

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 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, 9:00, 1998.

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II. INVOCATION

The Reverend John Savage gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

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| PRESENT: | Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman |
| | Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight |
| | Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four |
| | David L. Saussy, District One |
| | Joe Murray Rivers, District Two |
| | Martin S. Jackel, District Three |
| | Harris Odell, Jr., District Five |
| | Ben Price, District Six |
| | Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven |

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

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair said, I would like to recognize our Youth Commissioners that are with us this morning. We have Pauline Bryan, who is a junior at Jenkins High School, and we have Molly Canady, who's a junior at Bible Baptist. We're glad to have y'all with us, and as we go along if you'd like to say anything or comment on any of the topics, just raise your hand and I'll recognize you. We're glad you're here.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENTATION ON MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM - DR. BARRY BUXTON.

Chairman Hair said, the first presentation this morning is going to be a presentation on the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, and we have both Archie Davis here and Dr. Barry Buxton joining with us. Archie [Davis], are you going to start it off? We're glad you're here and—.

Mr. Archie Davis said, thank you, and a good morning to all of you. Chairman Hair said, good morning. Mr. Davis said, it's nice to be here on such a wonderful day. I believe you met Dr. Barry Buxton before. He's joined us as our Executive Director after a nationwide search. Last week, last Thursday at our board meeting, the board elected Barry [Buxton] President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum. Buck Shuler was made Chairman. This will allow him time to pursue particularly the strategic funding opportunities that we're all in and—, that we're all interested in, but we feel very good about the job that Barry's done, and he's going to give us a report. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Archie [Davis].

Dr. Buxton said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, it's good to be with you. I put a report on your—, up there for you to take a look at. I'd like before we get to that written report, I'd like to just share a couple of observations with you about how we think we're doing and then I'll move into the report itself. Many of the vital signs of the museum are very positive right now. On the attendance front, through October of 1997 last year, we had about 71,000 visitors to the museum and through the same period this year we had over 94,000. So our attendance is up about 32%, which is to me just a phenomenal increase for a new museum. Our operating income is another vital sign that we're taking a hard look at, and that is up from \$711,000 last year to \$860,000 this year. So we're showing about a plus-20% ratio on our operating income. After three and a half months on the job at the museum I can tell you that the museum is in many ways more like a community center than maybe it is a museum. We certainly are a museum, but I would say five out of seven nights a week there is something going on in the museum, some kind of a community event. We start off at times at 7:00 A.M., in the morning with a morning meeting of some kind and oftentimes we close the doors at 11 o'clock at night. So for West Chatham we are really serving a multiple purpose beyond just that of a museum, and we're delighted to be able to do that. Recently, as Mr. Davis indicated, the board of trustees made some changes in the bylaws which afford us an opportunity to add more board members to the museum. We recently added Mr. Ben Love, the former Chairman and CEO of Texas Commerce Bank, who is in Houston, Texas, and we've also added Doug Friesen. Many of you know Doug [Friesen], the new guy at JCB. We're happy to have Doug [Friesen] on the board. Our intent is to expand the board with local leadership. We also had several new positions for ex officio leaders in the community, and our intent is to create true community leadership and ownership of the museum, and the board of trustees is 100% behind that idea and that concept. So we're working on that.

Mr. Buxton said, we have a special focus on school groups and our intent is to make sure that every year we have every seventh grader in Chatham County and surrounding counties come to the museum. Our focus is on what we call the heritage of values. That's those values that are represented at the museum: patriotism, valor, sacrifice, country before self. Many of the values that we think are represented by the Eighth Air Force and make our country really great, and this year I'm happy to say that our school group attendance is up 30% and we're really just getting started on this effort. We have not had in the past a formal education program, but we think there's tremendous potential for us in this effort, and we think that the future generations is where we're going to be directing a lot of our attention to. I'd also like to share briefly with you that the museum is in many ways an international destination for visitors in this area. On a recent Saturday we had in the museum on one day we had six Russians, we had four of our British friends who are special to us, we had two men from France, and on that same Saturday one of the original Tuskegee airmen flew up with seven historic aircraft, landed at the airport, spent the whole day at the museum, and shared their story with people at the museum, so it was just a great day. You know, we had—, we had it all. From the womb to the tomb is what I like to say. We had everything there.

In the three and a half months I've been there, as Mr. Davis said, we've been making some adjustments to the staff. We have been trying to use existing assets. We certainly are not adding any personnel. Where possible we're making reductions. We're also trying to utilize existing staff in slightly different ways with the goal of maximizing our income and operating as efficiently as possible toward the goal of being able to deal with some of the long term debt that we have.

Dr. Buxton said, what I would like to do now is turn to the packet that was given to you. I hope everyone received a copy of that that is on your desk. This is part—, it's labeled Strategic Plan (fiscal analysis), and this is part of a larger strategic planning process that is under way at the museum. The museum has not yet developed a strategic plan, and this is our first step in doing so. Let me just ask you, if you would, to note the table of contents of this piece. I'd like to visit with you just a little bit about some of our analysis. In the initial projection session what we were attempting to do was try to look at the original assumptions related to the marketing of the museum, so we'll talk a little bit about that. We also, in terms of current operations and national averages, what we have tried to do in this section is to look at a typical museum our size, and I have some statistics to visit with you about related to that section, to say how are we doing and what are some national benchmarks and how is the Mighty Eighth doing in relationship to that, and I'll touch base on a couple of those. Future projections, we are attempting to look ahead financially to through the year 2002 and to see what we might do to strengthen that situation, and then the last thing I'll talk a little bit about is an economic impact analysis, what impact we have on the community.

If I may start us out on page two, if you could turn to page two, which at the top is labeled Initial Projections. I'd like to go back and take a look together at what were some of the original forecasts and how have they actually played out. We initially hired a consulting firm to give us some estimates of what we could expect in terms of attendance. And you can see that the original estimate was—, of annual attendance was 592,000 people. In a later analysis that was lowered to 318,000 people a year. The actual 97-98 figure for attendance was 77,867. What I have alluded to is the fact that this kind of exaggerated projection is not at all uncommon in the museum world. It's unfortunate. It happens. It's—, I know of several cases where it's happened in the

past, but if you will turn to Tab A, can you find Tab A there? I realize there's a lot of information here, but if you can turn to Tab A, you can take a look at how some of these projections were arrived at and, of course, I think what I would try to say is that the museum attempted to get some good professional advice from consultants from both Florida and New Mexico and the advice turns out to have been not very good, and so we are now in 1998-99 looking at about 104,000 visitors by the end of this year. Now if you compare 104,000 visitors this year with the original low projection of 318,000, you can see the kind of problems that that original projection left us with. Current Operations, the next section, Category III on page two, I guess I would start out this section saying—, quoting Mark Twain, "There are white lies, there are damn lies, and there's statistics," but I'm going to try to share a few basic statistics with you. How does the museum—, how does the Mighty Eighth stack up against other medium sized museums around the country? I've gone to an analysis that was done by the American Association of Museums and the Association of Science and Technology Centers that give you some comparative figures. If you might turn to page three, we can look at the first analysis together, and that deals with the sources of revenue. Sources of revenue, as defined as things that we generate ourselves as opposed to contributions to the museum, and as you can see on the pie chart at the top, the fictional national average museum is in many ways similar to the Mighty Eighth if you look at the sources. The admission figures are about the same for both our institution and the national institution, and there are some significant differences, particularly in the area of the food service piece that is generated by our operation. Many of you who know the museum know that we have a catering business out there and we do a lot of food service business, and that is very important to our museum. And one area that deeply concerns me right now is the investments piece is about 7% for the typical national museum and for the Mighty Eighth we're not even at 2%. So that's a concern.

Dr. Buxton said, if you'll turn to—, not to move too quickly through this, but if you'll turn to page five, you can look at the mythical national museum and their sources of support. Again, monies that they do not raise, but that are given to the museum versus the Mighty Eighth, and you can see immediately the tremendous differences that exist there before us. Now before I talk about this, I think I need to say that these are not monies that are related to either construction, debt service or any other areas, but they are strictly operating funds. I want to clarify that because we know full well all that you're doing for the museum when it comes to the debt service and what's happening there. But you can see that in terms of these operating funds, the typical medium-sized museum receives almost 10% of their support from federal sources. In addition to that, about one-third of their support for operating comes from City or County sources and at the current time in terms of the national money, the Mighty Eighth is receiving none at the current time, and we're receiving 1.4% of our operating funds from local sources, and that really comes from the City of Pooler right now, the hotel occupancy tax monies. And then in terms of State funding, the typical medium-sized museum received 24.9% of its support dollars from straight State money, and the Mighty Eighth right now is receiving most of our money, as you can see, from individual contributions 68% and foundations about 25%. So if you—, if you would flip over to page six, I think what I see at the museum is what I would describe as not a healthy balance. We need to get a better balanced pie, if you will, at the museum. The positive side of the environment right now is that we are generating the tables on page six, evaluate generated revenue versus support sources, and currently the museum is generating almost 70% of our operating funds, 66% versus the typical medium-sized museum 61%. So the more we can do in terms of generated revenue the healthier we will be. The healthier we will be in the foreseeable future, the more we will be able to take care of the debt service and do other things that I know are high on your priority list. But, as you can see, we have a good ways to go.

Page seven, and by the way, I'd like to talk about our efforts and our plans in a minute to access some of those other dollars that are out there that we need to be tapping into. Table seven is looking at operating expenses by type, and it's divided into two major categories: funds that are spent for personnel and funds that are spent for programs, exhibits and plant. And, again, I think it is healthy that the Mighty Eighth right now is spending less on personnel. We're spending about 41% of our operating budget on personnel, and the typical medium-sized museum spends about 53% on personnel. Page eight is an analysis of the total typical staff at a medium-sized museum, and you can see that we—, the national total staff FTE, the typical staff size at a medium-sized museum is 34 full time equivalent staff positions. Right now the Mighty Eighth is operating with 28 full time equivalent positions, and this is a tremendous challenge because we're operating seven days a week. We often open the doors at 7:00 A.M., and we don't close until 10:00 or 11:00 at night. So it's a big challenge. A lot of the staff are currently working six days a week, some of us seven days a week, and we have to be careful not to burn out and lose our good personnel. Yes, sir, Ben [Price]? Commissioner Price asked, can I ask a question about that? Are you required with your staff, like we are with County employees, for overtime pay, for compensation in all the different ways that are required by government agencies? Dr. Buxton said, Ben [Price], we are not on what we call salaried personnel, which is a substantial number of us. On personnel that are paid on an hourly basis, even if they're full time hourly, we are, we're required to pay overtime. So we try to utilize our salaried personnel as much as we can because it does not involve those additional funds. Commissioner Price asked, so the overtime pay that you have to pay right now you don't feel is out of line or out of, you know, control? Dr. Buxton said, no, I don't think so. We've tried to take a hard look at that and keep that to a minimum. If I might, and I realize I'm throwing a lot of statistics at you here quickly, but page nine is our attempt to say, okay, where are we and where do we go from here. I have instituted an immediate 10% cutback in all non-personnel expenses at the museum, and we are budgeting zero growth in personnel and salaries through 2002. Now that's a tough thing to do with your personnel, but I think it's something that we have to do. If you would turn to Tab B, Tab B for just a moment. This is our attempt to take a very hard look at where we have been and how we can get from where we are to where we need to be. We, in trying to put together these budget figures, we have tried to not be pie in the sky, not be overly optimistic, not give you figures that we don't think can be achieved, but really that is a hard look at the operations of the museum. If you can look at the net expense income categories, you can see that in '97 the museum operated at a deficit of \$361,000. For the day ending 3/98, we had a deficit of \$126,000. We are projecting for the end of this year, and it's my goal not to have any deficit, but candidly I'm not sure that that's doable given the situation that we have currently. We may have a deficit somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50,000. I'm hoping we can break even, and that's my goal.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Buxton, I have a question about that page. Dr. Buxton said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, these numbers do not include any debt service. Dr. Buxton said, no, they—. Chairman Hair asked, am I correct? The \$1.2 million, nor does it include the payback of the operating loan. Is that true? I don't see that in here either. Dr. Buxton said, no, sir. This is strictly operating. It's strictly operating. Chairman Hair said, you're not projecting paying back the operating loan or contribute to debt service. That's 2002. Dr. Buxton said, that's correct. That's correct. And as you can see, in the year 2000 it's a plus \$916. We're just breaking even. In 2001 we're starting to pull out of it is, I guess, the way I would describe it to

you, and in 2002 we're starting to look healthier. Now this, again, this is strictly an analysis of the operating budget as I see it.

Dr. Buxton asked, now what are we going to try to do about this? I have outlined some steps that I think are very manageable and doable for the museum. First, as I mentioned, we are expanding and strengthening our board. Now why is this important? We have to have people on our board who can open corporate doors for us. We have to have people on our board who have that—, the knowledge of those leaders of corporations who can help us raise the necessary money that we need to raise, and I think we are well on our way to doing that, but we're going to continue that process. Second, and related to number one, we are going to have an aggressive campaign to reach defense and aerospace contractors and other Fortune 500 companies that we know will find our message appealing and will contribute to the museum. We have developed a—, we have created a development committee and that committee and that staff is hard at work in the process of raising money for the museum. Third, we are expanding our school group events. We feel this is a critical part of our operation because we want to involve parents, and one of the best ways to do that is to involve their children. Fourth, we want to expand membership of the museum. We feel that there's a tremendous potential to have more members of the museum. We think that the goal of 20,000 members is very doable given the mailing list for the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. If we have 20,000 each only giving \$35, that's \$700,000 right there. So we have the potential to do that and we should do that, but we have not been—, we have not had the team in place in the past, in my opinion, to get that done. Fifth, we are starting a plan-giving program. As you know, there are thousands of World War II veterans who are not going to be with us too much longer. We certainly want them to be with us as long as possible, as long as they're health permits, but a lot of these people are in a position to make gifts to the museum that could strengthen the museum over the long haul and provide money to service the debt as well. So we started a plan-giving program to raise some of those funds—, monies and encourage those people to remember us in their wills.

Regarding the hotel occupancy tax funding, you'll see a little bit more about this later on in my presentation, but we currently receive no Savannah hotel occupancy tax dollars. Pooler has given us \$20,000 and we had a proposal for them to increase that dramatically to \$49,000, but we are generating a lot of business for the downtown area and we would like to—, we're going to request a small amount of hotel occupancy tax dollars from the City. Seven, this may seem like a small matter to someone who is not involved in the museum world, but the museum has never had a donor recognition program. So if you gave \$10,000 to the museum, or \$50,000, or \$100,000, you were never recognized inside the museum. We feel we absolutely must turn that around so we're creating and we have approved by the board a donor recognition policy that will encourage additional people to give and recognize their gifts in the museum. And finally, nine, and I think absolutely most important, is to create a sense—, a genuine sense of community ownership of the museum. We must have the leaders of this community involved in the museum, and that includes the board of trustees, it includes the standing committees that we're creating. We feel that it is vitally important. An example would be our education committee. We had no such committee in the past. Now we have, we feel, the key leaders in the education community serving on an advisory committee for us that will help chart the future growth and the path toward the museum.

Dr. Buxton said, let me turn to economic impact analysis because, Mr. Chairman, I realize I'm running on here, but we do believe—, we feel strongly that the museum is making a tremendous economic impact on the community. Now there are two studies in your packet. One is a study by professors in Georgia Southern University that is labeled Tab C. That has taken a look for two and a half years at the people who visit the museum, and they have used a pretty sophisticated process of identifying these dollars and multiplying factors and all of that kind of thing, and I really don't want to get into that. That study is in your packet and it shows over \$11,000,000 in direct money flowing into the community because of the museum. What I would prefer to focus on with you is Tab D. Tab D takes a look at not the typical visitors to the museum but only those reunion groups, only those veterans who have come to the museum and to Savannah for multiple-day reunions, and we know a great deal about this group and about the statistics associated with them because we are their point of contact. We are why they are coming here to Savannah. And what we have done is we have taken a look at the numbers who come, we have assigned a number of bed nights because we know the number of nights they're here and where they stay, and we've taken a multiplying factor per bed night of \$112 per bed; and, as you know, it's pretty hard to get by in Savannah on \$112 hotel, food, transportation, tours, everything else, so we feel that that's a very conservative figure. That's a figure that I went all the way back to 1992 and pulled, but in 1996 we had 5,800 attendees at these reunions and events. Total number of hotel nights, 22,515. Economic benefit, \$2,526,680. Then in '97, 8,232 attendees. Total number of bed nights 31,301. Direct economic benefit, no multipliers involved, this is just direct dollars, \$3,505—, \$712, excuse me. Commissioner DeLoach said, you mean \$3,000,000. Commissioner Thomas said, \$3,000,000. Dr. Buxton said, \$3,000,000, excuse me. I'm trying to rush too much. Forgive me, Dr. Thomas. Then in '98, through September only, 5,824 attendees, 19,726 hotel nights, \$2,209,312. For totals of almost 20,000 though September, number of bed nights 75,542, economic—, direct economic impact \$8,236,704. Now I've talked to all the general managers of the hotels in the community. They will confirm the accuracy of this information. They know the impact that we're having. We have currently on our books 36 additional reunions scheduled into the year 2000. We think we've just scratched the surface. Every military group in this country has some kind of reunion, and we think we are a prime target, a prime location for these reunions. We plan to embark on an aggressive campaign to get more reunions to come to our museum and to our City. We have 382 events currently on the books at the museum, and we—, as I mentioned, we are more than a museum. We are very much like a community center. And, Mr. Chairman, I would be remiss if I didn't say that we could not operate the museum without the dedicated volunteers that we have. We have a category of about 200 volunteers who do one heck of a job for the museum.

Dr. Buxton said, now I realize that this is not the kind of information that you might like to receive, and we wish it were better ourselves, but we are trying to embark on a honest, straightforward, doable plan with you and, Mr. Chairman, I think that concludes my remarks.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Buxton. Does anybody have any questions of Dr. Buxton? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel asked, do you have any plans to seek help from the State? I didn't hear that and I—. Dr. Buxton said, yes, sir. I'm sorry, we do. We do, Commissioner. We are—, the Museum of Aviation up the road at Warner Robbins, which

is a fine museum, they have a line item in their State budget, they receive \$ 90,000 a year from the State. We are working with our local delegation, and I've met with two of them already, and Mr. Davis and I have other meetings scheduled with them to ask that we have a State line item equivalent to the museum in Macon, and we think this is fair and certainly reasonable, a reasonable request. Commissioner Jackel said, we would—, I would also, and I can't speak for everyone up here, but from what I understand, we would be interested in the State taking over the debt, if that would be possible. So we might as well bring it up. All they can do is say no. Dr. Buxton asked, well, may I address that topic for just a minute? I don't want this to sound too pie in the sky to you, but at our last board of trustees meeting we had developed a plan to approach federal sources for a one-time grant to the museum to take care of the debt. Now we are doing this through a bill that would be initiated through our State of Georgia officials, and we are now in the process of rallying support by Congressmen and Senators around the country for this bill. What our intent is to take our veterans in these key states and our key leaders of the Eighth Air Force and get these representatives to sign on to a piece of legislation. I don't know if you saw that article in the *Wall Street Journal* recently, but there is a—, there was a \$71 billion—, there were \$71 billion of excess funds in the federal treasury. Now whether we like it or not, whether we subscribe to this practice or not, millions of dollars are being directed toward worthy causes that are certainly no more worthy than the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and recognizing the service of these veterans and what they've given to the country. So our plan that is already in process is to go after a one-time grant of funds for the museum, and we think this can work. We know that it's a long shot as is any attempt to get federal money, but we know also at the eleventh hour, when it comes down to horse-trading time, that if we have our team together—, and, by the way, I'm already hearing from states around the country, from our people about Congressmen who have been willing to sign on and support that legislation. So that is our current plan.

Commissioner Jackel said, that sounds great. I just want to make one additional comment. I've been looking over your material and I think the last time your group was up here I made the comment that it was the best material that we get. It is well indexed, it's well put together, it gives us the essential information. I want to thank you for the quality of it. Dr. Buxton said, well, thank you, sir.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, what's the status of that bill? Dr. Buxton said, it is in the very formative stages. We have—, we—, it is going to be, I believe, probably about a five-month process before we have everything—, closure on everything. Commissioner Rivers asked, which committee is it in? Do you know that? Dr. Buxton said, it is not in committee right now. Commissioner Rivers said, it is not in committee. Dr. Buxton said, no. Commissioner Price asked, who are the sponsors? Dr. Buxton said, Max [Cleland]. Commissioner Rivers asked, Max [Cleland] is the sponsor? Dr. Buxton said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, I was about to say whomever the sponsor was maybe we can hook onto it and kind of push it through our Georgia delegation, Congressional delegation, and also those of us who know other people who may be on that committee, we may contact them when that bill is—. Dr. Buxton said, well, your support will mean a lot to us. Commissioner Rivers said, we would do that—, hopefully, we would do that. Hopefully—, I would recommend, Mr. Chairman, that we at the point that they get it into committee that we send a resolution as a Commission. Chairman Hair said, I think this body would be happy to do anything we could to support anything that would help to ease the debt, so just let us know when—. We'll have to rely on you from a timing standpoint. Dr. Buxton said, great, great. Chairman Hair said, and when we need to do what, but we certainly would—. I think this body would be unanimous in supporting something like that. Commissioner Rivers said, and certainly I would—, I don't mind assisting you on a national level, if necessary, with Commissioners, with key Commissioners around the country. I'll also help you on that. Dr. Buxton said, thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I was not aware that the State was giving funds to the museum in Warner Robbins, and if they're giving \$90,000 to the—, I guess it's the operating budget. Dr. Buxton said, well, they're giving \$90,000 to the operating budget, but they've given over half a million dollars to the museum. Commissioner Murray said, if you compare the two museums, certainly the Eighth Air Force Museum is much more advanced and a much better museum than the one in Warner Robbins. It's a—, there's a good museum. They've just finished a new facility there. But it still does not compare with the museum we have right here. Dr. Buxton said, well, I agree with you in terms of the quality of the museum and I'm not altogether an independent—. Commissioner Price said, objective. Dr. Buxton said, yes. My objectivity is probably not good, but what they have done up there, the two things that I would share with you that I think we must do is they have worked closely with the elected officials at the national level and at the State level and they have also been very involved with their local community. Their local leadership is very present. I went up and met with their board just to see their operation. Gen. Shuler and I both did, and we came away with those two things as standout's in our minds, and you gentlemen and lady know that we had great involvement of the Air Force community here, but we've got to go beyond that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Buxton. We appreciate you coming and sharing this information with us, and let us know how we can help. Commissioner Thomas said, very good. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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V. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. COASTAL AIDS SUPPORT AND EDUCATION PROJECT (RICHARD PHISTER).

Chairman Hair said, we have Mr. Richard Phister here this morning. He's going to give us a very brief report on the Coastal AIDS Support and Education Project and also talk to us just a little bit about a [inaudible] that's coming up in December.

Mr. Richard Phister said, good morning, Chairman Hair, Dr. Thomas, members of the Commission. The first thing I wanted to address this morning was about World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is December 1st this year, as every year. This will be the 11th annual World AIDS Day celebration or observance. We use that day to remember those that we've lost to the disease and those that are now living with the disease and are impacted by the disease. And I would encourage each of the Commissioners to please attend the candlelight vigil, which will be held at Forsyth Park at seven o'clock on December 1st, to show your support for this cause. The theme this year is "Be a force for change," and the target audience is 15 to 24 year olds. This is one of the largest growing groups of new infections, and we have got to do something to stop the rate of infection. There is no cure for AIDS, there is no cure for HIV, and the only way we're going to do this is by educating our young people, as I've said before. This year's World AIDS Day committee is comprised of various representatives from agencies around the county. Project Azuka, the Chatham County Health Department, the local Social Security Administration, Case Project, Teen AIDS Student Council from St. Vincent's Academy, and your own Youth Commissioners. We feel real good. We have a real good program planned for this year. Real simple, but to the point. I would ask that we could get a proclamation from the County to be read at World AIDS Day and, like I said before, if you can please attend, we'd appreciate it. This is a sample copy.

Chairman Hair said, just give that to the Clerk there. Thank you, Rick [Phister]. Any questions from Mr. Phister?

Mr. Phister said, the only other thing I had was HIV name reporting. One month ago on October 6th, there was a hearing held at Savannah Tech about HIV name reporting and the differences between that and Unique Identifier, and I gave Gail, your secretary, some information on that. If you could please look it over and write the State. The time line has been extended to December 31st instead of October 15th. My board of directors feel that HIV name reporting by virtue of the fact that the name should be reported when you went to go get treatment, would be detrimental to the people getting treatment and thereby not progressing to the AIDS diagnosis as quickly. You have the information. Whichever side you feel you could come down on, either the name reporting or the Unique Identifier, we would ask that you please write your comments to the State DHR and let them know. You are our community leaders and you can help influence DHR one way or the other. We have made our comments known at the hearing here in Savannah. The other agencies around the State have made their feelings known on it, and everyone almost unanimously has come down on the side of Unique Identifier. It will ensure privacy. For me it's a moot point. People with AIDS are already reported. My name is already in a database. I care about the people that are HIV positive that are going to be hesitant to going to get treatment, and it also will impact unfairly the lower income members of our community because they won't have the resources to go to a State where there is no HIV name reporting. If you have any questions on it, you can feel free to call Case Project or Project Azuka or Phoenix Project. I'm sure all of us would be happy to give you our views on it, and as always if there is anything we can do for you as a Commission or individually, please let us know.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Phister. We appreciate you being here. Anybody have any questions? Thank you. Thank you very much.

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BUDGET FY1999

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Jackel just—, at agenda review yesterday along with Dr. Thomas and the County Manager, we began to start thinking our budget deliberations and one of the suggestions for our first meeting on the budget would be to basically take a sort of a [inaudible] by exception approach and each one of us would think about things that we wanted to make sure, if we wanted to reduce something in the budget and also think of we wanted to make sure was in the budget that we would do that, and then the first meeting we would discuss those and then go from there into a department by department review, and the County Manager thought that was a good idea, and so—, and Dr. Thomas thought it was a good idea, so without object that would be our first meeting that we'll schedule will be basically, we'll ask you to make sure you've thought through the budget, went through the budget, and then we'll talk about things that we want to cut and things we want to add each individually and then we'll get a consensus and then move from there. Okay?

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VI. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. MLK, JR., REVITALIZATION PLAN (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I have been contacted by the people who are part of this plan, and they want to make a full presentation to us in December, so I will—, we have nothing at this time.

Chairman Hair said, okay. We'll add—, we'll put that back on the agenda at that time.

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2. POWELL/DUFFRYN, APRIL 10, 1995 — 10 MINUTE VIDEO PRESENTATION (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Commissioner Jackel said, we have a video we'd like—. We have a video we'd like to show everybody. This community went through quite a trauma with the Powell/Duffryn incident. We think there are lessons that need to be learned. We're going right to the video.

[NOTE: At this time a video, prepared by the Coast Guard, was shown to the Commissioners of the Coast Guard's National Strike Force, a special team that responds to oil spills and releases of hazardous materials that threaten public health and the environment. The story was of Savannah, Georgia, where a spark caused an explosion of a chemical storage tank at the Powell/Duffryn Storage Facility, which was located in close proximity to a housing development.]

Commissioner Jackel said, Eddie [DeLoach], you ready to sign up for the Coast Guard? Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm ready to go. Commissioner Jackel said, there's a—, the Coast Guard doesn't publicize this, but their motto is you have to go, but you don't have to come back. Anyhow, it's often said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and I think this video tape was worth a lot more than that. This was a real tragedy in our community. We're lucky it wasn't worse than it was. I think the facts are that we all understand these plants are too close to housing. I'm not sure what we can do about that, but what we have to do is be extra safe because of that. In addition, to handle this thing, you heard that response teams came from as far away as Maine and Miami, Florida, so that's a tremendous expense as well as the time involved in getting everyone here. Ms. Patricia Jenkins—. Ms. Jenkins said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, she's one of the neighbors. She's been an activist in this and has brought me the film. We have come up with four recommendations. That the Health Department do a review of the health effects on the neighborhoods near Powell/Duffryn. Because he at the end says no one was seriously hurt, we disagree with that. He was talking about his Coast Guard people, and we don't know the long range effect of some of this. The others, we think all chemical tanks should be clearly marked and information easily accessed from another location if the need arises. I think there's been a process of on-site identification so when things go bad there needs to be another place where the records can access so everybody knows what's in those tanks and the best way to deal with those. We would like the EPA or the Industrial Council to do more air monitoring for early detection of problems. There were some earlier leaks. We feel if there had been enough air monitoring, maybe this whole thing could have been prevented. We also think that there needs to be a coordination between private physicians and health departments to keep better records of future incidents. What we have found out is that some of the people went to the Health Department and a good many went to their own private physicians, and this information was not coordinated. So we have no way of knowing who went to their private physicians unless you turn that information in to the Health Department, and apparently that wasn't done. We think that needs to be part of a disaster plan for the future.

Ms. Patricia Jenkins said, I'd like to thank everybody for their time. I realize that air monitoring is really critical this chemical plant area, and we have an elementary school that's in walking distance of this plant. I really feel like Oaktree Townhouses are entirely too close to the chemical [inaudible], and possibly you may be looking at Eli Whitney School. So it's a very serious issue. A lot of people still have health problems today from this incident. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Commissioner Jackel said, thank you very much for coming. It's a real pleasure to me to have a lady like Ms. Jenkins who can come forward with all the information and provide us with a video tape. I've often said sitting up there that these concerned citizens that come forward are the heart of our community, and thank you so much for doing that.

Chairman Hair said, Martin [Jackel], while you're there why don't you go ahead and introduce Gene Rogers. You're next on the list with the Homeless Authority.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask a question. Chairman Hair said, certainly, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, that night out there the thing that disturbed me most that we didn't have enough foam in supply here. We had to go all the way to Alabama or somewhere in order to get enough foam to suppress that fire. Have we taken the precaution that we have enough of that foam on hand? County Manager Abolt said, really out of balance of caution, and certainly Commissioner Jackel and Ms. Jenkins have hit it right on the head as far as the issues that had to be followed up on and part of what created the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the LEPC, wasn't a question of foam. It was the type of foam and that really pulled together and so they don't have any videos. All of the Chamber of Commerce and the industrial community, along with the local HazMat people, the fact that we now have an HazMat ordinance, a functioning LEPC committee, it's a—, I don't want to success story because obviously it was created out of a tragedy, but it certainly has awakened our sensitivities. We'll give you a complete report on all four items, but on point what you're saying is that, yes, both public and private sector responded and I think if, heaven forbid, if we ever have another occurrence, our reaction time will be a lot less and quicker quite frankly.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, there's been a lot of work in the industry that the Manufacturers Council has created a separate group just to deal with this issue. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, I'm aware of that. I just wanted to know about the foam because that night we didn't have that type foam and couldn't get it. What Hunter had and—.

Commissioner Murray said, there were several things. One, they didn't even know what the chemicals were and now I think they have to report all that and we'll know what it will be.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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3. HOMELESS IN CHATHAM COUNTY, GENE ROGERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HOMELESS AUTHORITY (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Commissioner Jackel said, we have Mr. Rogers with the Homeless Authority, who wants to make a presentation.

Mr. Gene Rogers said, thank you, Commissioners, Chairman Hair, for allowing me to come up this morning. I'm Gene Rogers, the Executive Director of the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. I'd like to start by introducing my board that's present here in chambers today. If you will stand please. Ms. Karen Sachs, our co-chair, Ms. [inaudible] Grosse, co-chair, Ms. Wendy Hills from Savannah Runaway, Rev. Elliott from Union Mission, and Capt. Steve Morris from the Salvation Army. These are board members that are present here this morning. When we started a long time ago with the authority, we had a mission that was rather simplistic. We thought that we could get rid of homelessness in Chatham County. That has evolved. We now have a mission that is slightly different from that. Our mission now is to plan and coordinate services with the aim of reducing homelessness in a caring manner to the maximum extent possible. It's a little different because we don't think we can. We have three goals that go with this mission statement. To facilitate the coordination and mediation of the development of appropriate homeless programs among certified agencies at all levels. Second, to represent the scope of homelessness through appropriate documentation at all levels and to recommend specific courses of action which lead to prevent. And our third goal is to serve as a conduit for the allocation of public funds through a certification process which includes technical assistance and feedback. These are the basic parts of our goals and our mission.

Mr. Rogers said, in the goals statement I mentioned certification twice. We offer certification by application to organizations providing services to homeless people. This process provides a framework to ensure that the service providers furnish the best possible assistance to homeless people. This process does not seek to influence the goals of the service organizations, but does wish to make certain that homeless people receive services in a safe, efficient and capable manner. This is bi-annual process. In 1997, we had 14 agencies serving 24 programs. We possibly will add two more programs this year. As most of you know, the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless was established to be the planning and coordinating body for agencies and organizations working with the homeless in this region. It is not a provider of direct social services, and therefore should not be in a position where it competes with its member agencies. The Authority, as established, has produced significant results. Since its establishment by the State Legislature in 1989 we established the country's first documented cross-referenced hard count of the actual number of homeless people in a region; the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recognized us as a "Best Practice for Planning" in 1997; we have reduced the number of homeless people by 50% since 1992; we generated more than \$5 million in additional state and federal resources by leveraging local support to establish necessary programs for homeless people; we generated more than \$5 million in doing this; and we produced the State's first comprehensive plan to address the problem of homelessness in the community. In order to continue our efforts, we need the County's support. That's why I'm here today. We are requesting that the County match the funds being provided by the City. The Authority is also currently working to establish an alternative and very cost-efficient health care program for homeless people. This partnership with both hospitals and the Chatham County Department of Health is estimated to save the County \$17 million in indigent health care costs. An investment by the County for such results are minor in comparison to the benefits involved.

Mr. Rogers said, we have some major programs in place. We have a program to pay for nutritious meals for all children in shelters under the age of six. This is a permanent program with the Department of Agriculture since 1993. We receive approximately \$28,000 each year for this purpose. We have an after school program to provide tutoring in schools with the Board of Education's teachers and paid tutors. It has a summer camp program and teachers for the summer months. This is a grant from the State Board of Education. Also, when funds are available, we have a storyteller program which involves parents and children in reading together. This program is with the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library. This program has been in place since 1934 and we receive approximately \$50,000 a year from the State Board of Education. This year it's \$66,800. We have a unified case management program with case managers paid through the Authority working in the shelters—, five of the shelters. There is also a full-time outreach worker on the streets with a van picking up every homeless person we can find that's willing to accept help and put them into a shelter. There's a housing support team that works in four transitional shelters. This team includes a life skills coordinator, two housing specialists and a mental health specialist to find housing and provide the necessary support to keep homeless people in their jobs and in housing. It also includes a housing issues attorney to assist with all housing related problems. These are Housing and Urban Development grants, three-year grants. We're in the second year of our Case Management grant, the first year of the Housing Support Team. Over the three years, these grants total \$1.1 million.

Mr. Rogers said, we have a program in place to provide assistance for homeless people in the shelters with mental problems. This includes mental, medical and medications. We have two licensed professional counselors for this purpose. This grant is from the Chatham County Health Department and totals \$184,000 annually. These are parts of the health care for the homeless program, which is functioning out of Union Mission where we have a nurse practitioner, a registered nurse and a

licensed practical nurse. They provide health care at clinics in the shelters and at Social Apostolate. A new effort is under way, as I mentioned, between Union Mission, Candler/St. Joseph's and Memorial to complete and staff a 32-bed facility at Union Mission for those that are too sick for the shelters and not sick enough for the hospitals. This is where we think we'll save \$17,000,000 in indigent health care costs. There is also an employment training center. All shelter residents are required to attend the center for life skills training and employment assistance and placement. The director of the center is on the Authority's payroll for coordination, but the grant is to Union Mission.

Mr. Rogers said, I would like to quote from William Raspberry, a columnist for the *Washington Post* from a commentary in the *Savannah Morning News* on the 10th of October, 1998: "In 1990, the *Washington Post* had 149 headlines in which the word homeless or homelessness appeared. Five years later, in 1995, there were 45; in 1996, 44; in 1997, 41, and after three-quarters of 1998, there are only 14." We expect there will be 18 or 19 by the end of 1998. It also said, "Maybe ... we have accomplished an instant cure to the problem of homelessness. By not [sic] hoking up stories about progress, but by losing interest in stories on the 'crises'." To some extent we're guilty of the same in Savannah. In the late 80's and 90's we had a major increase in the number of homeless people. In 1989, based on the efforts of the Savannah Homeless Coalition, the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless was created by State legislation. It was the first state legislated homeless authority in the nation, and still is. There may be one in Los Angeles, but I tried to get information on that, but today we're still claiming to be the only one. The Authority was charged to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the homeless issues in the community. It took three years to develop the sense of community among the service providers, the members of the Coalition and the Authority that was needed to complete the plan. It was presented to and approved by the City Council in August 1993. At that time there were 6,511 homeless people served in the shelters in 1992. That's our base line. During the period from—, after 1993 service providers became specialists in serving their populations based on their specific needs. Based on guidelines from HUD, the comprehensive plan was expanded to include a continuum of care for dealing with all aspects of homelessness. The continuum was incorporated into the comprehensive plan with a goal to reduce homelessness by 15% per year. City Council approved the revised plan in November of 1994. In 1994 we served 3,938 homeless people, a reduction of 40% from 1992.

Mr. Rogers said, with the continuum of care in place, there was a great deal of planning needed to ensure that the elements were in place to get homeless people off the streets and into needed programs to move to permanent housing and jobs. Initially, we had a Health and Human Services Family Demonstration Grant that allowed us to have child care and transportation to keep families at work. Later HUD grants allowed us to establish unique programs which [inaudible] with the unified case management, centralized employment and training, standardized and centralized life skills training, and a health care for the homeless program, which includes both medical help with our nurses and help with the mental illness. That's a business we never thought we'd be in, but we are. The housing support team to assist with obtaining permanent housing and providing the assistance necessary to remain in permanent housing. In 1997, we served 3,252 homeless people, a reduction of 50% from 1992. Our next step is a major effort with the coordination of Memorial, St. Joe's, and Union Mission for a facility with 32 beds that will be for those that are too sick for the shelters and not sick enough for the hospital. So far, as of October 1998, we have served almost exactly the same number of people we served at this point in 1997.

Mr. Rogers said, I gave each of you a packet with our homeless for last year. We'll have one ready again in about three months, but this is where we were then. It's not going to change much what you see. We believe that we've reached that core in the homeless population that are the hardest to serve. We have now a large number of those with drug and alcohol addiction problems, we have mental health problems, and for the first time in our shelters we're seeing those mentally retarded. And as I was reminded last night, this problem is going down to as young as nine years old, to the teenagers that are too young for the shelters, and they also are in St. Joseph's. This is sort of where we have been. All of this has been managed with our financial support from the general fund of the City and for an early few years from the State Department of Community Affairs. These are funds that have supported our staff, which has always been only two people. The Authority has very deliberately taken the position that it should not compete with the service providers for funds, specifically social service funds. In those cases where we're providing centralized services, such as unified case management, the staff for that grant is located in the shelters to provide the support and not at the Authority. Since 1992, the Authority has with the help of the community and service providers received five major grants, as I've described. They have totaled in excess of \$2,500,000 in new money to the community to operate the continuum of care at the Authority. During that same period, the service providers in their shelters, have sheltered 15,381 men, 4,497 women, and 6,466 children, with a total of 26,344 homeless individuals in this community. That's a lot of people. We strongly believe that the homeless people—, that the Homeless Authority and the homeless people we have in the community are a problem of this community. We also believe that the Authority is the model that is best suited for the planning, for the management and coordination of this problem. We need to coordinate the resources needed to reduce the homelessness and increase those that are in jobs and housing at a very cost-effective manner. We are convinced that with your understanding of this County's problem, the County should recognize the existence of the Authority as its own planning agency for homeless issues and match the funds provided by the City, but general funds and not social service funds. We had applied for social service funds from the County for the first time since 1989. Based on our board's decision, that application for social service funds have been withdrawn from the County. We do not believe we should be in that pocket of money. The Homeless Authority, similar to the Land Bank Authority, is in the business of changing non-tax producing individuals into tax paying citizens. The Land Bank Authority changes neglected the land and buildings into tax generating parcels. We follow suit. We are putting people back on the tax rolls.

Mr. Rogers said, that's all I have to say about the problem. I'd be pleased to answer questions. I'm continuing to brief the individual Commissioners and provide an information packet which had the background data on all of the information I've given you here this morning, and I'll be continuing the calls to do that.

Chairman Hair asked, any questions of Mr. Rogers? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I heard you make the comment that you're now at the core group and that's roughly 3,000 generated annually, I suppose. Mr. Rogers said, we've been approaching that number for the past three years, including this year. Commissioner DeLoach asked, basically, and it's your job—, your attempt to move these people back into society,

basically, would that being the "core" group? I mean, you moved from 6,000 to 3,000. We know we've got 3,000 that's moved off the books. Is that really going to change that much or are we adding more into that group, and there's a group—, there's a group growing out of that group, are we basically—, this is the group that we're going to have to take care of as a society? Mr. Rogers said, since we do this by name and social security number, we have identified the problem, we know who the people are, and we are finding this year that we've got more duplication among the shelters. Some of those that are hardest to serve are in that cycle of Georgia Regional, Charter, back to the shelter. They go into detox and we are having someone [inaudible] population, yes. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what ratio of that as compared to the base number of 3,000, or are we having repeats? Mr. Rogers said, you've hit my hardest point. We have—, we now have the data from '92 by name and social security number. We're in the process of doing a study to see how many of those 26,000 of that number are actually shelter population or people coming into the system and going out with [inaudible]. We are not finished with that, and we should know when we complete this just what the shelter population is or is not.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, my only concern is that looking at the State reducing the funds for Georgia Regional and our hospitals, does a fair number of individuals on the street have treatable mental problems? Georgia Regional funds have been substantially reduced. Charter, if you have the insurance, and these people do not. Memorial Medical Center at one time had Clark Pavilion. They've substantially reduced. We look at Tideland Community Mental Health, I'm on the board there, we've lost over \$2,500,000 in the last year. Such programs as welfare reform, in the light of the fact that the growing population is the homeless don't put children. Considering the tone, not only from the federal government and on a state level, what kinds of things—, I know there's a church next door to where my office building is and where David Saussy's office building is, and they appear to do substantial work is there's free meals and a whole host of things. What efforts are being done, and I look at the benevolent groups that we have here, like religious institutions, to make them more a part of the solution, and I didn't hear that in your presentation— Mr. Rogers said, within the last four weeks, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which is a consortium of churches, I think they had to have nine churches sign up when they started, those church groups have gone into the fray more or less and they are now taking homeless families into that church system. So that piece is in place, and it did start about three weeks ago. Commissioner Odell said, I'm just wondering if we have 3,200 individuals, and if you look, we have two great things here in Savannah. We have a large number of churches and a large number of liquor stores, and they're probably equal. If we have one church to [inaudible] or to be financially accountable, it would literally zero out the financial cost, and I'm just wondering what the Authority is doing to move each church towards accepting some responsibility for those who obviously cannot take care of themselves, which it seems like a social service thing which we all should be concerned with. Mr. Rogers said, it is. We have over the past year had churches that were having homeless day and they were taking donations and things like that, which came to the Authority. There has been no concerted effort since that time among the churches except with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Goodwill Baptist Church was doing a lot of feeding. I worked with the reverend there before he died. Not a whole lot of effort when you're getting people that have the mental illness problems and the addiction problems, the church has a hard time handling that. We went out one time seeking beds during cold weather and we ran into the same situation. If we provide the church space, then we need staff to go with it because of the problems that the people have that are on the streets. So it's not been a well worked out situation.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I think Commissioner Odell hit on a few of the things that I was going to talk about, and one was the churches, and do you have a percentage of the churches in Chatham County that are supporting the homeless and your programs? Mr. Rogers said, not other than the nine churches that are in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. They will be—. Commissioner Murray said, you said nine churches. Out of all the churches that we have in Chatham County, nine are helping? Mr. Rogers said, right. Commissioner Murray said, well, to me that's where a lot of the support should be coming from. Rather than just doing things within their own congregation, they need to be reaching out to other people. The homeless people is one of the areas they can go in. I would suggest that possibly that y'all start trying to focus more on all the churches in the community and not just the nine that's supporting now. The other question, and you may have said this and I missed it, but you asked us—, you were asking for the County to match the funding that the City is giving. Mr. Rogers said, correct. Commissioner Murray said, now I never heard a figure on what the City is funding. Mr. Rogers said, \$70,000 a year. Commissioner Murray said, \$70,000 a year.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, what is the County funding now? Chairman Hair said, well also—, you know, you mentioned that you got \$180,000 from the Health Department, is that not true? Mr. Rogers said, Chatham County Health Department for medication. Chairman Hair said, which is—, that's also our funding. So to say that we aren't funding, you know—. Also, too, I would ask you along those lines, have you called on—, you know, we've got eight municipalities in Chatham County. Have you gone to the other municipalities? I mean, this homelessness is not going to be just in the unincorporated areas. Have you gone to Pooler and Garden City and Thunderbolt, and Tybee and said, hey, you know, can you come up to the plate? Don't you think that's a good idea? I mean, if you're going to come to us and ask us for money, don't you think you ought to spread that funding over to the other municipalities? Mr. Rogers said, when the legislation was established in 1989, the County agreed at that time to be a full partner in the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless. The City picked up that challenge. The County did not. And we've been trying since 1989 to get that—, to be that planning organ for the County, not just the City because the homeless people are not just City people. They come from surrounding counties and the rest of the County area, including Tybee. Chairman Hair said, well, my only point though is that we're seeing more and more of the services shifted from the municipalities to the County even though the County is getting smaller. I mean, you know, how much we're picking up for the—, you know, we're picking up all the costs for the jail, for example, for these people that are put in for the municipalities. We can't continue to see the municipalities grow in size and shifting all the funding to the unincorporated areas and, you know, Garden City just—, Pooler just tripled in sized and Garden City just doubled in size. I mean, it seems to me these folks have to step up to the plate and not just always come to the County, which is primarily not just the unincorporated areas. Certainly, we get taxes from the incorporated areas too, but it just seems that we have to share that funding. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, you're down to your core group. Mr. Rogers said, we think we're approaching that. Commissioner Rivers said, and in that core group—, not necessarily that core group. Another statement that you made that they're in and out of Charter and facilities. I was just talking with Commissioner Saussy today, and I think that one of our main problems is that we just have a rotation of these people with no control from the hospital to the street. Even those that may be in some type of supported living in private homes aren't getting the attention that they need, so consequently if they're not on medication, they commit them back to the hospital. Now the regional hospital is getting an influx of people and they're—, they don't have the money to treat them. It's getting out of control. One thing I think that we need to look at is approaching the State. One, the most key thing to reform when we did it several years ago was putting in the right information system so we could track people. Two, case management and case load. I think these are two ingredients that has to be put in place in order to begin to lower our population, that core population, and we have to have people who pay more attention to these people who are in these private homes that these people don't look after them, don't see that they get their medication properly, so that consequently they leave there in the day, they go back at night, and what's left but the hospital, and they go from shelter to shelter or from feed place, church to church, and I see some of them—, they know the schedule when anybody's feeding. They might hit two or three of them. So, you know, that population really we need to focus in on and hopefully maybe we can hit our State Legislators and impress upon them the situation that we are having, and that's prevalent probably throughout Georgia.

Mr. Rogers said, but we did that when we set up this unified case management. That's why we can identify these people now. We know they're there because we do have case managers in all the shelters and working with Charter and with Regional. Commissioner Rivers said, but you probably have—, I'd venture to say you have a heavy case load on case managers, and I know they do it at Tidelands. You just don't have enough case managers to get around and take care of all of the things that you need and then you don't have a single point of entry. You don't have a way of—, I doubt if we're tracking people as efficiently as they could be tracked.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner DeLoach said, and then stick me in there. Chairman Hair said, he doesn't—, he never raises his hand very high.

Commissioner Price asked, why are you not willing to go through the grant-in-aid process? Mr. Rogers asked, with the what? Commissioner Price said, the grant-in-aid process. You said that you didn't want to apply for—, I think you called it social services. I think we call it human services. Why did you not want to go through our grant-in-aid process? Mr. Rogers said, if we do that we're competing with the services provided by the Salvation Army, the Union Mission, and others who provide a direct service. I don't provide a direct service. I'm the planning and coordinating umbrella that does things like I'm doing here today to get that unified effort and keep it in place [inaudible]. So we are not a direct provider of social services. That's why we wanted to insist that the funds we got from the City come from the general funds, not from the social service side. Commissioner Price asked, did you not want to compete also based on the fact that you didn't feel like you could get the money that you would want otherwise? I mean, is that part of it? How many people are—, that are homeless that you're monitoring are those who have a substance abuse problem versus those that are not, that have a non-substance—, that are not abusing? Mr. Rogers said, we use the federal numbers and those run from 30 to 60%. Commissioner Price asked, how many of them are local homeless versus transient or out of state? Mr. Rogers said, the last survey we did, we came up with 75% Chatham County residents and the other 25% were out. A lot of those, a majority of those were at the Salvation Army, which is a national organization. 63% of their people are locals and the remainder are from out of town. The rest of the shelters we have closer to 95 to 100% local. Commissioner Price asked, which of the agencies provide any effort to locate family members that may be of the local homeless. You know, if somebody in my family or related to my family was in that situation, I'd want to take them in. What I'm wondering is of a lot of Savannahians and Chatham Countians, how many people would turn their backs on their own family members that are not helping them. I mean, that to me is a large part of the problem. Mr. Rogers said, it is. We have case managers that do that. When somebody comes into the shelter, they're processed. Just identify them first and then see what we can do to get them out of the shelter. That's their only purpose of being there. Even with a job or a house of their own and who are going back to their family. Traveler's Aid is noted for that because when they send somebody back to where they came from, they're put them on bus and [inaudible]. We've had people who've come here very recently from Augusta with money in the bank and a payee in Augusta, but he likes to come to Savannah and panhandle on River Street. We put him back on the bus. We give him a ticket to go back up there with his own money, and he says, well, as soon as I get out of Savannah I'll get off the bus and come back, so we have some of that going on. Commissioner Price said, the last thing I was going to say is if you could provide us with a list of the churches and the synagogues that are on the Interfaith, then we could take a look at that and maybe among ourselves and other groups that aren't, we could out and solicit more help, and hopefully lead the way to do that. If you could give us a copy—. Mr. Rogers said, I'd appreciate that.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas and then Commissioner DeLoach and then I'd like to make a final comment.

Commissioner Thomas said, I'd just like to encourage you to consider the suggestions that have been made, particularly with the churches. I'd like to go a step further to also recommend that you make contact with your community organizations which have a great impact in the community as well as working with churches. I think you will find them very helpful to you, and if you need a list of those organizations, I will certainly be more than happy to help you with those. Those are sort of like outreach organizations, and I think they can help us very well. And don't forget the suggestion that was made by Commissioner Rivers about seeking additional help on the State level as well.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, what are you really here to do? They say we gave \$180,000 from the Department—, from—. Mr. Rogers said, Chatham County Health Department. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did we give \$180,000 from the Chatham County Health Department? Yes or no? Did we do that? Mr. Rogers said, yes, the Chatham County Health Department did provide a medical assistance because we've had to get into the medical field [inaudible], but our problem is when we started the Authority in 1989 we had a budget of \$50,000. This year, this coming year my budget is \$854,000. Two people have a very difficult time managing a budget and all these programs with two people. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, let me ask you this. Should we shift monies out of the \$180,000 to this other avenue so that you get money to operate rather than money for—? Mr. Rogers said, no. Those are going for the medical help that's [inaudible]. It's the

first time we've had it was this year, it's the medications and medical support. Commissioner DeLoach asked, this is the first year we gave y'all this money, this \$180,000? We've not funded y'all at all up until this year? Mr. Rogers said, no, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Thanks.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Odell, Gene [Rogers] you keep referring to you came out of the social services funding cycle and said you wanted it to come out of the general fund. It's all one pot of money and, you know, we can't give people anything if we don't take from people for taxes. So it's not like, we can't get over here—, it's all one pot of money. It's all tax money that we take from people. So, you know, it's not, you know—. I just wanted to make sure that's clarified that it's not like we have a pot of money over here we don't take away from people and we have one we do take away from people. It's all taxes. Mr. Rogers said, we want to be your planning and coordinating and Chatham County's organization for reducing the problem as opposed to an organization that's providing beds. We want to be your group for helping you handle the situation.

Commissioner Odell said, I don't think it's really necessary to—, for us to consider increasing the beds, and I know Martin [Jackel] [inaudible], but for us to at this point consider increasing our contribution, and I make that for the following reasons, and that is that if we conclude that a vast number of the people have substantial identifiable mental disorders, we have agencies here which can make that identification. Hopefully, those people will be qualified through Social Security and receive disability benefits. Currently, we have the option through the State of Georgia, if you qualify, you can go into a group home depending on your level of condition. So looking at the list, there's no group home listed here, and a fair number of the people that may have been taking funding are currently in group homes. There are group homes that receive Social Security disability if it is—, if a portion, a substantial portion is in fact people who have identifiable mental disorders, as defined by the Social Security Administration. I think to increase that [inaudible]. There should be a system, and part of the system I think should be if this person might qualify for Social Security benefits and what have you, then whatever we should do, rather than saying we have to take the money from this pot, we should look at getting that person a payee representative and have that person come to the Social Security Administration or looking at agencies that will do that. That's one. The other one is that I do think that we need the other municipalities to look at it. Not just the City of Savannah and Chatham County. I think you would be surprised pleasantly that—, I think we live in a compassionate County. I just think that most people don't know the magnitude of the problem, and if they think that the problem only occurs to someone else, then perhaps their level of sensitivity is not that great, which leads me to my third and final thought, and that is the board has been most successful in Chatham County have been boards who either have, if they get—, receive money from the Commission and the City Council who have a representative from the City, I mean like a Alderman or a County Commissioner who meets as an ex officio member on a routine basis, and if that happens, expand it to the other municipalities. While it may not increase your funding immediately, it will increase the knowledge and, you know, this is a serious problem from Biblical times. We're always going to have the poor. It's not going to be a problem which you can solve by saying, okay, Chatham County, give us \$70,000. That's not going to solve the problem. That is absolutely unquestioned, guaranteed not going to solve the problem. I think some of the comments about getting family members more accountable and tracking those people down. I know if I had a family member who was homeless, while I might not necessarily want them to live with me personally, I would make arrangements to—, as best I could. I know that's unsensitive, and I'm increasing my sensitivity.

Mr. Rogers said, I would like to—. I was just reminded by my board chair that the money we get from Chatham County Health Department comes from the State, not from Chatham County.

Chairman Hair said, okay, let's wrap this up, Commissioner DeLoach. We've put a lot of time in this.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I did want to make one point that we're—, I think we're missing. Not—, I don't know whether it was two weeks, it's probably been a month now. Maybe—, it's been at least a month, we all sit up here, or some of us sit up here all worried about how well the people in the jail were treated, and I've got a real concern that everybody's wanting to do a study on making sure we take of somebody who's killed somebody or robbed or done something, and yet we have a problem coming up with money to help folks who are just helping people who are homeless. I don't think we need to lose focus of the fact that we're all worried about whether Joe's being treated good in the jail and we're not as concerned about the people who are homeless out there who haven't committed a crime. They're just homeless. So I think we need to focus again, and there's a very good point that was made. Chatham County is not supporting the Homeless Authority. It's pass through money. It is not money coming from us. So I think we need to really focus on it. I think we need to understand that this is an umbrella agency, and I still don't think you got that point across when you stood up there and spoke. The more you talked and the details that you gave, it sounded like you were trying to provide beds rather than trying to coordinate a large operation of the large dollars, and we don't even participate in it.

Mr. Rogers said, and I do want to introduce my former board member, Dr. Thomas. Commissioner DeLoach said, but it is a sad state of affairs if we're worried about whether somebody's getting treated well in the jail and we can't take care of people who are homeless. I think we need to really look at that and re-analyze that and see whether we're going in the right direction or not.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Murray. Let's wrap this up. I think that we've—.

Commissioner Murray said, all I want to say is I am certainly not concerned about the care that the people are receiving in the jail. As a matter of fact, I think they receive too well a care, and that's the problem that I have with the jail inmates. They're taken too good a care of.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. Thank you, Gene [Rogers], for coming. We appreciate your board members coming as well. We appreciate y'all being here, and we'll certainly look at that in our budget deliberations coming up forthwith.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like one final comment. I tell myself all the time that I don't appreciate all the wonderful things I have. I think all of us have not appreciated just how well we have it. I also believe and truly believe that but for the grace of God goes I, and if God looked away for a fraction of a second, I'd be homeless or worse, and I think we ought to take just

a couple of seconds just to reflect on the wonderful benefits and the wonderful lives we have before we proceed. Could I have just a second or so? [NOTE: The Commission paused for a couple of seconds for reflection..] Commissioner Jackel said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Jackel.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. Request from the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless for funding is to be considered during budget deliberations.

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4. SPANISH HAMMOCK CAT SERVICE (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Commissioner Murray said, this is something that's been going on for quite a while. It's bothered me and it bothers some other people that I know, but—, and I was told at the last CAT meeting that it had to be on the Commission agenda. We have a CAT tax—, a transit taxing district and in order to be in that district you're supposed to receive a service, and the people in Spanish Hammock are not receiving that service. As a matter of fact, it's probably about 12 miles away from the closest service that we service CAT, and I think that the CAT Board or the CAT Director has done an evaluation to find out just what effects it would be from a financial standpoint, but I think now that we're into the budget is the time that we need to look at taking that part out of the service or off of the taxing district because they are not receiving a service there, and it would be Spanish Hammock and those unincorporated areas that are not within the corporate limits of Tybee Island once you cross the bridge.

Chairman Hair asked, would that be something that we would have to do as a Commission or the CAT Board or—? County Attorney Hart said, well, it's kind of a little bit of a combination of both, Mr. Chairman. I really haven't had the chance to look at it in detail, but the question primarily from the CAT charter is in order to be able to tax an area they don't have to necessarily get the service direct, but it does have to—, there's a reasonable requirement in there. Commissioner Murray said, that's not reasonable in my opinion. County Attorney Hart said, yes. It's certainly—, you know, somebody could say 12 miles away from the point of service is not reasonable. Somebody else might argue that the whole community, it does fit when you take the whole community picture, so it's sort of a grey area in that. My understanding is this Commission would have the authority upon proper procedures to redefine the CAT service district, and that would rest with this Board. I would have to probably get with Mr. Butler of CAT to be able to—. Commissioner Murray asked, can you just take it back and—? Chairman Hair said, yes. Why don't we do that? I totally agree with Commissioner Murray. I think that we need to look at that. I do think that they're not in the district, and so maybe, Ty [Butler], if you could—, and Jon [Hart] could work together and--.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I would like for you before you do that now, if you're going to analyze that group there, you need to analyze Joyner's Corner up there and determine whether in fact they're being serviced by the bus service too. Chairman Hair said, I think we need to—. Commissioner DeLoach said, if we're going to shrink the area, let's shrink the area.

Chairman Hair said, I totally agree with you, Commissioner DeLoach. Any area that doesn't fall within that reasonable area I think needs to be looked at. I totally agree with that. Commissioner Murray said, but I think what has to be defined is reasonable or what is considered reasonable. Chairman Hair said, okay, so you'll get with Ty [Butler] and you two guys will work out something together and decide which board has to act on it first. And also, you know, obviously we'd have to look at the impact on CAT to be able to plan for that in terms of budgeting. So are you satisfied with that, Commissioner Murray? Commissioner Murray said, yes, if they can research it and bring it back to us. Chairman Hair said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The County Attorney was directed to get with the attorney for CAT to research the reasonableness of CAT taxing districts as it relates to Spanish Hammock and other unincorporated areas and determine which Board must be the first to act on making any changes to the CAT taxing districts.

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5. HESSE SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARK (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have today some people from the Hesse Community Park area that I'd like to bring up. They've got a little video they want to show us and go over some of the projects that they've been working on for a few years now. It's been on the CIP. It just hasn't been moved up enough, and I'd like to see it moved up to where we do something this time. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Saussy said, one of the things that they have done, and I think this is part of what Martin [Jackel] was talking about getting the community involved, they have already raised \$11,000 in this community to build a park. I think it's a great project. We need one out in that area. There are none, and if Dennis—, Ms. Dennis Folsom [phonetic], who's the head of it, and, Phillip [Webber], do you want to help with her to go over this.

Mr. Phillip Webber said, thank you, Commissioner Saussy. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. My name is Phillip Webber. I'm currently your Interim Director of Chatham Emergency Management, but if you will I'd like to step outside of that role for one morning and come before you as a committee member of the Hesse Community Park Project. I'm a member of that community and a proud member of that PTA, and they've asked me to come forward this morning and just introduce this project to you. We'll have others of the committee speak to this issue this morning. It's

amazing how you can springboard on other comments that have been made this morning. I've heard a quote from Mark Twain, a quote from William Raspberry this morning, and I'd like to quote, if I could this morning, Winston Churchill, who came before the U. S. Congress during World War II and said, I have not come here to ask for money [pause] for myself, but rather your support of this project. We this project is a project whose time has come. We have laid the foundation at the grassroots level by raising \$11,000 in two years, but at that rate it will take us about 30 years to complete this project, and we'd like to move it along a little bit more rapidly than that. It's a cooperative effort. It's an effort of private and public partnerships. It's an effort between the School Board that we've already approached, our business partners, such as Wachovia and Home Depot. We're approaching you now with it, and we fully intend to go forward to the State for some grant money to support this project, but first we'd like to introduce it by a video that was produced and directed by Jonathan Webber, no relation to me, and to introduce that is his mother this morning, former PTA President of Hesse is Vickey Webber. Thank you.

Ms. Vickey Webber said, bear with us. When they were editing this, the editing equipment quit yesterday, so the voices on the cassette—, and I'll have it for you in just one second. We're doing good aren't we?

[NOTE: At this time a video was shown of the old broken equipment and deterioration of the park at Hesse Elementary as it currently exists, and showed comparisons with parks at May Howard, Islands Elementary and Marsh Point Elementary on Wilmington Island, Windsor Forest Elementary and Lake Mayer.]

Chairman Hair said, I tell you one thing, you might not get your money for the project, but that kid's got a future, I tell you. He's going to be president of CBS pretty soon.

Mr. Webber said, we really are here for your support. If that comes and manifests itself as money, that's wonderful, and Commissioner Saussy will, I hope, champion that cause for us, but if not, your support at the end of this day, at the end of the meeting, or when we're finished here in the form of a letter that we can make a part of a package that should be before you as it goes to the State, will certainly be appreciated. We just ask you to look at it and do whatever you can for us. And now I'll ask Janice to come up briefly and go into more detail about the project, but I promise you we'll— Chairman Hair said, can I ask a quick question, Phillip [Webber]. I don't know if you're the person or not, maybe the young lady is, but does the School Board fund those other schools we saw, those playgrounds? Are those funded by the School Board? Mr. Webber said, they are and we are right about at the halfway point of the School Board's improvements with regards to the equipment. The money bars, and the things like that that you see. So we're on the equipment improvement list. We're about halfway through. So those are items that will be able to be removed from our proposal, the money that we're looking for from the State. Also, we're going to be going to the Savannah Tree Foundation for trees, possibly some industry partnership with regards to the trees, and some other things. But yes, sir, we're—. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Commissioner Saussy said, I think, Billy [Hair], that Windsor Forest, I think we helped support part of that, didn't we, Ben [Price]? Commissioner Price said, the City of Savannah did. Commissioner Saussy said, the City did. Chairman Hair said, yes, that's—. Commissioner Murray said, Wilmington Island, I can touch on that when we get to it. Commissioner Price said, we're doing some other community centers, but that was the City. Chairman Hair said, and also we've got one on today's program. Yes, mam.

Ms. Janice Folsom said, I appreciate y'all having me here today, and I just want to thank Commissioner Saussy for supporting us and his endeavors to help us, and I don't have a whole lot to add to what—, Phillip [Webber] covered it pretty well. We have a board up here that shows the layout and also you have a packet before you that shows us. I wouldn't be standing before you today because I suffer terribly from stage fright, but I feel so passionate about this project, and these children really do not have any place to play, and there is also a daycare that is located next to the school that really has no place for those children to play as well. And I'm hoping that we can get your support today. I can tell you a little bit about the playground, if you'd like. We were hoping to extend the educational process to the playground area by enhancing the science program. We want to have a nature area. Not a pond, but just water—, a little water garden with a fountain. We're looking to have gardens so the children can maybe grow some vegetables or some flowers or plants. We hope to have plaques around the different trees that are indigenous to this region so that the children can learn something on the playground, not just a place to play but a place to extend the educational process. We're going to—, we're hoping to have security lighting in the evening, and we really would like to have a track around the perimeter of the field so that the kids can skate. We have bike riding. It's a safer area. We don't have a place like that in the community in that area. We're looking for an outdoor classroom, a gazebo, hopefully to house at least one classroom. We're asking that it be screened to keep the bugs out, those type of things. We would like to have some safety surfaces and drinking fountains, a couple of drinking fountains in the area. It's a wonderful field. It's about 2.75 acres, and it's really a nice field and it's been bleak for as long as I can remember, and I won't tell you how old I am, but—.

Chairman Hair said, you know, I can relate to—. I ride by there every day, but when I first moved to Savannah in '82, I used to go hit golf balls in that field. And it's just a—, it's the same as it was then, you know, 16 years ago. Ms. Folsom said, my husband says he does not want a playground there. Chairman Hair said, it hasn't changed in 16 years, they've not had a playground there. How much money are we talking about? The total project? Ms. Folsom said, the total estimated estimate on the project is \$185,000, but we deducted our \$11,000 that we have raised over the last couple of years, and it's been a long hard road for us. We've put in a lot of work. We used the expertise of the community to put together the project. We've had a lot of help. We did the layout ourselves, we did the estimate ourselves, we had Valerie Hinesley—, has been backing us, and—.

Chairman Hair said, I also think--, have you pursued the in-kind, you know, for some of the things, like doing the track. You could probably get a company—, a trucking company to donate something, you know, like that, you know. Have y'all looked at in-kind? Ms. Folsom said, we intend to pursue that. You know, we intend to pursue that. In fact, we've already typed up several letters to send out for donations and contributions. Chairman Hair asked, does anybody else have any questions?

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Saussy said, I was going to say that this is already on the CIP. Of course, I know we've got a lot of things on the CIP, but the thing about it is this is one community that really has worked very hard to get this project going. And while it is a hundred and eighty something thousand dollars, that certainly wouldn't all come from us, I'm sure, but if we can get a portion of it, and if we could get a letter written supporting this project just saying that we want to see this project go, or something like that, it would certainly help them to get other people involved.

Chairman Hair asked, does any Commissioner object to us writing a letter of support? Commissioner DeLoach said, no, no. Chairman Hair said, and if you could maybe do like a draft letter or something and we could put our letterhead, if the Commission doesn't object to that, and then—, anything else, Commissioner Saussy? Commissioner Saussy said, no that's fine. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Murray said, I support the project because it reminds me a good bit of May Howard and what took place there. They were doing the same type things where the faculty, the students, the parents were all working together to resolve the problem that they had. The County was able to help fund part of that, but it was the community doing it. It was a joint venture and it worked real well, and we did not fund the full total dollar amount of the project, but we did fund quite a bit of it, and, you know, I would support doing this, and I would also ask staff that if they would look back at the funding that was used on some of these other projects and see if anything there would be available for that as we've done in the past for some of the others. It seems to me like y'all are taking a little bit of everything from each one of these school playgrounds that you went to and trying to add all of it into one. Ms. Folsom said, we were trying to meet the needs of the community, and we have a lot of senior citizens in that community as well as a lot of children and middle income families, and it's growing out there. They just built another new subdivision out in the area—, St. James Place, so we do have a large community and we really do not have any place for the children to get together and play and enjoy it. Commissioner Murray said, well, I would also agree too that y'all's PTA program and parent's support they get at Hesse is the same that they have down at May Howard, and I think that's what makes the schools what they are today.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Price.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I was just wondering, is that in the City of Savannah or is that the unincorporated? Commissioner Price said, they're in the city limits. Ms. Folsom said, it's not in the City. It's just barely out of the City. Chairman Hair said, yes, it's right there just a few hundred yards actually—, right down Whitfield area. The City limits are—. Yes, it's just inside the unincorporated area.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price. Commissioner Price said, that was my question. Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you. Anybody else have any other comments or questions? We appreciate Commissioner Saussy bringing that to our attention and we'll try to see what we can do. Ms. Folsom said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you. We'll definitely get the letter if you can tell me who it needs to be addressed to and some points you want to make. If you give it to us, we'll be glad to do the letter. Ms. Folsom said, okay. I'm going to let Phillip Webber do the closing here, if that's okay. Chairman Hair asked, Phillip [Webber], do you want to close it?

Mr. Webber said, I have nothing else to say really. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, all right. Mr. Webber said, thank you very much for your time and we appreciate it. Chairman Hair said, I like those kind of closings, Phillip [Webber]. Thank you. You understand brevity.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. The Commissioners voiced no objection to Chairman Hair issuing a letter in support of the Hesse Community Park project.

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6. MR. STAN WIGLEY, REPLACEMENT WELL, WILMINGTON ISLAND (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Commissioner Murray said, there's a gentlemen that lives [inaudible] place on Wilmington Island that called and said that he wanted to do a replacement well and he wanted to go from a 2-inch to a 3-inch on replacement, and evidently Inspections got a different questions asked or, anyway, what I'd like to ask Gregori [Anderson] to go ahead and move forward with the comments and then we can go ahead and make a decision, but in order to do a replacement well the way I think it's set up now, it has to come before the Commission anyway, is that correct?

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, Mr. Stan Wigley—, good morning, of 908 Wilmington Island Road, submitted an application for a replacement well in the Inspections Department. The property fronts on a right-of-way that has City water in it. As a portion of the County Well Ordinance it requires an amendment approval and a variance by this body to allow Mr. Wigley or anyone to replace a well that had either gone bad or is no longer in operation to be able to replace that well other than tying into the water system that's in the road. So it's well within this Board's prerogative to grant an amendment for a variance to the ordinance to allow Mr. Wigley to have a permit to replace his well.

Commissioner Murray said, I make motion to approve that variance. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor—. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. I've got—. Chairman Hair said, all right. Discussion.

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I was just curious. Are they just replacing the well that—? Chairman Hair said, yes. It's a replacement of the one already there. Commissioner Murray said, that's all it is, a replacement. Chairman Hair said, it's a replacement well.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Price said, we had to do this before on—. Chairman Hair said, yes, we have.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request of Mr. Stan Wigley for a variance for a replacement well at 908 Wilmington Island Road. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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STATEMENT BY JOHN SAXON PIERCE

Chairman Hair said, our final presentation, Mr. Pierce has asked to make a brief comment this morning. You want to come on up? Come on up. I recognize—, you wanted to talk about the benches.

Mr. John Saxon [Piccolo] Pierce said, I want to talk about the federal government has come down—, the federal government's [inaudible] where you put that thing and how you can spend that thing. The government from Washington, D.C. Also the federal government say you may do 60--, 65 cost to [inaudible] the road, but that's the federal government. The federal government said, let's be [inaudible] with all people in the United States. The federal government come down and decide where you can put that [inaudible] and how we spend that money. That's the federal government. Not the County. That's the federal government, and if you [inaudible], the money will go back to Washington, D.C., and Washington, D.C., will put to somebody else. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Pierce. We appreciate you appearing before us.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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

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

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VIII. TABLED/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 place before the Commissioners for consideration.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE \$184,800 LOAN PROCEEDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS FOR TWO COMPACTOR REFUSE TRUCKS; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$243,700 FOR WIDENING OF MALL BOULEVARD FROM MALL WAY TO HODGSON MEMORIAL DRIVE.**

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

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Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I ask you a question just for information, please? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner DeLoach said, Item #1 in the Individual Actions—. Chairman Hair said, yes, sir. Commissioner DeLoach asked, why are we paving Mall Boulevard from Mall Way to Hodgson Memorial? Why are we doing that? Isn't that the City? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, it was, and I believe it says in the staff report there was an agreement going back a few years wherein the County agreed to participate because of the high traffic nature of that and this is following up to complete the project. Commissioner Odell said, so we didn't have to do it, but we agreed to do it. County Manager Abolt said, y'all agreed to it ago couple of years ago, I believe, sir. Commissioner Odell said, they did. County Manager Abolt said, the 10th of July 1996. Commissioner Odell said, yes, that would have been y'all. Chairman Hair said, that's right, Harris [Odell]. Harris [Odell] is correct. We didn't vote on that, did we, Harris [Odell]? Commissioner DeLoach said, so why did we do that now, Russ [Abolt]? I know, I was one of the ones that—. Commissioner Price said, sharing of road projects throughout the County and the City. County Manager Abolt said, it had to do with the east/west corridor study and there were a variety of things that led up to it, but it was felt to be in the mutual benefit of the—. Commissioner Price said, we've paved other roads in the city limits of Savannah. Chairman Hair said, it was just like the swap—, also Stephenson Avenue where there was a swapping of which ones and—, I remember reading about that. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, actually this—, I mean, there was money funded for the Stephenson Avenue—. County Manager Abolt said, I'm reading it now and it does bring to mind—, Commissioner Price is right on. There was an issue leading up to the east/west traffic and how that might be paid for as far as a study of the different alternatives. The Mayor came before you, some City Councilmen, and the way it was worked out there was going to be a swapping of projects. SPLOST money could not be used for that study so, in effect, you took the SPLOST money, did this, the City freed that money up and did the east/west corridor. Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the following: a Capital Improvement Fund Budget Amendment to recognize \$184,800 Loan Proceeds for Public Works for two compactor refuse trucks; a One Percent Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) Contingency transfer of \$243,700 for widening of Mall Boulevard from Mall Way to Hodgson Memorial Drive. Commissioners Jackel and Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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- 2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH A VERTICAL EXPANSION OF THE THOMAS AVENUE LANDFILL.**

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, I mentioned this in my transmittal of the budget a few days ago, and it's essential we feel to prolong the life of one of our landfills, Thomas Avenue. We choose to do that through a technique called vertical expansion. That will gain for us as much as 10 to 15 years of additional capacity. We're asking permission to proceed with an engineering study. Whatever expense is associated, assuming we get the permit for this, would come from the Landfill and Waste Management budget.

Chairman Hair asked, any questions? Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to proceed with a vertical expansion of the Thomas Avenue Landfill and amend the Solid Waste Management Plan. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF REVISED FINANCIAL PROCEDURES RELATING TO SAVANNAH SWIM TEAM AND CHATHAM COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER.

Chairman Hair said, this is basically a housekeeping item. We discussed this yesterday at agenda review, Mr. Abolt, and that's what you explained. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair asked, any questions? The Chair will entertain a motion.

Commissioner Price said, there's no—. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what is it? Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, hold on. Chairman Hair said, this is not a contract or anything. It's just internal financial duties. County Manager Abolt said, yes. It's to ensure that there is a segregation of funds collected for private purposes. Chairman Hair said, yes, that's basically—. Commissioner Price asked, why does that require our approval? County Manager Abolt said, to officially recognize it, sir. It's essential. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. All those in favor—, do I have a second? The Clerk said, you don't have a second. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. [NOTE: The motion was previously made by Commissioner Saussy.] Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the revised financial procedures relating to Savannah Swim Team and Chatham County Aquatic Center. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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

- **BRIDGES/PUBLIC WORKS - BRIDGE TENDER (ONE POSITION)**
- **MAGISTRATE COURT - JUDICIAL CASE MANAGER AND THE RESULTING VACANCY (TWO POSITIONS)**

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

Chairman Hair said, Frank [Murray], you'll appreciate the fact that Harris [Odell] voted for you [unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Price said, I'm the one that got up and went over there and pushed his button. Commissioner Murray said, I wasn't going to make any big deal about it, I just pushed the red button. Chairman Hair said, well, you were voting in absentia. I just wanted you to know that you didn't lose any continuity here.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Bridges/Public Works, Bridge Tender (one position); Magistrate Court, Judicial Case Manager and the resulting vacancy (two positions). Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, the Action Calendar, Commissioner Jackel, what do you want to pull off? Commissioner Jackel said, G, H, K—. Chairman Hair said, G, H, K, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, M. Chairman Hair said, and M. Commissioner

Murray said, I want to pull 10. Chairman Hair said, and Commissioner Murray wants to pull 10. Anybody else want to pull anything? Commissioner Odell said, 13-K. Chairman Hair said, 13—, he’s already pulled that, Commissioner Jackel pulled that. Commissioner Odell asked, Martin [Jackel] pulled that? Chairman Hair said, he pulled K. Commissioner Price said, G, H, K and—. Commissioner Odell asked, why did you pull K in my district? Commissioner Jackel said, because I was going to congratulate you on [inaudible].

Chairman Hair asked, okay, any others? Okay, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 10, 13-G, 13-H, 13-K and 13-M. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 23, 1998, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 23, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 15 THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period October 15, 1998, through October 28, 1998, in the amount of \$4,631,906. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES CHATHAM COUNTY BUDGET FOR FOOD STAMP DISTRIBUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1998, THROUGH JUNE 30, 1999.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the Georgia Department of Human Resources Chatham County Budget for Food Stamp Distribution for fiscal year July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EARLY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY MARGIE T. WEST, 1412 FORSYTHE ROAD, TRUMAN PARKWAY PHASE III. [DISTRICT 1.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve early acquisition of property owned by Margie T. West, 1412 Forsythe Road, Truman Parkway Phase III. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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- 5. **REQUEST FROM HALLMARK DEVELOPMENT, INC., THROUGH THEIR AGENT, EMC ENGINEERING, FOR APPROVAL TO RECORD THE FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR HERON CREST VILLAS, PHASE 1.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Hallmark Development, Inc., through their agent, EMC Engineering, to record the final subdivision plat for Heron Crest Villas, Phase 1. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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- 6. **REQUEST FROM EMC ENGINEERING, AGENT FOR HERON CREST DEVELOPERS, FOR APPROVAL OF THE IMPROVEMENTS, TO BEGIN THE 12-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD AND TO REDUCE THE BOND AMOUNT FOR EAGLE’S LANDING SUBDIVISION (ALSO KNOWN AS HERON’S CREST SUBDIVISION PHASE 4).
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from EMC Engineering, agent for Heron Crest Developers, for approval of the improvements, to begin the 12-month warranty period and to reduce the bond amount for Eagle’s Landing Subdivision (also known as Heron’s Crest Subdivision Phase 4). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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- 7. **REQUEST FROM HUSSEY, GAY, BELL & DEYOUNG, INC., ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, SOUTH TRUST BANK OF GEORGIA, N.A., TO RELEASE THE REMAINING BOND FOR LONG POINT SUBDIVISION, PHASE 8.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the Request from Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung, Inc., engineer for the developer, South Trust Bank of Georgia, N.A., to release the remaining bond for Long Point Subdivision, Phase 8. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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- 8. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CELLULAR ONE TO USE THE TOWER SITE LOCATED AT THE SHERIFF’S COMPLEX.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve an agreement with Cellular One to use the tower site located at the Sheriff’s Complex. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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- 9. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF LEASE FINANCING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$184,800 FOR PUBLIC WORKS HEAVY EQUIPMENT WITH G. E. CAPITAL AT AN INTEREST RATE OF 4.52% OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve lease financing in the amount of \$184,800 for Public Works heavy equipment with G. E. Capital at an interest rate of 4.52% over a period of five years. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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**10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A REQUEST BY THE SAVANNAH KENNEL CLUB TO SPONSOR A DOG SHOW AT L. SCOTT STELL COMMUNITY PARK.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Commissioner Murray said, I just wanted to pull it to give the people an opportunity to speak on it because I think they had some questions.

Mr. Jim Golden said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, we have over 900 dogs coming to Chatham County throughout the Southeast, and this is a special function of dog shows sponsored by the Savannah Kennel Club. We have Ms. Glenda Goff here, who wishes to talk on their behalf. As you're well aware, dogs—, we have dogs—, we have rules and regulations prohibiting in our recreation areas. This is a situation which we have to bring forth to you to give the proper determination in that respect. Chairman Hair said, you know, Mr. Golden, we had the County Manager's daughter's dog the other day at Lake Mayer. We didn't—, I don't think we voted on that, did we, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Chairman Hair said, I just wanted to clarify that for the record. Commissioner Odell said, but we would have—. Chairman Hair said, we would have approved it if—, if Mr. Abolt had brought it to us, we would have approved it. County Manager Abolt said, my child appreciates that. Commissioner Saussy asked, can we vote on it after the fact? Chairman Hair said, we probably need to ratify that.

Chairman Hair said, go right ahead, Ms. Goff.

Ms. Glenda Goff said, the Savannah Kennel Club has been holding dog shows for the past 55 years, not always in Savannah because there have not been places available to have them. The past four years we've held our show at Hunter Army Air Base and we were notified about five weeks ago maybe that it would be unavailable to us because they had not gone through their step-down procedures. So we have always wanted to hold the show within our community. Before it's been held in Jekyll Island, it's been held in Statesboro, which is certainly inconvenient for the members of the club. Now for the past 10 years we have also had obedience entries at our show and will also continue to do that. It is a great family-oriented thing, and it's a wonderful economic impact on the community, and I would like to know if you gentlemen have any questions?

Chairman Hair said, we certainly appreciate you bringing it to the park. I think it is great, and we appreciate all the work that you've put into this. Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Commissioner Murray said, second. Did you have any questions on the—? Ms. Goff said, I have questions about the fees. I find them very confusing. I'm not quite sure what they're all for. Chairman Hair asked, could we get that clarified, Mr. Golden?

Mr. Golden said, we have a space rental fee of \$200 a day and separated for a function, and they're also going to have recreation campers at night. It doesn't limit the number, but it's just charged a flat rate. They can bring their campers and camp over night. Chairman Hair asked, is that per camper or is that total? Mr. Golden said, no, sir, that's total. Chairman Hair said, one fee for all campers. Mr. Golden said, one fee for all. Does that clarify your question?

Ms. Goff said, it clarifies the question. There could be another fee involved. The only other thing I would like to bring up is that two years ago we made \$900 profit on the show. We donated \$1,000. Last year we made \$100. We have not donated anything yet. Even though we are not a non-profit entity, we are not for profit, and other than withholding money to run your next year's show, you donate to the public. It's always, you know, for the good of the animals, and this is my only comment where fees are concerned.

Chairman Hair asked, would you—, are you requesting a waiver or a reduction or—? Ms. Goff said, I'm requesting either a waiver or a reduction. County Manager Abolt said, allow us to—. Commissioner Saussy asked, what about the campers? I mean, you're going to—, the campers are going to come—. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, just allow us some discretion in working with them without creating any type of precedent. We'll be glad to be sensitive—. Chairman Hair asked, you want to do that? Just let the staff work that out? County Manager Abolt said, please let us. Chairman Hair asked, does anybody object to that? All right, we have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. We thank you very much again for the time and effort you folks are putting in. We know it's a lot of work. I'll try to get out there myself. Ms. Goff said, I wish you would. Chairman Hair said, I love dogs. I'll try to get out there. Ms. Goff said, thank you. Chairman Hair asked, none of them will bite, will they? Do they like politicians, do those dogs like politicians? Ms. Goff said, just don't tell them what you do. Chairman Hair said, oh, okay. So we won't tell them we're politicians. Okay, I feel better now. Commissioner Rivers said, they'll sniff you out.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a request by the Savannah Kennel Club to sponsor a dog show at L. Scott Stell Community Park and authorized the County Manager discretion in working with them regarding waiver or partial waiver of the [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.] fee without creating any type of precedent. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND CHATHAM COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BASKETBALL COURT ADJACENT TO TREMONT COMMUNITY PARK.

[DISTRICT 8.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Savannah and Chatham County and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement for the construction of a basketball court adjacent to Tremont Community Park. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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12. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73,860, APPROVE SELECTION OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to accept a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of \$73,860, approve selection of Billy Knight, a member of the Savannah/Chatham Board of Public Education, Daniel E. DeLoach, Superior Court Administrator, Larry Chisholm, Assistant District Attorney, Rick Pryor, member of the Board of Directors for the Citizen’s Crime Commission, and Chief Thomas C. Sprague, or their designee, as an Advisory Board with the mandate to make a non-binding recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding the use of funds received from the Grant Program, and schedule a public hearing regarding the proposed use of the Block Grant funds where the Advisory Board’s recommendation will be received on November 20, 1998. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas were not present.]

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13. 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. Two (2) year lease agreement for two (2) motorcycle units | Police | Vic’s Harley Davidson | \$5,760 annual cost | SSD - Police |
| B. Declare Police vehicle as surplus and authorize disposal as scrap metal | Police | N/A | N/A | Revenue producing |
| C. Amendment to the agreement to relocate a portion of the City’s 24" water line located adjacent to Jimmy DeLoach Parkway and the Crossroads Business Center | SPLOST | City of Savannah | \$42,099 | SPLOST (1985-1993) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Phase I |
| D. First renewal option to annual contract to provide security services | Tybee Pier | Westside Security of Savannah (MBE) | \$20,851 | General Fund/M & O - Tybee Pier and Pavilion |
| E. First renewal option to annual contract to provide pest control services | Various | Cox Termite and Pest Control | \$19,000 | •General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various |
| F. Change order No. 1 to the month-to-month landfill attendant contract to include attendant services at the Wilmington Island Landfill | Solid Waste | Retha Scruggs | \$2,000/month | Solid Waste Fund |
| G. Technical surveillance equipment | CNT | Accuquest Corporation (sole source) | \$16,763 | Confiscated Funds - CNT |
| H. Technical surveillance equipment | CNT | Detection Dynamics | \$15,075 | Confiscated Funds - CNT |
| I. First renewal option to annual contract to provide oils and lubricants | Fleet Operations | Texaco, Inc. | Estimated annual cost \$18,534 | General Fund/M & O - Fleet Operations |

| ITEM | DEPT. | SOURCE | AMOUNT | FUNDING |
|---|------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| J. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide lawn care service at various Chatham County libraries | Library | Charlie's Lawn Care (MBE) | \$480 per month | General Fund/M & O - Libraries |
| K. Contract for the design/build of Tatemville Community Center and Pavilion | SPLOST | DMK Construction (WBE)/L. Scott Barnard, Architect | \$470,460 | SPLOST (1993-1998) - Tatemville Community Center |
| L. First renewal option to annual contract to provide right-of-way acquisition services | SPLOST | Moreland Altobelli | \$3,250 per parcel | •SPLOST (1985-1993) •SPLOST (1993-1998) •SPLOST (1998-2003) Roads and Drainage •CIP - Drainage and other |
| M. Contract to continue providing housing and programs for juvenile offenders at the Sheriff's Complex | Detention Center | State Department of Children and Youth Services | \$552,520 value to County | Revenue producing |

Items A, B, C, D, E, F, I, J, and L

Commissioner Price moved to approve the Action Calendar in its entirety with the exceptions of Items G, H, K and M. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner DeLoach and Commissioner Thomas were not present.]

* * *

Items G and H

- G. TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, CNT, ACCUQUEST CORPORATION (SOLE SOURCE), \$16,763, CONFISCATED FUNDS - CNT.
- H. TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, CNT, DETECTION DYNAMICS, \$15,075, CONFISCATED FUNDS - CNT.

Commissioner Jackel said, this involves Items G and H. It's the same thing. We had several items on the last previous meeting. Mr. George Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel asked, are we going to have more of this? I mean, I understand we need the equipment, but where are we? Is this the end for a while or is there more—? Mr. Lynch said, to the best of my knowledge it is. I could be wrong, but to the best of my knowledge it is.

Chairman Hair said, the Commander was here earlier. I don't see him now. Mr. Lynch said, he had to leave, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Chairman, I can respond to it. Commander Smith was very careful in how he chose to use his confiscated funds. I was not getting onto him. I don't want [inaudible] final word, but there was some capital leads that I felt he could legitimately respond to by using confiscated funds. Going through his budget review and others, I felt and encouraged him to use confiscated funds because it was getting to be a fairly large amount of money and there was some obvious needs that he needed.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, the only thing that concerns me here is when we get these things we've got technical surveillance equipment, we've got some \$31,000 this time, and I don't remember how much it was last time, but we might look a little bit harder at this so it might be a better purchasing deal if everything was purchased at one time, certainly more than nickel and dime stuff. Commissioner DeLoach said, I think that's an excellent idea. I want to get my Harley at the same time y'all get y'all's. Commissioner Jackel said, that's right. Commissioner DeLoach said, I like that. Mr. Lynch said, thank you for the compliment, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, we appreciate that also.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, it looks to me like that the proper planning is not being done when it's piecemeal like it appears to be. County Manager Abolt said, it wasn't piecemeal as far as the approval of the use of the confiscated funds. The way it came through on the Purchasing Report though it came in a series of [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, a lot of them might have to do with how long it takes to write specs and get it out and bid it and that sort of thing. Mr. Lynch said, a lot of it also, sir, is that what you're doing is enhancing existing equipment. Chairman Hair said, sole sourcing it. Mr. Lynch said, and fundamentally to make it all play together, certainly you go out and test the market, but fundamentally, you're trying to make sure you've got equipment that when you make the additions isn't going to start being useless.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

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Item K

CONTRACT FOR THE DESIGN/BUILD OF TATEMVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER AND PAVILION, SPLOST, DMK CONSTRUCTION (WBE)/L. SCOTT BARNARD, ARCHITECT, \$470,460, SPLOST (1993-1998) - TATEMVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Jackel said, I was just going to say I'm just thrilled to see this on here and I want to take the chance to applaud my colleague and good friend, Commissioner Harris Odell, for his constant vigilance in keeping this thing moving forward and now it's finally here. You're owed a—. Chairman Hair asked, how do you feel, Commissioner Odell? Commissioner Odell said, warm and fuzzy. Chairman Hair said, in that case I'm going to slide my chair a little further down this way. Commissioner Price said, when one attorney talks about another attorney—. Chairman Hair said, that's what scares me. You've got one attorney complimenting another attorney, and I'm sitting between both of them.

Commissioner Jackel said, he's done a lot of hard work on this and it would be my pleasure to allow him to make the motion to approve it and I would like the pleasure of seconding it.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make the motion that we approve the staff's recommendation, Alternative #1. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, and we have a second. Commissioner Murray wants to make a comment.

Commissioner Murray said, I just wanted to say that if it had not been for us getting the one on Wilmington Island you wouldn't have this. You know that don't you? Commissioner Odell said, I know that. Commissioner Murray said, but I'll support it. Chairman Hair said, y'all remember that when we get to the [inaudible], right?

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

* * *

Item M

CONTRACT TO CONTINUE PROVIDING HOUSING AND PROGRAMS FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS AT THE SHERIFF'S COMPLEX, DETENTION CENTER, STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES, \$552,520 VALUE TO THE COUNTY, REVENUE PRODUCING.

Commissioner Jackel said, we've got a half million dollars here and I have no idea what this is about after reading the report. Chairman Hair said, well, the Sheriff's fixing to tell us. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, good.

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, when they changed the law, I don't know, three or four years ago, where one of the Superior Court judges, on one of the seven deadly sins they're going to try a juvenile as an adult, the court order directed me, the Sheriff, to keep that juvenile, okay. We probably have in there right now of the 35 or 40 we have about 8 or 10 of them our local juveniles. Because you have to keep them separated, they can't have contact with adult offenders, we worked out a deal, so to speak, or a contract with the State where we could hold other juveniles in that 56-bed wing and they would pay us \$50 a day, whatever it is, but they also in turn would pay us for our locals, which they don't have to. That's why it's revenue producing. If we could take them out of the jail completely, I'd be in favor of that even though it's revenue producing because I could use the space. My count yesterday morning was 1,426 inmates in that jail. But it is revenue producing. We've got to have a place to keep the local juveniles because the court order says I have to keep them. The other ones in there are from throughout the State. They're probably those that are—, they can't manage very well, so they send them to me. Now I have no difficulty with them. That's not a problem, but they do pay. They pay the per diem rate per day that we told them they had to pay, and I don't know other than to tell you it's revenue producing. We need the room, but I've got to keep some anyway. Commissioner Jackel said, I am glad to hear that. That's—, I just couldn't tell from the thing, so I wanted to ask. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Jackel said, I think that clarifies it and that's wonderful. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

- 1. **PETITIONER, BENJAMIN E. GAY, AGENT (FOR SPEIR AND BROGDON, OWNER) IS REQUESTING THAT A 42.37 ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF LITTLE NECK ROAD APPROXIMATELY 4.6 MILES WEST OF U.S. HIGHWAY 17 SOUTH, BE REZONED FROM R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURAL) TO A PD-R-SM (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-RECLAMATION-SURFACE MINING) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO MINE A 9.03 ACRE BORROW PIT FOR FUTURE CONVERSION INTO A FISH POND WITH 35 ADJACENT SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE PETITIONER’S REQUEST BE APPROVED.
MPC FILE NO. 98-12355-C
DISTRICT 7**

Chairman Hair read this item into the record as first reading.. Commissioner DeLoach asked, Mr. Gay, can I—. Can I ask Mr. Gay something before he leaves. Chairman Hair said, yes, I just don't want to get into discussion. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's not a discussion. I just want to get information from him concerning that before the next meeting. I just wanted to get—. An opportunity—. I'd like—, just call me on the phone and let's—, I want to—. Chairman Hair said, he would just like to talk to you about this item before the two weeks from now when we bring it back up, Mr. Gay. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, when it comes back in two weeks. Before two weeks. Thank you, sir.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Gay. We appreciate you being here.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Item read into the record as first reading.

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- 2. **CHATHAM COUNTY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE REGISTRATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS AND DEFINITIONS.**

Chairman Hair read this item into the record as First Reading.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Item read into the record as first reading.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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2. STATUS ON MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR HENDERSON GOLF CLUB.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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3. INFORMATION REPORT ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT.

Chairman Hair said, I don't see Gregori [Anderson], Russ [Abolt]. Is he here. County Manager Abolt said, this is just information. Chairman Hair said, oh, I'm sorry. I thought you said you wanted to do a presentation. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, not on that.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, we have a meeting on that immediately after this. Chairman Hair said, okay, very good.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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4. INFORMATION REPORT ON VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT AUCTION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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5. INFORMATION REPORT ON STATUS OF SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSITION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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APPOINTMENTS

1. TIDELANDS COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD - TAMMY COX

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to appoint Tammy Cox to the Tidelands Community Service Board as representative on the Board for Substance Abuse to replace Linda Parsons Quarterman, which term will expire June 30, 2000. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. CHATHAM-SAVANNAH AUTHORITY FOR THE HOMELESS - JULIE MAJORS

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to appoint Julie Majors to the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless to replace Louisa Abbot, which term will expire June 9, 2001. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1998

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK