

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 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, December 18, 1998.

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II. INVOCATION

Mr. Van Johnson gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four David L. Saussy, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two (arrived approximately 9:18 a.m.) Martin S. Jackel, District Three Ben Price, District Six Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven
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ABSENT:	Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
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IN ATTENDANCE:	Russ Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. MYSTERY CUSTOMER AWARDS

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt. County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, our Human Resources staff are ready to go.

Mr. Van Johnson said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, together we pause to celebrate the very best that Chatham County has to offer in our employees. Last year you adopted a recognition program to reward the employee that when the quality customer service [sic] and in a mystery customer program our random mystery customer in an unknown frequency visits County departments

inquiring about services. This mystery customer might be irate, the issue might be calm and accommodating. Our aim is to ensure that consistent quality service is rendered by all County employees in all County departments. Our mystery customer has returned from his or her hiatus and was once again visiting County departments, interacting with County employees. Three employees were visited and three employees received high marks. In recognition of their commitment to quality customer service, they will receive \$50 —, just in time for the holidays —, and a certificate, and we bring them before you at this time. We have Anne Galetta from the State Court Judge's Office. Anne [Galetta] has been employed with the Judicial Case Manager for two years, next week actually, and she's accompanied by Judge Fowler. [Laughter and inaudible comments]. County Manager Abolt said, we'll show that to the TV camera. Van Scrooge. The check's in the mail. [Inaudible.] County Manager Abolt said, if you want to say bah humbug, go ahead. Ms. Galetta said, thank you very much.

Judge Gregory Fowler said, first of all, we're all very grateful for the hard work that Anne Galetta does in our State Court Clerk's Office. Obviously, she's getting this award so she does her job efficiently, effectively and she does it always with a smile, and I'm here to say thank you to here this morning and to congratulate her and also say thank you for the program that y'all put in place to recognize outstanding employees like Anne [Galetta], who work so hard for us all. Thank you.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I'd like to second what the Judge had to say. It's been my experience to come up to State Court and Anne Galetta always has a smile on her face and is always willing to help anyone who needs help, and is very courteous and understanding of some of us attorneys who get confused up there and don't know where we're going or what we're doing and points us in the right direction, and we really appreciate it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, thank you very much. Thank you for the good job that you do.

Mr. Johnson said, our second recipient today is Nancy Shiver, who's the Law Librarian, and she's been with us since March of 1988.

Ms. Nancy Shiver said, thank you. I would like to thank the Department of Human Resources, the County Commissioners for making this award possible. It was a nice surprise and I hope it will give other employees an incentive to give good customer service. Thank you very much.

Mr. Johnson said, and our final recipient is Kathryn Prescott from the Tax Commissioner's Office, and she's been with us as Tag/Tax Processor since November of 1997, and she's accompanied by the Tax Commissioner, Mr. Danny Powers.

Tax Commissioner Powers said, I'd just like to echo what the Judge said. Kathy [Prescott] is a very conscientious and dedicated employee and I'm just glad to have her in my department. Thank you.

Ms. Prescott said, I want to thank you. I started my life over when I came to the County, and it's very hard, but I love people, I love my job and I love the people I work with, and that's what makes a difference.

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2. PROCLAMATION FOR BEN SPENCER, BRANCH DIRECTOR, HABERSHAM YMCA (CHAIRMAN HAIR).

Chairman Hair said, now it's my pleasure to present a proclamation to Mr. Ben Spencer, who is —, Ben [Spencer] has been in Savannah for quite some time working at the Y, so I'm going to ask if Mr. Spencer, and I believe, Rev. Hubbard, I believe you're present for the board there, and anybody else that wants to come up. I'd like to read the proclamation. Chairman Hair then read the following proclamation:

Mr. Ben Spencer said, well, I thank the Commission for taking time this morning for this honor. It certainly has been an honor for me to be a member of this community and be active. A lot of you I know have had or still have relationships with the Y either as members on their boards or as advisors, so you all know what we do. We work hard at it and we're proud of everything. We're proud of the growth that we've had in the same time that y'all have been leading the growth of this County so we've marched together forward. I appreciate this honor today and thank everybody for it, and this fellow is in deep trouble right here. Thank you.

Rev. Hubbard said, I want to say thank you also, Dr. Hair. It was a pleasure to Habersham Branch, also [inaudible] thank you. We appreciate it. Ben [Spencer] has been a great asset to our community, and I'm glad we could do this kind of event. Thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF THREE (3) BOARDS OF EQUALIZATION AS AUTHORIZED BY GEORGIA LAW.

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Commissioners' items. The first is our annual approval that we have to do for the Board of Equalization and the item is "Request Board Approval of a Resolution to Provide for the Use of Three Boards of Equalization as Authorized by Georgia State Law." I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked,

is there a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to adopt a resolution to provide for the use of three (3) Boards of Equalization as authorized by Georgia Law. Commissioners Saussy and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

By unanimous consent, Items XII-1 and XIII-3, respectively, were moved up and were heard at this point on the agenda.

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YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Saussy I would like to introduce our Youth Commissioners. Reuben Formey, who is a senior at Beach High School. We're glad to have you, Reuben, and we have Yen-Chieh Tseng, a junior at Windsor Forest, and as we proceed with debate, if you'd like to make a comment, raise your hand and I'll recognize you and I'll be glad to proceed.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. HOME OCCUPATION IN MOBILE HOME PARK, MR. ALVIN DOTY VARIANCE REQUEST (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Doty lives in a mobile home park and he wants to—, he hasn't started it yet, but he wants to operate a catalog business, and under the present ordinance this is not allowed in a mobile home park, whereas it would be if you were in a regular home somewhere else, and I'd just—, I'm going to let Greg—, I'd like for Greg [Anderson] to explain this to us and see if we can't alleviate some of this and help this gentleman out. It will not—, it would not be where you've got trucks coming in all the time. It's strictly catalog and picking up the phone and calling in like we are—, or either on the Internet, like we do now.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Gregori Anderson.

Mr. Anderson said, yes, good morning. This particular request is located at 9481 Whitfield Avenue, Lot #35-A, and it is as Commissioner Saussy described. It's a mail order business that the applicant is requesting a home occupation certificate to be able to conduct his business. Under the current mobile home park ordinance, this body does have the authority to grant a variance to allow him to conduct that business in the home—, mobile home park, which the ordinance itself does not allow.

Chairman Hair asked, any further discussion? The Chair will entertain a motion. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I don't see a problem with this at all. I think this, the mail catalog or however you want to describe it, type business if it's allowed in a home, it should be allowed in a mobile home also because you don't have the traffic coming and going, and quite frankly, they can do this business and we'd never know about it. So at least we can generate some revenue from that, and I would support it if you make a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, I would make a motion.

Commissioner Jackel said, I would—. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to make a comment? Commissioner Jackel said, I would like to know more about it. Is it going to generate people coming and going or is it—? Chairman Hair said, no, he just said it did not. He just said it's strictly—. Commissioner Murray said, it's a catalog business. Chairman Hair said, that's what he says. Commissioner Jackel said, well, are people going to be coming there to pick up items? Mr. Anderson said, well, certainly, if it is the will of the Commission to grant this variance, there are provisions in the mobile home park—, excuse me, in the occupational tax ordinance that he will have to live up to. One is that there will be no traffic to the location, there is no advertisement on the site, those kinds of things. So, if it is the will of this Commission to grant this variance, there are a list of things that he has to comply with which prohibits that concern.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Saussy made a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, I just made a motion. Commissioner Murray said, and I second. Chairman Hair said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the request of Mr. Alvin Doty for a variance to the Mobile Home Park Ordinance to allow him to operate a catalog business at his mobile home located at 9481 Whitfield Avenue, Lot #35-A.

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

None.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A GENERAL FUND M & O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT TEMPORARY POOL FROM STATE OF GEORGIA OF \$79,250 FOR COST OF TEMPORARY POOL (\$21,250), OVERTIME (\$4,000), TO PLACE CHILD ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEES UNDER THE STATE APPROVED PAY SCALE RETROACTIVE TO OCTOBER 1, 1998 (\$49,510), AND TO INCREASE CONTINGENCY (\$4,490) OF \$66,000 FOR RENEWAL OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON JULY 24, 1998, CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$7,000 TO ANIMAL CONTROL TO COVER TERMINAL PAY OF A LONG-TERM EMPLOYEE, AND \$55,710 TO SHERIFF FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT; AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$7,000 FROM TYBEE PAVILION BUDGET TO PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET FOR OVERTIME (\$2,000) AND PROFESSIONAL FEES (\$5,000) AND AN INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS OF \$5,040 FROM BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO OVERTIME AND \$3,000 FROM TAX COMMISSION MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO OVERTIME; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE A \$15,000 DONATION FROM THE WEST BROAD STREET Y.M.C.A. FOR ADDITIONAL WORK ON THE RENOVATION OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING, CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$153,660 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR AGGREGATE-SURFACED PARKING LOTS IN PROXIMITY OR ADJACENT TO THE AQUATIC CENTER AND SOCCER COMPLEX AND \$393,200 TO THE TRADE CENTER PROJECT AND AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$1 MILLION FROM WHITFIELD AVENUE TO THE HUTCHINSON ISLAND INTERCHANGE/BOULEVARD PROJECT; A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND M & O CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$10,000 TO MOSQUITO CONTROL FOR A REPLACEMENT COPIER; SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS OF \$54,000 TO PUBLIC WORKS FOR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND \$66,680 TO POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. I have a question too. Commissioner Murray and then I'll give my question.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], on the transfer of the \$7,000 from the Tybee Pavilion budget to Parks and Recreation for overtime, is that overtime that was paid because of the pavilion? Did the pavilion generate this overtime? County Manager Abolt said, yes. We're dealing with a situation you all discussed at your last meeting where, in effect, the services of the pier and pavilion or the band shell are rendered with no compensation from the beneficiary, we must cover that expense because there are real dollars, and Mr. Golden looks within his budget and we shift funds around without having to go to Contingency. Commissioner Murray said, my question was though was this money, the \$7,000 in overtime, was it overtime because of the Tybee Pier and Pavilion? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, because in effect—. Commissioner Murray asked, it was generated there? County Manager Abolt said, activities at the pier for which we did not charge. Commissioner Murray said, okay, the other question I have is the transfer of the \$1 million from Whitfield Avenue to Hutchinson Island. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, is this the same type transfer that we were trying to make with the Interchange—? County Manager Abolt said, not quite. Commissioner Murray said, money that was down on the Island? County Manager Abolt said, the Chair—, yes, well, the Chairman met with Commissioner Shackelford during your last meeting. There's a cash flow issue with the State of Georgia Department of Transportation. This is a legitimate way of doing it without endangering the project. Commissioner Murray said, all right, I—.

Chairman Hair said, this money's going to go back. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, this money will go back. Commissioner Murray said, if that money is guaranteed to go back. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Murray said, there will be no problem with it going back into there. Chairman Hair said, no, no. This gets back to—, this is a cash flow with DOT.

Commissioner Murray said, the other question I have is the Special Service District Fund Contingency transfer of \$54,000 to Public Works for vehicles and the \$66,000 for Police Department vehicles. I know we need vehicles, but we've got another section coming up under the Action Calendar where there's tons of money being allocated for things too. Is that going to leave—, once we—, if everything we have in our agenda book today is approved for expenditures, is that going to leave the \$66,000 still in—? County Manager Abolt said, we zero out our Contingency. What I'm doing is here I'm—, I'm not running a risk because certainly—. Commissioner Murray said, we won't have any Contingency left. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. What has happened, I sent y'all a memorandum about two weeks ago from Mr. Lynch and Mr. Chatham saying that as our plans are, wait until we have the fund balance in April to replace vehicle, he would anticipate anywhere between \$150,000 and \$300,000 additional expense we would

incur in just keeping the clunkers rolling on the street. I took it upon myself to ask staff to utilize the last bit of our identified Contingencies in M&O and SSD based on need to replace vehicles. This expenditure will obviate some of that maintenance cost. Also, heaven forbid we were to have a storm or something that might require Contingency use between now and the end of the calendar year, these vehicle would not all be purchased by that time and we could come back and rethink it, but this is a way of trying to save dollars in the short term based on the fact that we don't have enough money to buy all the vehicles we should be replacing. Commissioner Murray said, so the \$54,000 plus the \$66,680 will come out of Special Service District Contingency—? County Manager Abolt said, it zeros it out. Commissioner Murray said, and that zeros it out? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. The same for M&O. Commissioner Murray said, and that's where I have a problem because of the \$18,000 that I was going to bring up at another point that I would like to see allocated to something that we're going to need by the year 2000, and I don't see the funds being allocated to do that, and this is a way of putting it in, and that would be for the voting booths or the poll booths that they will need for the year 2000, and I just felt like if we put \$18,000 in now and \$18,000 next year, we would be able to purchase those and have them in place.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, and I'm not trying to assume any action now when you come to the budget, but based on the information we've had, the relatively good news in our budget, I believe if that is your choice, that would be legitimately and consistent with your discussion on SPLOST excess collected on the last entitlement—. Commissioner Murray said, as long as we put that in there somewhere. County Manager Abolt said, so that by January you can do what you want to do.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Jackel said, there's \$10,000—, Frank [Murray] just covered virtually all of the things I had marked, but—. Commissioner Murray said, well, good. Commissioner Jackel said, right, we're just on the mind here. There's \$10,000 to Mosquito Control for replacement for a copier. There are about two or three other copiers further down on the agenda. They're all different—, they're all different prices. The prices seem high to me. I'm not sure everyone needs these super deluxe copiers that we're spending. County Manager Abolt said, my suggestion there, if you choose, of course, you can at the time you purchase, and I believe you're referring to items on the Purchasing Report, we can test the validity of why particular copiers are purchased. This just puts the money in place. The \$10,000 is not automatic. It'll come back on the Purchasing Report. Other items on your Purchasing Report can always be questioned as to whether or not they're needed. Commissioner Jackel said, well, there's three of them in there and they're some very experience copiers, and I understand why some of the bigger offices would need a copier like that, but I'm not sure why Mosquito Control would need such an expensive copier, and I'll get to the others when they come up at the appropriate time, but if that's the understanding that that's just going to be a budget item and then we're going to evaluate whether that type of copier is needed, I guess I can go along with it at this time, but—. County Manager Abolt said, you have complete control of the Purchasing Report, sir.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just want to ask Russ [Abolt] the question, and I don't know whether he misspoke or not. Did you say that this total—, monies that's coming from Central Services, Special Service District Funds from Contingency for Public Works and Police Department is coming out of Special Service, not any out of General M&O Funds? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. The vehicle replacement is uniform both to M&O and SSD, so I asked my staff to look at our Contingencies, and we have over \$100,000 in SSD Contingency and I believe sixty-some in M&O. So I'm saying, between now and the end of the year, to use a term I used in responding to Commissioner Murray, we're going to zero that out. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, but we've got—, all—, these vehicles are all Special Service. County Manager Abolt said, you also have some for the Sheriff in M&O too, sir, sixty-some thousand there. It's based on priority. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, you've got the Sheriff—. County Manager Abolt said, you have M&O and SSD treated in the same report.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? The Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: A General Fund M & O Budget Amendment to recognize additional Child Support Enforcement Temporary Pool from State of Georgia of \$79,250 for cost of Temporary Pool (\$21,250), overtime (\$4,000), to place Child Enforcement employees under the State approved pay scale retroactive to October 1, 1998 (\$49,510), and to increase Contingency (\$4,490) of \$66,000 for renewal of the District Attorney's Stop Violence Against Women Grant approved by the Board on July 24, 1998, contingency transfers of \$7,000 to Animal Control to cover terminal pay of a long-term employee, and \$55,710 to Sheriff for vehicle replacement; an inter-departmental transfer of \$7,000 from Tybee Pavilion budget to Parks and Recreation budget for overtime (\$2,000) and Professional Fees (\$5,000) and an intra-departmental transfers of \$5,040 from Building Maintenance and Operations Other contractual Services to Overtime and \$3,000 from Tax Commission Maintenance and Repairs to Overtime; a One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) budget amendment to recognize a \$15,000 donation from the West Broad Street Y.M.C.A. for additional work on the renovation of the original building, Contingency transfers of \$153,660 for construction of four aggregate-surfaced parking lots in proximity or adjacent to the Aquatic Center and Soccer Complex and \$393,200 to the Trade Center Project and an inter-departmental transfer of \$1 million from Whitfield Avenue to the Hutchinson Island Interchange/Boulevard project; a Capital Improvement Fund M & O Contingency transfer of \$10,000 to Mosquito Control for a replacement copier; Special Service District Fund Contingency transfers of \$54,000 to Public Works for vehicle and equipment replacement and \$66,680 to Police Department for vehicle replacement. Commissioner Price and Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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2. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE 1999 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS FOR CHATHAM COUNTY. (NOTE: SEPARATE ACTION REQUESTED IN THE ADOPTION OF CAT BUDGET AT THE REQUEST OF

FINANCE DIRECTOR. MR. LANSING WILL PROVIDE EXPLANATION ON USE OF RETAINED EARNINGS.)

Chairman Hair said, we will have to take two separate votes: one on the County budget and one on the CAT budget, at the request of the Finance Director. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas and members of the Board, this is consistent with your goal session and also is reflective of potential additional choices you may wish to make once we have the recommendation from the Financial Advisor on the issue of SPLOST. Let me explain one more time what that is. All the matters of the budget, I believe, have been fairly well addressed in your previous discussions, but the State law allows us that at the end of a collection period for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, if in that final quarter of collection funds received exceed the ballot title, in this case \$170 million, then the additional money collected can be used to offset County indebtedness. This has been something you've been working on for a number of weeks. Most recently you got a favorable opinion from the Attorney General based on the application from Jon Hart to that office. We have a sum that approximates \$4.3 million. We're asking our Financial Advisor, A. G. Edwards, to give us the best recommendation and, quite frankly, we don't have that yet. Everything has been happening very quickly. My suggestion when it comes to that, you allow yourself sufficient time, mid-January, once we have it, to look at all your options. This is the first time in my memory that this County Commission truly has some options that are not only worthwhile, but can have very long lasting implication, and so it would be premature for me to try force any disposition of that today, other than to say to you that you did receive testimony during your public hearing from certain departments. There were constitutional officers, they've been very cooperative, we've been able to narrow the gap in those departments wherein effect we still had an imbalance. We feel that once you do receive the recommendation from the Financial Advisor, you will have enough maneuvering room, if that's the proper term, to cover what amounts to be the slight imbalance of a little over \$200,000. Your reference Commissioner Murray did on the voting booths and whatever, that also legitimately could be considered at that time.

Chairman Hair said, I have one question for Russ [Abolt] before I recognize Commissioner DeLoach, and David [Persaud] might need to answer this, but before we get too spend happy with this \$4.3 million, we're probably talking about a considerable amount of time before we could go through the Financial Advisors and decide what debt to reduce and actually pay off the debt, so this money would not be available probably in the first half of the year, would it not? County Manager Abolt said, right now, sir—, I wouldn't want to mislead you. The money is in the bank earning interest. Chairman Hair said, that's not my question. Yes, but we can't use it right now, that's my point. I mean, until we pay off the debt service, so we probably are looking at mid-year at the earliest before any of that money would be available for other purposes. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, let me get the answer to my question, okay. County Manager Abolt said, that's not my understanding, but I'll defer to Mr. Persaud. Chairman Hair said, he was shaking his head yes when I asked the question. Time you go through your Financial Advisors and decide which debt to reduce, which is the most cost advantage, and then actually reduce the debt, pay off the bond, call the bonds or whatever you have to do, you're not talking about that money being available very soon, in the—, early in the year. Mr. Persaud said, I don't think we are looking at liquidating any total debt. We're probably going to be able to apply some of the funding to 1999 debt service, and that should happen very quickly, by the end of February at the most. County Attorney Hart said, short term debt. Mr. Persaud said, short term debt. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner DeLoach said, with that in mind, based on our—, the budget that we looked at originally and what the staff came back with us [sic], I'd like to go ahead and make a motion that we adopt the budget for Chatham County based on the outline that the staff gave us. The only option or addition to that that I would add is that I would like for us to see our way clear to find \$2 million to move towards the library and the Library Board in a restricted fund balance so that we could help open the library and fund the libraries in the year 1999. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Murray and then I'd like to comment.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I think we had finished with that discussion on the \$4.3 million, so I'm not going—. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, when we were—, at our last meeting when we had the CAT Board meeting I had made a motion during that to reduce that down—, that budget down on a recommendation to us for whatever that reassessment value was—. Commissioner Price said, point of order. We're going to take two separate votes, one on our—. Commissioner Murray said, I know that. I'm just—, okay. Commissioner Price said, pardon me. Commissioner Murray said, and, you know, I was told that, well, I'll have another chance when we get it, so what I am doing right now is making a motion that we reduce the Chatham County budget by that reevaluation figure that we had last year that we all had an opportunity to reduce at one time and we didn't do it.

Chairman Hair said, okay, so the motion is to reduce the Chatham County budget by the .18 mills to offset the CAT increase. Is that—? Commissioner Murray said, no, not the CAT. This is the County budget. We're on the County budget right now. Chairman Hair said, is it—. What would be—. Commissioner Murray said, that would be as an amendment. Chairman Hair asked, what would be the millage increase? County Manager Abolt said, well, if I understand it, based on one of the alternatives, it amounts to \$1.3 million spread over M&O, SSD and CAT. It's—, a mill in M&O is \$4 million, so it would be approximately a fourth of a mill. Chairman Hair asked, so you're talking about the entire rollback? Okay, we have a motion—, we have an amendment. Commissioner DeLoach, would you accept that amendment to decrease the millage? Commissioner DeLoach said, I accept that amendment. Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Saussy, do you accept it as second? Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Price asked, restate it for clarity. Commissioner Thomas said, restate your motion, yes. Chairman Hair said, the motion, as I understand it, is to approve the budget as presented by staff, with the addition of \$2 million in restricted Contingency for the library, and Commissioner Murray's amendment is to lower the millage to offset reevaluation. That's the motion with the amendment. Commissioner Price said, about a .4 mill reduction. County Manager Abolt said, it would actually—, it would affect M&O and affect SSD and CAT.

Commissioner Murray said, let me withdraw that amendment right now. I'll make that at a later time because I don't know if this motion is going to pass or not. Chairman Hair said, okay, withdraw the amendment. Commissioner Murray said, but I would like to—. Chairman Hair said, and then comment on the original motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray. He wants to comment, and do you want to comment? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes.

Commissioner Murray said, on the original motion I—, you know, I think we all support the library and what's going on with the library. I am not going to commit to setting aside \$2 million at this point, and the library has already received \$2 million once this year. There's another \$400,000 that will be discussed on this. There's more money that's gone into that budget and, you know, we have other things other than the library. The library certainly is a part of this community and I agree with that, but I do not agree that we keep putting money in and money in and money in. You know, we've been working on this project for a number of years now, since the referendum to set the money aside to build, and, you know, these things only came up last year as far as we're going to need money for this and we're going to need money for that. It should have been addressed long before now. It's going to take us a long time to get back to the point where we probably need to be with the library, but I am not here to support right now setting aside \$2 million to put in the Library Fund. That would have been a total of close to \$3 million—, close to—. Chairman Hair said, four and a half. Commissioner Murray said, \$4.5 million that we will be allocating for this year's budget for the library and, quite frankly, I don't think the citizens right now feel like that what's going on with that is what needs to happen with it, and I just—, I won't support that.

Chairman Hair said, I also would like to state my opposition to that. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, let me finish my comments please. Commissioner Rivers said, I think I—. Chairman Hair said, I would like to state my opposition to this \$2 million. Commissioner Murray is absolutely right. We've already given \$2 million, we've got another \$400,000 in this budget. That's \$2.4 million. We've got a lot of needs out there in this community far out—, you know, beyond the library. The library's extremely important, but it's not the only thing we've got out there. We've got Police, we've got EMS, we've got all kinds of needs out there in this community that we need to be addressing, and the library—, \$2.4 million increase. If you look at the percentage increase, that \$2.4 million, without this \$2 million, will be by far the largest percentage increase that any County department has gotten, and I think it's very difficult for us to justify that kind of increase to the library. We had a proposal at the last meeting that I think was a fair proposal, restrict the \$400,000 to keeping the inner city libraries open, work for a year with the School Board to open the libraries in the communities and phase them in gradually. That's a good solution, both short term and long term. To dump \$2 million more in this library right now is a bad idea in my personal opinion. Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner DeLoach. Oh, I'm sorry, Commissioner Rivers, and then Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, on this motion, I'll approve this budget. Now if we want to have some courage, and everybody was talking about courage to raise the millage, then you put that library outside and handle this on its own, and I'll see how many people really have support for this library. Chairman Hair said, well, that's not the motion on the floor. The motion on the floor is to approve the budget and an extra \$2 million. Commissioner Rivers asked, well, how are we going to add the \$2 million? Chairman Hair said, well, that's my question. I want to know where the \$2 million is going to come from? Commissioner Rivers said, that's the whole question, sir. If we want to add the \$2 million, let's approve this budget and put the library \$2 million on the floor.

Chairman Hair asked, where would the \$2 million come from? I mean, we've got a balanced budget, so how are you going to come up here at the 11th hour and add \$2 million to the budget. Where is the money going to come from? I'd like to know. Somebody tell me. Commissioner DeLoach, you made the motion, where's the money going to come from? Commissioner DeLoach said, I really don't have to answer that. Chairman Hair said, well, I tell you one thing—. Commissioner DeLoach said, you're not voting for it, so don't worry about it. Chairman Hair said, no, I'm certainly not going to vote for it. I'll tell you one thing, the citizens would like to know—. Commissioner DeLoach said, do let me have—. Chairman Hair said, if a Commissioner is going to raise money of \$2 million, I think the public needs to know where you're going to get that money from. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay—. Commissioner Jackel asked, aren't we required to pass a balanced budget? Commissioner DeLoach said, I think more than likely the monies will come from the Tax Commissioner's office. [Laughter.] That's where it's going to come from. Danny [Powers] is going to take care of it. No, seriously speaking—. Chairman Hair said, I think it's no laughing matter when you're talking about spending \$2 million of taxpayers money, this is serious business. Commissioner Thomas said, it is. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, well let me—. Chairman Hair said, and I would like to know where your proposal is to take \$2 million, where are you going to get the money from?

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll take \$2 million and add it just like I stated it, and if you can vote for it, vote for it. If you can't, don't, okay. Chairman Hair said, so you're asking us to vote for it, but we don't know—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not asking you to do anything. I put a motion—, I put a motion out there, and that's what I'm asking for. That's all. I don't care what you do. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Saussy said, well, I think the library has been the poor boy of this whole Commission for many, many, many years, and it's time that we did something to get it up to snuff. If we've got to cut it, somebody else—, I mean, I know we've given them a lot of money this year, and it was absolutely necessary, but if we're going to have a decent library in this County from now on, it's going to take us to bite the bullet and do it. Not only this year, but years to come. Now if we have to I would like for us to see us go to the Legislature and just designate just a certain portion of the millage just for the library from now on. Chairman Hair said, well, you can make that motion after we pass the budget. That would be appropriate to do that. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I just think we need to go ahead with this and do it. I think we can find the \$2 million. Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Saussy said, we seem to find it for everything else. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Saussy said, and we can find it for this.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I don't think that there's a question as to anyone's support for the library. I think everyone up here really supports the library, and I think that if we could find all the dollars that the library needs at this time, we certainly would put it into that, but my concern is the proposal for the inner city libraries that are closed or will be closed. I'd like to go along with the \$400,000 that is being proposed to the library with the consent of keeping those inner city libraries open. I'd like to know what alternative we have to offer if we do not go that route because you need to have something in place. Whenever you're taking something away, you need to have something in place as an alternative that will be viable for the people to use in those various communities, and that is my concern, and I think those are the concerns of the constituents that I represent in my district, and the other districts as well. So we need to look at it overall, and I don't think there is no qualm about supporting the library itself, but we need to look at it from an overall standpoint.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel, Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I believe we have to pass a balanced budget, and this is a balanced budget. I don't know that we can add or take anything—, money away that would put this balanced budget out of balance and still pass it. We're required to pass a balanced budget, so anything that's taken away from revenue we have to find the reductions in this budget before we could approve it would be my understanding. At the same time, if we want to add expenses to it, we've got to find additional revenue, and I don't see where that is. I think it's important for me to state publicly how I feel about the libraries. I'm—, I support the libraries, I want to keep as many of the neighborhood libraries open as possible. I want us to study this issue, I want us to have input from the communities that are affected to see if we can possibly coordinate with the schools so we don't have duplication of services. I think in many ways keeping the school libraries open is an added benefit because the children are at the school and they can go directly to the library and stay in the library after the school closes, but those are just ideas I have. I think it needs to be studied. We need to go around to all the communities and get their input and have a plan that will work for us for the future so the neighborhoods will have a library in their neighborhood, whether it's a school library or whether it's a public library, and those that have been traditional public libraries, free-standing libraries, I'm very much in favor of maintaining those because any vacant building hurts a neighborhood, particularly a public structure. I'm very conscious of that and I'm very concerned about that. I wish I had the Aladdin's lamp to rub to come up with the additional revenue. I have looked everywhere and tried to cut expenses everywhere. I just don't see it at this time. At one time we thought we had it out of the SPLOST funds, but apparently we don't. I like the idea of the \$2 million, but I don't see how it coincides with passing a balanced budget. I think we could pass a balanced budget and set a goal of trying to have an additional \$2 million, but I don't think we can allocate money that we don't have and would put the budget out of balance, and I would prefer a motion that was in the form of setting that as a goal rather than actually doing it after we have the study and input from the community. I want to say again and as emphatically as I can that I support our libraries and want to do all that I can possibly do, but there are limitations.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers then Commissioner Price and then Commissioner DeLoach, okay, and Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Rivers said, Board members, citizens of the audience, I'm speaking directly about the library. Fortunately, on last evening I was able to stumble across some documents, and hopefully you will understand my reasons for stating the things that I'm about to say. These libraries that were put out there initially, and the library accepted commitment to them, and before I authorize this \$400,000 to go back out there, I want to see these libraries go back to meeting its focus, its goals that were set back in 1972, and it reads thusly, and we looked at them as storefront libraries originally when we located them and built them. "The original concept of the storefront libraries was to bring and establish libraries which would be within easy distance of model neighborhood citizens. The libraries were to act as a focal point for cultural activities as well as a resource for raising the educational level of its residents." That was the scope, and it goes on to read different things, and I'm going to try—, if anybody wants to see this, I won't prolong this and go through this whole thing, but when we put those libraries out there, it was for a little more than just library. We talk about the children having access to the library. It's not only the children that we put those libraries out there for. We put those libraries out there because we needed and saw the need, and which the need still is critical on adult literacy and adult education, tutorial programs and some cultural activities. These buildings were supposed to go beyond the normal scope of service of the main library. So even before—, I'm going to pass this to Mr. Kaster. I want the Library Board to take a good look at it, and I want you to come back to the original focus on these libraries because these libraries over the years have been allowed to deteriorate. It doesn't have anything in it—, one thing in here, it says: "Contractor service for the first and second year call for storefront libraries to operate in each sub-neighborhood on a Monday through Friday basis. Fourteen positions for employment were created. The libraries were to provide and develop special group services, such as dramatics, art, craft, film programs, story hours, music appreciation, tutorial, reading programs and adult illiteracy." Now that was the scope of those libraries and if those—, if that mission was carried out, we would see a great difference in those communities, but it wasn't. These libraries were allowed to deteriorate, they don't have the material, they're not open Mondays through Fridays, so systematically the community has been cut off, and what I'm saying to you, and I'll ask my fellow Board members that we put the restriction on this \$400,000 to keep those libraries open until we can make a viable transition. If we're going to work in conjunction with the School Board, then I want to see the plan. I want the citizens of this community to be [inaudible] in correlation with those plans to see that these things are maintained throughout, whether we have these libraries or whether we change to another library within a school, then the citizens of these particular areas that it's going to impact should have some input into whatever the plan is. So I would ask that that \$400,000 be restricted to maintaining and doing that.

Chairman Hair said, I totally agree with you, Commissioner Rivers. That was the original plan was that that money was in restricted contingency and it would be given to the library only if they agree to keep the inner city libraries open and that we wouldn't do anything until we had adequate public input. Commissioner Price and then Commissioner DeLoach, Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Saussy. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, I had a question to you clarified the issue of where this money was going to come from and I know, Eddie [DeLoach], you spoke with the Manager and the County Attorney about it, but, Russ [Abolt], can you answer that. If we were to find this \$2,000,000, where would we find it? County Manager Abolt said, well, I'm not going to speak to a specific allocation, but I will speak to discretion, the choices you have, which are many. When this budget was put together, we were not privy to, because the fiscal year—, I mean, the State fiscal year had not ended nor did we have a favorable AG's opinion because all that was in the making on \$4.3 million. This budget has in it about \$7 million in M&O expenditures for debt service. What we're saying is that you now have the discretion to replace \$4.3 million of that M&O completely discretionary money with SPLOST funds. So that gives you the choice. Now what might those choices be? I'll summarize only a few because, again, I really am asking for the wisdom of our financial advisors, but right now Mr. Persaud and I can tell you that you can free up \$4.3 million in this budget and use it in the way you feel best to offset debt to use the \$4.3. You may choose to spend it all this year just to deal with the indebtedness in 1999, but—, I know this is your business and others have asked the same question of me. You might be better served escrowing some money. The first major issue that can be called is Weatherwood, which is a year from now and, in effect, pay off all of that debt and then avoid for the balance of that indebtedness all those payments. That's why we need the advise of A. G. Edwards. My intent would be come January, when we have it, to bring it back to you and we can make these fine adjustments. Others of you may have other specific CIP projects, all legitimate expenditures. The question will be, is it going to be repeating revenue or should it be earmarked just for one time obligations. Commissioner Price said, so what you're saying is indirectly SPLOST funds. County Manager Abolt said, yes. I don't want you to get confused of what SPLOST money can be used for. The AG said SPLOST money can be used to retire indebtedness. This budget has \$7 million of indebtedness payments so we replace. If I'd of had that opinion and, of course, it was before the money was finally collected, the budget I would have submitted to you would have had \$4.3 million—, of course, that's an assumption based on what A.G. Edwards would say, to offset indebtedness, which gives you discretion earlier than you have now. But, again, we're a victim on calendar. Commissioner Price asked, so what would you recommend in

this situation? County Manager Abolt asked, what situation? Regarding the library? Commissioner Price said, wanting to do the \$2 million. County Manager Abolt said, I think that is one of your options. I really, and I don't want to always, you know, say don't do it now. I'm preaching caution and I'm not—, I guess I'm optimistic to the point where I know what the Chairman has tried to do in selling property and looking at our indebtedness. We finally have a chance to do what you all want to do. It does not have to be done today. If this motion, for example, were to pass, the budget is not out of balance. You, in effect, can come back once we have the recommendation from A. G. Edwards, realizing from the get-go you have agreed to take \$2 million to go to the library. You can do that.

Commissioner Saussy said, and we've still got \$2.3 left. County Manager Abolt said, you'll still have \$2.3 left, if that's your wish.

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions. Commissioner Price said, that answers my question. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner DeLoach, then Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Saussy and Commissioner Rivers. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said the comment that I wanted to make was as far as the Library Board and the main library, and we're speaking to the main library when we talk about this money that we're allocating, and we have allocated up today, when we originally came before the people to ask for funds to do different projects in the community, there was an interest in the community to have a library. The Library Board came before us at that time—, the original library—, I think Ms. Jackson was the president of it at that time. She has since passed away, if I'm not mistaken. But, anyway, she was head of the—, president of the board, and they asked for \$11 million plus additional funds from the State to fund a library for Chatham County. At that time there were several other ideas floating around about things that we wanted, you know. There was a hodgepodge of different things. Each group had their feeling of what was important and that type thing, and at that time working out compromises, working out situations, the amount of monies that we could actually come up with for the Library Board to do the library was \$5 million, and that's all they got although they asked for and said they needed \$11 million. So although it sounds like we're throwing money down a hole, we had all this information five years or ever how many—, was it 1994 when we did this? Yes, '94. They put this in front of us in '94 saying what it was going to cost. The present Library Board has done the same thing. They've allocated and showed with hard monies exactly where these funds will go. And, to me, just like Frank [Murray] said originally about putting granite on the outside facade, it's an expense that some people question, but it's—, the library—, although some wanted it in other locations, it was decided to be in a neighborhood that was somewhat deteriorating. This was an opportunity for us as a Commission and for the County Commission to infuse a large amount of money into a neighborhood to make a quality improvement to that neighborhood, which all the Thomas Square Association and all asked us to do at that time. It was voted on and that's what we decided to do. Still we did not have the \$11 million in the budget. We were still rocking along with \$5 million. We did not have enough money originally. We are playing catch-up all the time here. They have asked for monies that were legitimate then; they're legitimate now. It will not be adequate now, as it wasn't then. We can only continue to strive to access any amount of monies we can and put it towards that library so it will be a quality library in a great neighborhood. Now that's what we need to do. We need to go ahead and take this \$2 million and put it in there. Although it's not what they originally requested, we're—, we've been about adding monies to a number of projects, anywhere from Runaway Point to Triplett Park to Hutchinson Island to any number of projects that we've had on the One Percent Option Sales Tax originally. We're adding money to this program that we voted on and the taxpayers voted on, and I think we need to go ahead and spend that money and have a quality location in that neighborhood so that we'll have something that not only that neighborhood, but we as a County can be proud of for the foreseeable future, and we can deal with the—, all the other issues as far as those libraries at the time that we feel fit, but I feel like this \$2 million needs to be allocated and we need to go forward with it if we're going to build a library that those folks came before us originally with and requested it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I agree with just about everything Commissioner DeLoach said except the fact that we need to give that \$2,000,000 this year. First of all, the referendum that was passed allocated \$5 million. Russ [Abolt], how much did the State allocate and go along with that construction? County Manager Abolt said, \$2 million. Commissioner Murray said, an additional \$2 million, so that's \$7 million there. We've already given \$2.5 million basically, so that's \$9.5 million. So it's not the \$5 million versus \$11 million. Commissioner DeLoach said, \$2 million more and we'd be right. Commissioner Murray said, yes, maybe long term, but I also remember during this whole process, and certainly we have some different Library Board members now and we have a different director of the library now than we had then, but the Commission went against the recommendations of that Library Board's recommendations of where to put it and what to do with it the time that we voted on the referendum. Also, when it came time for construction and the plans were all in and we let the bids for construction, there was a proposal made the Library Board to please put it back out to rebid because we felt like the prices were too high that came in on it and you could reduce that cost of construction. We were told with uncertain—, no uncertain terms, "[i]t doesn't matter what y'all think. We make that decision, y'all don't." And we've had a lot of recommendations that we have made to the Library Board and the majority of them, to my knowledge, have not been carried out. They've not even been looked at too strong, and I think one of them is probably with the School Board. The School Board's opinion when they came back to me on it was the fact that the Library Board did not want to work with the School Board. Now if I'm wrong with that, then I think y'all need to clarify it, but I haven't seen any action or any type discussion other than I think Commissioner DeLoach and a couple of people went and talked to some of the School Board about it. But I haven't seen the Library Board really making discussions or any progress with that, which I think could save us a lot of money in the long run too. And as Commissioner DeLoach and the rest of us have said, I think we all support the library and support what you're doing. I can't support that kind of additional funds when we have other things throughout our community that has to be taken care of at the same time. We can't just take care of one and let the rest of them go. As far as the \$400,000 that Commissioner DeLoach talked about for the granite that was going in instead of stucco, I made that motion and a lot of people agree and a lot of people disagree with it, but I felt like if we were going to put the library there and we were going to invest the kinds of funds that were going into it, we needed to do it and we needed to do it right, and that was the reason for that, the Commission voted to go ahead and allocated that \$400,000, but I think at the present time we have done too much with it. I think it's way too early to allocate \$2 million of the \$4 million that we have coming and we don't even know what kind of problems we're going to run into next year with other projects and other things that are going on, and I just am not in favor at this time of allocating an additional \$2 million. Now if this motion is not passed and somebody wants to make a motion to go to the State Legislators and let them designate X-amount of mills, or a portion of a mill, to the libraries as done in CAT, then so be it, but I'm not voting in favor of this budget based on giving the library \$2 million more of allocated money that we don't even know where it's going yet or what it needs to be.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, if we knew where this money was going to go, and I think we do need to know where it's going to go, you think you can vote for it then? Commissioner Murray asked, what, the \$2 million or where it's going to what, the library? Mr. Saussy said, right. Commissioner Murray said, no. Commissioner Saussy asked, is that what you're talking about? Commissioner Murray said, I'm talking about the \$4 million that we have that \$2 million of it would be coming out of. We don't know what's going to happen next year with anything yet. There's some recommendation that's come up. We have equipment, we have vehicles and stuff that need to be replaced, and we got a memo this week that came out. They won't even put any of our car pool cars on the highway anymore because they're too dangerous. Commissioner Saussy said, well—. Chairman Hair said, that's exactly right. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that is exactly right, but it also is —, the fact is that if we don't start somewhere, we keep putting this off and putting it off and putting it off every single year. When are we going to start doing that?

Commissioner Murray said, I think we have started. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy, we started with \$2.5 million extra this year alone. That's started—, my goodness, that's a heck of a start. Commissioner Saussy said, this year. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Saussy said, right. What about next year? Chairman Hair said, well, let's deal with it next year, but let's don't give another 4—, another \$2 million. Let's don't give them \$4.5 million and then another \$2 million next year. Let's give the \$2.5 million this year and then I can probably support \$2 million more next year, but not \$4.5 million in one year when we've got all those departments out here that has tremendous needs that serves direct services to citizens, just like the library does. You know, I just—. Commissioner Saussy said, but they haven't been behind like the library. Not that much. Chairman Hair said, I think the department heads would—, I think if you talk to the departments heads, I think—. Commissioner Saussy said, we also have already in this budget the increase to the employees. It's already there, which is commendable. I think we should do that, but we've got to start somewhere. Commissioner Murray said, but that—, the employee raises, if I'm not mistaken, runs what? How much money is that in one year, increase? Chairman Hair said, five percent. Commissioner Murray said, I know, but the total dollar figure. County Manager Abolt said, in the M&O it's \$2.3 million and plus there's reclassification market adjustments of \$950,000. Commissioner Murray said, okay, so I mean, I think we've been equal basically.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Saussy, do you have anything else? Commissioner Saussy said, no. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I would admonish my fellow Commissioners again that when this \$4.3 million, and I withdrew that because I thought we wasn't going to go into discussion on this \$4.3 million—. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's what he said. Commissioner Rivers said, and I think it would be prudent for us to look at what we get after the evaluation of the advisors, how best this money could utilize, how well we can maximize these funds. I have no problem after seeing that of considering \$2 million for the library. I would consider it. Chairman Hair said, I would too. Commissioner Rivers said, but at this point here I'm not going to touch that \$4.3 million or commit it because I think there's so many things that you can do out there to leverage that money to improve our cash flow and help to get us out of this hole that we're in and, hey, we're coming slowly out of the hole that we put ourselves in years before by making bad decisions, and I think in order to make a prudent decision that I'm going to need those analyses back from A. G. Edwards in order to look at it, so I would advise my fellow Commissioners not at this time to put \$2 million or commit \$2 million within this budget year.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, there's a question I got on that. I was following up on what Joe [Rivers] was saying, I was trying to figure out how I can get there as far as what Joe [Rivers] was saying. You said you need to understand and know the ramifications as far as where the \$4.3 million goes and all that before you would consider spending the \$2 million for the library. Would you, and the Chairman also said the same thing, would you consider voting in favor of that \$2 million if we made that a prerequisite to spending that \$2 million? Commissioner Rivers said, Eddie [DeLoach], in reference to your question, and I'll answer it directly, when I get that full analysis before me and I look at it as to how we can leverage this money or what it's going to mean to bringing regular money back into our cash flow that we can infuse in the budget, how we can maximize our interest profit on that money to even maybe stretch it a little further—. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, I'd like to look at all those options before I make a decision on whether I'm going to commit \$2 million where or—.

Chairman Hair said, and my answer is the same, Commissioner DeLoach. I'd be happy to look at it as part of the whole \$4.3 million, but I cannot sit here in good conscience today and vote an additional \$2 million committed without question, but I'll be happy to look at that \$2 million request as part of all the other requests for that \$4.3 million once we get March and April down the road and we look at it, that's fine. I have no problem with looking at it, but I do have a problem with committing the \$2 million today. Commissioner DeLoach asked, all right, can I do that—, can I make that part of the motion? Commissioner Jackel said, I think we need to set that as a goal. Chairman Hair said, well, if you change the motion to make it, the \$2 million a goal and also to have that \$2 million considered as part of the \$4.3 million, I could support that, but I can't support committing the \$2 million today. I cannot support that.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, I'll make that—, let me do that to my motion then. That'll work? Chairman Hair said, okay. If you say just amend it to make it a goal and that \$2 million will be—, that request will be considered as part of all requests of the \$4.3 million, I can support that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Let's change that to that. Chairman Hair asked, will you accept that, Commissioner—? Commissioner Saussy said, I certainly will. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I have an unreadiness with that. I would like to pull it out of the budget, not make it a part of this budget. Commissioner Price asked, you mean out of the motion? Commissioner Murray said, make it separate. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, make it a separate motion that we do that—. Chairman Hair said, I think that would be appropriate. Commissioner Rivers said, with that money. I think it's more appropriate—. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, I can do that. Commissioner Rivers said, if we do that way. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, I got two motions then. The first one is to—. Chairman Hair said, well, just withdraw that part of it, if Commissioner Saussy will accept that—. Commissioner Thomas said, take it out. Chairman Hair said, and then we'll make it a separate motion. I think that's—. Any other discussion on the original—. Commissioner Saussy said, call for the question. Chairman Hair said, we've got a call for the question. All those in favor of the budget—, we're voting for the budget now. All those—. Commissioner Price said, what staff recommended. Chairman Hair said, as the staff recommended vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, okay, now. Can I make a motion to—, like—, or you make the motion what we agreed to there that satisfies you and Joe [Rivers]. Chairman Hair said, I can't make motions, but the—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I know, but you—. Chairman Hair said, the motion would be to—, that the \$2 million would be considered as a request, as will all other requests be considered when we get the \$4.3 million freed up and ready to spend. Commissioner DeLoach said, so, make a motion—. Chairman Hair said, I can't make a motion—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make that a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, I'll second the motion. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion on the motion Commissioner DeLoach made? Commissioner Price said, yes. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Price has a—.

Commissioner Price said, I think there needs to be—, and I'm going to vote in favor of this, but there needs to be a clear understanding about the library's needs, and I'm not saying that I know more than any of you guys do, but there is a serious ongoing operational revenue shortfall for the library system, and that's the real problem. It's not adding more money to capital expenditures, it's not giving them money as in a stopgap measure that this would be. What we're going to have to look at is doing what Joe [Rivers] suggested possibly, which is going to the Legislature and dedicating a percentage of a mill or a half of a mill or whatever it is—, David [Saussy] did, excuse me—, for an operational budget for this—, for the Library Board. If not, there is the very real possibility that the branch hours in Wilmington Island, the branch hours in Pooler, the branch hours at Oglethorpe Mall are going to have to be curtailed and the very real possibility that we won't be able to maintain the level of service in giving the citizens what they need unless we have a gut-check time, gentlemen and lady, and decide to have to do something with the millage rate. Okay? So this is not the fix-all. I just want to make that clear.

Chairman Hair said, I think Commissioner Rivers—, I would like to see us pass the amendment that Commissioner Rivers suggested earlier of restricting that \$400,000 to keeping the libraries open until we get an alternative. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'm going to do that, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to amend to put \$400,000—, that \$400,000 under restricted spending contingent upon keeping those inner city libraries open. Chairman Hair said, okay, do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Murray asked, is that an amendment to the motion? Chairman Hair said, that's just—, yes, we have a second to that motion. Chairman Hair said, that's an amendment to the budget. Yes, it would just be restricted—. Commissioner Murray said, no, is it an amendment to the motion—? Chairman Hair said, no, we've already—. Chairman Hair said, yes, it would be a separate motion. You have to make it a separate motion. A motion to amend the budget. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's not an amendment to the budget now. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, this is an amendment—. Commissioner DeLoach said, we've already passed the budget. The Clerk said, we have another motion on the floor. Chairman Hair said, you can—, you can make a motion to restrict that \$400,000. Commissioner Murray said, but there was a motion and a second, if I'm not mistaken, in order to do the \$2 million as a goal. Chairman Hair said, that's—, that's correct. He is correct.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Point of order, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask for reconsideration on the budget. County Manager Abolt said, no, you don't have to—. Commissioner Murray said, there is a motion already on the floor. Commissioner Rivers asked, do we have a motion on the floor? Chairman Hair said, yes, we do. The motion on the floor is to treat the \$2 million as a goal and to make that request. Let's deal with that motion first. Commissioner Rivers said, I think that's already in place, Mr.—. Chairman Hair said, no, that's not in place Commissioner Rivers. We need to deal with that motion. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart. Commissioner Thomas said, y'all need to listen.

County Attorney Hart said, three things. One, y'all already passed the budget, Chairman Hair said, that's correct. County Attorney Hart said, two, you have another current motion on the floor, Commissioner DeLoach's motion. You also have a request to amend either Mr. DeLoach's, but technically speaking, the funds, the \$400,000, are already restricted within the budget that you've already passed, but technically Mr. Rivers' motion does not necessarily need to be made to do what he's trying to do. Chairman Hair said, it's not restricted—, it's not restricted to keeping the libraries open. It's just restricted. County Attorney Hart said, it's restricted. Chairman Hair said, which means they've got to ask for it for certain things.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, not [inaudible] your parliamentarian, you can do what you—, Commissioner Rivers wants to do without having to go back and reconsider the budget. You're going to put the folks on notice right now that's restricted contingency, which you've just done, but be advised that you will not disburse any of that money unless you have a guarantee that those inner city libraries will remain open. Chairman Hair said, that's correct.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman—. Chairman Hair said, so that doesn't need—. Commissioner Rivers said, let's go ahead and dispense with the motion. Chairman Hair said, the motion on the floor is to make the \$2 million as a goal. Let's do this—. Commissioner Murray said, I've got a question. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray has a question on that motion.

Commissioner Murray said, I know this is going—, the motion is to make it a goal. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Murray said, if the money is allocated and \$2 million does go towards the library at some time during 1999, is that going to be part of the budget for the year 2000? Is that going to be continuing that \$2 million, or is that a one shot deal? Commissioner DeLoach said, one shot deal. Chairman Hair said, one shot. Commissioner Saussy said, one shot. Commissioner Thomas said, it would have to be one shot.

Chairman Hair said, it would be one shot. Okay, let's deal with that motion. Any further questions on that motion? All those in favor of that motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Murray said, that's just to look at it. Chairman Hair said, that's right, just to look at it, to set it as a goal. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, now, we don't need the separate motion based on the attorney's recommendation to do what you [Rivers] suggested. They'll have to ask us for that money to spend it and then we can say if the libraries are not open we won't—. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't have a problem with that, but I do have—, I did ask for the floor. Chairman Hair said, certainly. You've got it.

Commissioner Rivers asked, David [Persaud], what kind of monies do we normally get when we do our audit in April? Mr. Persaud asked, money? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. How many dollars do we—, what's the history on the dollars that we have derived—? Mr. Persaud asked, fund balance? Commissioner Rivers said, after audit. Mr. Persaud said, it fluctuates. It's been as

high as \$5 million, as low as \$1 million. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. What I—, Mr. Chairman, what I would like to do, even more so I would like for us to take a look at the possibility when our audit comes up in April to see how much monies we've got left over and then we look at that and also consider that pool of money—. Chairman Hair said, well, we can do that. I mean, we do that anyway as part of normal business, so that would be—, we could—. What you're saying, we just look at that with respect also to—? Commissioner Rivers said, yes, I'd like to look at that because when it comes to that \$4.3 million we may not want to move that unless we've got—. Chairman Hair said, I agree. Commissioner Rivers said, X-number of dollars. Chairman Hair said, but we don't need a motion for that. We don't need a motion for that, but that's a good point. We don't need a motion.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mackey wants—. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Mackey, would you like to make a comment, a brief comment.

Mr. Mackey said, yes, sir. I'd like to make a brief comment, Mr. Chairman. Good morning to you and the Board. Of course, I am a member of the Concerned Citizens for Library Preservation Committee and we have a couple of questions that we would like to ask, and one of the questions is that sitting here listening to the various comments about this \$400,000 in the event that the Library Board chooses or if they choose not to use the \$400 [sic], does that mean that these inner city library branches will still be closed? Chairman Hair said, they will not be closed—, if they want to spend that \$400,000, they must keep the libraries open. Mr. Mackey said, okay, suppose the board opts not to spend the \$400,000, where would that put—? Chairman Hair asked, if they opted not to spend the \$400,000? Mr. Mackey said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, then we would not be able to restrict them. Mr. Mackey said, then you would not be able to restrict it. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, by law. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, plus they won't get the money and they won't get that \$2 million that they're looking for. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Mr. Mackey said, now my question—, that's a legitimate question. I'm just trying to cover the loopholes. My—, or any indication of a loophole. My next question to you, Mr. Chair, and to the Board is, of course, you understand what our dilemma has been with our fight to keep these inner city library branches open, and we appreciate what you're doing, and we will go back and in one year's time and try to see if we can resolve these issues. We need the cooperation of the board with the community. That is exactly what we need, and we have not been getting that cooperation. We need that—, the community needs to be involved in this process at every level. The other thing is that we have requested and asked that the board give us information as far as the operational costs of these branches, these six particular branches, and we have never been able to get this information. In the event that later on down the road you do find \$2 million, or \$2.3 million, or whatever it may be, to fund these libraries, of course that would be more than sufficient enough money to keep or sustain the libraries that we have operational now to become totally operational. We just ask that you consider that.

Chairman Hair said, I agree, Mr. Mackey. Also, I would say to you that the 400—, by their own numbers, by the Library Board's numbers, they showed us that it cost \$216,000 to operate those libraries. Mr. Mackey said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, so what I would hope they would do with that \$400,000 is to use that \$216,000 to keep them open and use the remaining part of the \$400,000 to expand the hours until we get a longer term solution. Mr. Mackey said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, that's what I hope they'll do. I can't—. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, Jack Kaster—. Chairman Hair said, let Commissioner DeLoach speak first, Mr. Kaster, and then I'll be glad to recognize you.

Commissioner DeLoach said, one of the—, I think it's—, we as a Commission have decided to use one of our own boards to use as a whipping boy here for some reason, I'm not sure why. It's easy to—, that's the reason we appointed those boards so that they take all the heat and we could sit up here and vote and it makes it easy on us, but the fact of it is as far as all this \$400,000 and what they're trying to do, and they're not helping and all this, they've—, we have already contacted or have been in contact with and have met with the School Board, and the Library Board has already met with the School Board. All the citizens on the Library Board stated the fact that it felt like concerned citizens needed to be on the board when they decide about these additional libraries that we're considering opening at the schools. I've just got a concern that we're starting to tie our own hands on the development of the library system so that we can take care of some short term goals instead of thinking long term and establishing a relationship with the library, the School Board, ourselves and the City of Savannah. I was at the Library Board meeting the other day. There was [sic] no concerned citizens there. [Unidentified members of the audience said, we don't know when they meet, and we weren't invited.] Commissioner DeLoach said, it is published and we were—, actually met at the Carnegie—, we actually met at the Carnegie Library, and when we met there was no one there, but the fact of it was the motion was passed to set up a board based on the Library Board—. Let me just finish, okay. Don't get all excited. Based on the Library Board, the School Board, the Commission, the City of Savannah and concerned citizens. That group was set—, they will set up and decide what is best for the inner city libraries, per se, also the school libraries if it's better to have them at the school. That was passed at the last meeting of the Library Board, which the School Board has a member on, and I happened to be in attendance also. That is what's on the table for the Library Board. I mean, they're making a pro-active approach to this issue, and I don't want us to sit up here and polarize two groups that are trying to do the same thing because all those groups are located—, all those groups are trying to do the same thing, they're trying to have a library that's decent for everyone in those areas as well as areas that I've got concerns about. I've got areas, you've got inner city areas that you say you can't walk to. I've got some that people can't even drive to they're so far away, so, I mean, I feel for you, but I can't reach you because I've got people that are in the same boat, okay. So, it's not an issue that deals with inner city, and, you know, I've got one that closes in my district. I'm not happy about it either, but I want to work with the Library Board, I want to work with the School Board, I want to work with the Commission, I want to work with the City of Savannah so that we can develop a broad based approach so that we can keep the libraries that need to be open, open them. The ones that don't, that need to be at a school, open them at a school, but let's do what's best for the community, not what's good right now. That's all I've got to say.

Mr. Mackey asked, Chairman, will the Commissioner for the Seventh District accept a point? Chairman Hair said, I'm not going to get into debate here. Mr. Mackey said, no, sir, no debate, I just want to—. Chairman Hair asked, if you'd like to make a comment—. Mr. Mackey said, I would like to clear the record. Chairman Hair said, I'll not going to allow a debate here. Okay? Mr. Mackey said, he made the comment that he attended a meeting and we were not there. Let me tell you, the one meeting that I did attend of the Library Board, that was only because I was called two hours prior to the meeting and informed that there would be a meeting. Now when you say that there are meetings and the public knows, I would like to know where is it printed? Is it printed in the classified ads of the newspaper, because we don't see them, and we—, everybody here that serves on this committee is working in step. We are not wanting anything that is not congruent or not parallel to what the Library Board is focusing toward. All we're saying, Commissioner DeLoach, is that whatever the Library Board does is that it needs to involve the public. Now there have been meetings that the public has not known about that the Library Board has done. Absolutely, and maybe you're ignorant to that fact, but that has happened. Now what we're saying to you is and what we're saying to the board is, if they're going to meet, then let the public know when they're meeting. I will be there for sure, Ms. Johnson will definitely be there, so if there's—, there has not been

a meeting that we haven't attended because we didn't want to attend. There were meetings that were convened that we did not know about. I appreciate that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Mackey. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Kaster.

Mr. Jack Kaster said, I'd like to make a little speech. Commissioner Rivers said, I have a rebuttal. Chairman Hair asked, how about a brief speech? Mr. Kaster said, it will be brief. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Kaster said, but I think it will be worth our time to spend a couple of minutes. First of all, on the last comment, there is a prescribed procedure to publish our meeting dates. We have never had a secret meeting. We meet the third Tuesday of every month at 4:30 in the afternoon, and that is announced through regular announcement channels so that the media is available if they want to be there. There was media there the other night. Mr. Mackey, as you said, was at a meeting. So that—, I don't want to get hung up in that, but I want to talk a little bit about our community. It's a community flourishing with economic activity right now in almost every corner. A lot of growth initiatives going on that I think will help our community, but it's a community where 26% of adults do not complete high schools, where 9% did not get beyond the 8th grade, where the high school graduation rate is 55%, and where an estimated one in five adults has a literacy concern. That same community has a library system where the materials budget has grown 24% since 1985 while the cost of living has grown 48% in that same period. It's a community where staffing levels have decreased since 1988 by 11 full time equivalent headcount, decreased. Where we spend less than \$2 per capita on materials while Columbia, South Carolina, is able to spend \$8.50, where we've had to throw out 50% to 75% of the books in our system because they're old, tattered, out of date and obsolete. It's a community that spends \$13 per capita in operating expenses for its libraries while 25 similar sized libraries spend an average of \$47, and Charleston spends \$30, and Birmingham spends \$42, and until recently a pretty down-in-the-heels city of Cleveland spends \$8 and we spend \$13. And those communities have police, they have fire protection, they have criminal justice systems, et cetera, but that's what they're spending on the library. It's a community that allows a starting salary of 28.2 thousand for a librarian with a master's degree in library science, while Macon does 35.5, Statesboro does 34.9, and you can get 40 in Atlanta. It's a community that over the past couple of years has generously allocated some SPLOST dollars to bring one library, the main library, up to a first class status, but for over a year now has refused to allow a commitment of operating dollars to allow it to open. How can we fix it? Well, the reality is pretty straightforward. Libraries are an essential public service. Mr. Chairman, you discussed that with me and pointed that out to me, that I could be a conservative but I could still want public funding for libraries because they're an essential public service. They're funded by tax dollars. If current tax dollars are spent and there's nothing more available for an essential service like the library, we need to increase taxes. That's not popular with me. It's less popular for you, but someone has to stand up and say yes, say yes it's essential, yes it's an important way to address the community needs that I talked about earlier, yes it requires additional taxes, and it's our responsibility to raise that. And we're talking now the library's operating budget is probably 8/10^{ths} of a mill and, as Mr. Price was pointing out, it's not a one time phenomena we're trying to solve here in 1999 because by 2005 we'll have to have about 3½ mills to support the operating costs. That would get us to average, and want to tell you all that I never thought that I would be standing trying to rally support for anything I'm connected with just to try to get it to average. I'm not used to doing that. But I will rally to try to get this system to average. I pledge to you that if you raise the support levels to get us on the path to catch up to get to be average, we'll build a library system so good that people will applaud you for your brave action. Now, that's my little speech. I'm sorry to take too much time. I will say this. With the \$400,000, as you have just altered the budget, I cannot commit to keeping library branch open, inner city, suburbs, or any place else because, in effect, the library budget is being cut by \$130,000 this year. There was a 5% tax to fund salary increases that comes off of the \$400,000. That's \$130,000. So since I can't use the 400 [sic], and I'm taxed 130 [sic], my budget is cut. I cannot consider—, I can't commit to you today to keep any branches open. I certainly can't commit to opening the Bull Street Library unless we get substantial funding. We've talked to you about the needs for Bull Street for a year now, and they haven't gone away, they haven't decreased, so I just want to say this is a serious, serious problem with an essential service in our community, and I think that the people behind that desk are the only people that can solve it. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Kaster. I'm going to recognize Commissioner Rivers and then you and I'm not going to recognize anybody else in the audience. We've already passed the budget. We need to—, this is not the appropriate time for this debate and let me tell you why. I'm going to allow you—, I'm going to recognize you, sir, in just a moment, but when the request comes back for the \$2 million in April, we'll be happy to allow anybody to speak—. [Inaudible from audience members]. Mr. John Barry said, it's about the money. Chairman Hair said, we've already passed the budget. Mr. Barry said, no, no. I'm talking about the money, restrictions on the money. Chairman Hair said, it's already been restricted. Mr. Barry said, this money that you—.

County Attorney Hart said, the gentleman has not been recognized by the Chair. Chairman Hair said, state your name for the record. Mr. Barry said \$200,000—, we don't trust. County Attorney Hart said, sir. Chairman Hair said, this is—, you're out of order, sir. If you'll have a seat, and I'll recognize Commissioner Rivers. I'll recognize you in a moment, okay. Please have a seat. Okay, Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Kaster, let me say this to you now. This Board has adamantly opposed to helping the library. Commissioner Thomas said, it's ridiculous. Commissioner Rivers said, I think we've been very generous in helping the library. No one said that we're not going to do certain things. Okay, you said you've got \$130,000 cut. I just asked the Board to consider looking at our budget at audit time to see—, our audit to see what monies we have left over that we may can infuse into the library. There are a number of things that—, of course, that's one time drop money, but there are a number of things that we could do, so I don't want you to take the position that, hey, you're going to abandon everything and this Board is not behind making these libraries work. That's not what we're about. Secondly, secondly, you yourself have said some very important points and some pertinent points. One, you read off some statistics about illiteracy and all of those numbers. Well, you take that and put it in these neighborhoods that those libraries were put in, and you can up that percentage by 30% or 40%, and I might still be a little off. So, we have to, beyond all costs, remain within this inner city to do these libraries. I'm not concerned—, I'm concerned about the whole of Chatham County, but I'm mainly concerned with the neglect here. We're looking at more—. Commissioner Thomas said, that's right. Commissioner Rivers said, than all other areas. I don't care if you take all of these other areas. I've got more people from my district in jail than any other area. These are the things that we're trying to ward off. We're trying to educate some folks. We're trying to get you to go back to the original scope that these libraries were supposed—, services that these libraries were supposed to provide, and surely they would have had a significant impact in this thing, and I know that and I know that because I have here the result of many, many hours of sitting down going over programs that we established within the neighborhoods, and I can tell you one of them that we established, the career opportunity program that we allowed many students and people in the inner city that were uneducated, no hope, to go to school, to come through that school system, and I know a number of them that have retired now. Twenty-six years ago, and we still have the same problem, and the library did not address these problems. They systematically allowed these libraries to deteriorate—. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. Commissioner Rivers said, and I want this condition

corrected, and however we correct it, however we correct it—, I'm not trying to be a whipping boy on you, however we correct this situation, this situation needs to be corrected. These inner city libraries need to remain and we have not abandoned you in our efforts to get you funds to do the things that you want. You might operate at a shortfall, but, hey, you can always come back. Mr. Kaster said, I can't operate at a shortfall. I can't operate at a shortfall, a deficit. I can't print money. I can't keep this thing together with duct tape and chewing gum. Commissioner Rivers said, you don't spend all—. Mr. Kaster said, we can't mix the \$2 million with operating money. The \$2 million was for books and materials, and I can't—, the fact that you have a goal. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman—, if that's so, Mr. Kaster, if that's so, at some point we can come back and consider, if it's for materials and books, we can come back at audit time and look at it. You don't need those, per se, now. Mr. Kaster said, I need now operating money so I can advertise for librarians to staff Bull Street if I want to open Bull Street in May or June. I need it right now. I cannot hire librarians on a goal to look at \$2 million. I mean, I'm sorry, I don't know how to do it.

Chairman Hair said, I think we need to—. Mr. Kaster, I appreciate your comments. I think we need to move on. I'm going to recognize you, sir, for a brief comment and then we're going to move it. State your name for the record, sir.

Mr. Barry said, John Barry and I'm with the Concerned Citizens for Library Preservation, and it is that we, in a sense, do not trust this Library Board. Even he is just one Library Board member. We see no life in them, we see no passion in them. And then you say another 400 is coming in. Half of it is to regenerate and rejuvenate those libraries, as Commissioner Rivers has said, and what I don't want to see is money being used against our wishes once they get it. And this is something—, that's the strategic plan. I don't know if you all read it. Read it again because in it they're saying back off, we need more power, and I don't trust them, and I trust you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Barry, we appreciate that. We're going to move on to the next item. Now we'll move to the CAT budget.

Commissioner Saussy said, let me make one motion on the library. I would like to make a motion that we recommend to the State Legislature that a millage be set aside strictly for this library. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second that. Commissioner Saussy said, I hope they work that out on—. Chairman Hair asked, what kind of millage? Commissioner Saussy said, well, we'll have to figure that out. Chairman Hair said, well, I can't vote for a motion. Commissioner Murray asked, [inaudible] it could be 3½ mills. Chairman Hair said, I can't vote for a motion that has an unlimited millage to it. You're asking me to vote for a motion that says some millage and you don't even tell what the millage is. Commissioner Saussy said, all right. How much millage does it take? Commissioner Thomas asked, why don't you put up the [inaudible]—.

Mr. Kaster said, the current millage at \$3.4 million, I guess that's about 8/10^{ths} of a mill. Our budget request for this year was \$6 million. So, \$6 million would be 1½ mills, and then we have to grow that—.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy, can I suggest an amendment to that. If you suggest that we study that and come back with a millage that would be appropriate and then vote on it, I could live with that, but I can't just vote on doing it. Commissioner Saussy said, I can agree with that. Chairman Hair said, okay, that's all we're saying. Okay, that's fine. All right, do we have a second to that? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second that. All right, any discussion to that? Marianne [Heimes], let's keep this very brief now. We need to move on here. We've talked this to death.

Ms. Marianne Heimes said, first of all, happy holidays. I think you have to consider the taxpayer in all your considerations because after all we feel like that is our money. Chairman Hair said, it is your money. Ms. Heimes said, and I've heard, you know, we can't do this, we need to do that, we'll raise taxes, we'll raise the millage, we can't lower your evaluation. It's getting to be a real luxury to live in Chatham County, and I think you all need to remember that. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Heimes. Okay, now we'll move on to the CAT—. Commissioner Price said, the motion—. Commissioner Saussy said, I call the question. Chairman Hair said, we've got a call for the question. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what were we voting on? Commissioner Price said, the study of the legislation. Chairman Hair said, suggest that we—, no it's not the CAT motion. Study the millage rate for the simple purpose of the library. Just to study it, not to recommend a particular millage.

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the—. 'Mam, I'll recognize you for one minute and that's it, okay. No, come on up, for one minute, and I'm not recognizing anybody else in the audience. We're moving on to the CAT budget. Okay, this is it. State your name for the record please.

An unidentified woman from the audience said, I just wanted to ask one question of Mr. DeLoach, Commissioner DeLoach. You said that there were no neighborhood people present. Where do we find out where the meetings are held? Nobody knows. How do we find that? Commissioner Saussy said, Mr. Kaster said it was published in the paper. Chairman Hair said, he didn't say it was published in the paper, he just said it was—. The unidentified woman said, I scrutinize the papers every day. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's in the—. Chairman Hair said, I tell you what, 'Mam. Commissioner Murray asked, could somebody tell us? Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Kaster, can you tell us—, Mr. Kaster, can you tell us specifically where the notices of the meetings are published? You made the statement a while ago—. Commissioner Thomas said, and where. The unidentified woman said, specifically where, you know. Chairman Hair said, when and where? Where are the meetings—, when is that published? Commissioner Murray said, none of us even know. Commissioner Thomas said, they say when but they didn't say where. Chairman Hair asked, when and where? Commissioner Thomas asked, where? Commissioner DeLoach said, they vary. We were at Carnegie Hall [sic] the other day. Mr. Kaster said, in the newspaper, upcoming events pages and there must be [inaudible] public meetings every day. Chairman Hair said, it's in the paper. The unidentified woman asked, it is published? Chairman Hair said, it's published in the paper. The unidentified asked in the Morning News? Because, I mean, you know, it shows like nobody's interested and they don't show up. That's not correct. I suggest to them that they send somebody in the community notices that they're having a meeting at and then the time. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, 'Mam. One final question.

Mr. W. John Mitchell with the Concerned Citizens said, Mr. DeLoach said that the—, what he insinuated was that the citizens did not read the newspaper and, therefore, we did not find out about the meeting. I'm willing to bet you that you didn't find out about

the meeting by reading the newspaper. You were probably—, is that how you—? Commissioner DeLoach said, I called. I called. Mr. Mitchell said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. An unidentified man in the audience said, well, give us the number. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. Okay, now we will—, we will make a—, we're going to deal with the CAT budget. The Chair will—, let's get a motion on the floor. I'll entertain a motion first. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair asked, all right, any discussion on the CAT budget?

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman—. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, go ahead. County Manager Abolt said, sir, the only reason this is here separately is, and Mr. Lansing can speak to it, as submitted there is a draw down of retained earnings of about \$92,000. To make sure the record is perfected and there is no doubt as to the intent of the CAT Board, it's appropriate for you to consider the CAT budget separately. Mr. Lansing already has answered this question to you as CAT Board members. If you have any additional questions, he's here to answer them as Commissioners.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, David [Persaud], do you have the breakdown of what the reevaluation would be percentage-wise on the CAT budget? Mr. Persaud said, I think for 1998 the [inaudible] was 303,000, of which 144,000 was from new development or .3 mills, and the reval was 159,000 or .04 mills. Commissioner Murray said, I would move that we—, I would make a motion for an amendment to the motion to approve that we reduce it by that, point what? Mr. Persaud said, .04. Commissioner Murray said, .04 mills. The Clerk said, I'm having difficulty hearing you.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion on the floor to approve the CAT budget with a reduction in the millage of .04. Well, let's get a motion and a second. Do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Murray said, no. Chairman Hair said, no second. Okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'll move for approval of the budget, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk said, we already had a motion on the floor to approve. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Sybil [Tillman], what did you need to know. The Clerk said, I said we already had a motion. Commissioner Price said, you had four to two on that. We do not have a fifth vote. Put the votes back up. The Clerk said, I can't put the votes back up. Chairman Hair said, now, now we have five. Okay, thanks. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, all right, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt the 1999 budget resolutions for Chatham County as recommended by staff. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to set as a goal a request for \$2 million for the Library to be considered with all other requests when the \$4.3 million SPLOST funds are freed up and available. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
3. Commissioner Saussy moved that the County study recommending to the State Legislature that a millage be set aside strictly for the Library and that a suggested millage be brought back to the Commission for vote. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]
4. Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt the CAT budget for 1999 as recommended by staff. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Odell and Thomas were not present.]

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3. INFORMATION REGARDING PRELIMINARY WORK COMPLETED AND REQUEST CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL TO PURSUE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MOSQUITO CONTROL FACILITY AT THE SAVANNAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND ADDRESS CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE AND ROAD OVER PIPEMAKERS CANAL TO SERVE AIRPORT GOLF COURSE.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, very briefly, and you can help me out on this, but this is a great opportunity for the County to relocate an antiquated facility now on Eisenhower to the airport. We're asking for your permission to begin very serious negotiations with Mr. Graham. Also, we have an opportunity to conclude our commitments to JCB to create, in effect, a closing of Bourne Avenue without infringing upon service access to the airport.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Saussy said second.

Chairman Hair said, this is a great idea. Commissioner Price said, it's information only. Chairman Hair said, okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to grant approval to continue fact finding and begin negotiating in earnest to construct a new Mosquito Control facility at the Savannah International Airport for an estimated construction cost of \$3.95 million and address construction of a bridge and road over Pipemakers Canal to ensure promised limited access to J. C. Bamford (Bourne Avenue) and provide access to Pipemakers Canal. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

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4. STATUS OF CONSENT ORDER, THOMAS AVENUE LANDFILL. AT THE TIME OF WRITING WE ARE STILL AWAITING REVISED CONSENT ORDER FROM DNR.

County Manager Abolt said, the attorney has some late-breaking news. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, we received this morning a modified order. We had some objections to the original consent order and they sent us back language that was acceptable, and we're prepared to sign it from a legal staff standpoint. Chairman Hair said, we got a lot of opposition to that. Is that going to come before us for a vote?

County Manager Abolt said, two different things, sir. This is on the incident that occurred when there was—. Chairman Hair said, this was the smoke and the fire and—. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. The other issue regarding the vertical expansion—. Chairman Hair said, right. County Manager Abolt said, we must go to DNR and make application. There will be full due process—. Chairman Hair said, but that will come back to us for a vote. County Manager Abolt said, full due process. Chairman Hair said, we'll do that. Right? Okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, my question is though will we have an opportunity to vote on that? County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to Attorney Hart. I don't know whether DNR does that on their own. Chairman Hair said, I hope we do. County Attorney Hart said, well, this issue right here deals with simply with the consent order on the fire. Chairman Hair said, this has to do with the fire. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but my question is when it comes back to the vertical expansion of the landfill, will the Commission have an opportunity to vote yes or no? I understood that we were trying to close all of our landfills down and now we've got this thing coming up that we want to expand one of them. One of them is probably causing a lot of problems in the neighborhood. County Attorney Hart said, I'm going to have to look at that. Chairman Hair said, I can't imagine us not having the opportunity to approve or disapprove it. County Attorney Hart said, to get the permit out of DNR is going to take some time. Chairman Hair asked, but you're going to research that and let us know? Commissioner Murray said, yes, but once the permit's in place we start using them and we start expanding, and that's my question. County Attorney Hart said, I do not know the answer to that question. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not so sure that I'm in favor of doing that. Chairman Hair asked, well, can't we—? Commissioner Saussy said, but that's not this portion. Chairman Hair said, I understand that. Commissioner Murray said, I know it's not that, but—. Chairman Hair said, but what we can do is we can direct staff, we can direct staff to bring it back to us as an item.

County Manager Abolt said, I believe I can give you a satisfactory—, you control the purse strings. Chairman Hair said, right. County Manager Abolt said, if let's assume the worst case situation, DNR can issue a permit to us. The only money is money that you control, so if we were to come forward to you and be insensitive to the needs of the neighborhood, you've got us because we're not going to spend one penny without your okay—. Chairman Hair said, that's what I'm saying. County Manager Abolt to raise the—. Chairman Hair said, you're going to bring it back to us for approval. Okay, that's what—, that's all, Commissioner Murray, that's all—, I totally agree with him. We need to do that.

* * *

County Attorney Hart said, I don't think we ever had a motion on the consent order. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do we need a—. We need to vote on the right—. County Attorney Hart said, for the County to sign off on the order. Chairman Hair said, all right, I have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

County Manager Abolt said, on the other one if we just have conceptual okay, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. We don't need to vote on it. Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the appropriate County officials to execute the consent order regarding Thomas Avenue Landfill. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

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5. BOARD CONSIDERATION REGARDING PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION AND METHODOLOGY FOR CONCLUDING THE CHATHAM COUNTY SERVICE DELIVERY PROGRAM (HOUSE BILL 489).

County Manager Abolt said, very quickly, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. This is something we're all excited about. This is, of course, House Bill 49, as you mentioned. It causes all government jurisdictions, in this case, Chatham County and the eight municipalities, to decide how we can better configure our service delivery in the years to come. You had a special workshop here many months ago in which Arnold Tenenbaum was present. Milton Newton has been leading, along with Clyde Wester, a major

task force involving all of the Managers of each of the governing jurisdictions, including myself. We have this status report for you. We've also identified 10 areas, which are on page four of the staff report. We're looking at consolidation. This is good news.

Chairman Hair said, we don't need to vote on that. County Manager Abolt said, as long as you're okay with what we're doing, and I think you are. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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6. 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.

- **INSPECTIONS - CLERICAL ASSISTANT II - ONE POSITION**
- **CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT - CLERICAL ASSISTANT II - ONE POSITION**
- **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - FILES SUPERVISOR II AND ANY RESULTING VACANCIES - ONE POSITION AND ANY RESULTING VACANCIES**
- **SOLID WASTE - EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II - ONE POSITION**

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Is there a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Inspections - Clerical Assistant II (1 position); Clerk of Superior Court - Clerical Assistant II (1 Position); Administrative Services - Files Supervisor II and any resulting vacancies (1 position and any resulting vacancies); and Solid Waste - Equipment Operator II (1 position). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Action Calendar. Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Jackel, what do you want to pull off? Commissioner Murray said, I've got several on here too. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't want to disappoint you. Chairman Hair said, I'm sure you won't. You never disappoint me on the Action Calendar. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, let's start with F. Chairman Hair said, F, okay, we'll start with F. Commissioner Jackel said, and then we'll go to—. Chairman Hair said, wait a minute. Okay. Commissioner Jackel said, let's see here, L, M, N, O, P, and then we'll skip to S. Commissioner Odell said, Q, R, S, T, U, V. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray—. Commissioner Price said, I move for approval of the—. Chairman Hair said, wait a minute. Commissioner Murray wants to pull something. Commissioner Murray said, I would move we pull 17-A through S and do each one of them individually because of the amount of money that we have allocated on these—, all the way through. Chairman Hair asked, okay, so you want to pull all of 17 then? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, all of 17 is pulled.

Commissioner Price said, I move for approval of the balance of the agenda—, Action Calendar. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, okay, the motion passes.

[NOTE: See Item 17 for discussion on Items 17-A through 17-S respectively.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 17-A and 17-S, both inclusive. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was 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 DECEMBER 4, 1998, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 4, 1998, as mailed. # seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 24, 1998, THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 1998.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period November 24, 1998, through December 9, 1998, in the amount of \$4,771,581. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE CONSTRUCTION OF SUMMER OAKS LANE, APPROVE THE CHAIRMAN SIGNING THE WARRANTY AGREEMENT AND TO INITIATE THE TWELVE-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve construction of Summer Oaks Lane, approve the Chairman signing the warranty agreement, and initiate the 12-month warranty period. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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4. REQUEST FROM MR. AND MRS. EDWARD E. REECE FOR THE COUNTY TO DECLARE THE PORTION OF 2ND STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY SOUTH OF LANG STREET ON WILMINGTON ISLAND AS SURPLUS AND TO QUITCLAIM THE PROPERTY. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Reece for the County to declare the portion of 2nd Street right-of-way south of Lang Street on Wilmington Island as surplus and to quitclaim the property. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A RIGHT-OF-ENTRY AGREEMENT WITH CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC., TO GAIN ACCESS TO PROPERTY THAT THE COUNTY IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING. [DISTRICT 2.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to authorize the Chairman to execute a Right-of-Entry Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc., to gain access to property that the County is interested in purchasing. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH GDOT FOR THE FUNDING OF ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DIAMOND CAUSEWAY AND WHITFIELD AVENUE (SR 204 SPUR) PROJECTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a Supplemental Agreement with GDOT for the funding of engineering services for the Diamond Causeway and Whitfield Avenue (SR 204 Spur) projects. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT MELVIN CHANNELL DOING BUSINESS AS ISLAND OF MARSH PLAZA (“MARSHPOINT”) TO CONSTRUCT A FORCE MAIN FROM THE PROPERTY LINE AT MARSH PLAZA TO THE POINT OF DISCHARGE AT THE COUNTY SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM AT WINTERBERRY SUBDIVISION. (NOTE: STAFF REPORT HAS CHANGED SINCE YOUR PAST MEETING AND RELATED ITEM APPEARS ON PURCHASING REPORT, ITEM J.)
[DISTRICTS 1 AND 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve an agreement with Robert Melvin Channell doing business as Island of Marsh Plaza (“Marshpoint”) to construct a force main from the property line at Marsh Plaza to the point of discharge at the County sanitary sewer system at Winterberry Subdivision. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 8. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN A TEMPORARY LICENSE TO BE GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, HEADQUARTERS, 3D INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED), FOR ENTRY ONTO HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD (LICENSE NO. 102-99) FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 9, 1998, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1999.
[DISTRICT 5.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to authorize the Chairman to sign a temporary license to be granted by the Department of the Army, Headquarters, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), for entry onto Hunter Army Airfield (License No. 102-99) for the period December 9, 1998, through February 28, 1999. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 9. REQUEST BOARD ASSIST IN THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE BEACH INSTITUTE NEIGHBORHOOD BY AUTHORIZING ABATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON 518 EAST TAYLOR STREET.
[DISTRICT 2.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to assist in the redevelopment of the Beach Institute neighborhood by authorizing abatement of administrative penalties and interest on 518 East Taylor Street. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 10. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR SALE A PROPERTY HELD BY TAX DEED AT 533 CHARLTON STREET IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.
[DISTRICT 2.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to declare as surplus and offer for sale a property held by tax deed at 533 Charlton Street in the City of Savannah. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 11. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT APPLICATION (TEA21) FOR THE TOM TRIPLETT COMMUNITY PARK AND THE S & O CANAL HISTORIC SCENIC TRAIL AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ALL AGREEMENTS. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve a Transportation Enhancement Application (TEA21) for the Tom Triplett Community Park and the S & O Canal Historic Scenic Trail and authorize the Chairman to sign all agreements. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 12. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS PLAN THAT ADDRESSES ALL FORMS OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PUBLIC FROM COUNTY DEPARTMENTS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve a Public Information Communications Plan that addresses all forms of communications to the public from County departments. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 13. **REQUEST FOR NEW SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1999 ALONG WITH RENEWAL OF EXISTING POURING LICENSE AT A NEW LOCATION. PETITIONER: KAREN L. BLALOCK, D/B/A KAREN'S PLACE, LOCATED AT 5115 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the petition of Karen L. Blalock, d/b/a Karen's Place, located at 5115 Ogeechee Road, for a new Sunday sales of beer and liquor pouring license for 1999 along with renewal of existing pouring license at a new location. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 14. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT YEAR AND 1999 SPECIFIC, AGGREGATE EXCESS, AND TERM LIFE INSURANCE.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to authorize the renewal of the current year and 1999 Specific, Aggregate Excess, and Term Life Insurance. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 15. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF QUITCLAIM DEEDS (12) IN ORDER TO RETURN THE PROPERTIES TO A TAXABLE STATUS ON THE TAX DIGEST.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve twelve (12) quitclaim deeds in order to return the properties to a taxable status on the tax digest. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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- 16. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF QUITCLAIM DEEDS (1) ON WHICH THE INDEBTEDNESS OF CHATHAM COUNTY HAS NOW BEEN SATISFIED ON THE DELINQUENT TAXES INVOLVED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve one (1) quitclaim deed on which the indebtedness of Chatham County has now been satisfied on the delinquent taxes involved. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Software and services	Assessor	ESRI, Inc. (sole source)	\$32,150	General Fund/M & O - Assessor
B. Computers (less monitors)	Juvenile Court	Dell Marketing (state contract)	\$30,450	General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court
C. Desk top computers	Library	Dell Marketing (state contract)	\$63,175	General Fund/M & O - Library
D. Additional professional services to perform soil and ground water contamination delineation	Mosquito Control	S&ME	\$20,725	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
E. 150 voting booths	Elections Board	United American Election Supply (sole source)	\$26,925	General Fund/M & O - Elections Board
F. Annual contract, with renewal options for two additional one-year terms, to provide security services	Tybee Pier and Pavilion	AP Security Agency (MBE)	\$21,907.72	General Fund/M & O - Tybee Pier and Pavilion
G. Change Order No. 1 to annual contract for dumpster/trash collection, to increase scope of service to include EMS site #3 and 4 and increase size of dumpster at Fleet Operation	•EMS •Fleet Operations	ECO Services of Savannah	•\$32 month for EMS •\$64.08 for Fleet Operations	•General Fund/M & O - EMS •General Fund/M & O - Fleet Operations
H. Confirmation emergency purchase of one (1) mobile home	EMS	Ray Sollie Homes of Savannah	\$18,400	General Fund/M & O - EMS
I. Recording ledger paper, deed record books, docket books and minute books	Superior Court Clerk	Clyde Castleberry Company	\$13,648.75	General Fund/M & O - Superior Court Clerk
J. Agreement to construct a force main at Marsh Plaza to Winterberry Subdivision	Engineering	Robert Melvin Channell d/b/a Island of Marsh Plaza	N/A	No funds required. Owner will provide funds to the County upon request
K. One (1) used helicopter	Mosquito Control	Boeing/McDonnell Douglas	\$300,000	Lease/purchase will be established in the FY2000 budget
L. Month-to-month extension, not to exceed six (6) months, to provide administration of the County's self-funded group health program	Human Resources	Jones, Hill and Mercer	\$7.40 per employee per month	Internal Services Group Health Insurance Fund
M. Five (5) computers	Mosquito Control	Dell Marketing (State Contract)	\$14,540	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
N. One (1) copy machine	Human Resources	Automated Business Resources	\$14,449	General Fund/M & O - Human Resources
O. One (1) copy machine	State Court Clerk	Coyle Business Products	\$14,100	General Fund/M & O - State Court Clerk

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
P. Change Order No. 6 to the Trade Center Design contract to provide on-site architectural representation services during the peak construction period	SPLOST	TVS	\$199,200	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Contingency (pending Board approval)
Q. Renewal of contract for OCIP program	SPLOST	Karoly Agency Inc., et al	\$168,600	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Contingency (pending Board approval)
R. One (1) year extension of the contract for the management and operation of the Aquatic Center including conversion to a fixed price contract (with procedural modifications reflecting 11 months of operating experience)	Aquatic Center	Sports Design/ Champion Sports	\$249,000 (fixed price)	General Fund/M & O - Aquatic Center
S. Award contract, with option to renew for two additional one-year terms, for management and operation of the Anderson-Cohen Weightlifting Center (NOTE: Contract reflects Audit recommendations)	Weightlifting Center	Team Savannah, Inc.	\$38.78 per hour of operation	General Fund/M & O - Parks and Recreation

Item 17-A:

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], and I'll ask the question so we'll have it all the way through because my question will be the same on each one of them, and it's the same every year at the end of the year, at our last meeting we normally have just a ton of things to approve funding for, and the funding's been available all year long, and this is coming up at our last meeting to approve just to spend it. Are we spending it just because we've got it there? I mean, I have some problems with it. Maybe all these things are need.

County Manager Abolt said, I can't speak—, let me answer as philosophically from my perspective. I cannot answer on Item A, but I will tell you this. Because next year's budget has precious little by way of equipment replacement, to say nothing about vehicles, I have instructed those departments that have needs in 1999, if resources are available at the tag end of 1998, knowing for sure that they're going to go without in the following 12 months, to be judicious, but in effect to obligate what funds they do have currently authorized. So, that could be criticized, but that's the best way I know to deal with some of these relatively smaller items in budgets that will not be there in 1999.

Commissioner Murray asked, how is this software going to enhance the department? Mr. George Lynch asked, which one are you referring to? Commissioner Murray said, Number A. Chairman Hair said, A, 17-A. Mr. Lynch said, 17-A, as I understand it, sir, is the type of update that occurs on an annual basis. It is part of the, if you would, maintenance of the system. You place an order, this is proprietary software, and that is the system that is being used overall. Also, as I understand it, this does facilitate use of GIS data and items of this kind. In other words, it's not going out into the wild blue yonder. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Chairman Hair asked, won't any of this answer your question on all of those, right? Commissioner Murray said, well, I had questions—, yes. Do you want to go down the whole list right now. We can do that. Mr. Lynch said, all right, sir. We can—. Chairman Hair said, let's do that and let's do the whole balance at one time. Chairman Hair said, okay. All right.

Item 17-B:

Mr. Lynch said, okay, on Item B—. Chairman Hair asked, is it B you want to ask—? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, B. Mr. Lynch said, okay, this is your juvenile court. The Council of Juvenile Court Judges is providing the new standard software for juvenile court operations. That is more sophisticated software than the computers they presently have in the network can handle. As a consequence, what you're doing is going into a procurement of 25 computers. We're reusing the monitors. Commissioner Murray said, okay, that's fine. Mr. Lynch said, to be able to use the new directed service—. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, that's okay, that answers that. Chairman Hair asked, any questions? Commissioner Murray said, not on that one.

Item 17-C:

Commissioner Murray said, on C, yes. We're being told that we aren't helping anything. Here's \$63,000 more to the Library. Mr. Lynch said, sir, the Library already has the funding—. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. I'm just making a point. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. I understand. Commissioner Murray said, thank you.

Item 17-D:

Commissioner Murray said, D I don't have any questions on.

Item 17-E:

Commissioner Murray asked, so we do have the 150 voting booths? Mr. Lynch said, we're getting 150 of the 200 that are required out of this year's money. Commissioner Murray said, so that will leave us another 50 that we will need before the year 2000, is that right, for the elections in 2000. Okay. Mr. Lynch said, that is correct. Commissioner Murray said, so forget what I was bringing up before then because I didn't realize that we were going to--.

County Manager Abolt said, I would also ask Mr. Persaud when we can bring the other matter back before you. We will try to laundry list everything y'all have mentioned. Commissioner Murray said, okay. I was concerned about—. Chairman Hair said, you're talking about a relatively small amount of money. For 150 at \$29,000 [sic], 50 wouldn't be but—. Commissioner Price said, wait a minute. I just heard the words laundry and money. We have to be careful—.

Item 17-F:

Commissioner Murray said, F, the annual contract on the Tybee Pier and Pavilion for security. Commissioner Jackel asked, why don't we approve A through E? Chairman Hair said, no, let's go ahead and I'll get your questions on F too, Commissioner Jackel. Let's just have one motion. Commissioner Murray asked, do you have questions on this? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, go ahead with yours then.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have opposed this from the very beginning. That pier is down at Tybee. They need to provide the security for it. I'm against providing the security for a pier that's right opposite their police station. It just doesn't make sense to me. The City provides security for the County within the city limits, and—, security and policing, and I don't think the reverse is true because I don't think the City has any within the County. I do not see why something totally within the City of Tybee that we have to spend almost \$22,000 on it. I would—. Mr. Lynch said, sir, not to—. Commissioner Jackel said, us turn this [inaudible].

Chairman Hair said, as I've said over and over and over on that Tybee Pier, we need to begin serious negotiations with Tybee to turn the whole pier over to them and let them operate it, and totally just turn the ownership over, and I think that's the long term solution for that, Commissioner Jackel. I agree with you, but we're going to have this every year until we can deal with the problem long term, which is go ahead and turn the pier over to them. Commissioner Price said, then they'll ask for funding. Commissioner Rivers said, I would think if we are going to do that, Mr. Chairman, that we need to sit down in some long negotiations with Tybee before this pier is turned over. Chairman Hair said, oh, I'm not—, I agree with you. Commissioner Murray said, I don't think that was—. Chairman Hair said, well, I've talked to the Mayor about it and he's interested in negotiating. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'm sure they are, but I'm not interested in turning that over to Tybee when it was paid for by the citizens—, all the citizens of Chatham County plus visitors into Chatham County. I think it's something we need to look at. I agree too with Commissioner Jackel though. I think we could probably negotiate with Tybee on the security and reduce that figure.

County Manager Abolt said, sir, we did that before and Mr. Lynch was the lead negotiator. We found that they were more expensive. Mr. Lynch said, I don't recall it being expensive. We were unsuccessful in being able to get them to commit the amount of time that it takes during that five to midnight period wherein vandalism was just endemic. Commissioner Murray asked, are you saying that we have somebody on site—? Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray said, during those hours. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray said, all right, because I do know that we were having more than \$21,000 worth of—, \$22,000 worth of—. Commissioner Price said, damage. Commissioner Murray said, destruction to it. County Manager Abolt said, in a matter of a few weeks. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. County Manager Abolt said, in a matter of a few weeks. Commissioner Murray said, yes.

Chairman Hair said, okay, why don't we vote on that one separate since you—. Commissioner Murray said, let's hold that one out then and come back to it. Chairman Hair said, okay, we'll pull that one out and vote on that one separately.

* * *

Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Item 17-G:

Commissioner Murray said, the next one—, that one's fine. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Item 17-H:

Commissioner Murray said, H, let's see—. Mr. Lynch said, this is your EMS. Commissioner Murray said, Chief, I just want—. Is he still here? Chairman Hair said, yes, he's still here. Commissioner Murray said, I just wanted to ask on that what are we going to use—, is that mobile home going to be used for an office for the EMS to work out of? Chief Sprague said, sir, when the new zoning goes in January 1st—. Commissioner Murray said, right. Chief Sprague said, we needed a site for our westside coverage. We put it in with Port Wentworth though the City, and it will house that site. Commissioner Murray said, okay. No problem because I know we've worked out the others and I just—, okay, that's no problem.

Item 17-I and 17-J:

No discussion on these items.

Item 17-K:

Commissioner Murray said, I know we need the helicopter and I'm not opposed to purchasing the helicopter on Item K, but that's to replace the one that crashed, is that right? Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. It's also to recognize a more intense tactical commitment. Chairman Hair said, it's also—. Commissioner Murray said, it should be a much better helicopter. Chairman Hair said, it also is. It also has much, much higher weight limits and it's a used 500. Commissioner Murray

said, that's what I thought when I saw the figure on that. I figured it must be better. Chairman Hair said, yes, it's much better. County Manager Abolt said, the Chairman advises—. Mr. Lynch said, and the safety—. County Manager Abolt said, and as the Chairman advised, we bought it in the right part of the country too. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. You buy these kind of things out in the desert where they don't corrode. You don't buy these on the East Coast. I'm serious. You don't buy aircraft on the East Coast because they corrode. You buy them on the West out in the desert, Phoenix and other places like that. Commissioner Price said, ionization. Commissioner Rivers asked, are we buying somebody else's trouble? Chairman Hair said, oh, yes. If you want to buy that new, you'd better come off some—, you're going to spend all that \$4 million.

Commissioner Price asked, can you fly a helicopter, Billy [Hair]? Chairman Hair said, I used to. I'm not current in a helicopter. Only fixed wing. I'm just not current in helicopter.

Item 17-L:

Chairman Hair asked, let's do—, J, you're satisfied with J, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Chairman Hair said, M. Commissioner Murray asked, how about L? He had L.

Commissioner Jackel said, I've got very serious problems here. My experience with Jones, Hill and Mercer has not been positive, to say the least. I can never seem to get anyone on the phone over there. I'm lucky if my calls get returned at all. If they get returned, it's some two or three days later. Initially I complained about the bills that they send out not having a phone number on it. That indicated to me that they didn't want to be bothered by anybody. They finally put a phone number up there, but you're told on certain days you can call here and certain days you can call there, and they may come help you. My family has had an unfortunate health problem this year that is under control. Through the grace of God we're doing well, but when we had—, my wife had to try and reach Jones, Hill and Mercer about finding out if a doctor was approved, there was—, all she could get was recordings. There was no way she could speak to anybody. I don't think the service we have gotten is adequate. I still cannot understand the bills when they come in. I'm not sure of what we have to pay or when—, the amount we have to pay, I'm not sure how it was totally arrived at. They have made some changes, but I don't know why they had to wait for me and my wife to make these suggestions so they would make these changes. I think the contract needs to be revamped so there are targets on how quick phone calls are returned, on clarification of the billing systems, that there always is an alternative to reach a person that you can speak to who can make a decision, and without those I'm not willing to vote for anything for Jones, Hill and Mercer. I understand we may have to continue until some other alternative is considered, but I'm certainly not willing at this time when I feel that they have not acted properly to raise the rate that they will charge us per employee. I cannot tell you how frustrated some of my dealings have—. I had called one employee on a Tuesday afternoon. I did not hear from her all day Wednesday. I finally called her Thursday afternoon and she said, well, I had to excuse her because she had a sick child and was out Wednesday, but that did not cover Thursday [sic] afternoon and did not excuse why didn't she call me all day Thursday, nor why—, nor any reason why someone else could have not made a quick inquiry to see if this was something I needed immediate help on.

Chairman Hair said, well, why don't we do this. Why don't we—, we vote on it separate and have the staff look into that one. Commissioner Jackel said, I would love to vote on this—. County Manager Abolt said, this is month to month. We're going to put it back out to bid—. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. It's going out for competitive bid. Chairman Hair said, so Commissioner Jackel can express his view, we'll vote on that separate.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just wanted to make everybody aware of the problem. Let me make just one final comment. I pride myself, and I hope not falsely, on if there's a line with County employees or anything, getting to the back of the line, not because I'm a Commissioner say let me to the front of the line. I was even uncomfortable at the employee's banquet yesterday when they asked us to eat first. I feel like the employees ought to eat first and the Commissioners ought to be behind. I'm very conscious of that and that's very important to me, and I feel like these complaints that I've made about Jones, Hill and Mercer is not just to improve the service for me and my wife. It's this is the level of service that I demand that we have for all our employees, and that's why this is so important to me because I want all the employees to be treated well and not run the frustrations that I have had.

* * *

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

Item 17-M:

Chairman Hair said, okay, Item M, five computers, Mosquito Control. Have you got a question on that? Commissioner Jackel does.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay. I think there was some difference in the pricing of these computers versus the other computers, and I was just—, and it's not much of a difference. I was just—. Mr. Lynch said, sir, each one of the computer purchases, the requirement is laid out. It's assessed not only by the using organization, but by ICS, the old MIS, then we do the pricing on what it takes to cover that. You're going to find variations, and I think that's healthy because one individual may need something another one doesn't—. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand that. Mr. Lynch said, and we're trying to make darn sure that we're not buying something that isn't needed, but at the same time we're getting what the people need in order to do their jobs, so you're going to find variances. It is not a pricing anomaly, it is simply what's the requirement for the particular machines. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's the answer I wanted to hear. So that's an excellent--.

Item 17-N:

Chairman Hair said, okay, N, one copy machine, Human Resources. Commissioner Murray said, I want to ask a question on that. Chairman Hair asked, on which one? Commissioner Murray said, on N. Chairman Hair said, N.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], and I'm sure we probably have, but is it cheaper for the County to just outright purchase these machines rather than lease them? County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to George [Lynch]. I find lease/purchase in this case to be more cost effective, but, George [Lynch], you know better than I. My Lynch said, okay, we are, as a matter of fact, right now, and you'll find in another venue, that we're trying lease on some. In the past the County with possibly one exception has tended to buy. That's worked well and served us well, but today you're getting into the digital computer mode, you're getting into technological advances—, not computer, copier. I'm sorry. So we're experimenting in several cases. Bill [Parson], I think of purchasing—, it's State Court, another one that we're trying that on, and cops, so we're looking at it. There's some cases where you're going to come out better with lease, and we're trying to make sure that we get those identified and explored.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Jackel, did you had a question on N? Commissioner Jackel said, I mentioned earlier that I would have questions on the copiers. The one for Mosquito Control was \$10,000—. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, the one here that we're looking at is \$14,449, and I understand that there are different requirements and then we have another one for \$14,100. I would venture to say, and I may be wrong, but I would thing among us Commissioners the only one that has access to a copier that's over about \$3,000 may be Commissioner Price, but all the offices that I've visited, they're not spending anywhere near that type of money on copiers, and I just really question why Mosquito Control is at \$10,000, the other one's \$14,500 really and the other one's \$14,100? Mr. Lynch said, let me deal with those, if I could, sort of one by one, sir. Mosquito Control is a digital computer. It's digital for one reason. They have a whale of a lot of reproduction of aerial photos, stuff that comes off GIS, where they've got to have the capability to get the gray tone renditions so people are able to use it. A digital computer—. Commissioner Jackel said, now we're talking about copier? Mr. Lynch said, I mean copier. I'm sorry. Commissioner Saussy said, there are computers though. Mr. Lynch said, yes, and I guess in a sense, yes. Digital copiers today cost somewhat more than the old analog. However, if you want to be able to do two things, you need the digital: one, to be able to get the very high quality rendition on maps and photos. The second one is if you want to come directly off the computer into the copier without going through the intermediate step of printing where you lose some of your resolution and things like that, the digital copier is the only way you can do it. So you're seeing at this moment on people with specific needs, like Mosquito Control, for this rendition, for the capability to be able to come directly out of the computer onto the copier, you're going to find you're paying a little bit of a premium. We think in every case it's—. Commissioner Jackel said, Mosquito Control is \$10,000 and these other ones are higher. So I don't know that the question's—. Mr. Lynch said, you've got volume requirements. Human Resources is a small dynamic shop that, without offending Mike [Kaigler] or any of his great staff, that's a paper mill. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so they need that. Mr. Lynch said, and, I'm sorry, they—, yes.

Item 17-O:

Commissioner Jackel said, and O is—. Chairman Hair said, State Court. Commissioner Jackel said, State Court. I know they have a volume too. Mr. Lynch said, they do. Commissioner Jackel asked, they can't get by with anything less? Mr. Lynch said, we have looked at it, every seven ways to Sunday. I'll ask Bill Parson—, was one of the more cynical members of the audience. I'm satisfied it's a solid requirement. Commissioner Murray asked, you don't practice in State Court? Commissioner Jackel said, I'm up there in State Court, yes. Commissioner Murray said, well, I just wondered. I didn't know you would talk against something like that. Commissioner Jackel said, if they're spending money, they don't need to spend—. Chairman Hair said, he'll vote for it when it comes up for a vote. I can assure you when it comes up for vote, his vote will be aye.

Commissioner Saussy said, I don't know when the last time, Martin [Jackel], you looked at the cost of copiers, but I had quoted to me \$25,000, and my office is extremely small. Commissioner Jackel said, you don't have a \$25,000—. Commissioner Saussy said, no, but if I wanted all the bells and whistles they needed, it would be great—.

Item 17-P:

Chairman Hair said, Item P, Change Order #6, Trade Center Design. Let's move on.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just—, these change orders are—, are they getting out of hand here? There's over \$7 million in change orders now. Commissioner Murray said, it's not going to stop until the project is complete. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, I'm going to adopt a tactic from Frank [Murray] on this, like the 90-day hiring freeze, I'm just going to vote against—. Chairman Hair asked, do you want P separate? Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, P separate.

* * *

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

Item 17-Q:

No discussion on this item.

Item 17-R:

No discussion on this item.

Item 17-S:

Chairman Hair said, that only leaves you one, S, Award contract with option to renew for two additional one-year terms for management and operation of the Anderson-Cohen Weightlifting Center, \$38.78 per hour of operation. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think Michael Cohen from all I can tell has done a wonderful job at the Weightlifting Center. I have faith in Michael Cohen to do the right thing. I just feel on some of these things we're putting excessive requirements on him that is not

part of his nature. He grew up as a weightlifter, he grew up as a [inaudible]. This is more in the line of someone who I think the phrase is a bean counter rather than a manager. We did this investigation, which I guess we had to do, but it just seems like it's a little excessive to me and I wanted to put that on the record, and wish there was a way—. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to vote on that separate? Commissioner Jackel said, I would like to. If we could make this a little less [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, okay, I've got it.

* * *

Chairman Hair said, Item S. Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

Vote on all items except F, L, P and S:

Commissioner Murray said, I move that we approve all the rest of them. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right we have motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar except F, L, P and S. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 17-A, 17-B, 17-C, 17-D, 17-E, 17-G, 17-H, 17-I, 17-J, 17-K, 17-M, 17-N, 17-O, and 17-R, both inclusive. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 17-F. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
3. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 17-L. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
4. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 17-P. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
5. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 17-S. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

1. **AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS TO REMOVE DENSITY LIMITATIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS CONGREGATE HOUSING WITHIN PUD-M DISTRICTS AND ADD CERTAIN DESIGN STANDARDS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE APPROVED. MPC FILE NO. 98-12371-C
NO DISTRICT/TEXT AMENDMENT/UNINCORPORATED AREA**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

1. **PETITIONER, PHILLIP R. MCCORKLE, AGENT (FOR MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP), IS REQUESTING THAT A 12.9 ACRE TRACT WITHIN THE 634 ACRE HENDERSON GOLF COMMUNITY BE REZONED FROM**

**A PUD-C CLASSIFICATION TO A P-B CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW A MANUFACTURED HOME SALES LOT. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE PETITIONER’S REQUEST BE DENIED.
MPC FILE NO. 98-12381-C
[DISTRICT 7]**

Chairman Hair said, the second thing under my section is I’m going to request unanimous consent that we move up Second Reading, #1, up to the beginning of the agenda. The attorney’s here. The petitioner wants to request that it be sent back to the MPC. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that, pursuant to petitioner’s request, the petition of Phillip R. McCorkle, Agent (for Multiple Ownership) requesting that a 12.9 acre tract within the 634 acre Henderson Golf Community be rezoned from a PUD-C classification to a P-B classification to allow a manufactured home sales lot, be returned to the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

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2. AMEND THE LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ORDINANCE (LDAO) FEE SCHEDULE.

Chairman Hair said, move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the amendment to the Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance (LDAO) fee schedule to cover the cost of regulatory activities by deleting Section XI-A in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- “A. The following permit fee schedule is adopted and made a part of this Ordinance. The fees shall accompany the permit application. The fee is required only once to cover the permit process, that may start with a clearing and grubbing permit and may end with a development permit. Future phases of a development shall require new permit applications and the payment of fees for the additional lots of acreage involved.
 - “1. Residential subdivisions shall be \$80 per lot; and
 - “2. Non-residential development will be \$400 per acre for the first five acres, plus \$40 per acre for each additional acre, with a minimum fee of \$200.

“These fees may be revised as the Board of Commissioners deems necessary.”

Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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3. INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES IN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

Commissioner DeLoach said, could I also ask that we consider moving forward the homestead exemption issue on the Information Items. I've got Ron Stephens, Representative Ron Stephens here, and he hasn't got a lot of time, and wanted to know if he could—. Chairman Hair asked, on Information Items? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, number three. Commissioner DeLoach said, number three on Information Items. Chairman Hair said, let's just make sure that—, let me ask the attorney. We just took a motion, do we need to take a separate—, that was to move it up. Do we need to take a separate motion? County Attorney Hart said, you can do it by unanimous consent. I have no problem with that. If it's by unanimous consent, I have no problem with that. Chairman Hair said, okay, so we—, the motion's already, we've already consented. Thank you.

As to unanimous consent to move up Information Item #3 to this position—. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, well, we asked unanimous—. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, well, okay, let's vote for it. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. I brought this before you a few weeks ago concerning the homestead exemption. I was interested in developing this homestead exemption so that we could not necessarily index it, but actually eliminate the increase in taxes to the homeowner after he buys the home. I've got Ron Stephens here, Representative Ron Stephens, who has been willing to take this upon himself as far as sponsoring this along with Burke Day, and I'm not sure exactly who else, but I wanted to bring it before the Commission and see if I couldn't get the Commission to agree to go on record as supporting the idea of actually working this homestead exemption as outlined by Gary Udinsky and explained to y'all in earlier meetings and in earlier times whenever y'all were available, and with that in mind I'd like to make that a motion and if I could get a second on it, I'd appreciate it.

Chairman Hair said, okay we have a motion—, is your motion to endorse the concept? Is that the motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, yes. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion to endorse the concept of the local legislation that's going to be introduced in January on the homestead exemption. Do I have a second? Commissioner Murray said, I'll second for discussion. Chairman Hair said, okay, I have a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I just saw on the news, I guess it was yesterday, that incoming Governor Barnes is pushing at the first part of the—, when they go back in session in January, to start moving forward with a \$50,000 homestead exemption that would be phased in over a seven to eight-year period if it goes through as he's proposed. I'm just trying to, for my information, find out how that will affect what you're proposing now. I don't know whether Ron [Stephens] needs to answer any of these questions, or do you have the answers, or where we'll get them from. Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner DeLoach, do you have the answers?

Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, well, as far as—, to me, these are two different issues that mine won't affect his and his won't affect mine. All it will do is start the homestead exemption at the \$50,000 level rather than the \$12,000 level that we're at now. So they don't conflict with each other. I think the big question that is in front of the ACCG right now is if you take this \$50,000 exemption and phase it over whatever time period, is it going to affect the overall amount of monies that Chatham County has coming in, and I'd said, you know, that will, but my—, the bill that Ron [Stephens] is working on won't affect his bill at all. It will just kind of piggyback on that bill if it were picked up at any time by the State or by the Local Delegation.

Commissioner Murray said, the way I understood it when I read the article in the paper, and certainly keep in mind that it was just in the newspaper, it was not something—, but we won't get into that, but I understood it would supercede anything that was already in place for homestead exemptions from county to county, and maybe I read it wrong. Chairman Hair said, I think it would, wouldn't it, Shot [Hart]?

County Attorney Hart said, I'm not—. I glanced at the article and, I'm like Commissioner Murray, you know, it's a newspaper article so until you actually see the proposed legislation, you really don't know what it's actually going to do. I know it's going to be a State-wide homestead exemption. The one that we're talking about here is proposed to be a local homestead exemption with the caveat that everybody that has a taxing authority, you know, local municipalities, school board, will sign onto the program.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman—. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and—. Commissioner Murray said, this also—. Commissioner Rivers said, I just wanted to answer with reference to would they—. Chairman Hair said, you want to answer the question, certainly. Commissioner Rivers said, at our ACCG meeting this past—, last week, we just discussed the impact and we sent out letters. I don't know if Chatham County got it here, asking what the impact will be from county to county, so that if we need to oppose this then we would go forward in opposing it, all depending on what kind of impact it's going to have on—, because it could be detrimental to some counties. It may be good for our county. I don't see no reason why we can't proceed on both tracks. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't have a problem with the concept and moving forward to see how it's going to work and whether they can get a bill passed through or not, and I would support doing that. I just think that we need to look at it very carefully and I'm in favor of doing something to help the property tax with the property owners and some way to offset some of the increases that we're seeing right now. Whatever we can do to do that I'll support it.

Chairman Hair said, well, I—, no one on this Commission—, I voted against every increase that we've had since I've been on the Commission, but I have some real reservations about this. All this does is what we have the power to do right now. We have the power to roll the millage back any time we want to. We had the chance to roll the millage back three months ago and we didn't do it. All this does is it does exactly the same thing, so we have the power as Commissioners to do what this does right now. All we had to do was vote for it, and we didn't vote for it, and all this does is do the same thing. So, I think Commissioner Jackel the last time raised some excellent points about—, some concerns about this, and I think this needs a lot of study and we don't know the impacts of this and for me to support something when I don't know the impact on the local community, I have a real problem with that. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, I like the idea, but I, like the Chairman, have concerns about has anybody put a pencil to this? Has anybody gone into to look at what the impact on revenues to the County would be, what levels they would be, what services would be in jeopardy? Those are the sort of things and we may find we can't continue to do dry trash pickup under this. We might find we can't continue to do a lot of other services that the citizens demand that we do, and that's the critical part of it, and those are the answers we need to have, I think, before any resolution is passed in support of this.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. The issue here is whether you want to increase taxes on Chatham County or not. You can color it any way you want to, but the fact of it is we have the power and right now the budget that we're proposing to pass this time right now has this tax in it. So although, Billy [Hair], you know, you say we have the power to do it, our budget has it in there this year already, so obviously although we have the power to do this, we're still using reval taxes to—, and this is taxes on the homeowner after they buy the home—, we're using those taxes to operate the County. Now this, what we're proposing to do here is to eliminate the reval tax so that long term the homeowner, and this is the homeowner we're talking about, we're talking about out of the \$2.1 million that we might collect in homestead exemptions, \$600,000 of that would be homeowner "reval tax." Now \$600,000 is a lot of money, but \$600,000 in the future we can deal with. It doesn't affect this budget, it won't affect the next budget if we pass that. All it does is, if a person buys a home today in Chatham County, as long as that person lives in that home, he will not have himself taxed out of that home based on reevaluation. This is a critical issue and it's not something we need to cover up with what's going to happen with dry trash, what's going to happen with this. We're going to operate within the budget that we have, and if we want to increase that budget we should be man enough and lady enough to stand up here and vote for a millage increase, if that's what we want to do. Right now we're passing a budget —, what is the reval in our budget going in this year, Russ [Abolt]? What part of that is reval tax. County Manager Abolt said, 2½%, approximately \$1.3 million. Commissioner DeLoach said, \$1.3 million. We are raising your taxes in Chatham County \$1.3 million this year. Everyone up here that votes for this budget today will do that. So let's not make the—, make no mistake about it, we have voted for a tax increase up here in Chatham County on this Commission and past Commissions. So what I'm trying to do today and what I'm trying to propose for Chatham County, not only just the Commission, but also the School Board and all the cities that have a property tax, let's eliminate this reval tax so that when a person moves into Savannah or a young person buys a home, he doesn't continue to have taxes go up based on an artificial assessment because he's not interested in what the value of his home is. He's interested in where he's living. So let's pass this thing and go forward with it because it's just fair to —, and it impacts everyone in the community. It impacts the lower group of taxpayers more than it does the upper group because those folks are hanging on a string living in a home trying to make ends meet and yet we go out there and we raise the value of that home \$10,000, that ups that person's taxes and they can't make it. If you pass this, that stops that. We can't do that to them any more once they move in that home. And it's something we need to vote for, folks. This is something that you need to do as Commissioners to help those constituents that live in your area to stay in the home that they bought and not get taxed out of it. That's what the issue is today because we already raised the taxes and we have voted for a tax increase. Just put that on the record. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm going to make a comment and then I'm going to recognize Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Rivers and Commissioner Price. When we set the millage back in July, we had a chance to roll the millage back. There were some of us that wanted to roll the millage back to do exactly—, to offset that \$1.3 million, and there were only two people that voted for it. So I think that we had the right to do it, and we still—, always have the right to roll the millage back. Commissioner DeLoach said, let me ask—, let me—, I'm going to follow up on that. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner DeLoach said, if you want to make that issue. The fact of it is, in your budget that we're voting for today, I don't care what he's saying there, there's \$1.3 million of reval tax in there. Now if you vote for that budget, you're voting for a tax increase. I don't care if you're the Chairman or if you're a Commissioner up here, you're voting for a tax increase. So don't—, you can color it the way you want to color, but it's a tax increase. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I have no problem with our studying this thing, but recommending it as this time I have some problems with that, and to me there are two distinct things. One is how much money we're going to spend, and we have to make every attempt to hold back government spending. The other issue is who's going to pay, and that's what the millage is. If we had rolled back the reval and your house went up \$100,000, that's not compensating you for the amount of increase you had. It doesn't come close, and I don't know what effect this is going to have on who's to pay the taxes in the future if we adopt these things. Does it shift too much to the commercial property owner, does it shift too much to the new people who are coming into town? There are a lot of unanswered questions that I think need to be answered before I could—, I could vote for this thing because we don't know who it's shifting it to and how this thing could respond to periods of inflation that we may have in the future. Without that we don't know. Maybe someone can answer this question—, is Mr. Udinsky here? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Jackel asked, if someone buys a house for \$100,000 and then they sell it for \$200,000, is that considered in the reval or is that considered in the growth? Chairman Hair said, regrowth.

Mr. Gary Udinsky said, it would depend if the value of the property increased because of improvements made or if the property value increased because the market for that property increased. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. Jones owns a house for \$100,000 and he lives in it for five years and at the end of five years he sells it to Smith for \$200,000. Is that increase considered as part of the reval or is it considered part of the growth in the digest? Mr. Udinsky asked, and he made no improvements? Commissioner Jackel said, and he made no improvements. Mr. Udinsky said, then it's reval. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry. Mr. Udinsky said, then it's reval. Commissioner Jackel said, then it is reval. So part of the reval we're talking about is when people are selling their houses as well as those who are just staying in the house? Commissioner DeLoach said, no. Commissioner Jackel said, well, he just said—. Mr. Udinsky said, the market controls—, the market controls what the value of the property is. So as the market suggests the values of properties increase or decrease, we change the value based on that, and that's what you're calling reval. If a particular property sells or not, I don't think that's—, I'm not sure I understand what you're talking about. Commissioner Jackel said, there are two parts, as I understand, and one is the growth in the digest. The growth in the digest would be new construction. Mr. Udinsky said, correct. Commissioner Jackel said, but if a house, in my example, was bought at \$100,000, and obviously it sells for \$200,000, can we attribute that to that \$1.2 in the reval or does it go over in the part that's considered growth in the digest? Mr. Udinsky said, the fact that it sold is immaterial to the discussion. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Mr. Udinsky said, the value went up due to market conditions, and that's reval. Commissioner Jackel said, that's part of the reval. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, it's not—, no, that's not right, Martin [Jackel]. He's—, it is a reval and what he's saying is right, but the number for that house, the value of that house is set at that time at that price, so it's part of the growth. Commissioner Jackel said, but he's saying—. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, no, it's a reval increase, but it's part of the growth. Chairman Hair said, the Tax Assessor says it's reval. Commissioner Jackel said, and it's in that \$1.2 million.

Mr. Udinsky said, the growth in the digest is made up of two components. It's made up of what you're calling reval and what you're calling improvements or new construction. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Mr. Udinsky said, that's growth in the digest. The total growth is made up from those two components. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Commissioner Rivers said, plus the fact is that you look around, everything around that if property is selling within the area, when you go out there to reevaluate, whether a house sold or not, the land value has increased by the properties around it, and you evaluate off of that, so that all of that is thrown in. Mr.

Udinsky said, the simple fact that it sold doesn't mean the value of that property changed. The value of the property changed because of conditions around the property, and that growth in value because of conditions around the property would be considered growth in the digest caused by revaluation.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay. All right, so part of this \$1.2 million is people who are selling their house for more than they—. Commissioner DeLoach said, no. Commissioner Thomas said, no. Mr. Udinsky said, the sale has nothing to do with the issue. Sales in general—. Commissioner Jackel said, the sale has something to do with the issue. You know, we had this [inaudible] house that I mentioned a while back. It was reeval—, it was on the books for \$900,000. He sold it for \$3.2 million. It's now going to show up on the books on \$3.2 million. Mr. Udinsky said, no, it's not. Commissioner Jackel asked, it's not going to show up? Mr. Udinsky said, no. Commissioner Jackel asked, and you're not going to set the sale as the fair market value? Mr. Udinsky said, no. In fact, there's all kind of both professional practice rules not to, Department of Revenue rules not to. A single sale doesn't make a market. Commissioner Jackel said, it isn't conclusive, but it's some evidence. Mr. Udinsky said, a single sale is evidence of a market, but a single sale doesn't make a market. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Jackel said, there are unanswered questions and I think there still are some unanswered questions out there. The effect of this thing—, and, Eddie [DeLoach], if the motion is in the form that we propose it and it's for study, I can back that. If it's—. Chairman Hair said, that's not the motion. The motion is to support the local legislation. Commissioner Jackel said, if the motion is to support it, I couldn't—, at this time without additional information, I cannot do that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair said, that's the motion is to support the legislation that Representative Stephens is thinking about introducing. Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, what I don't want to do today because we are talking about homestead exemption is to go back and try to look at our budget and what we're doing because I don't think it's germane to this particular motion. Now or budget, based on what we decided to do, we're going to have to replace it anyway. Wherever we shift money, we're going to have to put money back in there. If we deduct it, we're going to have to cut services, or whatever we have to do. So in the shifting of money—, for example, over five or ten, seven or eight years ago, we did an inventory tax reduction that was supposed to be covered by new growth. All that new growth money that we would have ordinarily brought into our budget shifted to offset the reduction that we gave to the industry. So there's always a shifting and somebody bears the burden, somebody bears the burden. So I don't want us to put us a charade or front that we're doing this in order to do that because somewhere along the line it's going to impact somebody. Commissioner Jackel asked, and who is that somebody? That's what I want to know. Chairman Hair said, see, we don't know. Commissioner Rivers said, well, it all depends. In my estimation, the homeowner did not receive the direct benefit over the last few years of new growth because that new growth was offset by us deflating the inventory tax. So, I mean, we do all kind of things up here that people don't understand what we're doing, and sometimes we don't understand what we're doing, so we need to begin to look further at what we're doing and understand what we're doing and not charade it until—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got my hand up. Commissioner Rivers said, three or four years down the road, we're looking at—. Chairman Hair said, that's exactly why I have a problem with this today. Your comments are very appropriate. Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Price asked, Ron [Stephens], what is it that Governor-Elect Barnes is proposing that would—, also might impact evaluations and the tax digest? Representative Stephens said, Governor Barnes' proposal is a gradual increase up to a \$50,000 homestead exemption. That will directly impact your tax digest. This bill, with the numbers that we've pushed, is a little different. This should have a zero impact for the first two years on your tax digest, and the amount of reevaluation of other properties not included in this bill will take up the slack so that there shouldn't be any loss of service or any lack of budgeting problems that you have. Commissioner Price asked, what happens after the two years on the local proposal we have? Representative Stephens said, the increase in assessments in other property—, in fact, these—, all the properties, which is different than the Burke Day/Eric Johnson bill. Their bill is a cap and will require a Constitutional amendment, which is going to be very, very tough. This one is only an amendment to the current law, which is going to be very, very easy to get through. I'm sorry, ask your question again, Ben [Price]. Say that again. Commissioner DeLoach said, after two years—. Commissioner Price asked, I've got a question of what's going to happen after two years under your proposal? Representative Stephens said, after two years the increase in assessments in the property outside of the homestead exemption, which is those people that own homes outside of the County, the City, that rent them out and other commercial properties would be affected. The increase in assessments should handle the loss of revenues coming in from this homestead exemption.

Chairman Hair said, so this shifts them off to the commercial area. Representative Stephens said, it will—, and rental property that's out there that in my opinion—. Chairman Hair said, so it shifts it to commercial development. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Representative Stephens said, should not be privy to that homestead exemption. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Price said, I think a lot of the uncertainty among some of the Commissioners up here today is that a lot of this is hypothetical, okay, and we—, you know, we deal with real numbers and real revenues and real expenditures, and real concerns and problems and challenges that this community faces, and has anybody done any pro forma numbers, has anybody done anything to show us—? Representative Stephens said, I asked Mr. Udinsky to run those numbers specifically so that we could find out what the impact would be to your tax digest, which is the bottom line when it comes to figuring a budget. Do you want to answer those? Chairman Hair said, let's stay in order because gets a chance to speak. Commissioner Saussy—. Commissioner Price said, well, let me—, I want to make a point. The session starts when, the Legislative Session? Representative Stephens said, January 11th. Commissioner Price said, okay. We have one meeting before that, I believe. Don't we have a Commission meeting before the 11th? Commissioner Thomas said, on the 8th. Chairman Hair said, well, we'd have one shortly after it actually, at the 11th we'd have one that week. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Representative Stephens said, if I could make one more comment. Associated with this bill, every single taxing authority is going to be part of this. They'll have to be. The School Board can't—, the cities and the county, unlike other homestead exemptions that are being proposed, the County is the only one that takes the hit. That's only one-third of my tax bill. Everybody needs to be [inaudible]. Commissioner Price asked, this proposal only affects the County? Representative Stephens said, no, this proposal takes every taxing authority—. Chairman Hair said, it takes everybody. Commissioner DeLoach said, all the others don't. Commissioner Price said, so, you know, we are responsive to the citizens and their concerns for their kids and education, for the other municipalities that are within our districts. My only point is I want to hear from all of these entities before I vote to pass a resolution in support of this. Have you been speaking with any members of the School Board about this or anybody—. Representative Stephens said, no. Commissioner Price said, well, those are things that I want to know before I pass a resolution like this. I think that though, you know, it's—, the session goes for two and a half months or thereabout. Is it critical that we have it before you get into session? Is it not

something that we could bring into the session in the month of January or—? Representative Stephens said, the bill is being drafted as we speak. If there is a physical note to be attached and—, for the State loss of income on it's quarter mill, we've asked for that already just so we'd have an idea of what it's going to cost the State for this local bill. Commissioner Price said, what I'm saying is it's an idea I could warm up to, but I need a lot more information in concurrence from other entities within Chatham County that they're going to sign onto it, because if they don't sign onto it my understanding is it won't work. Representative Stephens said, right.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I—, any possible—? Is it my turn? Chairman Hair said, actually Commissioner Saussy and then—. Commissioner Saussy said, I'll yield to—. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. The only point I want to make on this thing is what you're voting for if you vote for this today is if that homeowner that lives in your neighborhood buys a house, that person will not be forced out of their house due to increased property taxes. That's the issue here today. You can be hypothetical, you can wonder what the impact's going to be on the budget, you can wonder what the impact's going to be on the School Board and everything else. The impact on the School Board for the first two years will be zero. There will not be an impact. What will happen to you, to the School Board, to the City of Savannah, to anybody else that is taxing a community on property taxes, anybody else, it doesn't matter who it is, CAT also, if they're taxing the homeowner, that group will have to—, if they want to increase revenues and there's not enough revenue in growth and they're willing to—, the only way they're going to be able to increase revenues from this point on on the homeowner that is living there is to sit up here at this table and vote for a tax increase. You will have to raise the millage on that homeowner to raise his taxes forevermore. That puts it back at this table. That makes it your responsibility, and that's why we're sitting here. This is what you're voting for today. You can be hypothetical, you can wonder how it's going to hit. The fact of it is there's going to be less tax dollars here at this table unless you vote for a millage increase in Chatham County. Nothing else matters, y'all. Nothing else matters. It doesn't matter if it's—, there is no impact on the budgets for the next two years. They will have to adjust or they will have to raise the millage. We will have to adjust or we'll have to raise the millage. That's what you're voting for, and that's something we need to vote for if you're for reducing the property burden—, the burden on the property owner in Chatham County. That's it.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner—. Commissioner Jackel said, let me get a couple of things straight here. Chairman Hair said, no, let's get everybody that had comments. Commissioner Saussy, then Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Jackel. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I'll have to agree with Eddie [DeLoach] on this. If we're going to have services in this County and we need the money to do it, we have to have the courage to increase the millage if necessary, and I say if necessary. That's our duty, that's what we're here for, and I think the bill is probably a good bill. We might need to know a little bit more about it. I'd like to hear a little bit more from Udinsky on what his feelings are. Mr. Udinsky said, in every way that I've been asked to look at this bill, it does several things, and I guess let's address them very directly. There's no question that over time—, I'm not talking about this year or next year, but over the next 20 years, this bill will shift the burden from people who don't own and live in their homes to people who—. I'm sorry, it will shift it from those people to other people. There's no question about that so if you own your home and live in it, your tax burden—, part of your tax burden over time will be shifted to others. That's—, there's no question about that. There's also no question that to a certain extent this homestead exemption freezes the value of a mill. Right now a mill generates some millions of dollars. As values increase, the value of a mill increases. Okay? As values go up, a mill generates more tax dollars. If you don't let values on certain properties go up, which it still does. It doesn't let values on residential properties go up, the value of a mill doesn't decline. It would stay the same, but in actuality it will continue to grow because the value on non-homestead residential properties will continue to go up. So the value of a mill will continue to increase, but it will never decline unless the digest itself declines. So the answer to the question of what's the fiscal impact, it's relatively easy to say it's not negative. It's certainly going to remain—, the worst it could be is remain the same, but more than likely the value of a mill will continue to grow because the value of properties other than non-homestead residential properties will continue to grow. Is that a—? Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Saussy, does that answer your question? Commissioner Saussy said, clear as a bell. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, then Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Ron [Stephens], I have a very serious problem with a part of this, and I'm going to support this because I think that we need to find some mechanism to allow us to stop taxing the homeowner, but we're still looking at equity out there among homeowners, you see, and that's another caveat there. When we look at homes that are being—, like, for instance, take my neighborhood. Homes now are being sold at an enormous rate. Somewhere we need to find a cap, and we're not even thinking about the folks that's out there now that's burdened. We ain't going to do nothing for them. See, in my neighborhood I got a shell that four years ago sold at \$15,000. Today that same shell they want \$60,000. Okay? Now as all that property appreciates in there, that means those homeowners in there that have been there, property escalates and they're on fixed income, so we aren't doing nothing for them. We expect to leave them at status quo—. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, no, no, wrong, wrong.

Representative Stephens said, let me address that if I can. Chairman Hair said, please. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's wrong. Representative Stephens said, every time that you have an increase in assessment—. Commissioner Rivers said, let me talk to him. Representative Stephens said, the way this bill works, and this is the beauty of the bill, this is an unlimited homestead exemption. It doesn't peg you anywhere. It takes the current homestead exemption rate of \$12,000 on assessed value and every time that assessment goes up, your homestead exemption moves up exactly that amount so that your net dollars is zero amount dollars. So these homeowners that have been there for a long time will never go up unless there's a millage increase, and that is the beauty of this bill.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Now, I asked during our meeting, I asked to get a copy of that, and that's why I want clarity on this thing so that I understand it, so that I don't have to dilly back and forth. If I've got the bill before me, I can see it, I can call you on the phone and question—, I don't have to take up time in the meeting to go over that. So if you'll do that for me, get me a copy of that bill, let me peruse it, and then I know where I'm at. Okay, I know where I'm at. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, secondly, I want to get back to my Board to admonish them that whatever we do, here again, we're only at 80% of the inventory tax and there's another 20% that's going to come off of here some kind of way unless we stop it. So the burden, yes, lies with us whether we're going to increase the millage or not. CAT millage, Mr. Stephens, I want to remind you that when we did CAT initially, we based it on the property tax, and sometimes, well, hey, if it stops and if it provides for everybody, then that's fine, but I also want you to take a look at the possibility of expanding this district to allow us to obtain more revenue for CAT from somewhere. It doesn't have to come from the property owner, but help us to maintain the buses within the district. Representative Stephens said, I understand the Governor is taking a look at this State-wide.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Jackel said, let me run some things past you so we can clarify the issue. The homestead exemption increases to match the increase in evaluation. Commercial property and rental property will go up as they are reevaluated. If your commercial property or rental property does not go up in value, you do not pay more taxes, to somewhere very soon it falls on us to raise millage. We have had this year a \$1.2 million increase through evaluation. Now just for the sake of argument, let's say for the past three years we've had this 1.2 mill [sic] through reevaluation. If we hadn't of had that to pass this budget, we would have to raise this budget probably 2 mills to match that amount. A mill and a half. All right now, Eddie [DeLoach] is very concerned, and I am too, about people being placed out of their house because of increasing taxes, and he's concerned because of the reevaluation, as we all are, may run some people out of their houses. If you have someone who's sitting there whose house went from \$100,000 to \$300,000, and under your plan they don't pay a penny more in taxes—. Representative Stephens said, that's exactly right. Commissioner Jackel said, even though their house is now worth \$300,000. All right, and then I represent some people who are living in a \$100,000 house and their house doesn't go up a nickel, and all of a sudden we slug them with this 2 mill increase—. Commissioner DeLoach said, no. Representative Stephens said, that's not exactly the way—. Commissioner Jackel said, that's how we're going to balance the budget. Chairman Hair said, that's how you're going to do it. Commissioner Jackel said, wait a minute. We just walked through the numbers—, we just walked through the numbers—. Representative Stephens said, if I can answer that—. Commissioner Jackel said, to match this \$1.2 million over three years, which equals up to \$3.6 million—. Representative Stephens said, let me answer that, Martin [Jackel]. Commissioner Jackel said, somehow we have to increase—, let me set the stage, if I may. Somehow we have to get this money and the only way we can do it is through a millage increase—. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, which affects the person whose house hasn't value [sic] as much as it affects the person who has the increase. Commissioner DeLoach said, it affects everyone. Representative Stephens said, that person that's got the good fortune to have an increase in assessment, and it is a good fortune, from \$100,000 to \$300,000, he can turn around and sell that house again tomorrow. Immediately the new owner assumes the new value of that house and the new current assessment. So there's where you make up the difference, and again that's part of the beauty of this bills. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's what I don't, I don't see. I don't see that exactly happening that way. If we're having close to \$1.2 million a year over a period of years, and we're no longer getting that, unless we drastically reduce the budget, we have got to raise the millage. I mean, there's just no way around it. I don't see why it would take two years to—. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas, then me, then you [DeLoach]. Commissioner DeLoach said, oh.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas and then myself and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Thomas said, I had three questions, but those questions have been answered. One was on the value of the mill and the other one was on the equity, and also the shifting. So I do understand that now.

Chairman Hair said, what this does—. Commissioner Jackel's example was a perfect example. If your value goes up \$200,000, \$300,000, you won't pay any extra taxes. The guy who's house is \$100,000 and stays at \$100,000, he's going to pay a higher millage rate because the millage rate is going to be applied to everybody. So if I increase the millage by 2 mills, the guy's house who's \$100,000—, it doesn't go up, it's still \$100,000—, he's going to pay more taxes. The guy's who goes from \$200,000 to \$300,000 is not going to pay any more taxes. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's not right. Chairman Hair said, he's going to stay at \$200,000. Correct? It's going to freeze it at \$200,000. Mr. Udinsky said, the value is gong to stay at \$200,000, but the taxes will go up because the millage rate went up. Chairman Hair said, but the guy that's—, who's house does not go up in value—. Commissioner DeLoach said, it doesn't matter. Chairman Hair said, and the millage goes up 2 mills. He's going to pay 2 mills more on \$100,000. Commissioner Saussy said, well, the other—. Commissioner DeLoach said, so will the other guy. So will the other guy. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel asked, but who is more able to pay the taxes? The guy with the rise in value or the guy who's house has stayed at—. Commissioner DeLoach said, there is no one able to pay taxes. The fact of it is, we pay them. So let's don't see who's able and who's not able. There's not a soul up here that wants to pay them. Commissioner Jackel said, we need to see who's Cain and who's Abel, that's what we need to do.

Chairman Hair said, what this does do though is it does—, the person who's fortunate enough to live in a \$200,000 house is going to—, his tax is going to be frozen, but the person that's paid the rent of \$400 a month, their tax is going to go up. Commissioner DeLoach said, their taxes. Chairman Hair said, yes, because if they're rentals, then they're going to pass that on to whoever—. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's correct, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, so the guy who's paying \$400 a month rent, his taxes are going to go up, but the guy who lives in a half million dollar house, his tax is not going to go up. I sense a real problem with that. Commissioner Jackel said, I sense a real problem and I think it needs to be—.

Mr. Udinsky said, we're confusing terms and I think we need to be very careful. This bill doesn't deal with taxes, okay. Taxes will go up or down based on a number of factors. Certainly, the millage rate is one of them. What this bill affects is the assessed value, okay. So when you start mixing those two terms together, it's very hard to figure out what you're trying to say. The value on residential homesteaded property will not change because of the market conditions. The taxes on those properties could very easily change, and they would change because the millage rate by all the different taxing jurisdictions change, and that change would be the same for the residential homesteaded properties as well as the non-residential homestead properties because the millage affects everybody equally. Okay? So just—, when you're asking these questions to Ron [Stephens] and I, we're getting kind of confused because you're talking about taxes and value all together and we're not sure how to answer. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, why can't we have—. Chairman Hair said, you're next. Commissioner Rivers said, in this bill in order to help true destitute homeowners, a graduating millage homestead exemption to offset any increase in reval wherever or whatever area it's in? That way you keep those people who can't afford it. It could be based on income, it could be based on whatever, but if they can't afford it, then you let it be at that level until the home is sold. Mr. Udinsky said, I think the answer is that it would take a constitutional amendment to make that happen. Commissioner Rivers asked, you couldn't do that through home rule? Chairman Hair said, okay. Are you—, Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner DeLoach said, this is a bill for the homeowner. It doesn't matter—, I mean, the analysis that was given about somebody with a \$200,000 house and somebody with a \$100,000 house is irrelevant. The amount of taxes or percentage based on the value of that house is the same regardless of whoever it is. It's the same percentage. So that's really irrelevant, but the issue is where the money shifts to, and it shifts to the commercial area. I'm in business for myself. I can increase the value of my

business. Most properties and most rental properties are based—, their value is based on income projections rather than how good the house looks or how good the neighborhood is. It's based on an income projection. So as long as that person is earning a good bit of money out of that area and the person comes and looks at it and they decide, yes, the value of that property is worth more because you're getting more income from that property, then the value of that property goes up. Well, that's right, but the fact of it is, that person is earning more income so he can pay more taxes. But the homeowner has no change. The homeowner has no possibility, especially those who are retired or those who have not got the money to pay the taxes anyway. They never change. They never change. They can't change their income. They can't change their status. The person who has the rental property can, so he is able to—, if his property is worth more, it's because it's generating more money. That's how it's based on a homeowner—, I mean, on a rental property. So it will shift it to J. B. White's,. It will shift it to—, well, it's Dillard's now. Whatever. It will shift it to Tidewater Landscape Management, who's got a lawn care business, but I'm able to go out there and get another yard to cut or another lawn to do or another spray job or whatever. The fact of it is, I can change my income. Those people that we're voting on here today, they can't change their income. Most of them cannot change, and we do not need to sit up here and vote in favor of leaving this the same when you know people's taxes go up every year. You sit there and watch it. You just can't do that. You just need to sit up there and vote for this, let Ron [Stephens] and them pass it, and let's move on with it. I call the question.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner—. Are you okay? Commissioner Murray said, I just have one comment. Chairman Hair asked, would you allow him to make one comment? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, and then we'll call the question after Commissioner Murray. Okay.

Commissioner Murray said, well, first of all, in one of the areas that was being used for an example a minute ago was a house that was \$100,000 and five years later it sells for \$200,000 and it didn't go up in taxes. I don't know of any property in Chatham County that the evaluation stays the same for five years. Do you? All right, the other thing is I feel like that this bill probably is a good bill, but we don't know a whole lot about it other than what we've discussed today. Y'all start January 11th in session, and I would like to see us table this and wait until January—, our first meeting in January—. Commissioner Jackel said, January 8th. Commissioner Murray said, to make a decision as far as the Commission goes, and that way we can get all the information we need or anybody up here that's got any questions can have those questions answered, and it still is not too late for y'all to do what you need to do. And my last comment is that everybody sitting on this Commission had the opportunity to reduce that millage by the same amount early on this year, and there were only two people, the Chairman said, that voted in favor of doing that, and so—, I wish we had all gotten as excited about this then as we are now, and I think we could have resolved it at that point. But one thing I do like about this bill is the fact that everybody that has a taxing authority would have to comply with it if it's passed, and that part I do like because we haven't always done that across the board. This time the Commission didn't do it, and the rest of them did.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have—. Commissioner Murray said, I move to table. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to table. That overrides all other motions. Do we have a second to the motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, I second that with a comment. Chairman Hair said, okay, second to table. We really can't have debate on a table, but I'll make—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not going to debate, I'm just making a comment. Commissioner Murray said, table to the first meeting in January. Chairman Hair said, table to the first meeting in January, January 8th.

Commissioner DeLoach said, the only thing I ask that time is, one, we make a—, we decide because this is the second time it's been on here. I mean this is—, it was tabled for us to have meetings and discuss this earlier. We haven't done it. We're coming back again. Please, please, please go and find out what information you need so that we can vote for this and feel good about it when you do vote.

Chairman Hair said, all right. The motion is to table to January 8th. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Murray asked, Gary [Udinsky], could you get us all information, a packet of what your office sees this doing? Mr. Udinsky said, yes, I think—. County Attorney Hart said, I think everything is here including the proposed legislation.

Commissioner DeLoach said, thank you, Ron [Stephens]. I appreciate you coming. Mr. Udinsky said, Commissioner Murray, if there's anything else, just let me know and I'll be happy to get you whatever you need.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board adopt a resolution in support of proposed legislation regarding the homestead exemption. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion.
2. Commissioner Murray moved to table this item to the first meeting in January, 1999. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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4. MONTHLY ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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APPOINTMENTS

1. SAVANNAH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to appoint Dr. Carlton E. Brown, President of Savannah State University, to the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) to a term which begins on January 7, 1999, and expires January 6, 2004. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1998

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK