. Commissioner Jackel said, I think that aspect makes this thing unconstitutional under the present Georgia Constitution, and I think the Constitution would have to be changed. I think that's also very true of condominium owners. They're exactly the same often and when someone comes in and purchases at a later date at a higher value, he pays more than his neighbors. It's also going to be true in areas where we have great growth and where we have the problem right now, such as Tybee and the historic district. Someone buys their house, they know their neighbor came in and bought it several years ago at 150, they had to buy it at 200, and all of a sudden they're paying twice the taxes of their neighbor. What are we supposed to tell them is the reason for that? Where's the fairness in that? Where's the equal taxation in that? Commissioner DeLoach said, do that again. Do it one more time. Commissioner Jackel said, someone buys a piece of property, bought a piece of property downtown 10 years ago at \$100,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, your neighbor comes in and buys one next door at \$200,000. They're basically similar. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Jackel asked, how do we explain to them they've paid twice as much in+ taxes than their neighbor next door on houses that have the same value? Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, to answer that, if a person comes in and decides he wants to buy a house at \$200,000, he's established the value of that house. We didn't establish the value of that house, he did, and when he does that, that's basically what stands as the value of that house at that time. If he doesn't want to get that, he can walk away. It's his right to determine the value of that house and at that point, whether it be Tybee, whether it be downtown, whether it be Southbridge, or whether it be in the woods, if he decides that that house is worth \$200,000, then that's the tax he pays on that house. But he knows that going in. It is not something that's coming up behind him and chomping at his wallet the rest of his life. He pays that, that's where it's established, he knows that he's going from there on, that's my tax, unless we up here decide to increase the millage on it. From that point on that man knows what he's paying, but he bought that house knowing that, so he has not got a problem with it or he would not have bought it. Commissioner Jackel said, well, he doesn't have a problem with buying the house. He has a problem knowing his neighbor next door gets the same services and pays less taxes. Commissioner DeLoach said, but that's a choice he made though. That is free—, I mean, he didn't have to do that. Commissioner Jackel said, [inaudible] knew that his taxes would go up at re-evaluation. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what about the person—? All right, well, let's do this. What about the person who is living there who paid \$50,000 for the house, is on a fixed income, somebody comes in beside his, he buys it for \$200,000 and this poor fellow that's on a fixed income that's got a \$50,000 house his just jerked up to \$200,000 so he has to move out because this fellow just decided it was worth that. There's no—, I mean, the equity is in this bit—. This is what we're requesting to make a resolution and a bid. The person decides at the time he buys the property what the value of that property is and from that point on it does not go up, and it's a tax—, it's based on the tax that we decide up here determines—, is what they pay.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have these reservations and I also have others. I think we need to study this more. I think what we're going to see is somewhat of a shifting of the tax burden, and I'm not sure at this point who it's going to be shifted to. If we have it different than we have it now, and we're spending the same sort of money, there has to be a shifting and I would like some calculations on who the burden would be shifted to. Commissioner DeLoach said, one thing I can say as far as the shifting the burden, what taxes we pay today is the same taxes we'll pay next year, so the burden will not shift there. Commissioner Saussy said, for one year. Commissioner Jackel said, for one year. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, not for one year, period. As far as the homeowner is concerned. Chairman Hair said, well, it will shift to the new buyer. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, the new buyers. Any new buyers, any new construction, any commercial or anything else person there it will shift to, exactly, but the homeowner that buys a house, it won't shift off of them and it won't shift off of—, anybody that buys a new house knows when they walk in the door what taxes they pay. It doesn't change from that point on. Commissioner Jackel said, but there is a shifting if you take these increments and over 10 years it adds up to a mill, somewhere along the line we either have to do without—, with one less mill of money or we have to raise the taxes a mill. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's right. Commissioner Jackel said, and whenever that is done, there is a shift. Now who, who is it shifting to? Not just to new purchasers. County Manager Abolt said, I can answer it. Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got that right there. Commissioner Jackel said, that's no problem.

County Manager Abolt said, well, if I may I before Gary [Udinsky]—. There's a general principle in homestead exemption, and Commissioner Rivers argued this quite well a few years ago, that with homestead exemption on one end and with freeport on the other, in effect we have a shifting towards the center, which is your commercial property, your rental property, things like that. That I think is a direct answer to your question on shift. The property taxes are paid by residential and by industrial up to a certain level, and as the burden increases, and again Commissioner Rivers made this case four or five years ago, that the shift comes towards that middle portion, the commercial and the rental and things like that.

Chairman Hair said, I've think we've got—. Do you, Commissioner Jackel, can we get some other people in here, or do you—? Commissioner Jackel said, well, I mean, that's something that I'd like to see, how much the shift would be, what the possible effect of that shift would be before I—. Commissioner DeLoach said, as long as you don't add any—, as long as you don't up here vote for a millage increase, it won't shift. It does not shift. Chairman Hair said, well, it would shift, Eddie [DeLoach]. It would shift to the new owners that are buying—, the people buying property each year. It does shift to them. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, the value does, but they know going in what the value is though. Chairman Hair said, but it's shifting—, it does shift to anybody buying property each year. It does shift from those—. Everybody would pay the same thing, the same value to the people who are—. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, no, no, no, because it's a million dollars, say we've got a million dollars right here. Okay, that's what our tax base is, okay. Now if that person walks in and adds to that tax base another \$100,000, that's just a 100 and—, that's just \$1,100,000 tax base now. That does not add to or take away from my base. It's just another addition to the pie. Chairman Hair said, that's true, but the people buying property are paying at a higher rate than people who had property the previous year, that's what I'm saying. So it does shift it to them. Commissioner DeLoach said, oh, you mean like I sold my property and that guy—, and I decided it was worth \$100,000, I bought it for \$50,000 and then that person would increase. Is that what you mean? Chairman Hair said, no, I mean if Ben [Price] has got an equal—. Martin's [Jackel] argument is that if Ben's got a house equal—, next door to your's and it's \$200,000 and you buy one next door for \$300,000, you're going to pay tax on 300, Ben's going to pay on 200, when you've got exactly the same houses. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, but you know that going in. Chairman Hair said, I understand that but it is a shifting. That's the point. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I see. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Jackel said, all right, I have one further point on this. It is—, it also seems relevant to me and I can't—, wouldn't think we need some economist to look at this sort of thing and I know Ben [Price] would be very interested in this. A man has \$100,000 house and his business improves and he decides, well, we've been living in this house for 10 years and I'm doing much better, and I want to buy a house and this house looks good to me, it's \$200,000. He says, but then I come out of my frozen taxes. I don't want to spend \$200,000 on a house, but now I get a double whammy because I've got to pay increase of taxes. I'm no longer protected. My other house was protected, and this is also very important for the aging population in our County—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't under—, that doesn't make any sense what you're saying, Martin [Jackel]. If you feel like you want to buy another house, you know what the taxes are going into it. It doesn't change the protection on the thing. I mean, the day you buy it, you've got a—. Commissioner Jackel said, [inaudible] buy a house at \$100,000 and it's all of a sudden, but it's taxed at \$100,000 and in 10 years it's going up to 175. Commissioner DeLoach said, the value, Commissioner Jackel said, the value is but you're still paying taxes at \$100,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, now you want to buy one at \$200,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, all right there's going to be a significant tax increase—. Commissioner DeLoach said, but what's the point in that. Commissioner Jackel said, the point is it has the potential to impede turnover of real estate, and there's an economic impact every time people make a decision not to buy and sell. It will also impact on our elderly who want to sell a big house and move into a smaller house. Commissioner DeLoach said, you tell me how that will effect that please. I mean, [inaudible] the logic in that. Commissioner Jackel said, if you have a couple who's Do you have a couple's who has retired—, who's retired and on a fixed income and they're 70 years old. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, they're in a big house, which they no longer want to keep up. The house when they bought it was \$100,000. It's now worth \$300,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, whatever. Commissioner Jackel said, they want to sell and downsize. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so they sell the house at \$300,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, they downsize to \$150,000. They're paying more taxes than they were on a more expensive house. Chairman Hair said, that is true. Commissioner Jackel said, and these elderly are trying to save money. That's a real life situation. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's not true. Commissioner Jackel said, those figures are true.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think—, let me say something. Commissioner Jackel would you—, we're not going to get into a debater debate on this. I don't think this is the appropriate time for it. I do think other Commissioners and let's get this —, let's move forward. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm going to keep my comments to under a minute, one minute. I basically agree with Martin Jackel. My concern about this is one of equal protection. I sincerely believe that it's a great idea, but if we do that, it's going to have an economic impact and it's going to make Savannah a less attractive place for your newcomers to move in. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't see how you logically figure that out. Commissioner Odell said, well, that's not logical [inaudible], and I think that there's a serious equal protection question. This was a great thing for lawyers because—, it would. It would be a lawyer's retirement because lawyers would pay. Rather than taking Martin Jackel's scenario, we'll just do a wrap around and it technically stays in my name for X-period of time. The best way to determine taxes is to have an independent, like the appraiser's office, to look objectively at everyone. Who pays for government, how do we ensure that government is equally paid? I think that this does ensure us. I think that this says that if you're here, good. If you're not, you're going to pay more. Government should be equally shared. I think that although our current system leaves a lot to be desired, that if Ben Price has a \$300,000 house and I have a \$300,000 house and he bought it five years ago and I bought it today, I'd be personally ticked if I have to pay more taxes than Ben Price just because he was in a better position financially five years ago than I am now, and that's what this would do. I have some serious concerns.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, that was a minute and 50 seconds by the way. Commissioner Odell said, you were timing me. Commissioner Price said, you said a minute. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Price. Commissioner Price said, I think that it has a lot of merit and I think that Gary [Udinsky] and Eddie [DeLoach] to bring this issue up is very timely and it's a good thing to do. It's going to take some study. I don't think you'll be able to find the votes today, Eddie [DeLoach], for a resolution today, but I think that if we can refer this to staff, refer it to the County Attorney, refer it to, you know, to the County Manager to maybe get some of the Finance Department to look at the economics of it, but to bring the idea back to us at the next meeting for us to look at it. That will give us time also to digest the concept of it, Eddie [DeLoach], so I think you—, let's not let it down. It's too good of an idea. Let's get to the point where we can understand it better.

Chairman Hair said, I would also like to—, I would agree with Commissioner Price. I think it—, I think anything we can do to look at how we can lower taxes, we ought to look at. I think—, and I again commend Commissioner DeLoach and Mr. Udinsky for looking at this, but I also think it does need some study I think. I think—, I agree with Commissioner Jackel that I think it may be a constitutional issue here and, you know, and I'd also say that, you know, if what we're trying to do is offset taxes from reappraisals, we had that opportunity a month ago. All we've got to do is roll the millage back every year to offset reappraisals. We don't need a State law. All we've got to do is have the courage to roll the millage back each year to offset reappraisals, and if you do it every year consistently, then that would have the same effect, but I think it needs to be studied and I think it's something that we need to look at, but I certainly don't know that today is the day we need to do a resolution though. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, but I think it's—, I commend you, Commissioner DeLoach. I think it's a good—, I mean, anything, any time we can look at how we can reduce taxes we ought to do it, and I think we should look at it. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I think it might have some merit, but I think we've got to do a lot of studying on this. When you go into something this deep, we need to have some workshops on it if nothing else because there are a lot of ramifications here that I don't—, I know, Eddie [DeLoach], you've thought a lot about it, but there are other things that maybe us—, the nine of us up here might have input in. Commissioner DeLoach said, throw into. Okay. Commissioner Saussy said, but I think we really do need to study it. It's a good program. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what do we need to do to do that? What can we do? Commissioner Thomas said, he just said to have staff—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll just withdraw the motion as far as a resolution. I think—.

Chairman Hair asked, can we get staff to look at this and bring us back sort of the pros and cons of this? Could we do that and maybe working with Gary [Udinsky]--? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, and anybody else that you need to work with. Chairman Hair said, I think that—.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I do one other thing? Chairman Hair said, sure. Commissioner DeLoach said, I want to understand the concept and my logic's different from the other two that have spoken. If I've got a \$300,000 house sitting here that I bought five years ago, the house is—, my understanding is you say it's worth \$300,000 and I'm paying 15 mills on it. The person next door buys a house this year that's \$300,000 and he's paying 15 mills on it. What's the difference in the tax? Can you tell me? Chairman Hair said, I'm not sure I understand the question. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, what I understood when I was listening to the comments was that you would be ticked if he was able to buy a \$300,000 that was valued at \$300,000 five years ahead of you. Chairman Hair said, that was Commissioner Odell. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, that's my point. Commissioner Odell said, what the kicker was—. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, I'm just asking. I'm trying to understand it.

Chairman Hair said, I really think, Commissioner DeLoach, let's—, I think we can dispense with this today. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, I really think getting into debate between Commissioners is not going to do—. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's not a debate. Chairman Hair said, I understand that, but I think—. Commissioner Odell said, I'll talk to you. Chairman Hair said, let's just study it. Let's—, I don't think—, I think Commissioner Price is correct, the votes aren't there to do a resolution today. Let's just look at it. I think it does need to be looked at. I really do. Commissioner Jackel said, I do too. I agree with that. Chairman Hair said, I think it needs to be looked at. We need to see—. I would suspect what we'll find maybe there's a core part of that proposal that might have merit, but it might be needing to be modified slightly or whatever, or whatever to offset some of the things that we're concerned about, but I think it's a—, you know, we do need to look at it, and I think if you withdraw your motion, we'll just ask the staff, Russ [Abolt] and Gary [Udinsky], if you would certainly be involved in it, and I do think Jon [Hart] needs to be involved in this too because I think there's some legal issues there that the attorney needs to be involved in. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Commissioner DeLoach said, that will be good. Chairman Hair said, and so if we get all of them together and bring up back, you know, within a reasonable amount of time. I don't want to put a time limit on you, but something in a reasonable amount of time if you could bring it back to us, and also I would encourage you, if you could, Russ [Abolt], to get it to us maybe a couple of weeks before we discuss this so it will give us plenty of time to read it and not have to—, don't give it to us the day before and that kind of thing. Give it to us, say, two weeks before the previous—, before the next meeting. Commissioner DeLoach said, so like Thanksgiving we'll get it. Chairman Hair said, I would think we would have—. Commissioner Saussy said, and also maybe we can have a—, a day or time for a workshop on it so we can discuss it. Chairman Hair said, well, we probably do need to do that, David [Saussy], but I would suggest we discuss it first and sort of get the issues we need to put to a public hearing or something like that.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, first of all, Eddie [DeLoach] has a concept, which he got from Gary [Udinsky]. All right? Gary [Udinsky] can explain this thing than anybody else to us. Then if we have any problems with it, then we need to let staff and the attorney and those dissect it. Virtually, I got it yesterday afternoon. I scanned it, but I didn't really get into this thing in depth, so I don't know whether it will work or not. Chairman Hair said, well, I think that's why—. Commissioner Rivers said, and I need to know his concept, his ideology of what he's thinking here and what Eddie [DeLoach] is thinking, then I'll have a better idea of whether I can support it or not. Chairman Hair said, I think that's what we're saying, Commissioner Rivers. I just think that today's not the day since none of us had a chance to really absorb this. Commissioner Rivers said, I'd go along with a little workshop of them explaining the full concept to us.

Chairman Hair said, well, why don't you suggest to staff—, Russ [Abolt], why don't you suggest, once y'all study it, how you want to present—, do you want to do it in a special workshop, do you want to do it in regular Commission meeting. It might be—, a regular Commission meeting might not be the place to do it because it takes up too much time. We might want to do it in a special half-day workshop or something, Gary [Udinsky]. We want to make sure we're given ample time to go into all the details of it, and so why don't I suggest that then, Russ [Abolt]. That seems to be the feeling of the Commission. When you get ready and you finish the proposal, don't bring it to us as a Commission—, in a Commission meeting, but get with us and we'll set sort of a workshop time or something—. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, that will be good. Chairman Hair said, and do it that way. Does everybody—, is that the consensus that we'll do it that way? Commissioner DeLoach said, it sounds good to me. Commissioner Thomas said, that was what I was going to suggest.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to hear from Gary [Udinsky] for just a half minute if you think that it will take a half day to present it. I don't. I got it yesterday afternoon, but unfortunately I was trying to make a living too, and—.

Mr. Gary Udinsky said, 60 seconds. Chairman Hair said, today 60 seconds. Mr. Udinsky said, first of all, based on Eddie's [DeLoach] request, we put this together. It will not take a half-day workshop to talk about it. I mean to explain it to you. Now you may want to discuss it for a half a day. Chairman Hair said, you know how the Commission's going to be, Gary [Udinsky]. Mr. Udinsky said, it can be explained very quickly. There are three issues that were brought up that I want to address. First of all, I am not nearly as smart as Eddie [DeLoach] makes me sound. This is a copy of an exemption that currently exists in State statutes. The only thing I've removed is the age and income requirements, and I've made it apply to all taxing jurisdictions. It wasn't an original work, so that's number one. It is constitutional. It currently exists with age and income requirements. All I've done is make the requirements the same as the regular homestead exemption, number one. Number two is there is no uniformity problem. This is an exemption, not an assessment—, or not an appraisal issue. Uniformity deals with appraisals. Uniformity of appraisal, uniformity of value, not uniformity of assessment. And, number three, in the first year this is in place, there is no revenue shifting and there is no revenue loss. If you want to talk in the future, then certainly you can talk about those issues, but in the year that this is given, there is no revenue loss and there's no revenue shifting. End of conversation.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. Commissioner Odell said, he just answered most of my questions. Chairman Hair said, thanks. Okay, we'll get the study and we'll bring it back.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This matter was referred to staff for additional research and study prior to it's being brought back to the Commission in a workshop.

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PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - COMMISSIONER THOMAS

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Thomas has an invitation she'd like to give to the Commission. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. This will be very brief. This came out of the request from Ms. Debbie Loudon. She's with the Coastal Association for Retarded Citizens. They're going to have their annual gift wrapping project November 13th through December 24th. They're asking the County Commissioners, the Aldermen, and just different people volunteers, anyone who wishes to participate, to help raise awareness of this—, of mental retardation, and I'm hoping that when we're called upon, that we will find some time to go and assist in this particular project so that we can help bring about awareness of this.

Chairman Hair asked, when is it, Dr. Thomas? Commissioner Thomas said, November 13th through December 34th. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Thomas said, you may not be able to give four hours, but whatever time you can give will certainly be appreciated. Chairman Hair asked, can you give that to us in writing? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, I'll—. Chairman Hair asked, can you give that to us in writing? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, sir. Yes.

Commissioner Price said, tell them I'll do it. I'm a great wrapper. Commissioner Thomas said, okay. Great.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Dr. Thomas. We appreciate that. I'll try to do it one day myself. If I know what dates, I can build it into my schedule. I'll be glad to do it. Commissioner Thomas said, okay.

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

your 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.)**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not removed from the table and placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- * 2. **PURCHASING REPORT ITEM I - EXERCISE FINAL RENEWAL OPTION TO THE CONTRACT WITH RIPTIDE BAIT AND TACKLE TO PROVIDE CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES AT TYBEE PIER AND PAVILION. NOTE: Item was tabled at meeting of October 9, 1998. (See additional staff report regarding frequency of audit and revenue yield.)**

Commissioner Jackel said, we are ready to take Item Number Two off the table. I think Commissioner Jackel is the one that pulled it off. We've got all the background information now. Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas 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: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, I'll read it for the record. Purchasing Report Item Number One [sic], Exercise Final Renewal Option to the Contract with Riptide Bait and Tackle to Provide Concessionaire Services at Tybee Pier and Pavilion. Commissioner Jackel, you were the one that pulled that off. I think you have the information you needed. Commissioner Jackel said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, okay, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve.

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Commissioner Price moved to untable this item for consideration by the Board. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
- 2. Commissioner Price moved to approve that the Board exercise final renewal option to the contract with Riptide Bait and Tackle to provide concessionaire services at Tybee Pier and Pavilion. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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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: GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$20,700 TO SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT FOR A REPLACEMENT VEHICLE, \$4,500 TO PURCHASING FOR A CONSULTANT TO REVIEW PURCHASING BIDDING PROCESS AND \$1,690 FOR A REPLACEMENT PRINTER FOR THE CLERK OF COMMISSION; ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$33,800 FOR THE PRESIDENT STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$153,640 FOR THE TRADE CENTER PROJECT FOR DESIGN/ENGINEERING WORK DUE TO UNFORSEEN SITE CONDITIONS; A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE \$104,620 LOAN PROCEEDS FOR CEMA COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND \$775,630 LOAN PROCEEDS FOR ELECTIONS BOARD VOTING MACHINES AND TO APPROPRIATE THE PROCEEDS FOR PURCHASE OF THE EQUIPMENT.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the following: General Fund M&O Budget Contingency transfers of \$20,700 to Sheriff’s Department for a replacement vehicle, \$4,500 to Purchasing for a consultant to review purchasing bidding process and \$1,690 for a replacement printer for the Clerk of Commission; One Percent Sales Tax Road Program fund (1985-1993) Contingency transfer of \$33,800 for the President Street Improvement Project; One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Contingency transfer of \$153,640 for the Trade Center Project for design/engineering work due to unforeseen site conditions; a Capital Improvement Fund Budget Amendment to recognize \$104,620 Loan Proceeds for CEMA computer equipment and \$775,630 Loan Proceeds for Elections Board voting machines and to appropriate the proceeds for purchase of the equipment. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

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- 2. **BOARD CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM STATE COURT FOR DELINQUENT FINES COLLECTIONS ASSISTANCE.**

Chairman Hair said, basically this is something Mr. Blair wants to do. It’s passed the muster of the attorney. He’s saying that it is appropriate to do that. The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I’m ready to move—. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion.

Commissioner Jackel said, just a brief comment. I want to commend Colonel Blair for this excellent proposal. I think it’s a great idea. We need to collect this money. I’m glad to see your court move forward with such great diligence. I’d like to see the others do the same. I’m glad you’re leading the way.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the proposal, as written, from State Court for Delinquent Fines Collections Assistance. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

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- 3. **PETITION FROM PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN LONG POINT PLANTATION ON WHITEMARSH ISLAND REQUESTING POLICE PATROL OF THE PRIVATE ROADS WITHIN LONG POINT**

PLANTATION FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE GEORGIA RULES OF THE ROAD. SEE ATTACHED REPORT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE AND COUNTY ATTORNEY.

Chairman Hair said, this is a fairly common thing that if you're a private property, you have to request the police to come in and they have to agree to use the standard signage and all that sort of thing. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, we have no problem with that. We do—, we would like the motion to be passed with consideration that the homeowners association, the board that will be charged with common areas, join in the request. Under the current law if 50% of the homeowners request that, they can—, you can pass. We have no problem with that, but as a matter of practice, we think it would be in the best interest of that community if their homeowners association board is also a participant in that, and that is the way the motion is worded within the context of our report.

Chairman Hair said, okay. With that caveat, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to allow the Chatham County Police Department to enforce the Uniform Rules of the Road on the streets, roadways, and common areas of Long Point Plantation, Whitemarsh Island, as provided for by State law, subject to a request that the Long Point Plantation Homeowners Association joins in the request. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

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4. SCHEDULE FOR DEDICATION OF IN-LINE SKATING FACILITY AT LAKE MAYER.

Chairman Hair said, that's tomorrow at ten o'clock at Lake Mayer, and—. Commissioner Saussy said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes, sir. Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to recognize Joe Turcotte, if we could. He has a few things to say about this. Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Mr. Joe Turcotte said, good morning. I once again thank you for your support on this project. Tomorrow morning we've got three games scheduled for the little guys, five year olds and eight year olds. I hope you get an opportunity to come out and watch. I know the kids are very excited. I know the parents are probably more excited. So, if you get a chance, come out tomorrow to the park and see this great project.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. I plan on being there. We appreciate your association supporting this. I mean, this was a joint project between—, I think about \$8,000 that you guys raised and we raised \$23,000, so I think it's going to be a good facility. That's tomorrow at ten o'clock at Lake Mayer.

Commissioner Thomas asked, Mr. Golden, did you—, would you like—? Chairman Hair asked, did you want to say anything, Mr. Golden? Did you want to say anything? Mr. Jim Golden said, no, sir. Commissioner Thomas said, I thought he was getting up. Chairman Hair said, Dr. Thomas thought you did. Okay. Commissioner Price said, he's going to be skating in the morning. Chairman Hair said, Jim [Golden], don't be going to any auctions, okay, because you're going to be buying things you don't want, you know, because, you know—.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. No action required.

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5. SCHEDULE TO DEDICATE TOM TRIPLETT PARK.

Chairman Hair said, the next schedule is to dedicate Tom Triplett Park, that's November 10th—. County Manager Abolt said, the 10th of November at 11:00 A.M. Chairman Hair said, at 11:00 A.M., and I'll tell you, if you haven't been out there lately, this thing is really coming together. It's going to be something we all can be very proud of, and certainly it couldn't go to the tribute of any greater person than Tom Triplett, who has done so much for this community for so many years.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, too, we've had solicited through Mr. Golden's office any folks you want to make sure we invite, let Jim [Golden] know so we get the invitations out. Chairman Hair said, that's true. You got that in the mail that if you have a list of anybody you want to—, any invitees that you want to do, please do that. Commissioner DeLoach said, call the Governor. Let's call the Governor and tell him to come on down. Chairman Hair said, yes. Well, he probably would do that. Commissioner DeLoach said, for Tom [Triplett]. Chairman Hair said, yes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. No action required.

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE PROCEDURE TO RECRUIT FOR CEMA DIRECTOR.

Chairman Hair said, at agenda review yesterday—, you were given one by the staff. I'm going to request that we modify that slightly. The—, Dr. Thomas and I talked about this yesterday. I also talked to GEMA. I just talked to Gary McConnell this morning. As a matter of fact, that's where I was this morning at nine. I also talked with Mr. Jack Hutto, and we would like to go through the normal advertising process of 90—, 30 days and advertise it and then I would like to appoint the selection committee of myself, Dr. Thomas and Frank Murray to do the selection. Then once we select the person, we would give the name to Mr. Hutto and then they would proceed to send the name to the Governor for approval. And I talked with Gary [McConnell] this morning and he said that whatever, you know, whoever we chose would be fine with him. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, so I'd just like to get that approved. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed—.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, when you say you're going to bring it—, you three decide, does it come before the Commission at all? It's not a Commission issue? Chairman Hair said, it can come before the Commission. It does not actually—, technically the way it works is we send a name—, we pick the name and then it goes to Jack Hutto and he interview them, who is GEMA, and then he sends the name to the Governor. I have no problem with bringing it before the Commission for approval if that's what you want to do. Commissioner DeLoach said, it don't matter to me. Chairman Hair said, it's just—. Commissioner Price said, we've done that in the past. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. That's not a problem. We'll make that part of the motion, okay. All those—. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is that what that does? Commissioner Price said, yes. Chairman Hair said, very good. That's probably the way it should be done anyway, so—. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the procedure to recruit for CEMA Director. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

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7. PARTNERSHIP WITH MR. GARFUNKEL REGARDING FORCE MAIN AND SEWER LINE THROUGH BETHESDA.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, and members of the Board, you'll recall we have a partnership at the request of Mr. Garfunkel to assist in extending utilities to a development that's underway for which he's responsible. We've carried this as far as we can without incurring some additional costs to the County that were not expected nor were they appropriate. The purpose of coming to you now and asking you to adopt Alternative #1, it essentially notifies Mr. Garfunkel of any delays or costs for the County that he must bear those and be responsible for, in effect, picking up the costs. It would be totally inappropriate for the County to cover costs due to delay on his part and, in effect, there is a need for the County to proceed with the project.

Commissioner Price said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the utility and construction easements agreement with Bethesda-Union Society of Savannah to proceed with constructing a 10" water line from the Isle of Hope system to the Montgomery system and authorize payment of \$30,940, and that if there are any delays or costs for the County, they will be the responsibility of Mr. Garfunkel. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

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8. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE 90-DAY HIRING FREEZE AND AUTHORIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO ADVERTISE POSITIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS MOST COST EFFICIENT TO FILL.**
- **BOARD OF ASSESSORS - APPRAISER III (ONE POSITION); APPRAISER II (ONE POSITION); APPRAISER I (ONE POSITION)**
 - **CENTRAL SERVICES - CENTRAL SERVICES CLERK I (ONE POSITION)**
 - **STATE COURT CLERK - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I (ONE POSITION) AND RESULTING VACANCY (ONE POSITION)**

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes--. Sybil [Tillman]. Is this cold weather getting to you, Sybil [Tillman]. Commissioner Price said, wait a minute. There we go. I want to make sure we're consistent. [Commissioner Price indicated an opposing vote on behalf of Commissioner Murray, who was not present.] Chairman Hair said, I don't think that's a legal vote, Mrs. Tillman. I don't think we record that vote. The Clerk said, it won't be recorded. Chairman Hair said, good. Commissioner Price said, Frank [Murray] would have--. Chairman Hair said, but Frank [Murray] would appreciate that, I'm sure. Commissioner DeLoach said, Frank's [Murray] spirit is here anyway. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Board of Assessors - Appraiser III (one position), Appraiser II (one position), and Appraiser I (one position); Central Services - Central Services Clerk I (one position); and State Court Clerk - Administrative Assistant I (one position) and resulting vacancy (one position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell were not present.]

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, let's go back to the item under my section that you guys referred until I got here, and I appreciate you doing that.

[NOTE: Item VI-1 was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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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, we need to add one item to the Action Calendar at the request of the City of Savannah. This is for a quitclaim deed to one of the Baker Street properties for the flooding mitigation. So we will add that item to the Action Calendar.

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, A, B, E—. Chairman Hair said, A. Commissioner DeLoach said, wait a minute. I've got to—. Commissioner Price asked, did you call on him on the Action Calendar? Chairman Hair said, I certainly did. Commissioner Jackel said, I gave y'all a break last meeting. Chairman Hair said, well, they told us at [inaudible] yesterday that Commissioner Jackel might not be here and somebody asked me how long the meeting was going to be last depended on whether you were going to be here or not. A, B, what? Commissioner Jackel said, E. Chairman Hair said, E. Commissioner Jackel said, G, I, and J. That's all. Commissioner Rivers said, take them all. Chairman Hair said, that's just about all of them.

Commissioner Price said, move to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar including the addition. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. County Manager Abolt said, if I may please. Yes, sir. I realize Commissioner Jackel pulled the item to be covered in the clarification from staff as to funding source. There was a late breaking that I related Dr. Thomas this morning just in advance of the meeting. On number five, where it refers to Wilmington Island/Walthour bike path, GDOT has yet to get the required legal forms in. May I suggest this project does not need further delay, that you do approve it as is with the caveat that what comes forward from GDOT would have to have the approval of the County Attorney.

Commissioner Price said, I'll accept that. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. Okay, you accept that in the motion. Okay, the motion is to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 9-A, 9-B, 9-E, 9-G, 9-I and 9-J, and with the caveat that to avoid further delays on Item 5 that any documents from GDOT must be approved by the County Attorney. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell 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 OCTOBER 9, 1998, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 9, 1998, as mailed. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2, 1998, THROUGH OCTOBER 14, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period October 2, 1998, through October 14, 1998, in the amount of \$3,835,379. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM DEVELOPER OF SOUTH HARBOR SUBDIVISION, PHASE 1-E-1, TO REDUCE THE SUBDIVISION BOND AT THE SIX-MONTH STAGE IN THE WARRANTY PERIOD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from developer of South Harbor Subdivision, Phase 1-E-1, to reduce the subdivision bond at the six-month stage in the warranty period. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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4. REQUEST FROM GEORGIAN WALK DEVELOPERS THROUGH THEIR AGENT, HUSSEY, GAY, BELL AND DEYOUNG, TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR SUGAR MILL SUBDIVISION PHASE 6 AND TO COMBINE THE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT WITH THE EXISTING DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Georgian Walk Developers through their agent, Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung, to record the final plat for Sugar Mill Subdivision Phase 6 and to combine the streetlight assessment district with the existing district. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF WILMINGTON ISLAND WALTHOUR ROAD BIKE PATH.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the resolution for contracting with the Georgia Department of Transportation and an agreement to contract for construction of the McCorkle Trail Extension project on Wilmington Island with the caveat that, in order to avoid further delays, any documents from GDOT be approved by the County Attorney. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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6. REQUEST FROM THE TAX COMMISSIONER TO APPROVE AND SIGN A QUIT CLAIM DEED OVER TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SAVANNAH.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from the Tax Commissioner to approve and sign a Quit Claim Deed over to the Housing Authority of Savannah. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-COUNTY MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT TO LEND AND RECEIVE ASSISTANCE DURING DISASTER SITUATIONS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to request Board approval to enter into a multi-county Mutual Aid Agreement to lend and receive assistance during disaster situations. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RECEIVE AND USE A GEMA-ISSUED 800MHZ RADIO.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to Request Board approval to receive and use a GEMA-issued 800MHz radio. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of \$10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear.)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Technical surveillance equipment	CNT	Saul Mineroff Electronics (sole source)	\$81,395	Confiscated Funds - CNT
B. Technical surveillance equipment	CNT	G.T. Distributors (sole source)	\$24,520	Confiscated Funds - CNT
C. Rotary ditcher	Mosquito Control	Impex International (sole source)	\$15,995	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
D. Annual contract, with renewal options for two additional one-year terms, for trash collection and dumpster services	Various	ECO Service of Savannah	\$39,729.72	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various
E. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for design services, for design work on the President Street Improvement Project	SPLOST	Freeman & Vaughn Engineering	\$33,800	SPLOST (1985-1993) - President Street Improvement Project (pending transfer)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
F. Contract for clearing and installation of underdrain pipe in DMCA12B and installation of a solar drainage control system for DMCA 12B/13A in Jasper County, SC	Harbor Maintenance	L-J, Inc.	\$1,277,650	General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT)
G. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for the Burnside Island Drainage Improvements for /additional work related to the project	SPLOST	Southern Champion	\$1,938	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Burnside Island Drainage Project
H. Six-month unit price agreement for concrete, aggregate stone and concrete sand	Public Works	Coastal Concrete of Georgia	•\$54/yard (concrete) •\$16.25/ton (stone) •\$7.50/ton (sand)	Solid Waste Enterprise Fund - Restricted Expenditure
I. One (1) 4x4 extended cab pick-up truck	Engineering	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$16,260.22	CIP - Vehicle Replacement SPLOST (1993-1998)
J. One (1) 4x4 pick-up truck	Inspections	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$15,470.22	SSD - Inspections

Items 9-C, 9-D, 9-F, and 9-H

Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 9-C, 9-D, 9-F, and 9-H. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

Items 9-A and 9-B

- A. TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, CNT, SAUL MINEROFF ELECTRONICS (SOLE SOURCE), \$81,395, SOURCE OF FUNDING: CONFISCATED FUNDS - CNT.
- B. TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, CNT, G. T. DISTRIBUTORS (SOLE SOURCE), \$24,520, SOURCE OF FUNDING: CONFISCATED FUNDS - CNT.

Commissioner Jackel said, we've got two items, A and B, that are similar. Both are sole source purchase of technical surveillance. There's an awful lot of stuff out there. This seems expensive and I just question is it really a sole source item?

Mr. George Lynch said, yes, sir, it is in this particular case. You, and I don't want to get too far into it partially due to ignorance and partially because of the confidentiality of it. Under A adds to equipment which is already available. We need to be able to have the pieces of equipment talk to each other, including this. The same thing applies in Item B. Different brand. You're adding to it and you need to make sure that the stuff is able to communicate as a system.

Commissioner Jackel said, would that—, I don't know if that clears it up for me because now I'm hearing that we have equipment that doesn't work. Mr. Lynch said, no, not at all. Chairman Hair said, add on equipment. Mr. Lynch said, you're adding on. Chairman Hair said, you're adding on to existing equipment. Mr. Lynch said, and expanding capability so it does the job better. Please note also that this is confiscated funding that is being used. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand, I understand that. This is a good source of it. Okay. I'll move to approve those, A and B. Chairman Hair read Item B into the record.

Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Item 9-E

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT FOR DESIGN SERVICES, FOR DESIGN WORK ON THE PRESIDENT STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, FREEMAN & VAUGHN, \$33,800, SOURCE OF FUNDING: SPLOST (1985-1993) - PRESIDENT STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Commissioner Jackel said, this is well over 50% of the original contract and I just have to hear—. Mr. Lynch said, let me be abundantly clear, sir. The basic change order was not specifically addressed to President Street. It was Roads Miscellaneous. The need to do additional design work, get rid of the birdbaths and the problems that we're having, which by the way were in no way the fault of Freeman & Vaughn, I think is quite appropriate.

County Manager Abolt said, let me—. This issue came about in our landscaping that was done in advance of the Olympics, realizing that the birdbaths that George [Lynch] referred to were intolerable. Also, we had a very successful meeting with

Commissioner Shackelford here a few weeks ago. This project is now eligible for a County contract. The work of Freeman & Vaughn allows us to do that, so it's very timely.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, I'll move to approve it. Commissioners Price and Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Item 9-G

CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT FOR THE BURNSIDE ISLAND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL WORK RELATED TO THE PROJECT, SOUTHERN CHAMPION, \$1,938,
SOURCE OF FUNDING: SPLOST (1993-1998) - BURNSIDE ISLAND DRAINAGE PROJECT.

Commissioner Jackel said, it's the same thing. I have concerns when we start spending a lot of money on change orders. This is a much smaller percentage. I'd just like some better idea of why.

Mr. Lynch said, okay, sir. Fundamentally, what this does is now construction, not the other, and my good friend and colleague, the County Engineer, will answer the rest of that question.

County Engineer Al Bungard said, as you may recall, I forget the exact time lime, it was almost a year ago, we had a problem that the contractor that was doing it went bankrupt and there was some minor design problems too. This was a particularly difficult project, and this is really just some minor tweaking and grade inlets to improve the drainage in certain people's yards along the side of the road.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, no questions. Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, I move we approve. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Items 9-I and 9-J

- I. ONE (1) 4X4 EXTENDED CAB PICKUP TRUCK, ENGINEERING, J. C. LEWIS, FORD, \$16,260.22,
SOURCE OF FUNDING: SPLOST (1993-1998).
- J. ONE (1) 4X4 PICKUP TRUCK, INSPECTIONS, J. C. LEWIS FORD, \$15,470.22,
SOURCE OF FUNDING: SSD - INSPECTIONS.

Commissioner Jackel said, under Item I we're getting a 1999 4x4 extended pickup truck for \$16,260. Under the next item, J, we're getting a 1999 4x4 pickup truck for \$15,470. They—, you know—. Chairman Hair said, \$800 difference. Mr. Lynch said, yes, an extended cab. Chairman Hair said, one's an extended cab and one's not. That's the difference. Commissioner Jackel said, one's an extended cab. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, then let me ask this one quick question. I'm assuming because it's the Engineering Department and Inspections it is essential we have a 4x4. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. That is correct. They go into areas where they can mire down. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. And we need the extended cab for the Engineering?

County Manager Abolt said, for those of you that attended the groundbreaking the other day realize even 4x4's get mired down. Commissioner Jackel said. Mr. Bungard, the County Engineer, got stuck. Commissioner Jackel said, I was just trying to save us \$800.

Chairman Hair said, Al [Bungard], you're having a hard time living that down, aren't you? Was your's a 4x4 that got buried to the hulk? Mr. Bungard said, yes, sir, but I'll be buying mud grips. Chairman Hair said, well, okay. County Manager Abolt said, that will be on the next purchasing report.

Chairman Hair read Items 9-I and 9-J into the record. Commissioner Thomas said, I move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Price said, you said SPLOST funding on the previous one, Billy [Hair]. Chairman Hair said, yes, that was changed. Commissioner Price asked, you meant CIP? Chairman Hair said, no, it's SPLOST. That was an error. Commissioner Price said, okay. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. That's why I read SPLOST. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Thomas said, I'd like to point out, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to point out that this is a local company here. Chairman Hair said, it certainly is. We talked about that yesterday in agenda review and—, Dr. Thomas and I talked about that, and this is again another result of us passing that ordinance keeping the money in Chatham County.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 9-C, 9-D, 9-F, and 9-H. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
- 2. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Items 9-A and 9-B. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
- 3. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Item 9-E. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach were not present.]
- 4. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 9-G. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach were not present.]
- 5. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 9-I and 9-J. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray, Odell and DeLoach were not present.]

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REQUEST BOARD QUITCLAIM CHATHAM COUNTY’S INTEREST IN PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY TAX DEED ON BAKER STREET TO THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request that the Board quitclaim to the City of Savannah Chatham County's interest in property on Baker Street acquired by quitclaim deed (Lot 73, Clay Ward, PIN 20026-07013) for right-of-way as part of its drainage program in the Baker/Fell Streets area. Commissioners Rivers and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell 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.

None.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

- 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

Chairman Hair said, this basically takes it out, as I understand, to 25 feet. Mr. Bill Saxman said, right. It's just an amendment to the ordinance to bring it in compliance with State law. Chairman Hair asked, any questions on this? The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve a text amendment to the County Zoning Regulations to reflect State revised setback standards from marshlands. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR**1. PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED).****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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3. INFORMATION ON THE VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT AUCTION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 28, 1998.**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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4. MONTHLY ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Reports received as information.

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COMMENTS ON WEIGHTLIFTING COMPLEX (MICHAEL COHEN)

Commissioner Saussy asked, Michael [Cohen], did you have something to say about the [inaudible]? Did you want to—, have something to say? Yes, I'd like for him to come up and just give us a real quick—. Chairman Hair said, all right, Mike [Cohen]. Can you make a brief? Commissioner Saussy said, like three minutes.

Mr. Michael Cohen said, thank you. What I wanted to say is basically thank you very much. We had the IWF President in Savannah over the last weekend and he was absolutely thrilled. I'm sure you saw the article in the paper. This man was very impressed with our facilities. He has told me publicly and privately. He's been all over the world. He's the Executive Director of the President of our Federation for the last 30 years. He's seen every weightlifting complex in the world, including the great facilities in China and Russia. He's never seen anything like it is in Savannah. The most impressive thing this man saw was when he came into the facility to take a look at the facility for the first time on Friday it was packed with kids training. We also have something that's even more impressive inside the community—. Tony. It's a great honor that I introduce you to the world's strongest man 1985 through 1987. This gentleman would have won the gold medal in '84, but I'm sure, as most of you know, Bulgaria along with Russia and most of Eastern Europe boycotted our Olympics in Los Angeles. This is Antonio Krastev. Antonio [Krastev] held the record for many, many years. Antonio [Krastev] is from Bulgaria, and Antonio [Krastev] now resides in Savannah. He is now working with our athletes as a member of our organization. Team Savannah has funded him until we try to work something out with the '99 budget that you guys are working on now. He is a tremendous asset to the community. What a great role model for our kids coming up because they get somebody they've read about in the magazines. As you can still see, he's still got his size. When he tells them to do something, they do it real quick.

Chairman Hair said, he looks like the strongest man in the world. You won't get any arguments out of me.

Mr. Cohen said, everything is going good. We certainly appreciate y'all's support and we look for some great things happening. As you know, Team Savannah is sending four athletes to the World Championships in Finland. That will take place in two weeks. Three females, including the girl that's too young to compete yet, we're going to send her over there anyway so she can get the experience, as well as Oscar Chaplin, who is the only male athlete representing the United States in the World Championships because he's the only male athlete to qualify. Antonio [Krastev] has been working with Oscar [Chaplin] for the last three months. I think that's one of the reasons why we've got him now is that you love them. We're

looking good for 2000. You know, I made—, I told you all that in '96, when we built the facility, we would have at least one athlete on the World Team, on the Olympic Team. Well, we're now looking at four. We're looking at least one male. I've already said I think the big girls will win the gold medal and I think could easily carry or win the silver, so we'll see. Right now we're looking real good. We have four locked on and we hope to have one or two more coming out of Savannah. It will be the first time since 1980. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you for coming. We appreciate you being here.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell 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 10:45 a.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