

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MAY 14,1999, 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 9:05 a.m., Friday, May 14,1999.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner David Saussy 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 Martin S. Jackel, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five (arrived approximately 9:20 a.m.) Ben Price, District Six Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven
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IN ATTENDANCE:	Russ Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE MAY 22 - 29, 1999, AS SAFE BOATING WEEK.

Chairman Hair said, good morning. You guys look all official, you know, with your blazers. Certainly in Chatham County we have over, I think it's 20,000 boats registered in our community and if there's anything important it's certainly safe

boating and that's what these folks are here this morning to represent. I'd like to read the proclamation. Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

[INSERT PROCLAMATION]

Corporal Curtis Wright said, I'm with the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Chairman and Board members and citizens of Chatham County, we encourage everyone to practice safe boating. Any questions regarding safe boating or boating in general, you can contact anyone through the office in Richmond Hill. We're listed under Department of Natural Resources in the phone book, and we appreciate you giving us a call. Thank you.

Mr. Ken Hatfield said, some of us are here from the Tybee Light Power Squadron and we conduct safe boating courses each year about three eight-weeks course and a four-weeks course, and we're so concerned about the accident rate afloat, and we're glad to do our part in trying to instruct as many people by offering free instruction and minimal cost for materials to the people that will sign up. We appreciate the support of the Commission. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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2. PROCLAMATION FOR WEST BROAD STREET YMCA.

Chairman Hair said, our next proclamation is to promote the YMCA and to declare this week the YMCA Week. Good morning. I'll read the proclamation first. Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

[INSERT PROCLAMATION]

Mr. Barry Brown said, good morning and I'd love to say God bless you to the Chairman, Dr. Hair, to our very own Commissioner, Dr. Thomas, and to all of you individually and collectively. I guess the best way to describe this is what we're about is celebrating not just us but the people that we serve, and we thank our God that you guys have joined us as a partner in our effort to continue to build strong kids, strong families and a strong community. Thank you so much. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Barry. Thanks for coming.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to ask unanimous consent for us to move Item #5, which is the recognition of Youth Commission up to the front of our agenda because we have some parents here. Does anybody object to that? Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, we'll do it by unanimous consent. Thank you.

[Note: By general consent Item VII-5 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. GEORGETOWN PARK REFURBISHMENT (COMMISSIONER PRICE AND COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price and Commissioner DeLoach.

Chairman Hair said, if I may, Eddie [DeLoach]. Speaking of the youth, out in Georgetown we're concerned about the condition of what is called the Georgetown Park system and it's more than one park. It's a couple of locations, but one in the King's Grant side of Georgetown and on Village Green, and there are old dilapidated equipment —, there is old dilapidated equipment in that park that is actually a safety hazard, and there's already been some attempt by the Georgetown Community Service Association to upgrade that park. They're running —, they have run short of funds and instead of a slow arduous process continuing for months, I am approaching you today to consider helping to fund the parks out in Georgetown to be able to bring in the type of equipment that is safe that meets federal standards, and the total amount —, and, Russ [Abolt], help me with this because I know there's —, you're going to have to pull out what would have been —.

County Manager Abolt said, I'd say for the sake of planning that \$42,000 is fine, and we'd work out the figures in the contract.

Commissioner Price said, okay. The total amount I'm requesting from the Commissioners today is \$42,000, and you have delineated what that would do and what it would purchase in your agendas today, and with that —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll second. Commissioner Price said, Eddie [DeLoach] has a second, I'll move on that. You'll need discussion about it.

Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, consideration if the Commission decides that this is what it chooses to do, I do think that the money should be taken from the Commission and put through the Chatham County Recreation Authority for purposes of administrating and meeting this need. They are the authority that has the power to do something like that.

Chairman Hair asked, the source of funding for this would be what, Ben [Price]? County Manager Abolt said, contingency, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. We have a —. Commissioner Price said, I agree with what the Attorney has said. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, I seconded it. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. Any discussion of this item? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, would y'all vote please. We need y'all to vote. I hate to interrupt the caucus down there, but we do have a meeting going on. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that \$42,000 be transferred from Contingency to the Chatham County Recreation Authority to be earmarked for refurbishment of the Georgetown Park System to replace old dilapidated equipment. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. CLOSING OF DILLON LANDFILL TRANSFER STATION (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I brought this up. We have a —, as the landfill's closing we have run into a problem of where to take the trash as far as the number of communities in the West Chatham area, so I had asked this to be put on the agenda because in the —, around the Bloomingdale area, which is a considerable distance out, this landfill is going to close and basic transfer station is pretty well closed, and I need some assistance or some idea from Robert Drewry and them on exactly what we can do to make sure that if we've got to do something with the trash, which we obviously do, we can't burn it, and most of those folks out there wouldn't have a problem with burning a lot of this dry debris that they've got out there, but it's —, we can't do that based on the environmental agencies' concerns about burning, so I need for you to tell me what we can do for these folks to have the ability to get rid of the trash. They did have a transfer station there. We closed it down because it was not enough being generated to use it. What can I do with these folks who need a place to take their materials?

Mr. Robert Drewry said, you're exactly correct. Dillon was —, the transfer drop-off center was closed down because we didn't have the traffic, and when we closed up the one in Sharon Park, which is on Highway 80, Garden City, the proposal was to shut the one down at Dillon because of the traffic volume and the amount of waste that was generated. I don't know if you got a copy of —. County Manager Abolt said, they do, it's in the agenda packet. Mr. Drewry said, of what it would

cost to open it and keep it open. There's some itemized costs in there. I think it ran about \$41,000 to \$42,000 to keep it operating.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I need more of an understanding of —, more of a long term idea instead of a stop gap. What are we going to do long term that the situation, you know —. I'll tell them to take a, you know, get a match and burn it, but we can't do that so I need for the County —, if we can't do it based on the laws, I need a law to figure out what we can do as far as the County is concerned. Somebody needs to get me something out there where people can get rid of their trash.

County Manager Abolt said, the only option you have is legitimate use of the transfer stations. For purely budgetary reasons, if you will recall in my budget message, you know, we've been trying to minimize our expenses in Solid Waste Funds because it's literally eating us alive. The landfill costs, disposal costs, dry trash service is very, very expensive so staff came to you back in the Fall of the year. We had this strategy that spans several years which would, where possible, replace services that were very convenient with transfer stations where the citizens would have a drive a piece to get there. In this case there was a risk taken as far as minimizing our expense and yet providing a minimal convenience to the Westside. That's what Robert [Drewry], Virginia Lamb and staff have proposed legitimately to deal with this and in a letter received by the Chairman last night from Mayor Strozier, I think we can avoid the option if you wish to employ putting \$42,000 in the budget and, you know, and opening the transfer stations. They're well used. If the money were there, it would be our choice to have transfer stations in very strategic places throughout the County. In fact, the [inaudible] when it comes to in our budget problems and our desires to minimize certain costs, we have taken certain risks and now we're paying the price.

Commissioner DeLoach said, to me I don't think this is acceptable as far as we're concerned of being able to move materials around. We've got to do something because most of these folks have to drive, you know, 15 or 20 miles to take a load of trash. I don't think that —, I don't know of anybody else that's got to drive 15 miles to take a load of trash. So I think we need to do something about basically getting something —. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, I don't disagree with you. We're finding out that it's very interesting these transfer stations are very attractive. We have folks, as best we can determine, on the Wilmington Island Transfer Station driving in from some parts of Savannah, Westside. They're well used. They're a good way of dealing with this situation. You know, you've got a budget choice. We certainly, if you wish, could crank the money in. We just could not get it out of the Solid Waste Fund. Commissioner DeLoach asked, we had a station there already, right? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. We had a landfill. We had a dump. Commissioner DeLoach asked how did you have it set up? Wasn't it a transfer station there? Mr. Drewry said, there was a drop-off center. I think it has four cans and it was at minimum. Yes, it was a minimum [inaudible], Commissioner DeLoach said, if that's the case, then we really don't have to have new containers. We really don't have to have 500 tons of stone base and we really don't have to have the overtime and all that other stuff. So maybe we're talking about \$20,000 rather than \$41,000.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may on this, and I know Robert [Drewry] can defend himself. If we're going to do it, let's do it right. I mean, they're well used. Our problem in the past —. Commissioner DeLoach said, understand me, it was open. We closed it. Were we not doing it right originally? Mr. Drewry said, we were doing it —, two things come to mind. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mr. Drewry said, for example, the cans. We planned on moving those cans over to Sharon and Chevis. We haven't even opened up the other half of Chevis yet, so we had just enough cans to keep the ones that we have now open. So if we're going to keep this one open, I have to purchase some more cans. As far as keeping up to the same level of service, I want to bring them all up to the same level, which is as you remember at the last meeting we changed the ordinance where we're going to start separating our vegetative waste and doing some other unique things. That —, the stone base, that's one example because we want to provide a place where they can put their vegetative waste. County Manager Abolt said, we're saying let us do it right if you wish us to do it.

Commissioner DeLoach said, well I want to make a recommendation or ask for y'all's consideration on doing something to a long term plan to facilitate something that we can have transfer stations located strategically around the unincorporated areas anyway so that we can take care of that situation. How we do that I'll leave that up to you, but —.

Chairman Hair said, I think it would be appropriate, Commissioner DeLoach, first of all, I think you're correct. I think we do need to —, I have some real problems with closing this myself and I think we do need to —, well, we need to address it as a countywide issue to make sure that all citizens in the County are getting an equal level of service. Commissioner DeLoach said, exactly. Chairman Hair said, I think it might be appropriate for us to direct staff to bring us back some options that would do that and if we can't, Russ [Abolt], we're talking countywide, not just this one. Obviously, this one would be included in it, but make it a countywide. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Be glad to. Chairman Hair asked, anybody object to that? Commissioner Price said, good idea. Commissioner DeLoach said, we just need to expedite it —. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, so you give us a long term plan and we'll see what we can do. Chairman Hair said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff directed to bring back options addressing transfer stations countywide.

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3. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONTRACT WITH SAVANNAH HOCKEY AND SKATING ASSOCIATION TO ENSURE SEPARATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTEREST OF THE LAKE MAYER IN-LINE SKATING RINK (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I really thought that this had been resolved, and it is obvious it has not been resolved yet. It came up probably —, Ben [Price], you probably brought it up a couple of months ago if I'm not mistaken, and we addressed it. We also did an audit on the books of the organization, came back with some strong recommendations from that, and none of that has been implemented yet. I understand they've gone through another registration time on it. Nothing has changed. Everything is still being handled as usual. I'm still —, I'm getting a lot of complaints now from the people in the Islands area about the same type things that had been coming from people in other areas about it. I just want to know what kind of time frame is going to be set up and when something's going to be done and when we can tell the people this thing will be resolved. If it's not resolved and has not been resolved, then we need to go on with it.

County Attorney Hart said, I can respond to that. Staff met last week about Tuesday or Wednesday with the parties that have the contract, a rather lengthy meeting, and there were a list of options that came up. We talked about renegotiating the contract and we also discussed some further modifications for long term purposes. In order to totally resolve the issue, what we're working towards, it's going to require staff to go out and obtain some additional financial information to do this registration, but I think within the next couple of weeks we're probably going to be at the point of coming back to the Commission with a final recommendation on what we need to do with it long term.

Commissioner Murray asked, will we have anything back by the next meeting so we can address it—? County Attorney Hart said, probably so. Commissioner Murray said, and be done with it? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's the main thing. It needs to be addressed and it needs to be over with. It's gone on too long already.

County Attorney Hart said, we have a —, we're trying to schedule a meeting for next week and two of the parties can be there and we're looking for one more. I would feel comfortable in a couple of weeks being able to do something.

Commissioner Murray said, the other thing, I had passed today a newsletter to each one of the Commissioners, a copy of it in case you didn't have a copy, and at your leisure if you would just read it. We don't need to be putting stuff out like this criticizing other people when we're supposed to be out encouraging our youth and setting examples for the youth of this community, and this newsletter that went out certainly does not do that when we start lambasting people for criticizing what's happened and trying to improve the situation.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, I don't mean to get any more specific than what Frank [Murray] said, but I do think that this bothers me and if you've got it in front of you, Commissioners, and you haven't had time to read the whole thing, but basically what they do is they go over what we've talked about. What we need to do, and what I don't like at all about this is that it's going out to all the league players. You know, a facility that we have funded, we have provided, and the gentleman who brought this issue up, the main gentleman brought the issue up of unfairness about where the registration's occurring and the need to go to the place of business to do that, which is also a place where you purchase and would be encourage to purchase equipment to play in this league, the second to the last paragraph on page two, I'm just going to read that one paragraph to give you what I mean by the frustration I have with this newsletter: "We have worked very hard to get to this point and are determined not to let Bill Hjortsberg of Play It Again Sports, his cohorts, or anyone else attack or diminish what has been accomplished." This gentleman brought up issues of unfairness, just like any citizen should be able to come to our Board and do, and then for this publication to go out to all the individuals in this league and for the editors of this, who are those who are the ones running the league and who also have the store, to criticize someone from bringing up an issue like that, for bringing up an issue —, I have real hard time with it, and I think we need to think long and hard about this contract, and we need to think whether or not we should allow them to continue to run this league and whether or not the County in fact ought to take the lead as we do with other sports and run the league instead. There's something very wrong about this and I have real difficulty accepting this.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, to follow up on the idea of it being brought up about changing who's running it, who's running the league and all, I know the County wouldn't have a problem with it, but we run into a problem of cities and counties and everybody wanting to —, one running the other and so forth and so on. I was wondering what the possibility of working with the YMCA on it because they've had several different groups, they've had several different ones running at their places, out on the parking lots and all, whether there's a possibility of coordinating with the County and the YMCA so that we can get not only the County area, but also the city areas and develop a program based on having them oversee the program.

That way I don't think we'd have a problem with a conflict of interest. I just thought I'd throw that out if anybody has any —.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, part of the negotiations are —, that are actively a number of items being considered, and disengaging from that contract is one of the things being actively considered. A part of the problem is that was a private and publicly funded situation, so you have people who have equity in that facility and they have to be dealt with equitably. So —. Commissioner Price said, so be it. If we have to do that, so be it.

Chairman Hair said, I think that's a good comment, Commissioner DeLoach. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, well, I just wanted to suggest that maybe there is a possibility of considering buying out the —. Chairman Hair said, that is one of the things under consideration. Commissioner Thomas said, and then put it back under the auspices of Mr. Jim Golden. Chairman Hair said, that is a consideration being studied. That's one possibility.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chair. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, I would like to go ahead, since the report from the Attorney and all the reports isn't back in, until we can get a full review of it, I would move to table this item until the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, well, we've already —, I think we've finished it anyway. I don't think we need to table it. I think it's over.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff to bring back this issue at the next meeting with recommendations.

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4. HUMANE SOCIETY ORDINANCE REGARDING NEUTERING AND SPAYING (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each morning as I go to work down Habersham I see dogs running around and, frankly, I'm sick and tired of it. The only way that we're going to stop some of this is spaying and neutering and put some teeth in this ordinance. This has been going on for too long. We need to get something done. I'd like for Ms. Helen Stone to come up and give up a little talk of what she's —, they have come up with.

Ms. Helen Stone said, thank you all. Thank you for letting me be here. As you know, I'm no stranger to this Commission and I hope that all of you did receive the information that I sent, this proposal, to try to help cut down on the number of stray animals that are at large in Chatham County. I don't want to read it because most of you should have received it. Unless you have any questions, but I will touch on the points that are of concern. One would be to —, the focus of this would be to —, when your dog is picked up by Chatham County Animal Control and is at large on the street, when you go to reclaim this animal, in addition to the impoundment fees, if the dog or cat is not spayed or neutered, there would be an additional fee, and that additional fee would be equivalent of the cost of a spay or neuter, and the purpose of this would be to encourage people to have their pets spayed and neutered. Personally, if you are a breeder and keep your animal contained and want your animal to be bred, that's fine and that's wonderful, but what we get at the Humane Society are mixed breed animals that are running the streets that nobody wants, and this is —, this happens because these animals are loose and they're not spayed and they're not neutered, and it just is a concern of ours because the numbers at the Humane Society keep increasing over the years, and I'm sure they're doing the same at Animal Control. And Michael Weaver [phonetic] is our new full time director at the Humane Society, and if you have any questions concerning the numbers, he can help me address those figures. The other issue with this ordinance would be to increase the licensing fees for unspayed or unneutered animals and to give the people that have their animals spayed and neutered a reduced rate on the licensing fees. In addition, this would create a fancier's fee or a business license for people that breed cats and dogs. Each of you that are in business, you all have to purchase a business license and it seems to me only fair that these people should too. The rest of it is we would like to establish a \$5 fee collected from the —, from this spay/neuter fee for the people that choose not to spay and neuter their animals that could assist low income families with the cost of spaying and neutering. Save-A-Life here in Savannah does an excellent job, as does PALS, with helping low-cost spay/neuters for people that can't afford to have their animals spayed and neutered. I was hoping that a Save-A-Life representative would be here today. I don't see anyone here because they were helpful in drafting this proposal as well. That is pretty much what I have to say other than I feel like this could be a money-maker for the County for the people that choose not to spay and neuter their animals the fee would —, that they pay would go directly to Chatham County Animal Control, and I don't see how this could do anything but help. I realize it's not perfect. We could readdress it in a year or see and see if any changes need to be made, but I would like to make this as a beginning to try to do something to help control the animal population in Chatham County. Michael [Weaver], do you have anything to add to that? [No audible response was made.]

Vice Chairman said, Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Price said, Helen [Stone], we years ago had asked the Animal Welfare Advisory Board to look at this issue and could you tell me what the essence of that work has been or have you been able to attend the meetings? Ms. Stone said, well, we —, I came here in 1996, I believe, to try to implement something like this and there was the Chatham County Animal Welfare Advisory Board. Because when I came in 1996 it was reestablished and we met for about a year, batted around several proposals, nothing ever became of it, and in the meantime out at the Humane Society Michael [Weaver], myself and the volunteers are just looking at these animals coming in, and I know I've stressed this before, but to me it's a real crime to have to euthanize a perfectly healthy animal just because there's no home for it. Commissioner Price said, my point is if the Chatham County voted and charged the Animal Welfare Advisory Board to come back with a recommendation, you, it's my understanding, are coming back separately from that board with a recommendation. Ms. Stone said, well, we're some of the —, I mean, we're Save-A-Life as well. Commissioner Price said, another component, but there are a lot of other members on that board that aren't being heard in this recommendation. Ms. Stone said, well, the Animal Welfare Advisory Board failed to meet. There were no more meetings. Commissioner Price asked, is Lt. Kitchell here? Can you come forward, Lieutenant?

Chief Tom Sprague asked, can I say —? Commissioner Price said, go ahead, Chief. Go right ahead. Chief Sprague said, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, on behalf of Lt. Kitchell, who you'll hear from very shortly, the Police Department and Animal Control Division is in support of this ordinance. Commissioner Price said, okay. Chief Sprague said, but we feel there needs to be a delay of two weeks to staff it out for y'all. There are costs associated with this. One is a companion cat-at-large ordinance in the opinion of Lt. Kitchell. Also, an increase of two Animal Control officers and a clerk and also there will be anticipated increases in the fees that are paid the Humane Society, which are currently estimated this year about \$70,000 for cats, the three-day boarding fee and euthanasia fee, and we expect them to go up. So we'd like to give you time —, give us time so that we can present these dollar figures for your deliberations.

Commissioner Price said, Chief, I appreciate that. I do think something needs to be done. I'm not trying to diminish what you're trying to do, but I am trying to stress to the County Commissioners that we charged this board to come back with a recommendation, and that is not what's happened today. We are not getting the recommendation from the board that was charged with this responsibility and, Lt. Kitchell, if I could ask you, you know, Helen [Stone] brought up the point that the board stopped meeting. I'd like to ask you why did it stop meeting, was there not a quorum, and if there wasn't a quorum, who specifically were the ones not coming back to that meeting? Lt. John Kitchell said, well, for one thing, the budget increase of about 25% that would need to be implemented into the proposed ordinance by Helen Stone, we didn't have the staff or either the resources to implement the program. Now, on —. Commissioner Price said, that's not what I'm asking. Lt. Kitchell said, I know that —, as a matter of fact, some of the proposals we made were contradicted what the Department of Agriculture was doing, and so forth, and we have tried to meet with them and so forth and come up with things that we wouldn't overlap with their responsibilities as well as draft a cat-at-large ordinance, but as of yet we haven't done those proposals. Commissioner Price said, but you didn't answer my question. I'm talking about specifically the meetings. Why did the AWAB board not continue to meet and who were the ones that weren't coming to the meeting? Lt. Kitchell said, it was just as I mentioned that we were —, we broke up in committees to study those two things. Commissioner Price asked, and have you not come back together? Lt. Kitchell said, no sir. Commissioner Price asked, do you plan to come back together, do you plan to —? Lt. Kitchell said, yes, we do. Commissioner Price said, okay. I think that we have to have this charge that we gave the Animal Welfare Advisory Board. We have to have that fulfilled. That's what we asked this board to do as a representative group of all parties interested, not just Save-A-Life, not just the Humane Society. We have to give them the opportunity to come back with a consolidated recommendation, having heard both sides of the issues, having heard the pros and cons of what we're being told.

Chairman Hair said, if I could, Commissioner Price, clarify. Chief Sprague mentioned that he needed a delay of two weeks. I want to make sure the public and the Commissioners understand the process here. Because this is an ordinance change, it would be a month anyway. We have to draft the ordinance, we have to bring it to the Commission for first reading on May 28th and then it would be two weeks from there, the first meeting in June, before it could be discussed and voted on. So you've got a month. Nothing can be done today regardless. You cannot change an ordinance without two readings.

Commissioner Price said, but my point, Billy [Hair], is I don't think that we have something in front of us to even start drafting an ordinance with. Chairman Hair said, but my point is though, we've got a month. That's my point. We've got a month to do that. Commissioner Price said, yes sir, I understand that, but I would like for us to have a completely objective, two-sided, or one that shows the pros and cons because there's another side to this whole issue out there and there are other places in the United States, other counties, other states, that are doing things that are quite different from this that are working from what I understand. At least I'd like to hear about those options. Commissioner Jackel asked, what others are you taking about? Commissioner Price said, well, there's Paula Wagner, who's —. Commissioner Jackel said, this is dogs running loose that we're doing something about. Commissioner Price said, if you'll be patient with me, Martin [Jackel], I'll answer your question. There's a Ms. Wagner here who's also on the Animal Welfare Advisory Board, and I'd like to give her the opportunity to speak to this issue. She contacted me this week and enlightened me as to what these other options are.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to ask a few questions. Ms. Wagner said, we did have the Animal Advisory —. Commissioner Jackel said, excuse me just a second. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel, let's take it in order. Commissioner Murray first and then Commissioner Saussy and then you, okay. Let's take it in order.

Commissioner Murray said, Commissioner Price asked most of the same questions that I was going to ask, but I just feel like if this group was charged to bring back a recommendation, they still need to be the group bringing that recommendation back. To answer I think a comment that Commissioner Saussy and also one that Commissioner Jackel just made, my belief is that whether this is implemented just as it's written or whether it's implemented with changes, that's not going to solve the problems of the dogs and the cats in the street. They've been there. We've got Animal Control that goes out right now that goes out, they pick animals up every day. That's not resolving the problem.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Jackel I'll recognize you.

Commissioner Saussy said, my feeling is that this will solve some of the problem. No, it's not going to solve all of it. The Advisory Committee [sic] has had three or four years to come up with something and they have not come up with it, so therefore Ms. Stone and Save-A-Life have come up with something, and I think we need to proceed with it. We can —, we will have two meetings —, well, actually we can't hear it at the first reading, but at the second reading they —, anybody can come up that want's to and speak to it at that time. Commissioner Price asked, Billy [Hair], may I address that? David [Saussy], my point is this. Yes, they have come forward and, yes, that is what's happening, but we charged this board of citizens that we picked and we selected to come back with a consensus recommendation. This is not a consensus recommendation. There was not support evidently for what is before us today among all the Advisory board members, and so instead of going back and trying to work out a compromise and come up with a consensus recommendation today, we still have what is the Humane Society's and Save-A-Life's recommendation, and theirs alone. We're not getting an unbiased objective recommendation here, and that's my point. This committee did not finish its work. Lt. Kitchell is saying that they still have more work to do. Commissioner Saussy said, I didn't hear him say that. Commissioner Price said, well, that's what I heard him say.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm next. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then I'll get back to you. Commissioner Price said, and he's the chairman of the board. Commissioner Jackel said, I asked —. Commissioner Saussy said, if that board has got more work to do, let's give them a time line that it has to be done and —. Commissioner Price said, I'm fine with that. Commissioner Saussy said, the time line is next —, the next meeting. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Saussy said, if it can't be done in that time, it can't be done.

Commissioner Jackel asked, Lt. Kitchell, when was the last time this committee met? Ms. Wagner said, May of last year. Commissioner Jackel said, wait —, excuse me just a second. I'm asking Lt. Kitchell a question. Will you let him have the microphone please. Lt. Kitchell, when was the last time this committee met? Lt. Kitchell said, I was thinking it was the latter part of '97, but I was reminded that it was May of '98. Commissioner Jackel said, so it met a year ago. All right, and when did it meet prior to that? Do you have minutes from the meeting? Lt. Kitchell said, I have some —. Commissioner Murray said, ask him who calls the meetings. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, and who calls the meetings and who's on this committee? If they haven't met in a year, I don't think that's a functioning committee, but I'm willing to listen to what they've done, look at their minutes and see if this thing's viable. If it's not viable, then you're going back to an empty hole. Commissioner Price said, I may be going back to an empty hole, but I'm —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I'm not going back to an empty hole. Commissioner Price said, I want to make sure that —. Commissioner Jackel said, let him answer my questions please. Commissioner Price said, not just one recommendation, but all the recommendations to look at. Chairman Hair said, let's [inaudible]. Lt. Kitchell said, let me answer this, Commissioner Jackel, that at our meeting in April of 1997 we made recommendations to the Commission. Approximately a month after that I received a letter in regards to Helen Stone's proposals. We met on her proposals, and so forth, and in doing so we felt that we needed more staff. As a matter of fact, our budget increased about 25%, as well as the ordinance changes as far as the drafting of a cat-at-large ordinance, and some other things come up which involved the Department of Agriculture, which —, things that needed to be studied there, but our original proposal that we sent in our letter of April 1997 was a proposal in which we never did hear any response from that other than to reconsider the draft from Helen Stone. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so we met in April of '97 and then we met in May of '98. All right, now who is on this board? Lt. Kitchell said, we have two representatives from Animal Control, two from the Humane Society, two veterinarians, two from Save-A-Life, two from PALS, a member at large, and two from fancier organizations. Commissioner Jackel asked, are there any minutes of the meetings of April of '98? Lt. Kitchell asked, April '98? Commissioner Jackel said, May of '98? Lt. Kitchell said, no sir, I don't have that in my —. Commissioner Jackel asked, when's the last minutes you would have minutes from? Lt. Kitchell said, September of '97? Commissioner Jackel said, September of '97. And how many people were present at that September of '97 meeting? Lt. Kitchell said, it's not in the minutes, but —, it's not in the minutes I have in front of me. They were written on a note pad, but I don't have them in my possession. Commissioner Jackel asked, do you have minutes of any prior meetings? Lt. Kitchell said, yes, I do. Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I just think it's obvious that, with all due respect to Commissioner Price, there is no functioning organization out there. It's just apparent. Now I'm willing to listen to others, but if they met in April of '97 and then again in September of '97 and there are no minutes and then they meet once in May a year ago, May '98, they have not met often enough, they haven't met in a year. Unless we have some assurance that this committee is up and running and will be attended, I think it is going back to a dry hole, and we have a recommendation here that seems viable, but let's hear some more.

Chairman Hair said, all right. Is it Ms. Winters?

Ms. Paula Wagner said, Ms. Wagner, Paula Wagner. I've been serving on the AWAB committee in the past and have never missed a meeting. We met every month and at home I do have copies of those minutes. I just didn't know I'd need them. We meet every month. Ms. Stone has seen fit not to attend some of the meetings. It is difficult to accomplish anything when you have a great many forces pulling in different directions. I think Lt. Kitchell has done a good job at trying to keep a lot of tempers in control. I did propose a well thought out, well researched, well documented set of ordinances that were legal and enforceable. Ms. Stone was one of the members who flatly refused to even discuss my proposals. Rather, she wanted to discuss her proposals. What she has put down here does not even reflect what was agreed upon by the AWAB council. When we formed and met, she agreed among the rest of us that she would wait until the whole group was together to go before this Commission. It was a verbal contract reflected in those minutes. She has seen fit not to honor that contract. The dog fancier has seen fit to work within the system. We did it with a lot of hard work, a lot of research, a lot of checking of laws. You cannot legislate responsibility; you can legislate consequences for irresponsibility where you educate responsibility. The courts adjudicate consequences as drafted by the laws in their cases for violators. It is not an easy task to draw up laws without thinking of all the consequences. I think we could if Ms. Stone and the others were informed and admonished by this organization to come with an open mind to look at the material as presented to them, and I think we could bring something back in a short order.

Chairman Hair said, it seems to me what we might want to consider as a Commission today, since we've sort of heard two sides of an issue, that it might be appropriate if we set an absolute deadline of 30 days, Commissioner Saussy, in saying we want two proposals. We want one from the one that's here today, we want from this other board, and let us a month from now have two side-by-side proposals and then make the decision at that time on which we want to adopt. I think that would be —, I don't think we're going to gain a whole lot by continuing to say who shot who here. I really think we do need two proposals and it seems to me that your group does have a separate alternative proposal which we don't have before us today, and it seems to me 30 days is reasonable to have both sides give us two proposals side by side and let us make the decisions as to which we think is more appropriate. I think that would be —. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, if I'm not mistaken, when this board was first organized, it was done at the request of Commissioner Price because of the same type situations were going on then. We had all the different groups out there and none were agreeing and the thought was that if these groups went together, they could sit down and they could reason these things out, they could come back with recommendations to the Commission and we could go ahead and implement from that point. I agree with what Commissioner Hair [sic] is saying; however, if in those 30 days this group can get together and come back with one recommendation that everybody agrees on with some kind of compromise from all sides, I think we're better off. If not, then I agree with the Chairman that we need the two separate proposals and we'll make the decision of what's implemented.

Ms. Wagner said, I have one question. Are you saying that she is to come up on her own separately —? Chairman Hair said, no, no. Ms. Wagner said, or she needs to work within the confines of the organization? Chairman Hair said, I think he just suggested that —, I think Commissioner Murray suggested that hopefully you guys will get together in the next 30 days and come up with a proposal both of you could live with. However, in the absence of that, if you can't do that, we want to see two proposals in 30 days, yours and Ms. Stone's and then we'll make the decision. If y'all can't make the decision, we'll make the decision as to which one is more appropriate.

Commissioner Saussy asked, can I ask a question? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Saussy asked, what's your name? Ms. Wagner said, Wagner, Ms. Wagner. Commissioner Saussy asked, and who do you represent? Ms. Wagner said, the dog fanciers. Commissioner Saussy said, okay. Thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just —, as far as this goes, I think y'all need to understand that in 30 days we're going to make a decision. If you don't have something here —. Chairman Hair said, that's exactly right. Commissioner Saussy said, one way or the other. Commissioner Price said, per the ordinance process. Commissioner DeLoach said, whatever, we're going to vote on something in 30 days. Whether you agree or not, it's going to be voted on so y'all need to get together. If you don't, too bad, we're going to vote on something. Commissioner Price said, actually a month and a half per the ordinance process.

Chairman Hair said, let's wrap this up. Chief, let's make the final comments and let's move on here. I think we've made our —, you know, what we're going to do today. Ms. Stone and then the Chief.

Ms. Stone said, I would just like to make a couple of corrections. I did attend the meetings, but they did cease to exist after last Spring. Some the other people here don't have to look at those homeless animals every day and make the decisions to euthanize. I reacted because nothing was getting done, and we do need to do something about this. This does need to be addressed. I did attend the meetings. Some of the meetings became very frustrating because none of us could come to an agreement, and this is why —, I did not come here against anybody's wishes. I came here to address a problem that I see and I have to deal with on a daily basis, that's all.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Stone. The Chief and then we'll wrap this up. Commissioner Jackel said, I want to make a comment. Chairman Hair said, go ahead, Chief.

Chief Sprague said, I'd just like —, and I'm going to be very brief. As I stated, we support the intent of this ordinance with regard to comments made by Commissioner Price, Commissioner Saussy, the overpopulation of animals on the street. Now the operational facet of how that's to be done is what we're talking about here. I would request that the Chairman, the Commission give me a direct order to Lt. Kitchell that he convene in the next 10 days a meeting of the Animal Control board and that everybody gets over the table and come up with what the Chairman suggested.

Chairman Hair said, I don't think we need that from us. Commissioner Price said, that's implied. Commissioner Saussy said, I request that y'all convene in 10 days with some kind of a solution. Chief Sprague said, I will take that as a direct order. Commissioner Saussy said, and bring whatever solution or non-solution there is back to the Manager so we can get forward to this thing and have this thing done in another month. County Manager Abolt said, we'll take care of it.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Jackel, one final comment and then we'll move on.

Commissioner Jackel said, you know, I have some real concerns about this. Ms. Wagner said that they were meeting every month. Ms. Wagner said, I do have the minutes. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Lt. Kitchell said they hadn't had a meeting in a year, and she talks about all these proposals that they have, but offered no suggestions while she was there. Ms. Wagner asked, in regard to what? Commissioner Jackel said, this group has not met in a year's time and the previous meeting was almost a year before that. Do we even know if there —, if the board members are still viable, if they'll be able to show up if you called them. Lt. Kitchell said, I believe they —, yes sir, I believe they will. Commissioner Jackel asked, you believe you can get a quorum? Lt. Kitchell said, yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, of the board members? Lt. Kitchell said, yes sir.

Commissioner Saussy said, would you please when you have this meeting, I'd like to be there. Lt. Kitchell said, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy said, thank you.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm interested to see what proposals we're going to have.

Chairman Hair said, okay, that concludes that issue.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The interested parties are to present to the Commission in one month's time a joint proposal of the Animal Welfare Advisory Board or, if a joint proposal cannot be agreed upon, two separate proposals and the decision will be made by the Commission which proposal is more appropriate.

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5. RECOGNITION OF SENIORS ON THE YOUTH COMMISSION (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, we're just so proud to have these young people come before us this morning and we would like to recognize them for the wonderful things that they have done during the year. I'm going to ask Mr. Van Johnson to please come forward and give you a little bit of information before we make the presentation, and before he does that let me personally say to the parents thank you so very much for your continued support. Without you we could not have been successful with these young people. Thank you so very much. We will continue to follow them as they move forward in their careers.

Mr. Van Johnson said, good morning. Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, today is a wonderful day in the history of our government and especially in the history of your Chatham County Youth Commission. By your direction we have planted these seeds of potential and possibility and today the shells of these seeds have cracked and we are beginning to realize the fruits of your continuing investment in the lives of the youth via the Chatham County Youth Commission. Like proud parents we have had the opportunity to watch them grow and develop, share and not so happy times with them, and to present opportunities that challenge their thought and decision-making process. We also have some of the real parents and loved ones of our honorees here this morning. Will all of the family members of these Youth Commissioners please stand. Let's give them a round of applause. [Applause.] Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, these young individuals have satisfactorily completed all the requirements for graduation from their respective high schools and they will be graduating within the next few weeks. This achievement will also end their tenure as an active member of the Chatham County Youth Commission. So on behalf of Dr. Thomas, Mr. Abolt, Mr. Kaigler and their advisors, Ms. Allen, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Meier,

I present to you the Youth Commission graduating class of 1999. I will introduce them and please stand as your name is called.

- Sara Bellino** is a senior at Savannah Country Day and she will be attending Penn State University.
- Carice Brantley** is a senior at BC. He will be attending Morehouse College.
- Reuben Formey** is a senior at Beach and he will be attending Georgia Tech.
- Chanel Inge** is not here, but she's a senior at Johnson High School.
- Ashley Lamas** is a senior at Savannah Christian and she will be attending the University of Georgia.
- Barry Mason** and **Alison McDowell** are both not here. They both go to Calvary and they both will be going to Mercer University.
- Melissa Messenger** is a senior at Savannah Christian and she will be going to Emory University.
- Angela Parker** is not here. She's a senior at Beach and will be attending Savannah State.
- Lazarus O'Sako** is a senior at Groves High School and he will be attending Armstrong Atlantic State University.
- Courtney Pennington** is a senior at Memorial Day School and she will be attending Georgia Tech.
- Posey Ragen** is a member of the first graduating class of Providence Day School and she will be attending Mercer University.
- Patrice Whitehead**, who is not with us today, is a senior at Jenkins.
- Candace Williams** is a senior at Jenkins and will be attending Savannah Tech.

Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, if you will join us in making the presentations. [Applause.] A personalized trophy and a letter of recommendation from the Chairman was then presented to the graduating Youth Commissioners.

Commissioner Thomas said, we are proud of each of you and please keep in touch with us.

Ms. Melissa Messenger said, Dr. Hair and the Chatham County Commissioners, we appreciate the fact that you gave us the opportunity to serve on the Youth Commission. Many times adults say they want to hear from the youth but really don't. You've shown by your actions that you care for us and that you want us to be active in the government. You showed that you cared when you allowed the Human Resource Department staff to take time with us. You showed that you cared when you gave us \$3,000 to go to Washington, DC.

Mr. Carice Brantley said, Dr. Hair, you showed that you cared when you introduced us at the meetings and gave us the opportunity to express ourselves in meetings without even knowing what we were going to say. Dr. Thomas —. Chairman Hair said, that is a little risky. Mr. Brantley said, Dr. Thomas, you meant so much and we are so glad that you pushed and pushed for the Chatham County Youth Commission and a chance to be heard. We can never repay you for the time, your effort and especially your love. On behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission graduating class of 1999 we want to give you a gift of our love and hope that you continue helping the young people around the community. As we are a diverse Youth Commission, these roses reflect our great strength of diversity. [A vase of roses of different colors was then presented to Commissioner Thomas.]

Dr. Thomas said, this is for all the Commissioners because without your support none of this would happen. Thank you so very much. It was really my pleasure working with this group of young people and we will be following you as you continue your careers. Thank you so much.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Thomas, it was very well deserved. You've put a lot of time and effort into this program and I commend you for your work.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, before I recess the Commission and readjourn as the Authority, I do want to —, in order to speed up the process here, we've had a request from the Petitioner on one of the First Reading items.

[NOTE: At this point the Chairman changed the order of the agenda to discuss Item XI-3. Please refer to Item XI-3 for the discussion.]

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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

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

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

By general consent, Item X-9 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Hair said, before we get to the tabled items I'd like to recognize a former member, a former chairman of this body, Mr. Bob McCorkle, who's with us this morning. We're glad to have you, and also we have Alderman Pete Liakakis, who is Alderman at Large. I'd also like to welcome him.

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RELEASE \$400,000 RESTRICTED FUND TO THE LIBRARY, NEW \$876,000 IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY'S 1999 OPERATING BUDGET AND A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$755,000 FOR TECHNOLOGY AT THE BULL STREET LIBRARY. *At the meeting of April 30, 1999, Library staff was asked to provide various options for expenditure of the \$876,000. See Item XI-5 for alternative financing \$755,000 in capital (technology) requests.***

Chairman Hair said, we need to take it off the table. Request Board approval to release \$400,000 Restricted Fund, we've already done that, new \$876,000 in supplemental funding for the Library's '99 operating budget, and a one-time allocation of \$755,000, we've already done that one. I'll entertain a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, it's my understanding in talking with some members of the Library Board that some of you Commissioners would like to make a motion. We'd —. Would somebody like to make a motion? Commissioner Saussy?

Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Just a second. Commissioner Odell said, David [Saussy], why don't you let me do it. Commissioner Saussy said, I would like to make a motion that we accept Option B, which is the —. Commissioner Odell said, and I'll second that motion. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second, okay. Option B? Commissioner Saussy said, yes. It's the funding of \$696,000 with partial materials funding of \$200,000 and a regular schedule of 70 hours per week. Chairman Hair asked, how many new positions are created —, are in that request? Commissioner Saussy said, there are 30, I believe it's 30 if I'm not mistaken. Chairman Hair said, so this motion is to approve 30 new positions for the library. Commissioner Saussy said, I believe that's what it is. Commissioner Odell said, it is. Chairman Hair asked, what would be the 19 —, the 2000 cost of this? If this motion passes, what would be the cost of this in the 2000 budget? Commissioner Saussy said, part of this would be —, well, about 400 —, I guess \$400,000. Could I have somebody from the Library Board —? Commissioner Odell said, there's a cost [inaudible].

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Terry, could you answer that question for us? If this motion passes for \$700,000, what portion of that would be reoccurring in next year's budget. Commissioner Odell said, a million dollars. Commissioner Thomas said, 1.2. Chairman Hair asked 1.2 million? Commissioner Thomas said, about. Mr. Michael Terry said, the recurring annualized cost of that for full operation would be 1.2. Chairman Hair said, I've just got a real problem with creating 30 new positions. I just cannot believe that it takes 30 new positions to open a library. I just cannot believe that and I cannot support this motion. Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Murray said, I've got a question. Throughout this whole process I know that you were paying rent for a facility that was in Port Wentworth, Pooler, somewhere out there where you moved your office and things like that. Mr. Terry said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, the materials were spread around to the different branch libraries throughout the community. Mr. Terry said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, but when you moved out of the facility where you were housing your administration and everything, which was under a rental contract. That contract was up so you had to move out. I understand that. Why was the materials moved from the other branches when the citizens of this community pay for all this stuff cannot utilize them?

Mr. Terry said, I'd like to address that. Commissioner Murray said, I wish you would. That's why I asked the question. Mr. Terry said, that's a —. If I may, can I just make a general comment or two? Chairman Hair said, certainly, Mr. Terry. Absolutely. Mr. Terry said, I actually had a better introduction than the one about \$1.2 million. Chairman Hair said, I'm sure you did, but that is a correct figure is it not? Mr. Terry said, it is a correct figure and it's a legitimate issue. Chairman Hair said, I just wanted to make sure. Mr. Terry said, first of all, I'd like to say I'm Michael Terry and past chairman of the Library Commission —, of the Library Board and I still serve on it. I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, and honorable members. Despite the opening, I am very honored to have the opportunity to come today and speak on behalf of the public library, one of the resources that this Commission provides to the community that is accessible to everyone and is a major part of what this County does for its citizens, and I think that in that same breath I want to express gratitude for the support that you as a Commission have given the library system, particularly in the recent past and in the difficult time of the construction period and all of that. We —, I was asked to come today to present what is a difficult situation, but I also want to realize and recognize the fact that we have been all working on this, and I think that the question that Commissioner Murray asked is a valid one and it's one that I asked yesterday afternoon when we were trying to put together what would be a legitimate amount of money that we would need to get this library opened. So I would like to fine tune what is before you, the \$696,000. There are two major issues that I think have come up within the community that I wanted to respond to. One was the question of the genealogy accessibility and the other is accessibility to the whole collection. After about three hours with several board members and several staff members, we feel that the way to do this is not exactly the way it has been presented in the past with an opening of X-number of 70 hours on October 1 as the goal. It has occurred to us that if we get the library completed with the completion date which is currently scheduled for the middle of June, that we would like to have the genealogy section, which is separately accessible, the rest of the library can be secured, that would begin to be open by July 1 on a limited basis, but would be open. We also have had some discussions with the Georgia Historical Society to temporarily house some of the other collections, such as census records and all that, so that that collection can be available to the community, and it's my understanding that the Savannah Area Genealogical Association will work in concert with that and we will make that accessible. As to the general collection, the real issue there is making it available through inter-library loan, and again staff has assured me and us that that can begin by July 1 so that the entire collection will be available, and that requires getting some staff on. So what that basically means is instead of having an October 1 everything happens, that we can work into this over a period of time. July 1 we can begin having everything available, August maybe a little more, September maybe a little more, and by October they would hope to open on a 40-hour basis at the main library and work up to the full range of 70 hours by December. So that money would be made available to staff that. Now that is the only way prior to October that we see of making the collection accessible, but it is accessible then through the inter-library loan so you can go to any branch, request anything in the collection, and it would be available in that way. The main library itself we just don't have the time to get it fully staffed even if we got the money today to have the full staff before October 1 to get it open 40 hours, but we would be able to make that entire collection accessible.

Commissioner Murray said, that only partially answered the question. Mr. Terry said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Murray said, you told me when it would be accessible. My question was why were those items moved when they were moved when you weren't really paying lease on those, on the facilities? Mr. Terry said, because the contract with the movers which moved the collection in the first place out of the library was a single contract, so to get them in to move everything out of the temporary quarters they had to move everything at the same time or it would have been an additional cost to do that. In other words, when they came and moved us out of the main library, the collection was distributed to all the branches and to the temporary quarters. When it was time to —, when we had to vacate the temporary quarters, the movers had to move everything back at the same time or we would pay additional for that. Commissioner Murray said, well, that brings up another question. I know most contracts I've ever seen can be amended. You had a group offer to pay to move the genealogical stuff from Thunderbolt themselves. Why could that not have been amended to deal with that and allow those people to keep that particular item at Thunderbolt and them pay for the moving cost to move it down to the main library at the time it was appropriate to do that? Mr. Terry said, the problem with that, as I understand it, is the library for the blind was —, is going to be permanently located at Thunderbolt and they could not both be there, and that had to go into the Thunderbolt at the time of that move so the genealogical had to come back to the main library. We —, that will be accessible. That is no longer a [inaudible], as far as I am aware, an issue. The genealogical issue —, materials will be available. Commissioner Murray said, one more comment and then I'll be through. My personal feeling is that this could

have been done differently than the way it was done. It was done for one reason, in my opinion, and that was to put pressure back on this Commission to say you had to have these funds and you had to have them right now or you weren't going to do so and so. Mr. Terry said, can I —. Commissioner Murray said, the other question I have, who wrote the contract? Where was that contract written to move the materials? Mr. Terry said, very early, I don't know exactly. It was very early in the whole negotiations for the renovation and all that. It's been a couple of years, several years ago. I do not know. Lon [Dickerson], who put the contract in?

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Dickerson, would you come forward and answer that? Could you answer that question for Commissioner Murray? Mr. Lon Dickerson said, I think that was done through the County Purchasing. I don't remember.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd just like to know who wrote the contract is all. I thought that would be a simple question. Mr. Terry said, it seems like it would be. Commissioner Odell said, nothing is [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray said, but I don't guess anything's simple anymore. Mr. Terry asked, could I just address that one thing about pressure and all because I —? Commissioner Murray said, we've had quite a bit put on us because of this in case you didn't know that. Mr. Terry said, me too and I want to just say that I think that certainly is not the intent that I have today, and I hope you understand that. I understand some of the past situations and I think some of the things that have happened in the recent past have been very productive. I think the issue with the inner city libraries and the \$400,000, and you know there was pressure both ways there that I think was very helpful, and I think it was constructive for the Library Board to go through that process and I think the results of that will be a better library system. I think in terms of the financial issue in terms of last minute, I know that I came before this Commission in '97 and in '98 talking about the need for additional staff to open the library, and we discussed that at that point and it was never my intent to have this be any kind of a surprise, and I apologize if it came as that way, but it was certainly always understood that there would be additional costs of operating that new library. And in terms of the positions, Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that there are 24 new positions and 11 positions that had been lost in the past because it was closed, so it's really 24 new positions. That's probably not a really valid change, but —. Chairman Hair said, well, it's really 30 new positions. Mr. Terry said, but it ends up being the 30, but I do think a lot needs to be said about the fact that whether there's pressure or not this Commission and I think the board and the community have worked very well together to make this happen and I think it is going to be a resource that we will all be proud of. Not just the main library, but the entire system, and I think that the negotiations what happened yesterday where the board really held the staff's feet to the fire and say it is unacceptable to say that all the materials will be unavailable until October worked very well and we were able to work out a system where we can make both genealogy and the general collection accessible as early as July, so I —.

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize the audience in a minute. Let me get the Commissioners first. Commissioner Thomas and then Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't repeat the same things that Commissioner Murray has said because I had a concern about that also. I would like for someone to clarify this situation about the inner city libraries. I am still not very clear on it because even though the request for the \$400,000 that were approved, I am still of the opinion that after December of '99 that we still don't —, I don't know and if I don't understand it, please make me understand it now before time to vote because that's still a problem for me, I want to know what is going to happen to these inner city libraries after December of '99. Will they remain open and will they be included in all of your future fundings and operations and, secondly, I would like to know what will be the operation hours at each of these facilities every day. Mr. Terry said, okay. I can address all except the specifics of the last one, but I have that information. At the last board meeting that —, the issue was resolved as far as I was concerned that we determined basically eight issues that we hoped would alleviate that whole problem. The first was that we would continue the operation and increase the hours of operation at each of the branches and use community input within those service areas to make the final determination of the exact days and hours of increased operation, that that would be a community input issue. We also made a commitment to upgrade the staff —, upgrade our staff computers in the branches, we would add a computer with limited access at each of the branches, we would upgrade all the book collections at the branches and then there was a need, we felt, for a \$30,000 set-aside for facade and other aesthetic improvements at at least one of the branches. We would also change the wording of the strategic plan to show that the inner city libraries are not targeted for consolidation in any way but would be considered as equal to all other branches for planning purposes and budgeting purposes. Funding for the continued operation of those branches would then be budgeted as a course of the regular budgetary process and we would continue to try to meet on a regular basis with the community groups in the branch service areas to make those determinations for the future. So I think the board, and that was a unanimous vote of the board to assure that any separate consideration of those inner city branches was eliminated, that they would be on a footing with all the branches and those considerations would all be made in the future as a part of the budgetary process, and there was no —, there's no December '99 issue anymore than there's a December '99 issue for the entire library operation. To me, the whole thing is an issue every year. So —, but there is no separate consideration of that in those terms. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, the reason why I asked that because, you know, I keep hearing and I keep reading in the papers and so forth about not being able to complete what is necessary for the library because the Commissioners have not provided the amount of money, you know, that you need. We have already established that it's going to be an additional \$1.2 millions next year —. Mr. Terry said, yes 'mam. Commissioner Thomas said, and I wanted to get that out in the opening because if we're just talking about the six hundred and some odd dollars [sic] that we're talking about right now, there's still that other funding for next year. So I want to make sure that everybody understands that, and I want to make sure that I'm clear and the community is clear that these inner city libraries will not be closed after the '99 year. Mr. Terry said, right. That's my understanding and that's what I tried to convey to the

board and to y'all today. Commissioner Thomas said, and there's one last thing I want to say that I had the opportunity along with some other Commissioners and other officials in the City to review the SCAD library at the opening the other day, and they —, I mean, that's a state-of-the-art facility there, and they certainly have made it available, you know, or will be making it available to the public, and they have certain areas that are open and they're still continuing to work so, therefore, I don't see why, you know, we can't —, if push comes to show, why can't we do similar things like that. Mr. Terry said, that's what I tried to convey in the July through October process where we would continue to work to make as much available as we can as we go along. Commissioner Thomas said, right, because we can't continue to get, you know, pay Peter and rob Paul, okay. All right.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, myself and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm going to ask you some introductory questions, but I would like Mr. Dickerson to come to the podium with you because I'm not certain if you're going to have all of the specific numbers that I needed, because what it appears to have happened is the proposal that's before us lists 31 positions, and those are 31 new positions annualized at a new cost of \$1.2 million. It begs the question that must be asked, and that question is, there were no people working in the library on Bull Street prior to the renovation? By definition, there were, and is Lon [Dickerson] could come to the podium I have some numbers which —. He's not going to come? Commissioner DeLoach said, he's not coming. Oh, yes, he is. Commissioner Odell said, okay. First of all, prior to closing of Bull Street, how many —, what was the staffing level FTE's that existed then and there prior to closing? Mr. Lon Dickerson asked, at Bull Street? Commissioner Odell said, at Bull Street. See because the proposal is for Bull Street Library. Was it 24? Mr. Dickerson said, I believe it was. Commissioner Odell said, now those 24 positions at Bull Street were spread out to other facilities. Is that true? Mr. Dickerson said, yes. It was 21.2. Commissioner Odell said, okay, and that 21.2, those positions remained in the budget during the renovation period. Is that a true question? Mr. Dickerson said, no. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Mr. Dickerson said, for instance, one of the reference librarians was abolished when she resigned in 1997 and was used to establish the development position. Commissioner Odell said, okay, so trade-off, we've still got 21.2 FTE's. Is that a true statement? Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And those people remained in the system did they not? All with the exception —. Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Mr. Dickerson said, there have been some resignations, but the positions are there. Commissioner Odell said, right, the positions are there. Commissioner DeLoach said, and funding. Commissioner Odell said, and funding. Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, the Commissioners question is why can't those people be returned to Bull Street. Mr. Dickerson said, they will be. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Are you saying that we're going to return 21.2 FTE's to Bull Street. Is that true? Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Odell asked, then if that be the case, are we talking about a staffing compliment of 52.2 positions or 31 positions at Bull Street? Mr. Dickerson said, we're talking about a staffing component of 32.3 FTE's. Commissioner Odell said, and I support the proposal, Lon [Dickerson], and what I'm simply trying to do is to resolve some of the questions that fellow Commissioners might have. If you're telling us that we have 21.2 positions already in the budget, we're going to have a total of 32.3, okay, at Bull Street, then you're talking about 10 position, you're talking about an annualized additional cost of a million dollars, 1.2, the question must be asked, are we paying those 10 new positions \$100,000 each? Mr. Dickerson said, that is the front line people at Bull Street. We are all —. Commissioner Odell said, I want to be a front line person. I'm going to resign as a Commissioner if you'll pay me \$100,000 to do books. Mr. Dickerson said, the increase —. Commissioner Price said, I'll go too. Mr. Dickerson said, the increase for all of the staff positions in salaries is \$799,000. Now that includes additional positions that we're putting at the Islands branch, for instance, and at the Oglethorpe Mall branch and people who are staying at the West Chatham branches to keep those libraries open the extended hours that we established when we pulled out of Bull Street. Commissioner Odell said, here's the problem, Lon [Dickerson], and just cut to the chase. The problem is that this is presented as a —, something's that necessary to open Bull Street when it's not. It's not. If you subtract out the 21.2 off of the 32.2, I submit to you, Lon [Dickerson] that that numbers substantially less annualized than the \$1.2 million, and the question is can anyone tell with that 10 FTE's versus 31 FTE's? It's 31 FTE's new positions that you all are requesting and that cannot be only for Bull Street.

Mr. Terry said, I think what Lon [Dickerson] just said, and I think it is kind of misleading, but our costs associated with opening Bull Street that do not all get spent at Bull Street, and those costs are that when we closed Bull Street and moved staff to the other branches we increased hours at those other branches to get better service out of those branches. Those increased hours were due to the closing of Bull Street. It was our intent and attempt to maintain those increased hours even when we open Bull Street because the communities had gotten use to that, so there is a cost associated with those staff keeping those branches open those additional hours. That would be in those total FTE's.

Commissioner Odell said, I understand that. So my position, quite simply, is if that be the case, then those numbers need to be separated and isolated so that we can make that decision, but if you give me a lump number and you tell me you need 31 FTE's to —, new positions to open Bull Street, that is totally inaccurate. That is not a correct statement of fact. Commissioner Thomas said, that's what we were saying. Commissioner Odell asked, is it, Lon [Dickerson]? Mr. Dickerson said, not on front line, but we do have to have the technology people, for instance, to put in technology at Bull Street, but they're not considered Bull Street staff. Commissioner Odell said, okay. So again, if I might, I support the —, I support some funding for Bull Street and the library system, but what I do not support is to give lump information and reach an unrealistic conclusion. Having been an auditor at one time in an earlier life, things should add up. These numbers do not add up. I want you to walk through the numbers with me. If you look at Option B and we find the materials list at \$200,000, basically we're simply reinstating to where we were in '98. Is that a true statement? Mr. Dickerson said, that's

correct. Commissioner Odell said, now if we assume that that is a good number and would that be a reoccurring number? Is that yes? Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay, so in the year 2000 we would have to make provision for that \$200,000. Is that true? Mr. Dickerson said, right. Commissioner Odell said, okay. You've listed I guess the balance from that, four hundred and some odd —, \$496,000 is for staff. Is that rough? If you're talking about —. Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Mr. Dickerson said, it's for staffing. It's also increased utility cost. Commissioner Odell said, right, but the utility cost is not the crux of the problem. The problem is the 31 new positions, and what I'm asking is if you subtract out your 21.2 and you move those people back to Bull Street, then you have a net increase of 10 positions. Is that true? Commissioner Saussy said, no. Commissioner Odell asked, is that true, David [Saussy]? Mr. Dickerson said, I think so. Commissioner Saussy said, 11 I think it is. Commissioner Odell said, I'm no mathematician, but that don't seem that complex math. If you move the 21.2 positions back and you need a compliment of 32.3, you have a net of 10, okay. Mr. Dickerson said, right. Commissioner Odell said, which would be reoccurring cost. Is that true? Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, so rather than \$496,000, am I safe to assume that it would be approximately a third of that in that 10 is approximately a third of 31? Is that a safe statement? Mr. Dickerson said, we can go with it. It's different levels of staffing, but yes, let's got with that. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely. So we're talking about at best adding \$175,000 to the \$200,000. That is the proposal just for Bull Street, so we're talking about \$375,000 you can open at Bull Street. You could go to a regular 70 hours, you would have your 32.3 positions. Is that true? Commissioner DeLoach said, you sure need to say yes, Lon [Dickerson]. Commissioner Odell said, Lon [Dickerson], I'm prepared to prove to you that's it's true. Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Chairman Hair said, he's a friendly witness. You asked him [inaudible]. Mr. Terry asked, could I talked to my —? Commissioner, understanding when you do that, as I said before and we keep putting it to the side, but understand when we do that, that would have an impact on the branch operations. Commissioner Odell said, oh, absolutely, but —. Mr. Terry said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, what we have here, sir, is we expanded hours without authorization and we come back in and say to the Commission, we can't open unless you give us \$700,000, which is not true. Which is not true. That is a totally incorrect statement. As to Bull Street. We may have to reduce some hours. That's a decision that we need to deal with separately, but if you package it to us and give us an ultimatum that \$876,000, a six, seven hundred thousand dollar, but in fact minimum —, not minimumly, you're going to need \$375,000 to just consider Bull Street. The \$200,000 reinstated to your material list 1998 numbers and staffing of approximately \$175,000. Is that true? Okay. I haven't done this guys. Here's my concern. My concern is when we open Bull Street, we will have an increased capacity of 40%. Is that true? Mr. Dickerson said, that's countywide. Commissioner Odell said, countywide. Mr. Dickerson said, we doubled —, more than doubled the size of Bull Street. Commissioner Odell said, okay. I'm not certain if I'm able to make the direct correlation between a 30% increase in staffing at Bull Street when there's a 40% increase in capacity. Mr. Dickerson said, that building's capacity has increased by over 100%. Commissioner Odell said, absolutely. Mr. Dickerson said, we've doubled it. The number of service points for the public to use goes from four to seven. Commissioner Odell said, okay. So at Bull Street we've increased it by 100%. Mr. Dickerson said, over 100. Commissioner Odell said, over 100% and we're requesting staffing, new staffing of only about 32 to 35%. The \$200,000 that is part of the proposal, what amount of money if any is already in the budget? Mr. Terry asked, the books and materials? Commissioner Odell said, yes. If you look at Option B, partial materials funding of \$200,000. Mr. Terry said, right. Commissioner Odell said, my question is what monies are already, excluding that \$200,000, in the budget now? Mr. Terry said, 150. Commissioner Odell said, so in essence we're —, is this just for Bull Street? Mr. Terry said, that's the whole system. Commissioner Saussy said, no, that's the whole system. Commissioner Odell said, whole system. But the \$200,000 is not just for Bull Street? Mr. Terry said, no. Commissioner Odell said, okay, and that is for the entire system? Mr. Terry said, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy said, that's only a partial. Commissioner Odell said, it's a partial. Do we have specific numbers as to how much of the \$200,000 is in fact Bull Street? Mr. Dickerson said, about 28%. Commissioner Odell asked, how much is it? Mr. Dickerson said, about 28%. Commissioner Odell said, about 28%. You know, I'm going to yield, but our Chairman had asked at the last opportunity, and David [Saussy] and I have done a fair amount of work on this and we've talked to fellow Commissioners, and believe me, guys, we really want to give you some money, but our concerns are that if you said we cannot open Bull Street unless we have this number of dollars, if you analyze each one of the numbers, they're wrong. They're wrong and I can prove it. I know you're an attorney. I can prove it to you as a legal counsel that your numbers are incorrect because they do not just include Bull Street, they do not take into consideration of bringing folk back. They're inflated. Mr. Terry said, I think the issue is that it's not, it was not presented as just the cost of opening that building, but there is a system-wide cost to that which we have to be concerned about. For example, the reason the 200,000 is in there as a cost associated with the opening of Bull Street is in bringing all the collections back, the branches need more materials, so that's an opportunity that is associated with opening this new building that is a system-wide cost and that's why it was in here and that's would be true for the personnel services as well as the materials. As I said, there are costs that are going to be —, affect the total system operations that are related to opening that building, and I think that's how that got included that way. You know, you can't have —, I never wanted the Bull Street library to have everything and the other branches to have nothing, and that's what would happen here. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. Could I get some general agreement that if we were to fund the 31 new positions and the \$200,000 in materials that we're talking about \$696,000 for this year and a million two just for staff, if this is —. Mr. Terry said, no, that's not just for staff, sir. That's the total. Commissioner Odell asked, that's the total? Okay. The million two number is the total. That's about —, what, Russ [Abolt], a half a mill? Commissioner Price said, it's less than that. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. That would a fourth of a mill. Commissioner Odell asked, a fourth of a mill? So the end result is if we approve or act upon this today, the impact is if everything else remains equal, we're going —, if we do it next year, have a millage increase of at least a fourth because there are no reoccurring other sources we can take it from other than from taxes. Am I true, Mr. Manager? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, sir, or otherwise cutting elsewhere. Commissioner Odell said, so to do this, if we do this, we're in essence doing a millage increase of .4 mills. County Manager Abolt said, if that is your choice to fund any amount. We have no reoccurring revenue

other than your choice is a millage increase or directing me to cut that amount of money in future budgets. Commissioner Odell said, the only reason why I make that point is that I think it's —, I think we need to do something for the library but I also think that people who call and say give money, give money, need to know where the money's going to come from that we give. I'll yield, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hair said, okay. It's myself and then Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner DeLoach. I'm going to have to leave momentarily so I may not be here for the vote, but I do want to ask some questions and make an alternative before I leave. Can somebody tell me what the source of funds for this \$696,000 is. Where are we going to get 696 —, if we vote for this today, where are we going to get \$696,000? County Manager Abolt said, you will recall in the past, I did [inaudible] choices. This is reoccurring revenue. The only choice you have for that, if you maintain your current very conservative and commendable budget philosophy, is either direct me to make a like cut somewhere else in the M&O budget or agree to increase your millage rate by a like amount when you set the millage rate in July. Chairman Hair said, I'm talking about for '99 now. I'm not talking about 2000. Commissioner Murray said, we would increase the millage rate for '99 when we set —. County Manager Abolt said, you will set the millage rate in July. Chairman Hair said, so a vote for this would be a vote for a tax increase. County Manager Abolt said, well, again, you would have to give me direction, either increase it or direct me to cut in other departments. Chairman Hair said, well, I've got a real problem with that. Second of all, maybe I missed it, Mr. Terry, but I don't think you answered Dr. Thomas' question. Can somebody give me some assurances that the inner city library branches will not be closed after December '99? Mr. Terry said, I thought I did answer that. The —. Chairman Hair said, well, I think you said they'd stand on their own. I don't think you —, I didn't hear you say they would not be closed. Mr. Terry said, the board made an absolute commitment to —, and this was the key thing that this all came up out of the strategic plan, which said that they would be considered for consolidation. That will be removed from the strategic plan and there will be no separate reference to any of the branches as being part of that consideration. So —, I mean, my sense is and the way I felt I answered that is that they are in the same position as the entire library system as of January 1. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Terry said, so, yes, there is that commitment. Chairman Hair said, I believe when you oppose something you should have an alternative and I do have an alternative and I gave this alternative to Mr. Kaster in my office a couple of days ago. He obviously didn't like the alternative, but I did give it to him. Mr. Terry said, he left town. Chairman Hair said, yes, he left town after my proposal. That ought to tell you how much he liked it. Mr. Terry said, and didn't share it with me. Chairman Hair said, but I certainly —, and like I said, I'm probably not going to be here to vote anyway, but I certainly cannot support this, 696, and I would vote against it if I were here, but I would like to say this. My proposal is a two-part proposal. I can support \$250,000, \$150,000 for staffing and \$100,000 for materials. That \$150,000 staffing would be roughly six positions, maybe it's even seven positions. I can support \$250,000 and I also can support including the library in our management study that we're about to embark upon in June. I would feel much more comfortable as a Commissioner if I had an outside consultant come in here and look at everything the library does and tell me where they're understaffed and overstaffed. I mean, I'm in the business. I know what can be done with these management studies, and I would feel much more comfortable —, I believe that a proposal of \$250,000, \$150,000 for staff, \$100,000 for materials would give you the staff that you could open Bull Street with no problem, and then after that management study is completed, then you could come back with other requests and then if that management study supported those requests, then I would support those requests, but I would not support them if the management study did not support those requests. And I think that's a fair and objective —, I think give you some money now, get your library opened, and with those five or six positions and that \$100,000 in materials, and then our management study's completed late this year, then come back with us and that I could support, and that's what I could not support anything higher than \$250,000. But I just —, in my absence I'd like the Commission to consider that alternative if this motion fails. This motion may pass and it makes it a moot point.

Commissioner Murray asked, let me ask you a question tough. Where is that \$250,000 coming from? Chairman Hair said, I believe we can fund the 250 out of growth in the digest. I don't think we would have to have an increase in taxes to do that, and I would not support any funding increase that required millage increase and I would not vote for a millage increase, but I think we could fund 250,000 out of growth in the digest. Commissioner Odell asked, even with freeport being reduced? Chairman Hair said, yes, I think —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'd like to take a look at that, Mr. Chairman, because you're still talking about the Sheriff infusing money in there that —. Chairman Hair said, I understand. Commissioner Rivers said, that we already did. There's a lot of things that —, salary increase, equity for the employees. I mean, we're considering a lot of things —. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, I totally agree with you, but I'll tell you one thing, we'll come a whole lot closer to funding \$250,000 out of growth than we will 696 or 1.2 million out of growth. You won't fund 1.2 million out of growth I an assure you of that. Commissioner Rivers said, well, I believe that. Chairman Hair said, it is an automatic increase if you vote for this motion.

Commissioner Price asked, how quickly would we be able to let a management study and get results thereof? Chairman Hair said, I believe the management study goes out to bid in June. County Manager Abolt said, no, you'll have it back in June for awards. I fixed a calendar, I gave it to y'all —.

Chairman Hair said, and what we could do is if the Commission agreed to that, we could make sure —, we could direct the management consulting firm to do the library first, make that the first part of their study, and we could get that report back —, have to give an interim report before they complete the whole study. The whole study's probably going to take six months, but we could have them do the library first and then we'd have that back probably within five or six weeks. We'd have that back in advance of the budget request for 2000, but I think a proposal of 250,000 with including them in the management study up front —, and I will say Mr. Kaster —, I can't speak for Mr. Kaster, but I did suggest that to him, and

he agreed that including the library in the management study was a good idea. Mr. Terry said, I think it's a great idea. Chairman Hair said, so the library board —, I mean, the chairman agreed with that. He didn't agree with the 250,000, but he agreed with the management study. So, I don't want to —. Mr. Terry said, well, I think that's a wonderful offer. I mean, that's not a quid pro quo though. We get in the management study even if the 250 is not adequate. Chairman Hair said, I think you should be in the management study even if the Commission votes for the 696. Mr. Terry said, I agree. I think that will be beneficial to the entire County.

Chairman Hair said, we've got Commissioner Rivers, Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Saussy. And I'm going to have to leave.

Commissioner Rivers said, clarification, and I want the Board to understand this, that that \$400,000 that we gave them for keeping the inner city libraries open was a one-time drop. Within their library request next year, there'll be a request to put that money there on a permanent basis, so you've got a shortfall in their funds of 400,000 because it's not —, it's included in their budgetary process, but not in their budget. So once that money drops out of their budget next year, they'll have a \$400,000 shortfall for inner city libraries. Am I correct in what I'm saying? And do y'all understand that? Mr. Chairman, you guys down there holding that conversation down there —. Chairman Hair said, I'm leaving, Commissioner Rivers said, that \$400,000 that was allocated this year for the inner city libraries will cause a shortfall by \$400,000 in their budget for next year, which means that we're going to have to allocate that money next year on a permanent basis, and I want that clearly understood. I don't want no misnomer. Chairman Hair asked, so that's in addition to the 1.2? Commissioner Rivers said, that's going to be in addition to the 1.2. Chairman Hair said, so you're up to 1.6 now. Commissioner Rivers said, so we're up to 1.6. Commissioner Rivers said, that's a half mill. Commissioner Rivers said, and I'm moving on you. I'm telling you you've got to look at everything that's here. Now I'm like Commissioner Odell, I'm very concerned when someone comes up and tells me that it's impossible to open the library unless you get X-number of dollars, and it always was my contention that you can make adjustments. You can do whatever you want to do because if I have to open a business and I had a shortfall and I need to get it open, I'd find a doggone way to get it open. But if you bring those 21 positions back and decrease the hours of services that you're serving in outlying libraries now, you come back to what you originally had before you started. Now you're dealing with Bull Street so you need an increase of staff to open the new facility, and that's the thing that we should be dealing with and that's what Commissioner Odell was asking for, the differential in Bull Street versus all of the other things and keeping all of the other services. Now I'm not like my fellow Commissioners up here. I'm a realist. I can hope with all the things that we've got coming and with all the things that we promised that we're going to do for employees and equitable pay and the increases that we already have given to the Sheriff's Department which has to be infused, it's going to be a lot of hassle over the increase in digest funds, okay. So reality tells me that if we're going to fund the library, the thing that we need to possibly look at is an increase of a quarter of a mill, which equates to \$7 on a \$100,000 house. Other than that, we're going to have to consider cutting positions and we're going to have to go through a whole lot of hoops in order to funds this. Now whether this Board has the will to do that, I don't know, but that's the logical thing. Even if I fund you today some monies out of Contingency, I still have to look to replace that money next year. So 1.2 is just a drop. I'm looking at 1.6 now. Commissioner Murray said, which is more than a quarter of a mill. A quarter of a mill was for 1.2. Chairman Hair said, yes, you're talking about a half a mill. It's like a half a mill. Commissioner Rivers said, and things are increasing all the time. Commissioner Murray said, I just want you to understand that. Commissioner Rivers said, well, then we're talking about \$14 per household. Chairman Hair asked, are you —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm going to leave it with that. I just wanted everybody to [inaudible].

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

Commissioner DeLoach said, basically I like Harris' [Odell] ideal. I like Billy's [Hair] idea. I think we can get there for right now, as far as I can tell. I think the Chairman's got a number we can live with right now and get it to the management study and find out what we can do. As far as the millage increase and whether we've got the will or not, you can have the will to raise taxes, you can have the will not to raise taxes. So, I mean, the will is just the way you want to fit it. Right now, I'm not willing to raise to taxes, but maybe later maybe so. But the point being is I think we ought to go with this base, this \$250,000, give them an opportunity to open the budget —, I mean, open the library and let's just move on, so I'm going to make that —.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion on the floor first. Commissioner DeLoach said, oh, we do. We've got a deal with [inaudible]. Motion and a second for the 696. Let's deal with that motion first and then if that one fails, then we can offer or entertain an alternate motion. I think maybe if those that are still scheduled to speak, if you will go ahead and want to call for the question —. Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to [inaudible]. Chairman Hair asked, pardon? Commissioner Jackel said, I haven't said anything yet. Chairman Hair asked, you want to —, would you —, do you want to speak before the vote's taken? Commissioner Jackel said, please. Chairman Hair said, let's go in order then. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy first and then you. Commissioner Jackel said, and I'll be brief. Commissioner Saussy said, go ahead. I'll yield to you first.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I hear what my colleague Commissioner Rivers is saying and a half mill is \$14 on a \$100,000 house, but that's just our part of the tax burden. The other part is the City and the School Board, so if they took the same position on their projects, it's actually three times that, and so, you know, then it's not \$14, it's \$42, and that's more money and that's for a \$100,000 and if your house is up from that, then it multiplies from there. I ran on a platform of not increasing taxes and seeing if there was any possible way I could reduce the taxes. I can't go with a tax increase.

I just can't do it, and I want to help the library if at all possible. I don't think I can vote for this proposal, but the Chairman's proposal I think is one I can go for.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. We've gone over this thing. If we drop —, this is just an option. If we drop out the materials funding, it's got down, eliminate materials would reduce the above by \$378,000, that leaves \$316,000. I can understand where the Chairman's coming from with \$250,000, but I think if we went from 250 to 316, it's not going to be that much difference, and I think that's probably where we should probably be. Mr. Terry said, just as a point of clarification, that 100 and —, let me see, 78,000 of that 378 is already out of that 876 to come to 696. The 696 maintains 200,000 for materials, so it would be 200 off the 696 to get a no materials budget to be —. Commissioner Saussy said, okay, so —. Mr. Terry said, you were taking the 378 from the 696 and they've already taken some out. Commissioner Saussy said, it says except the —. I see now. Mr. Terry said, so it would be 496. Commissioner Saussy said, so in essence we're getting —, with the Chairman's proposal, we're only getting half of what really is needed. Mr. Terry said, yes, sir. Commissioner Saussy said, and I just —.

Commissioner Price said, call for the question.

Mr. Terry said, as a further point of clarification, if I can, just to Commissioner Odell's comments, there were three line items in this —, three line item areas in this budget. One was the personnel services and the other was the materials, which he dealt with, but we also have the other —, total other purchased services, which was kind of dismissed. The utilities in that budget, increased utilities is \$85,000. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Mr. Terry said, so —, I mean, that is a consideration that is for the opening of the Bull Street library and there's, you know, 247,000 in other purchased services. So even if you went with the 175 and the 200, you would have to allow something for the other purchased services.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioner —.

Commissioner Saussy asked, so where are you then? Mr. Terry said, well, if you did a no materials budget —. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Mr. Terry said, you're at the 496, which —, and understand that means all branches —, that money was an all branches request, so it would mean no new materials for any of the branches, and this would also dictate to bring those all 21 positions back to the main library for reduction of services at the other branches. That's —. Commissioner Saussy asked, how much if you reduce the number of hours at the other branches back to normal, what they were before we moved? Mr. Terry said, that would be —, that is what would allow us to bring the 21 back. Commissioner Saussy asked, how much would that produce? Mr. Dickerson said, the 21 coming back won't enable us to operate the Bull Street library because we've got twice as much space. Mr. Terry said, but you're going to hire —, but under Commissioner Odell's proposal you would add the 10 or 11 positions, so you would have 31 positions. Isn't that what you were —? Commissioner Saussy said, right. Commissioner Odell said, right. Commissioner Saussy said, so what I'm saying is that, how much savings cutting back those hours at the other branches to what they were before and maybe even going to the 40 hours for the main library until maybe the first of the year —? Commissioner Odell said, it would be less than 375. Commissioner Saussy said, huh? Commissioner Odell said, it would be less than 375.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm going to shoot the gun. Man, let me go ahead and shoot the gun. Commissioner Thomas said, wait a minute, we're not through. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. I'm sorry.

Commissioner Saussy said, so you're saying it would cost somewhere around 350, something like that. Mr. Terry said, but, again, it doesn't take into account the total other purchased services issue, which is 247,000. That's 85,000 for utilities and 30,000 for vender repair. I mean, that's the whole support budget for that staff and for the library it can't be ignored totally. If you get the 11 positions that's fine, but we have all these other costs. Commissioner Saussy said, so if we went with 250 plus 85, that's 335. That gets it over —. Mr. Terry said, I don't know where you're figures are coming from. Commissioner Saussy said, if —, the Chairman says \$250,000. You have no problem with that. But I don't know whether he was including the utilities in that at all or the other. You've got to have those —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I don't think so. Mr. Terry said, I think he said 150 for —. Commissioner DeLoach said, he said 150,000 for people and 100,000 for materials. Commissioner Saussy said, 150 —. Commissioner DeLoach said, 150 for people and 100,000 for —. Commissioner Saussy asked how many people is 150 going to get you? Commissioner DeLoach said, it all depends on what —. Commissioner Saussy said, for the rest of the year now? Commissioner DeLoach said, well, based on somebody's salary like Harris [Odell], that's one. Commissioner Odell said, one and a half. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I mean, it's not —. Mr. Terry said, I think it's 10, isn't it. If 175 is 11. It's about 10. Commissioner Saussy said, about 10, so that gets —. Mr. Terry said, I'm just doing the math.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you finished? Commissioner Saussy said, no, not yet. I want to find out the information. Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, okay.

Commissioner Price said, Michael [Terry], you guys have a finance committee that's part of your Library Board. Mr. Terry said, yes. Commissioner Price asked, did they go over your numbers here, did they look at these numbers? Mr. Terry said, they went over the —, these options came —. They went through all the numbers, but with the consideration that I tried to make, which I realize is —, sounds foggy, but I don't really think it is. The cost of opening the building has costs that affect

the entire system. I mean, that's a very basic part of this that —, and to try to put on paper okay this is what it costs to open the Bull Street library, that is what it costs the entire system to open the Bull Street library. Commissioner Price said, because of the technology and everything. Mr. Terry said, because of the technology, because of the staffing, because of the inter-library loan process. I mean, there's just so many things that we are a countywide —, three countywide system. Commissioner Price said, I think I took somebody else's time.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, as soon as Commissioner Saussy is finished then, Commissioner Murray after. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I'm through. Commissioner Murray asked, you're through? Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we'll go to Commissioner Murray and then Mrs. Whitaker.

Commissioner Murray said, during the conversation with Commissioners Odell and some of the others you were talking about the branches being increased in hours when Bull Street closed. Mr. Terry said, yes. Commissioner Murray asked, which branches and how many branches were decreased in hours when Bull Street closed? Mr. Terry asked, when the Bull Street closed? Commissioner Murray said, right. Commissioner Price asked, were decreased? Commissioner Murray asked, none of the inner city branches were decreased? Mr. Terry said, none of the branches were decreased when the —, for the closing of that. Commissioner Murray asked, do what? Commissioner Price asked, when did you decrease the inner city? Vice Chairman Thomas said, the hours there were decreased a year ago. Mr. Terry said, a year ago. That's was for the budgetary concerns there. Commissioner Price asked, what libraries? Mr. Terry said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] the statement sounded like all libraries were increased in hours, and I don't believe that's true. Mr. Terry said, well they were initially, but now they —, then they were closed. Some were reduced. The libraries that were increased were Forest City, Islands, and West Chatham. Commissioner Murray said, so only three of the branches were increased in hours. The rest either stayed the same or were decreased in hours? Mr. Terry said, when it was first time they were [inaudible] and then there was a reduction this past year —. Of which libraries? All libraries. So we've already had a reduction. Commissioner Murray said, I'm sorry, I could hear what you said. Mr. Terry said, there has been a reduction of hours at virtually all of the branches this year, but now we've changed —. Commissioner Murray said, the statement that was made was really misleading then because it led us to believe that all the branches were increased in hours, and that's not the case. Mr. Terry said, they were decreased to where they had been previously. Commissioner Murray said, but they weren't all increased either is what I'm saying. Mr. Terry said, there were branches that were increased, not all the branches. Commissioner Murray said, but you only have three branches out of all of them that were increased in hours though. Is that correct? Mr. Dickerson said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, Harris [Odell], that is different than what you had when you were making those figures [inaudible]. Mr. Terry said, so what's the cost —, what's the cost of —. Commissioner Murray said, so you're only talking about three branches that you would need to keep open those extended hours in the proposal that you had, if I'm reading what you're saying right. Mr. Terry said, that's sounds right. That throws another one into it, so I don't think y'all's numbers are right either or what you're telling us are not right numbers, and that's why I have a problem with any of the funding requests right now because we can't get straight answers on the questions. Everything that comes back to us it's misleading. Mr. Terry said, what we know are the costs to operate from October on, and we know that. Commissioner Murray said, but the way it came across a few minutes ago was like if the money's not there, then all these branches are going to be cut back on the hours again. Mr. Terry said, right. Commissioner Murray said, and you only actually increased the hours in three branches. Mr. Terry said, right. But the 21 staff are at all the —, went to all the branches. They didn't just go to those three. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but I'm talking —. Why would they go to branches where the hours are decreased? Mr. Terry said, because they had additional materials. There was additional —. Commissioner Murray said, but they had a deduction in hours. Commissioner Saussy said, there wasn't a deduction. Commissioner Murray said, on some of them there were. Commissioner Saussy asked, where were the deductions? Commissioner Murray said, he just finished telling me that. Mr. Terry said, that was just this year for budgetary —, for budgetary reasons they were cut. Commissioner Murray asked, did those people then leave those branches where they were reduced and go somewhere else? Mr. Terry said, there was no place for them to go. [Inaudible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.]

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Are you finished? Commissioner Murray said, yes, I'm through. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we're going to go to Mrs. Whitaker and then Commissioner Price and then hopefully we'll call for the question. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes.

Mrs. Hilda Whitaker said, for the record, Madam Chairman, I would like to gripe about the senior citizens being able to use the libraries, and it really bothers me that they can be specific about the dollar bills, but they can't be specific about what the hours of operation are going to be at each and every branch. The old saying be sure your sins will find you out, well I sinned when I supported the renovation of the Bull Street library instead of the Oglethorpe Mall. Today because I think I have with my support created a monster that has many, many heads, and I'm sorry. I believed at the time that would be the appropriate thing to do to leave a legacy for a good library. And I think in all of this talk about technology and computers, we must forever remember that a child being able to read a book is one of the pleasures in life. Books are my vise. I read a lot and I think that all of these magnificent things will never take the place of child being able to read a book. When you can read a book, you can do anything, you can go many places you can't afford to go. Why can't they answer what the hours of operation are going to be before you vote to give them any more money? To me that's one of the most important things. I can't —, I think that the convenience is extremely important because now you've got parents working and children —, trying to get children to libraries and, therefore, you don't utilize them as much. And so what if we're old and we want to go sit, and the inner city libraries have a lot of elderly people, and I think we ought to be spending time trying to encourage people to visit the libraries and have people to tell you —. I tell you this, the Oglethorpe Mall is

a zoo. There is no such thing as a quiet library if you visit the Oglethorpe Mall today. When it comes to genealogy, this inter-library borrowing, well, how many trips do I have to make to find out it's already been borrowed and you go to the one where it's the relocation of it. I think it ought to be in one location so people will know where to go to be used. I've been to Salt Lake City and I —, to do genealogy research and I know how theirs operate, and they have a reputation for having those resources. But please see that somebody gives you a definitive answer on hours of operation and it's extremely important, and they certainly are not open like they used to be before we began this quagmire. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, Mrs. Whitaker. We'll go to Commissioner Price and then hopefully we can —, I can call for the question.

Commissioner Price said, there's evidence and every indication that the most important thing to do is what the Chairman spoke about, which was the management study. So regardless of how we vote today, I hope that we will support as a body that we get started on it and in a very fast fashion and that somehow today with whatever vote survives that that's part of that motion.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you finished? Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want to call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, no further discussion. Commissioner DeLoach said, we've got a call for the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, state your name please.

Ms. Virginia Mobley said, Virginia Mobley, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association. Commissioner Odell asked, Virginia [Mobley], can you address the Bull Street library, but Hilda [Whitaker] just wanted to move it out to Ben's [Price] district, but —. Ms. Mobley said, I realize that. Commissioner Price said, it's not my district either. It's David's [Saussy]. Commissioner Odell said, well that's —. Ms. Mobley said, courage and knowledge were the words used by Commissioner David Saussy today. Since the discussion started some years —, seven years ago, the Thomas Square Neighborhood Association has looked not only at the Bull Street main library, but the entire system and the problems that are present in every branch. At your last meeting you funded programs to address the lack of respect for community. Today you approved \$42,000 for physical recreation. When do you spend to build the minds and reduce the need for the services that address the moral conduct of our community? Those become aware of the problem —, those who became aware of the problems years ago, who recognized the total problems, have continued to work with the Library Board and have worked to form both the foundation and the friends of the library. Some of those have made personal contributions to the system. The problems of our system didn't come about in a short period of time and will not be corrected in a short term, piecemeal way. Commitment in action to address the needs has to come from you. You are the leaders in our community. By not opening the main library, this Commission will pass on to the next Commission the problems that existed in 1992 by only addressing the problems as individual groups holler never establishes solutions that will build the future Commissioners we saw today. Libraries are for everyone. Libraries for everyone is what we ask. When do you spend to build the mind? Courage from you to do what has to be done for our community has to come from you. Please open the main library as soon as possible so as a community we can carry on the work to solve the problems within our library system.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, Ms. Mobley. Commissioner DeLoach said, call it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, let me give this citizen here an opportunity to —. State your name please.

Ms. Sara Balcher [phonetic] said, a resident of the downtown. I'm here also on behalf of offering our great finds from the Savannah Area Genealogy Association. I'm their representative today to thank all of you for making [inaudible] available to us. It's a great effort. You can't imagine how grateful we are. I just wanted to say that we are an historic progressive city. I would encourage all of us to push in every way possible to open the library for our children. We must have exposure for these children to the knowledge available to them and to all of us at libraries, but also to have them exposed to the role models of most of the staff at the libraries that I've met. I think role models are so important today. I hope some day I'll get to be one. But those people are so great, so I'm asking you to provide the necessary funds, and it looks to me like we're having a good conversation here with everybody at least asking questions and working together, and I'm very pleased about that. So I think now if we could start now to work for what we need right this minute and then to include in the future all of the goods that we will need reasonably to keep these edifices open. I might all also that we must remember the citizens who have made very large contributions from their pockets. This has been put, as I understand, to a very good use for materials so I'm hoping that you will vote in some manner today to help us open our library. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much. Commissioner DeLoach said, I call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, I'm sorry.

Mr. John Barrie said, I'm John Barrie, and I —, the Chairman's idea that someone should come to consult or make observations, my difficulty in today is nothing is every broken down enough. We don't know how much it costs for each of the libraries. We don't know —, we don't know enough, and I think there is enough information, and they call it the information age, that you could invite the library to give you more information and more information beforehand because I think it's just impossible to comprehend it. You know, and again the library, perhaps the main library opening in stages, and it has been observed that the SCAD library is not yet finished and yet it is open and flourishing, but we don't have enough information and the breakdown of the options is almost meaningless. There should have been a serious breakdown, and that is one of my requests. I mean, so much time seems to be wasted in not seeing that, and you were

so extraordinary in seeing so much in what you were given, but we don't know about the people, what their work is. We just don't know, and I think that's a great, a great thing. And one other thing, Mr. Terry had said that there was also a concern about the bookmobile being allowed in Georgetown and apparently that has been resolved, but it did seem that that remote part of the County should be cared for by the bookmobile and, as he said, yes, that was going to take place, but they were refused before. So, thank you very much.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Barrie. The question has been called. The motion on the floor is to —, for Option B, \$694,000. Commissioner Saussy said, 696. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, six what? Commissioner Saussy said, 696. Vice Chairman Thomas said, 696. Thank you. Please vote. Commissioners Saussy, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, I'm going to —, Madam Chair, I'm going to ask for reconsideration on this and that it be entered in the minutes for the next meeting. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm going to call the question —, I'm going to ask for a motion. Can I do that on reconsideration? Commissioner Price said, sure you can. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. I'm going to make a motion that we approve part of the recommendation from the Chairman, which was the \$250,000. What I'd like to add —. Commissioner Rivers said, point of order. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, we've got a motion on the floor. Commissioner Price said, we have to vote on the motion to reconsider. Commissioner DeLoach said, oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Joe [Rivers]. I didn't know that. Commissioner Murray asked, is there a second? Commissioner Saussy said, I'll second. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't need a second on reconsideration. Commissioner Saussy said, oh, that's right. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Any discussion? Commissioner Price said, yes, you do, don't you? Commissioner Rivers said, well, I've got one. Commissioner Price said, I'll second it too. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, did you? You have a second to the —? Commissioner Saussy said, we have a second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, all —. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, we don't need to vote on it, do we? Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor. Commissioner Rivers said, this is not a reconsideration, Jon [Hart]. I asked for reconsideration to be put —, on the motion to be put in the minutes so when they go in the minutes it won't come up until the next meeting. Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, so it's not a —. Commissioner DeLoach said, so we don't need to vote on it, right. Commissioner Jackel said, and we don't need to vote on it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, so we don't have to vote.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Well, I'm going to —, can I go ahead and put another motion on the table then? Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'd like to put a motion on the table that we take the Chairman's motion [sic] of \$250,000 for the positions and the materials and add to this \$75,000. The total item would be \$325,000, the \$75,000 going toward operations and functioning of the library for the rest of the fiscal year. Commissioner Price said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, it has been properly moved and seconded. Any discussion? Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'm willing to support something to try to help the library. All the questions that we had today to me have not been answered, and I think y'all realize that. Lon [Dickerson], you might think you've answered them all, but you haven't. There are too many questions still out there as far as the branches, which ones were cut back, which ones weren't cut back, the funding for those branches and where the money's going. I will not support this. I will support the motion that —, it's not a motion yet, but the recommendation the Chairman made, but I will not support anything above the \$250,000 today, but I think they can come back at another time once we get these questions answered and possibly some of us might have a change of heart by that time. I just don't believe the things have been done that need to be done yet. Mr. Terry, I think you did a good job explaining and answering the questions, but they still weren't answered and a lot of them are still misleading to this Commission and probably the general public at the same time, so I will not support this motion.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, Eddie [DeLoach], if we're talking about \$325,000 for this year, does that put us into 350 —, \$650,000 for the next year's budget. Commissioner DeLoach said, actually it's more than that. Commissioner Odell said, it's like \$900,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, so it's just for a quarter. Commissioner Jackel asked, and where's that money going to come from? I thought the money was going to be there through the reevaluation. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm bringing my hat and I'm going to pass it around the audience. I mean, I'm dealing with this year right now. Commissioner Jackel said, and that money you think is going to be there through the reevaluations. Commissioner DeLoach asked, do I? I have no idea and I would not —. Commissioner Jackel said, growth in the digest. Commissioner DeLoach said, I would not lead you in that direction. What I will tell you is, I feel like they need X-amount of dollars to open up this year and that's what I'm doing. That's all I'm doing. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I'm interested in voting for this, but only if I know that the money is there.

County Manager Abolt said, funding source would be this, now realize it's non-reoccurring revenue —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, non-reoccurring. County Manager Abolt said, you have \$3,000,000 in your Restricted Contingency account —. Mr. Ken Earls said, a little louder please. County Manager Abolt said, \$3,000,000 in your Restricted Contingency

Account that you were dealing as a nest egg and looking toward issuing some debt. I would look at this action as a requirement to draw down that Restricted Contingency by the amount that's passed. Non-reoccurring revenue. Commissioner Jackel said, \$325,000. County Manager Abolt said, whatever the motion is, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, if the motion makes it. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so it would come out of the Contingency.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, all right, any further discussion on that particular motion? Commissioner Price said, yes. I want to make an amendment to the —. Commissioner Rivers said, understand, understand one thing that when we're talking about looking at the digest growth it was \$1.2 million last year. Almost a million dollars is going to be wiped away with that increase that we gave the Sheriff, so that's not —, I don't think that's too much of an option, Mr. Commissioner.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, we don't know what's going to be needed, but we do know this. One way or another we're going to have to increase the millage rate to take care of the library. We know that and that's a given. What will help us understand how much of an increase is going to have to be is the management study that Chairman Hair spoke about. So I'm going to amend —, a friendly amendment to the motion that we include the management —, in our own management study the library system and that that be a priority of the management study once it is awarded so that we can have a report back to us as quickly as possible to make that type of decision and understand going into the 2000 budget how that's going to impact the overall budget. So I'm making that an amendment to place that along with our own management study that the library system be placed in there as a priority.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, does the maker of the motion accept the friendly amendment? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, that's fine. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, and the second? Commissioner Price said, yes.

Commissioner Rivers said, Madam Chair, I would ask Commissioner Price to withdraw that amendment as a separate motion because I will not support the previous motion, but I can support putting it into the study. Commissioner Price said, I don't have a problem with that, but if it fails I'll make a motion again separately. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, well, you're going to have to make it again if it doesn't —, if it fails. It might pass. Commissioner Price said, well, let's leave it in and if it passes, and if it doesn't I'll bring it back. Commissioner Rivers said, all right.

The Clerk asked, was there a second to the amendment? Commissioner Murray said, he accepted that to the original motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, I accepted it. Commissioner Rivers said, the second accepted it.

Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, I want to end this thing on a somewhat positive note. I do want to thank all the board members who participate on this. I know y'all catch a lot of flack. I want to thank y'all for all that y'all do do [sic]. We do want the library to be the best that it can be. There's no one up here —, we might fight during the course of a meeting, but when it's all said and done, it's over with and I would hope that whenever y'all leave here that you realize that we're only doing what we feel like's right whether we agree with each other or not. So with that, thank you for everything y'all do and hopefully when we get through with this we'll have us a library, and that library in that area is an important statement for the City of Savannah and what we have planned for this area to be. So although I was not supportive originally, when we did go that way, along with many others who didn't have that library there [sic], we support it wholeheartedly and we support that area wholeheartedly so make sure that everyone knows this Commission is behind the library. Okay? I'll call the question.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Saussy wants to say —.

Commissioner Saussy said, let me just say a few things. Eddie [DeLoach], I appreciate what you just said and I agree with you. I think everybody on this Commission really supports the library. Unfortunately we haven't had the money to do it, and I think what Commissioner Rivers says is absolutely true. We're going to have to increase the millage. If we increase the millage, I would like to see —, if we do this, I would like to see it designated strictly for the library, and I just appreciate all that the Library Board has done and they have kept —, they have had a lot of flack, some of it called for, some of it not called for, but I do appreciate the Library Board and what they've done. It's hard work to do things like this and to take a lot of the flack that y'all have taken and I know that we have taken too, but I think we do have to have the courage to sit up here and take it. With that I'll call for the vote.

Commissioner Odell asked, can we restate the motion? I've kind of gotten lost. Commissioner DeLoach said, the motion is \$325,000 total: \$75,000 for operations, \$150,000 for salaries and \$100,000 for materials. Commissioner Price said, and —. Commissioner DeLoach said, and the amendment that will make sure that the library is in the forefront of the management study we do this coming June.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, everybody got it? All in favor, please vote. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Commissioner Price said, it passes. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it passes.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any questions? Commissioner Price said, Ken [Earls] has a question. Come on up.

Mr. Ken Earls said, it was not stated in the motion, did you have to say that the money would come from Contingency in the motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, I might have some in my back pocket. Mr. Earls said, well, pull it out. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't care where it comes from. Commissioner Murray said, no saying votes are going to vote to raise the taxes to cover it, don't worry about it. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration.
2. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve Option B, \$696,000 to the Library. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Commissioner Saussy, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
3. Commissioner Rivers moved that the motion regarding approval of Option B, \$696,000, be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners, i.e., May 28, 1999. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion.
4. Commissioner DeLoach moved to fund \$325,000 to the Library: \$75,000 for operating expense; \$250,000 suggested by Chairman Hair to be used \$100,000 for operating expenses and \$150,000 for salaries, and that the library system be included as a part of the management study and that it be given priority so the results of that portion of the study can be given to the Commission as quickly as possible. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$3,000 FOR AN INCREASE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX ROAD PROGRAM FUND (1985-1993) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$470,000 TO SAVANNAH AIRPORT ROAD AND BRIDGE AND A VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS TRANSFER OF \$40,000 FOR GDOT LARP/PR CONTRACT; A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$17,000 FOR THE TATEMVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT; GENERAL FUND M & O CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$7,020 TO SUPERIOR COURT CLERK TO FILL A POSITION ABOVE THE BUDGETED SALARY.**

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Commissioner DeLoach said, nope. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor please vote. The Clerk said, we only have four —, okay. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: a Special Service District Contingency transfer of \$3,000 for an increase in Telecommunications Management Services Agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association; a One Percent Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) Contingency transfer of \$470,000 to Savannah Airport Road and Bridge and a Various County Roads transfer of \$40,000 for GDOT LARP/PR Contract; a One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Contingency transfer of \$17,000 for the Tatemville Community Center Project; General Fund M & O Contingency transfer of \$7,020 to Superior Court Clerk to fill a position above the budgeted salary. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

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2. PRESENT TO THE BOARD THE COUNTY'S AUDITED COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998, AND THE CHANGES IN FINANCIAL CONDITION. *Please be advised that the auditors have been advised to be present.*

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, you have your auditors present. However you want to handle it. Commissioner DeLoach said, everything's lovely.

Commissioner Price asked, Russ [Abolt], do you have anything specific or poignant about this audit that you feel like we need to address today? County Manager Abolt said, no, but the auditors have done a good job of identifying and staff has responded to those areas where we have to tweak and fine tune. We will do it. The only reoccurring finding is one we have no control over and that's the decentralization of cash collection. That does —, is attributed to constitutional law, but beyond that I believe staff has done an excellent job in responding. We have a very good partnership with the external auditor. I do want to point out to you though, the external auditors work directly for you. I want —, I've given you my answer. I would prefer that Mr. Tindol also give you an answer. Commissioner Price said, well, maybe we should just take a minute and hear from Rick [Tindol].

Vice Chairman Thomas said, well, maybe while he's doing that, we'll hear from —.

Commissioner Jackel said, yes, while he's walking up, I would just like to say that I've read over this brief auditor's report and I think it's always best when the auditor's report is brief. When they're long, then you've got a lot of problems, and this is —, apparently we're getting very good grades on what we're doing, and I want the County to be aware of that and that we're proud of our people who work in that department. David [Persaud], you're doing great.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we'll hear from —.

Mr. Rick Tindol said, myname is Rick Tindol. I'm with the audit firm of Karp, Ronning, Arkin & Tindol, and I really don't have anything to add other than to echo the Manager's position that the referring item is on the decentralization of cash collection points, which you really don't have any ultimate control over, especially the courts, and that would require a legislative action to centralize those collection points, but it is something you may want to talk to the local delegation. I feel as a citizen that we —, other than the tax office, that we should be able to go to one particular location and pay any County bill. That would certainly, I think, ultimately save some money for the County.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much. Is there no further discussion? Commissioner Price said, I move to accept. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Please vote. Where is everybody? Commissioner Price said, we've got enough. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers and Murray were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to accept the County's Audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ended December 31, 1998, and the changes in financial condition as outlined in the staff report. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers and Murray were not present.]

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3. PRESENT TO THE BOARD THE AUDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE INTERNAL CONTROLS AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998, TOGETHER WITH STAFF RESPONSES TO THE AUDITOR'S COMMENTS. *Please be advised that the auditors have been advised to be present.*

Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, that's a companion to management letter. Commissioner Jackel's out, but you're doing two items separately but they're related.

Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, move for approval? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I've got a second on that. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Commissioner Jackel said, second. Please vote. Commissioner Odell said, you would be a third. Commissioner DeLoach said, there, there. Commissioner Price said, I approved, he seconded —, I moved and he seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

[NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers and Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion's carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to accept the Auditor's Recommendations to improve Internal Controls and Administrative Efficiency for the year ended December 31, 1998, together with staff responses to the Auditor's comments. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers and Murray were not present.]

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4. TO PRESENT A YEAR-END WRAP UP BASED ON AUDIT, BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND BUDGET ADOPTIONS FOR ENCUMBRANCES, INCOMPLETE PROJECTS/EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND FUND BALANCE RESERVE AT YEAR-END 1998 FOR ALL FUNDS.

Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, if I may please, so you'll not pass over without you knowing —, understanding what part of this is discretionary, many, many pages in the staff report. All but one in effect are —, not mandated, but they follow the audit you've just approved. If you turn for a moment in your staff report to page seven, I want to highlight the discretionary act that you will be making if you adopt this motion, and I'm focusing attention on the undesignated fund balance for M&O and SSD. As we've alerted you to a number of weeks ago, the undesignated fund balance as a result of the audit is about a million and a half in M&O and \$2.1 million in the Special Service District. Page number seven shows you how staff is recommending and if this motion is passed you will be aligning with each of the indicated fund sources additional revenue. It is all consistent with what we told you in the management —, excuse me, in the management —, my transmittal letter under budget back in the Fall, plus it recognizes your goal session. Let me give you the example. Number one, your management study, your industrial audit as it's referred to, it's covered through this fund balance allocation. Vehicle replacements, we meet in many respects our vehicle needs. We're a little bit light yet in M&O, but we're taking as much as we can in identifying reoccurring need to replace vehicles. We're increasing general contingency both in M&O and SSD; we're picking up the cost of the compensation and classification study, again part of your goal session; we're picking up the cost of a fringe benefit report, and it's been brought to your attention by Commissioner Saussy, for which we've delayed for a couple of years; we're providing interim staffing and we realize this is nonreoccurring revenue, but as we said in the budget message, we're picking up the cost of staffing the Whitmarsh Island Community Center, looking at opening that some time in the Summer of this year, and then we're making shifts in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund because of the needs again expressed in my budget message. I feel this is completely consistent with what you've given me direction as far back as November, but I do want you to understand this is discretionary act.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, we appreciate that, Russ [Abolt]. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, no further discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the year-end wrap up based on Audit, Budget Amendment and Budget Adopts for Encumbrances, Incomplete Projects/Equipment purchases and Fund Balance Reserves at year-end 1998 for all funds as outlined in Alternative 1 of the staff report. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers were not present.]

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FINANCING HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is again a continuing issue before you. At your last meeting you gave recurring conceptual approval to look at financing some of our high priority projects. This is a manifestation of working with many of the departments looking at our CIP. You took some testimony last time. You had information from the State Court Clerk on the need to do some imaging. You also wanted to add to it the technology for the library. We have put together a package that would, if you approve it today, allow us to be about issuing debt. Going back to what Commissioner Rivers said on reoccurring obligations, this is kind of like putting it on the gold card. We've already acknowledged that we do have some continuing debt service obligations that will resurrect really for the first time a fairly substantial expenditure in 2000, namely the funding of the Mosquito Control facility to this. If you approve all that you have

in front of you, we would be having an obligation which would include Mosquito Control of about \$1.6 million next year in debt service cost that we do not have this year.

Commissioner Price asked, so you're saying that by approving —, if we go out and secure the long term financing for this or issue bonds for this, we won't have that 1.6? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, no sir, no sir. I'm trying to give you —, I'm trying to give you a bottom line figure that's comparable with what Commissioner Rivers was talking about when you look at the year 2000 budget. We already have an obligation to the Airport Authority to retire the debt that will create a \$4,000,000 facility out at the Airport relocating Mosquito Control. That's, you know, in round numbers \$600,000 or whatever, six, \$700,000. In this particular case we have arrayed before you different options that total debt service payments of about a million dollars, a little less than a million dollars. We work closely with A. G. Edwards as you all know and these options would create a first-year payment in the year 2000 of \$993,000. In my shorthand version I added to that the initial cost of Mosquito Control and just wanted to let you know that in the year 2000, by approving this, in total you will have in new cost about \$1.6 million that we'll have to pick up on a reoccurring basis.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Murray said, two comments. You aren't asking us to approve anything today, you're just presenting this, is that correct? Mr. Abolt said, well, we need —, we've got to start putting these issues together. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'm not saying that the \$755,270 —, the \$755,000 the Library Board is asking for technology is not right, but based on what we heard today I don't know whether it's right or not, and I'd like something justifying those figures before we keep that included in this. The other question I have is we've all got a long list from the Sheriff's Department of needs from the Jail out there. I don't know what needs to be done right now and what doesn't need to be or if there's something we need to address to this, but I think we need to look at everything if we're getting ready to go into debt service to do something like this. County Manager Abolt said, well, if I may, I realize the hour is getting late. Could you look or may I suggest that you look at the attached sheets three, four and five and possibly allow us by using a pencil to indicate those projects you're not ready to act on now. The reason I'm moving in the direction of some action today, we've got to put together some bond issues. We've got a real problem —. Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], I'm not saying that I'm opposed to that \$755,000 being in here. I just want to make sure —. County Manager Abolt said, okay, so we'd hold back on that is what I'm saying. Commissioner Murray said, that everything we've asked has been answered and that that is going to be used for exactly what it says it's going to be used for. County Manager Abolt said, then I'm in —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let me —, let me —, could I do this on that to help him out? Maybe if we approve it based on it coming back before us and be approved again. Commissioner Odell said, right. Commissioner Murray said, that's fine. I just —. Commissioner DeLoach said, pass it all but based on —. County Manager Abolt asked, all but that one? The reason I'm —. Commissioner DeLoach said, take it out. County Manager Abolt said, Commissioner Price knows what I'm talking —. We've got to put together a bond issue.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't want something that —, I don't want something misleading as this other stuff was. County Manager Abolt said, okay. So what —, is it fair to say that staff can work on everything but the 700,000 and change in a bond issue? Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to know if the staff worked on that, I just don't want it to be allocated.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, my concern is a little bit different. My concern is I want to move forward with this, but I don't think the public has any knowledge of what this list is. I mean, they don't get the big book I get. This thing has not been in the newspapers. I think I owe my constituents some obligation that they be informed of what these projects are so I can get some feedback whether they're in favor of it or not in favor of it. The only ones that really know about it are us and I assume the department heads who contributed to this wish list, and I really think we need some mechanism of broadcasting this so I can get that feedback that's essential to what I do. County Manager Abolt said, whatever your choice is.

Commissioner DeLoach said, we've got a —, I want a motion. I'm going to make a motion that we approve this list as outlined. Commissioner Saussy said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's been motioned and second [sic] that we approve the list as outlined. Any further discussion? Hearing none, please vote. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm going to have to vote no until we get some publicity. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the recommendations for financing high priority projects as outlined. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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6. LIBRARY AUDIT OPTIONS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION.

County Manager Abolt said, again this is same subject, a different chapter. Here in past discussion you all requested that we look at an audit of the library, an audit that would be conducted by the external auditor. Staff did exactly that. We did meet with Mr. Tindol and his organization. We've arrayed before you today really at the suggestion based on the way Mr. Tindol looks at the work of how the auditors wish to approach this, this again is best explained by Mr. White, come to the microphone, and also Mr. Tindol. At issue here is the level at which you would like the audit to proceed. If you would look just for the sake again of an abbreviated summary, page five of the staff report, Mr. Tindol has looked at after meeting with at least one member of the County Commission where he would proceed with work that would be done. It's kind of a menu, if you will. The whole thing certainly could be done for an amount that would total all those in the far right-hand column. It would be a few thousands of dollars. We'd take that out of Contingency, but I think it's very important because again, just as I mentioned a few minutes ago, the external auditor works for you. This is now about telling that person what you want his firm to do when it comes to library audit.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I ask a question concerning that? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach asked, if we're going —, if we're going into a management study that outlines all the people and what they do and where the money's spent this coming June, and we've already spent the money on that, won't this also be the same thing over again? County Manager Abolt said, two different things? Commissioner DeLoach said, I know it's two different things. County Manager Abolt said, y'all had —, I mean, I was listening to what you said a few weeks ago, you were concerned about where money was going and things like that. A management audit is different than a financial audit. This is a financial audit.

Commissioner Price said, okay. He's right about that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, look at page eight, Eddie [DeLoach].

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, I have some.

Commissioner Jackel said, this course is from Lon Dickerson. He stated that this recommendation seems inappropriate. The library is audited every year by the Georgia Department of Audits, revenue sources are from Effingham County, Liberty County, state, federal and library operations. He doesn't feel it's necessary for us to spend the \$47,000 for an independent audit. I understand there is also a State audit and a Federal audit, and that then becomes a question: do we need to spend \$47,000 when the library is being periodically audited? County Manager Abolt said, I understand it's not 47, it's 47-plus if you wanted the full menu that includes those items listed in the far right-hand corner.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, how many millions of dollars have we allocated to this project along with the Bull Street library? From the County itself? County Manager Abolt said, you've got —, an initial issue of \$5 million and then you augmented it by several hundred thousand. Too many —. Commissioner DeLoach said, seven million and some odd dollars. County Manager Abolt said, they have a 4-point —. Commissioner Murray asked, it's \$8 million, isn't it? County Manager Abolt said, and they have a \$4.8 million operating budget. Commissioner Murray said, plus the operating budget every year. I'd like to ask —, could you explain what takes place in the regular audit? I mean, just a standard audit that is done every year, I guess, by the State because we discussed that?

Mr. Rick Tindol said, in the standard audit of the County there is some expenditures of the library, really approximately \$4 million of books and also costs for the personnel costs that are involved in the regular audit of the library that we do here. It's part of the Chatham County's financial statements. I think one thing it's probably well to understand too, and I'm not necessarily advocating a position that we perform an audit if you're getting an audit from the State of Georgia, but there are three inherent weaknesses in the audit done by the State that I think that should be addressed and cleared up in the future. Number one, the State audit is not done timely. It's done anywhere from 13, 14 or 15 months after the end of the fiscal year of June 30th. I would submit that an audit that late is really of limited usefulness to anyone. The second problem with the State audit is that they do not include all of the financial information. Again, the \$4 million, for example, that's included in the Chatham County's books are not in the financial statements of the library. I think that the financial statements for the library should contain the complete entity and be audited in a timely fashion. And then thirdly and lastly on the audit, there is a scope limitation by the auditors stating that they are unable to give an unqualified opinion on the audit because of lack of listing of all of the general fixed assets. A similar situation with the County was involved 20 years ago, and that's just in my estimation unacceptable. Again, I'm not necessarily recommending an audit. We're providing other agreed upon procedures that could be selected in whole or in part if you have certain concerns in certain areas.

Commissioner Murray said, the reason I did that is there's a question of whether we need to spend the money for the audit or not. I personally feel like we need to spend the money. We do it with other people we fund. We just did the internal audit with the hockey —, rink hockey or whatever they call it, out at Lake Mayer, and we do it —. I think it should be done with anybody we give funds to like that and especially when we're talking about above and beyond \$8 million. It's probably

closer to 12 or \$13 million, and I just think we need some accountability. I'm not saying they're going to find anything. I just think we need records and the general public needs records to know that what's being done is right.

Commissioner Price said, especially a long term plan and what they're asking for. Commissioner Murray said, that's right. Commissioner Price said, I mean, we're talking a significant amount more money requested over the next several years.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, what do you do for us now? You have the library in your —, you're supposed to audit the library now. What do you do? Mr. Tindol said, what we do right, we were —, the State actually audits the library. They do an independent audit on the library as an entity. Commissioner DeLoach, what we do is we do an audit on Chatham County of which Chatham County funds roughly \$4 million in salary, books and so forth. Commissioner DeLoach said, I understand it's coming through Chatham County, but you're supposed to be looking at the books. Right? Mr. Tindol said, no. Commissioner DeLoach asked, you don't look at the library's —, you don't look at what the library does? Mr. Tindol said, that's correct. Commissioner DeLoach asked, well, what are we paying for then? Commissioner Murray said, well, his falls under ours. Commissioner DeLoach said, I understand he falls under ours, but the library falls under Chatham County so how in looking at our financial statements you don't audit someone else's we're handing money to? How can you not check where the money's going there if I'm handing money to somebody? Isn't that part of an audit? Mr. Tindol said, well, again there are procedures that are done, Commissioner DeLoach, and another good example is we used to audit, as an individual firm we audited CAT's financial statements. Right now we do not audit CAT's financial statements, but we do —. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, but CAT is not —, I mean, we hire CAT. We don't —, the Library Board is an appointed board by the County, so they're a part of the County. I mean, they're part of us, okay. ATM or the Ryder Group is not part of us. We hire those guys. Commissioner Murray said, we have no say-so on the other ones.

Commissioner Price said, and we have no say-so over the administration of the library. We approve their budget, but we don't administer it. We don't manage, and that's the difference. Just like the CAT Board.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so we don't —, you don't have a clue where the money goes. Mr. Tindol said, I didn't say that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mr. Tindol said, we have \$4 million that are included in the Chatham County's capital, annual and financial reports. In addition to that, you have State funding that comes directly to them and spent by the Library Board. There are State monies that are received on top of that. Now that money we don't look at at all, and really, quite frankly, it did not —, it was news to me that the financial statements of the library were incomplete. I was always under the impression that the State did an audit and I knew, first of all, that the audit's by the State and there are two former State auditors in the audience right now that I don't want to really step on their toes, but they probably could speak to the same thing. They audited the School Board before too before we wound up auditing them, but the problem is that it's —, a late audit to me lacks usefulness. They need —, you need financial statements of an entity that are complete financial statements that the entity can represent, management can make certain assertions about these financial statements that they are accurate. They can then be audited either by the State or independent auditing firm, and right now you've got two situations. You've got part being audited by the State, you've got part being audited by an independent CPA firm, which is us, and nowhere is all of this information brought together in one place. Similar to some of the problems you've had questions earlier this morning.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask you a question. You audit the Library Board? Mr. Tindol said, Chatham County's portion —. Commissioner Rivers said, just Chatham County's portion. Vice Chairman Thomas said, right. Mr. Tindol said, consists primarily of salaries and to some degree the books. Commissioner Rivers asked, Mr. Dickerson, do y'all have an independent audit that gives y'all an audit of your —, of the library? An independent? Mr. Lon Dickerson said, one of those people that he referred to as a former State auditor is Neil Vickers, our CPA, on staff who manages our finances. I'd like him to respond to that question if he would.

Mr. Neil Vickers said, thank you. What he said is true. He has a member of his staff and I was also for six years with the Department of Audits. I can't argue with a lot of what Mr. Tindol says about the audit. They do come fairly late.

Commissioner Rivers said, but my question is —, that's not my question. Mr. Vickers said, right. Commissioner Rivers said, I understand how State audits are. They always run behind, I don't care if you look across the State, any agency that they deal with, their audits are not —, they might skip a year, it might be 18 months, two years behind. My question is do you have an independent audit? Mr. Vickers said, yes we do. Commissioner Rivers asked, a yearly independent audit? Mr. Vickers said, yes we do. Commissioner Rivers asked, of the total operation? Mr. Vickers said, the regional library's total expenditures. What the State does not audit is what Chatham County spends on our behalf. Commissioner Rivers said, not —, I'm not talking about the State audit. I'm talking about an audit that your board has at it's perusal. In other words, I'll give you an example. Although the RDC's are audited by the State and they're in the —, audited in the same manner that libraries are, the RDC Board has an independent audit every year that those board members review. Do you have an independent audit done for your operation yearly? Not by the State, independently of the State, that your Board members review? Mr. Vickers said, no. Our independent audit is done by the State. Commissioner Rivers said, well,

that's almost inconclusive information that you get for your board members because they don't have a complete audit. Commissioner Price said, that's part of the problem right there. Commissioner Rivers said, and that would justify us doing an audit of the total, but I think the Library Board should have an audit each year.

Mr. Dickerson said, we do not spend the funds that Chatham County gives us. The Chatham County funds are spent by Chatham County on behalf of the library. Mr. Vickers said, if there's an independent auditor that came to audit us would have to also go to Chatham County and audit their records to include that in our audit and that means they would be audited twice. Commissioner Rivers said, in other words, we don't allocate any monies to you. You, in turn —, that all is taken care of through our financial department. Commissioner Rivers we'd be auditing ourselves twice then. Mr. Vickers said, that portion would be audited —.

Commissioner Price said, that's not what I'm saying. Rick [Tindol], can you —, can I ask you a question? Commissioner Jackel asked, where's David [Persaud]? Commissioner Price asked, if you were doing what we're already doing, which you are for the County, and then you wouldn't do the independent audit we're talking about, the cost wouldn't be duplicated? Mr. Tindol said, I don't think there's a duplication. I think the real problem is that the Library Board, regardless of whether we do an audit of the State or anyone else, XYZ does an audit, I think all the information should be captured for the library as an entity so that the library as an entity could bring before you a set of financial statements and if you asked the question what is your fund balance, they could give you that answer, or what are your total expenditures, what are your total revenues, how do they compare to your overall budget, not just piecemeal, and I think that's part of the problem that Commissioner Odell was asking questions earlier today. It's evident that it's hard to answer all those questions unless you bring together into one cohesive unit, whether it be audited or not. I think audit provides more credibility to the numbers, but at least they would have the numbers that you could ask questions about.

Commissioner Rivers said, which brings me to a question that I meant to ask earlier. Your position is impacted by State funds. How much of that portion of those 31 people are paid for through the State. Mr. Dickerson said, eight. We have eight State-funded positions. Commissioner Rivers said, and that 21. Mr. Dickerson said, none at Bull Street. Commissioner Rivers asked, none at Bull Street? Mr. Dickerson said, correct. Commissioner Rivers said, in other words, all the positions that we're bringing to Bull Street are totally funded by the County? Why am I always hearing that if we don't hire that person it will impact State funds? Mr. Vickers said, we have eight people that are paid with State funds. Those eight people work for the —, in some way work for the entire regional library system, not just for Chatham County. In other words, the Director, Assistant Director, or people that are in charge of groups of libraries, or just many branches are State-funded. We have librarians and people funded from Effingham County and Liberty County that work in those counties. The people that are funded by Chatham County work in Chatham County.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, before we call the —. Mr. Vickers said, and they're all paid by the Chatham County payroll. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we're going to have Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, maybe I don't understand these audit things, but it looks like to me that the taxpayers could save a lot of money if only one person did the audit, one company did the audit for the State and the County and you got it all at one time. It doesn't make sense for duplication. Mr. Vickers said, well, the other situation is our fiscal year end is different from the County's. Ours end June 30. Commissioner Saussy said, I mean, that could be adjusted. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it could be adjusted. That's just total duplication. Commissioner Price said, the County should end June 30th too, we know that.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I call the question now? Commissioner Murray asked, what's the motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, the motion is let's do the audit. Commissioner Murray said, all right. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Hearing none, please vote. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, 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: Chairman Hair was not present.]

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, we interpret that as a drawdown estimated of about \$65,000, which we will employ Mr. Tindol's firm to do that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve an audit of the library by independent auditor, Karp, Ronning, Arkin & Tindol, as outlined in the staff report. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, 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: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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7. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM MR. DON HODGES, PRESIDENT OF D. HODGES CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR A FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

**VARIANCE FOR A HOUSE HE IS BUILDING AT LOT 39, SOUTH HARBOR, PHASE 1-D.
Staff recommends denial of the request.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Mr. Hodges is here and I'd like for him to talk about this. I understand that staff has to recommend denial on these requests, but I think this one certainly has some justification for approval.

County Manager Abolt said, again, if I may, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, please. This is for the record for FEMA audit so as you hear testimony and you deliberate, please be very specific as to the reasons why you make certain motions.

Mr. Don Hodges said, thank you. I don't know if you got a copy of the letter that I wrote the County Engineer, but we —, I called for the flood elevation certificate and I called Mr. Jim Mills who's a retired Civil Engineer with the Corps and also did my survey work, to go out and shoot the finished floor on this project and we found that we were building two identical houses at the same time that the same subcontractor was building, doing the foundation work, and I don't know if you've had a chance to read this letter, but I'll read it to you so you can hopefully understand what happened.

The above request concerns the finish floor elevation certificate being issued. Mr. Jim Mills, a retired civil engineer and the surveyor on the project tells me there may be two possible reasons for the error. First, since there were two houses under construction at the same time using the identical plans, the foundation subcontractor may have used the wrong set of plans, setting up the finish floor elevation for Lightenstone . . . using the plans for the house at [The Landings] at Hawksbeard Lane. Secondly, the subcontractor may have used the pin marked on the tree, which was a bench mark, as the finish floor No one is quite sure why the bench mark nail was on the tree instead of the finish floor mark, but in either event, the house is over 80% complete and there is no way to change the floor [or the] elevation at this time. The finish floor elevation [should have been] set at 14.00 but is actually 13.03. This may still be open to some debate as other houses on the same street are set at 13.00.

Mr. Hodges said, I understand when the flood maps were done on this subdivision, South Harbor Subdivision, it was not even developed and I understand there are some new flood maps being drawn which may take this property —, may change the elevation, the request that I'm asking for, but in any event the house is built and we know that new flood maps are being drawn, but we have to make this request simply because we have to go with what we have, and we found out just a few weeks ago that this had happened, and I notified the County about this and that's why we're here.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion for approval.

County Manager Abolt said, for the purpose of perfecting the record, I'd like to ask staff enter their testimony.

Mr. Dan Jensen said, I think there's two questions that were being —, were going to be asked. One was how many of these variances have been granted in the past five years. Commissioner Jackel said, could you state your name. Mr. Jensen said, I'm sorry. Dan Jensen, Inspections Department. The list from the Engineering Department says there have been nine variances granted for different areas.

Commissioner Murray asked, that's over the past how many years? Mr. Jensen said, five years. Commissioner Murray said, five years. Okay. Mr. Jensen said, I don't know if there are any other questions I can answer. Commissioner Murray said, I guess the one question I would have would be does the Inspections Department go out and inspect the elevations on these as they're under construction? Mr. Jensen said, we do not inspect the elevation, but we do make sure that the elevation certificate is in the file before we do the inspection. In this case it slipped through and we did not —, there was no elevation certificate and that's why this house got along further than it should have. Commissioner Murray said, I just —, I personally feel like that it's something that we need to approve. It's not that we've got that many throughout the County right now that have already been approved that way, but under the circumstances I would move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second.

County Attorney Hart said, I'd like to make a comment. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, I'd like to hear from our —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, discussion from the Attorney. Commissioner Jackel said, I want to hear from our County Attorney how we can make sure our liability is eliminated.

County Attorney Hart said, a couple of things you need to be aware of. Their —, Item 3 in your agenda book clearly demonstrates that we can only do the waiver if there is a showing of good and sufficient cause, a determination that failure to grant the variance would cause exceptional hardship, and a determination that the granting of the variance will not increase the flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense. I would ask that this Commission in the motion adopt a finding that all three of those things have occurred as part of the motion in case there is ever a question about why we granted this variance. The law is very clear on that. The second thing that I would like to see happen as far as the motion under consideration is if the motion is to grant the variance, and if it is voted upon favorably, I would like that variance conditioned upon a deed and plat being recorded in the Superior Court demonstrating that this does not have a finish floor elevation of 14 feet so that any subsequent purchaser of this house is on notice that

he is buying a house that may not be subject to the FEMA guidelines and Federal Flood Insurance, and it is part of the law that it be done and that we withhold final variance until documentation is presented that there has been recordation of both of those events.

Commissioner Murray said, all right. We're only talking about nine inches of variation, is that correct? County Attorney Hart said, that is correct. Commissioner Murray said, and all the other homes on that road are 13 feet, so this one is still three inches above the finish floor level in the other homes that are on there. I know that it's changed, but based on what I'm hearing, that could change right now.

County Attorney Hart said, it's below —, it is just basically for whatever reason below the finish floor elevation of the federal guidelines, that's all I can say.

Mr. Hodges said, they do realize there are some discrepancies in the flood maps, and from talking to the County Engineer, they know that and when these quadrants and all were set up back years and years ago, they don't have the —, they didn't have the instrumentation that they have now. I think they're going to do this by GPS or something to get these new flood elevations because they said they know there are areas in this subdivision that are low, but for some reason —. But we have to go with what we have.

County Attorney Hart said, I empathize with the man's position. I just need for y'all to understand that you have to make these specific findings and we need to condition the variance on —. Commissioner Murray asked, would you like to word the motion for us then? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray asked, could you do that? I'll move for approval with your wording. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Second on that. County Attorney Hart said, that there is a finding that there is a showing of just and sufficient cause, a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship, and that there's a determination that the granting of a variance will not increase the flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary expense to the public, or create a nuisance or fraud or victimization of the public, or conflict with any local ordinance. In addition to that, the variance be granted contingent upon the owner filing a deed or record and a plat demonstrating and citing the actual finish floor elevation of this place.

Commissioner Murray asked, isn't that what I said? County Attorney Hart said, that's what I thought you said. Mr. Hodges asked, is there a possibility that we could also put in there when these new maps are done that it would —, it would possibly take it out of that —? Commissioner Murray said, I think it would have to be if that —. County Attorney Hart said, I have no problem with that. Commissioner Murray said, if this piece of property is included with a new flood map where it takes it out of that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, given the friendly recommendation and no further discussion. Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Board approve the request from Mr. Don Hodges, President of D. Hodges Construction, Inc., for Lot 39, South Harbor, Phase 1-D, for a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance variance based upon a determination that there is a showing of just cause, and a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship, and that there's a determination that the granting of a variance will not increase the flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary expense to the public, or create a nuisance or fraud or victimization of the public, or conflict with any local ordinance; the variance to be granted contingent proof of recordation in the Superior Court by the owner of a deed or record and a plat demonstrating and citing the actual finish floor elevation; and further that when new maps are drawn showing it to be above the flood level, it can be reflected on the deed records. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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8. BOARD CONSIDERATION FOR INSTALLATION OF A FLASHING BEACON AT THE INTERSECTION OF GARRARD AVENUE AND CHATHAM PARKWAY/LOUIS MILLS BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 5.]

Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Hearing none, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the installation of a flashing beacon at the intersection of Garrard Avenue and Chatham Parkway/Louis Mills Boulevard. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, passed.

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9. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY 1999 MILLAGE LEVY CALENDAR.

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Murray asked, just what are we —. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, second? Commissioner Rivers said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, to give you advance on this, you'll recall a few days ago in the memorandum, Mr. Udinsky will have the digest to you earlier than normal. You'll be looking at adopting a millage rate on the 23rd of July. The only change that I'm suggesting here is that you have your goal session for your year 2000 budget before you set the mills. I think it would be very beneficial for you all, and I apologize —, not apologize, I'm sorry that Commissioner Price is not here. We have been trying to, as you know, coincide a lot of your digest deliberations and millage setting with your budget. It's been impossible to really do that. There is a potential compromise that I'm suggesting now. You had a very good goals session in September last year. It made for, I think, possibly the best —, the best budget process in memory. What I'm saying now is when you receive the digest, before you act on it, and just looking within the context of this fiscal year, you might have your goals session and then adopt. Commissioner Saussy said, we need to do that. County Manager Abolt said, that would be left up to y'all when you set your goals session.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, did we have a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, we did. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. No further discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion's carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt the FY 1999 millage levy calendar and concur with a goal-setting session prior to the millage levy adoption scheduled for July 23, 1999. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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

- **BOARD OF ASSESSORS - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (ONE POSITION)**
- **LIBRARY - ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN I (ONE POSITION)**
- **SHERIFF - CLERICAL ASSISTANT IV (ONE POSITION)**

Commissioner Murray asked, can we take them one at a time please? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Okay, we'll go back to number one. I was just going to read them all. Commissioner Murray asked, Gary [Udinsky], would you mind just justifying the position?

Mr. Gary Udinsky said, it's a position in our personal property division. This time of year is our busiest season and the truth of the matter is, and I have to go back to check, we've been up here asking for waivers for several positions, but the last three positions, even though you waived the time, it still took us over 60 days to fill the position. It will probably be the same thing here. By the time you advertise —.

Commissioner Murray asked, let me ask you a question. If you do not get this position, does this mean all properties don't get reassessed? Mr. Udinsky said, it means your business personal property will be lagging behind.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Hearing none —. Commissioner Jackel said, move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, the next one, Library - Accounting Technician I, one position.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Murray asked, is there anybody here from the library? Vice Chairman Thomas said, they all cleared out. Commissioner Murray said, my only question is we just approved some new positions. Is this in one of those that we've already approved? Vice Chairman Thomas said, I don't know.

Commissioner Jackel said, library risks incorrect or unreported payroll information.

Commissioner Murray said, I would really like to see that item tabled until we can find out at the next meeting. So moved —, I'll withdraw my motion. Commissioner Murray said, do you vote to table it? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I vote to table that, second. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, passed.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Sheriff - Clerical Assistant IV, one position.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't know whether they need this or not.

Commissioner Murray said, you've been mighty quiet all day. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I've been gone all morning. But this is the Records Department, open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. We've only got seven people to do it and we very seldom shut it down. He prepares all the court documents and everything else, and I just —, it's critical. I don't have much of a choice.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Hearing none —. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Board of Assessors - Clerical Assistant III (one position). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to table to the next meeting the request to waive the 90-day hiring freeze and to authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Library - Accounting Technician I (one position). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Saussy voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]
3. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Sheriff - Clerical Assistant IV (one position). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price 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.)

Vice Chairman Thomas said that brings us to the Action Calendar. Commissioner Jackel said, I move that we go in Executive Session. Vice Chairman Thomas said, we can entertain this with one motion to adopt or if anyone wishes to pull off anything.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval of line Items 1 through 12-F. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Commissioner Jackel said, Madam Chairman, I have several items I wish to pull. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioner. Commissioner Jackel said, 3. Vice Chairman Thomas said, 3. Commissioner Jackel said, 4. Vice Chairman Thomas said, 4. Commissioner Murray asked, would it be easier to say what items you want to approve? Commissioner Jackel said, 11. Vice Chairman Thomas said, 11. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's not bad.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioners.

Commissioner DeLoach said, all other items —. Commissioner Murray said, on Item 5 that was —. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's gone. Commissioner Murray asked, totally? County Manager Abolt said, totally for the time —. Yes, for the time being, yes. There was some confusion on some title information. Mr. Bungard, who could not be here today, advised me that based on late breaking information that we should, in fact, pull it off the agenda. Commissioner DeLoach said, so it's not on, right. Commissioner Murray said, will first of all it's got District 4, and Lehigh Avenue is not District 4. I believe it's in District 1. County Manager Abolt said, that has to be one of the reasons why he pulled it off. Commissioner Murray said, but I would still like to talk with you about it. Later. Commissioner Saussy asked, do you want to give me more?

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, I'll take it. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do I hear a motion to approve all the others and then we'll take —. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Saussy said, second. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 3, 4, 5 and 11. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 30, 1999, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 30, 1999, as mailed. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 22 THROUGH MAY 5, 1999.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 22, 1999, through May 5, 1999, in the amount of \$5,097,186. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE) TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL FRAMEWORK TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE COE FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREAS (DMCAS).

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, Madam Chairman, Item 3 and Item 4 are very similar. Vice Chairman Thomas said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, and there's not enough explanation in here for me to make a good decision on it. I need someone to tell me about it and why we need to do this. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is there someone here that can —?

County Manager Abolt said, it's meant to be an administrative act. It just continues a policy decision made back in October of 1965. It keeps the paper work squared away with both the Federal Government and the U. S. Corps of Engineers and GDOT. This in no way interferes with the plans for GDOT to assume the role of local insurer. I'm told it is purely an administrative act. It's done because of the calendar telling us to do it, and there's no change from the standpoint of past decisions, which are now 24 years old —, 34 years old.

Commissioner Jackel said, Item 4 gives them permission to —, of raising the dikes, and I don't know what impact that would have on the river or —. Commissioner DeLoach said, it would have no impact on the river. Commissioner Saussy said, none. Commissioner DeLoach said, the dikes are inside. Commissioner Saussy said, it allows us to put more in it. County Manager Abolt said, that's correct. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Saussy said, it does have an impact in that manner. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, so —.

Commissioner Murray asked, is this for 4 and 5, or something on 3 and 4. Commissioner Jackel said, I would ask that it be 3 and 4 together. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. The Clerk said, I'm sorry. Who made the motion? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll make the motion. The Clerk said, thank you. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, it passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to establish a mutual framework to provide funds to the COE for routine maintenance of the Dredged Material Disposal Areas (DMCAs). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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- 4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE) TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL FRAMEWORK TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR RAISING THE DIKES IN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA (DMCA) 2A. [DISTRICT 7.]**

NOTE: Refer to Item 3 for discussion held jointly on Items 3 and 4.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to establish a mutual framework to provide funds for raising the dikes in Dredged Material Disposal Areas (DMCA) 2A. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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- 5. **REQUEST FROM MR. AND MRS. DAVID L. WHITE, 9806 LEHIGH AVENUE, FOR THE COUNTY TO DECLARE THE UNOPENED SECTION OF SHORE ROAD EAST OF LEHIGH AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY AS SURPLUS AND QUITCLAIM THE PROPERTY TO THEM. [DISTRICT 4.] NOTE: THIS ITEM POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was withdrawn from the agenda and is postponed until further notice.

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- 6. **REQUEST FROM DUTCH ISLAND, LLC, DEVELOPER TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS, TO RELEASE THE SUBDIVISION PERFORMANCE BOND, TO ACCEPT A MAINTENANCE WARRANTY BOND AND INITIATE THE 12-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD FOR DUTCH ISLAND, PHASE 14. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Dutch Island, LLC, developer, to approve the construction of the required improvements, to release the subdivision performance bond, to accept a maintenance warranty bond and initiate the 12-month warranty period for Dutch Island, Phase 14. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 7. **REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, KONTER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR THE SETTLEMENT EAST, PHASE A, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND RECOMBINE THE SUBDIVISION INTO THE EXISTING SETTLEMENT STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Konter Development Company, to record the subdivision plat for The Settlement East, Phase A, accept the financial guarantee and recombine the subdivision into the existing Settlement streetlighting assessment district. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 8. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM OF TONYA MARIE GAREIPY.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the settlement of the claim of Tonya Marie Gareipy in the amount of \$4,300. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 9. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AMEND THE UNFUNDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET TO INCLUDE IN-LINE SKATING/HOCKEY PROJECTS.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved.

Commissioner Murray said, really Jim Golden was going to start off, I think. The reason we wanted to move this is we had some people here that they just were here for this particular item and they were going to have to leave town early and that's why I wanted to go ahead and get it up on the agenda since —.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner Price asked, what's the item? Chairman Hair said, Item #9. Do we have a second? Commissioner Price asked, is this the one —? Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion on this item? Any questions on this item? Commissioner Saussy asked, could we have a little discussion on how much it is and what it is?

Mr. Jim Golden said, we do have someone here to make comments. Mr. Daniel Robertson [phonetic], but realize that we have some figures there as an amendment to the CIP Budget to consider funding for the future other areas alike. We have one area that's targeted for Wilmington Island and some funding requested for 1999 and somewhere, but Mr. Robertson will make some comments.

Chairman Hair said, oh, this is a request just to put it on CIP, not to approve it. Okay, I just wanted to make sure of that.

Mr. Daniel Robertson said, again I'd like to say thanks for letting me come and address you. I represent the Wilmington Island Youth Hockey Association, and the consideration for the amending of the Capital Improvement Budget to include the development of in-line skate facilities and hockey in general is a tremendous step in the direction to help our youth throughout the County to develop in a sport that is the fastest growing sport in the nation. The sport started in Savannah with the YMCA's development of the leagues, and over a four-year period they grew to 350 to 400 kids involved. Presently we run the leagues at Lake Mayer and you can't get time on the rink. There's always somebody on there playing a team sport. Today we leave here and we take six teams to go up to a national qualifier. We have one in each age group going up. It's a national circuit to step into a league and do things in other cities, and it's a part that once we have development of facilities, we can start bringing teams to Savannah instead of us going away from Savannah, and I'm sure the Savannah Sports Council can attest to the development of the aquatic scenario and how much money it's brought in. The hockey is growing as fast as you can imagine. It really is something that will end up generating revenues for the County and provide for the kids at the same time. Roller hockey is the number one growing sport in the nation. Ice hockey's number two and in-line skating is number three. Part of our proposals include some ramps and things of that nature for in-line skate parks so the kids don't have to use stair banisters and disability ramps. They can use regular ramps. The participation in the

sport in 1993 was one and a half million kids involved or people involved. In '95 it was 3.4 million. I don't have any other current numbers than that. The league development went from 159 leagues in '93 to 894 leagues in '95. The product sales related to the sport itself is up 400%. The development of this type of facilities, or these facilities throughout the County will go a long way to put Chatham County on the map as a recreational system that supports in-line hockey and will draw kids from every area to us and provide for the youth at the same time. In addition to that, as you are aware, there are some revenues that can be raised from the operation of the leagues, which will carry the on-going operating expenses of the league. So it's not going to be something that will continuously have to be funded once the facilities are set up. Parents are use to now paying fees for their kids to have to participate in organized sports. That will drive a lot of the operating budget and the upkeep and things of that nature. What we need to get going is about a half —, a quarter of a million dollars in 1999 to get the first —, or the second facility built and done in a way that it can be a model for the future facilities out in West Chatham and in the inner city areas. We can identify, I'm sure, three or four different areas throughout the County that will spread out the kids involved and get equal participation throughout the County. If there's any other questions, I'm here to answer as many as I can.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want to make sure that when we approach this, we approach this as a County project, not as a Wilmington Island project or anything like that. We need to make it a broad effort and place them in areas to where we can start moving the teams around the community, and not have it just one location because things are not, you know —.

Mr. Robertson said, without a doubt, the purpose of the Wilmington Island Youth Hockey Association, we copied what we saw was available throughout the multiple counties in football. You have the Pooler Packers, you have the Richmond Hill Wildcats, you have the Hendrix Park Redskins —. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Exactly. Mr. Robertson said, and that's what we said —, it was two parents, myself and Carl Eastwood. Both of us participate in the football program down on Wilmington Island and we said we can do this for hockey, and that's why we came with this whole process. The next facility, if we can get it on Wilmington Island, there's a higher concentration of kids from Wilmington Island that play in sports presently, and that was why we felt like we could form an organization and get things going, and we're prepared to share all the information that we've done to get sponsorship and to get the community in general involved in the specific areas and how we came about with our organization and hopefully see West Chatham develop one. We've already talked with one of the coaches out there to do the same thing, Kevin Smith, and it's a cooperative effort with the YMCA also. Most all of our boys have played in the YMCA. I've had discussions with Dan O'Connell and Joel Smoaker [phonetic] and Mark Simons [phonetic] out in West Chatham, so we really want to see it develop that way.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I want to make some more comments. Chairman Hair said, okay. Do we have any further questions? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I just want to make —, the point is I think we need to —, I think we need to go —, work with the YMCA and Chatham County so that we can go ahead and get it to the municipalities and develop this thing so that it is a countywide program, not a segmented group based on the communities and county and this and that and the other. If we'll do this one as a consolidated effort including all the municipalities and the County and locate these things in strategic locations, whether it be in a community or unincorporated area or whatever, we can, you know, do a broad-based setup pretty quick and then have a league set up as a County league so that we can rotate this area.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second. Any further questions?

Mr. Robertson said, there's one other area of support that I solicited —, St. Andrews is —, I have a letter from them supporting the development. Also, from St. Peter's the Apostle Church down on Wilmington Island, Father O'Brien is in strong support of it. His letter indicates the need to develop things for the youth. I've also been in touch with the Board of Education, Billy Knight, and there's an interest from there to develop it into a school sport, and we have to have facilities before we can do any of that.

Chairman Hair said, we certainly appreciate your work on this and the other groups that have been involved in this.

Commissioner Murray asked, why don't you recognize the two young ones with the jerseys on? Chairman Hair said, you want to bring up the stars here.

Mr. Robertson said, these are two of the boys that are going up to Atlanta. I had to get them out of school because we're leaving directly from here, but a couple of the guys have already gone up because their game's at 4:25. These guys play tonight at 8:15, and they're guaranteed three games, so we'll know we'll play three games. If they win, they'll get four or five or maybe six games, but this tournament that we're going to, the cooler is a multi-million dollar facility. It has three rinks: one ice and two roller, and one roller can be converted to an ice rink. They have 107 games scheduled starting at three o'clock this afternoon and going through four or five o'clock Sunday afternoon. It's just a big floor.

Mr. Carl Eastwood said, we definitely agree with that because that's been our mission statement about making it a Countywide sport and, as he said, we modeled it after the other County sports. One thing —, I kind of prepared a little statement and I should be able to get through it pretty quickly, but to address these issues. The security, voluntary contributions, all of this is addressed in your packets there, but it says, to fund, build, promote and manage in-line skate

facilities, we at the Wilmington Island Youth Hockey Association in anticipation of our proposal established a hockey tournament to take place in August at the Civic Center called the Battle for Savannah. The proceeds from this event, estimated around \$10,000, will be used as seed money for research and develop other projects, supplement our existing hockey program and for future fund raising events, both to include local and national sponsorship, private citizen donations, local tournaments, theme merchandising by local business establishments. Fund raising events, including our tournament in August, community squad meets and sales. Our next goal would be to assemble a community task force to help us in enlisting the necessary professional and private sector support to include construction, landscaping and maintenance of the facility. Within our parents group alone we have knowledge and talented individuals willing and able to utilize their talents and resources to help us achieve our goal. We hope that at the next presentation we make before the Board, we intend to establish a rate schedule for league play and include group and team fees, individual fees for participation as well as maintenance and cost budgets. From this we will break down cost estimated, project estimated capital gains offset by operational costs and forecast and propose earmarking a percentage to supplement the cost of building new facilities in districts outlying in the County proposal. In closing we ask you to vote to proceed with the proposal and [inaudible] your support to expedite this process. We feel we have established that as we as a community are committed to the growth of this sport in our area as well as all of Chatham County. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you for coming. Good luck to you guys. I hope you win all your games. Commissioner Jackel said, we sure do. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second to approve. Any further discussion. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, the capital improvement is list is growing. Chairman Hair said, I agree. Commissioner Rivers said, I haven't seen it decrease yet. Commissioner Murray said, yes, but I think this is one of the few projects we have on the capital improvements list though that we've got support from the community, when we get support with dollars coming from that side also. It's not just the County tax dollars paying for all it. Commissioner Rivers that wasn't directed at that. I was talking about the length —. Commissioner Murray said, I know that list keeps growing, but I just wanted —. Commissioner Rivers said, very few things come off of that. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but I want the general public to understand this is not a give-me from the taxpayers. It's something that's cooperation with all of us.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I think one thing we need to look at too —. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, one at a time please. Commissioner Saussy, Commissioner Rivers said, we need another one percent sales tax. Commissioner Saussy said, excuse me. One thing that we're going to have to do is to control some of these events that we have, especially in the County facilities. Just to let you know, the Recreation Authority will be managing —, event management in the future.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you. Thank you, folks, for coming. Good luck to you. Commissioner Murray said, we appreciate it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve amending the FY1999-2003 Capital Improvement Program Budget to include in-line skating/hockey projects. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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10. REQUEST BOARD CONFIRM APPLICATIONS FOR THREE RECREATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request to confirm submitting the applications to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for Recreation Assistance Grants to obtain funds (total of \$30,000) to replace all existing fitness equipment currently located around the walking/jogging trails at Lake Mayer and L. Scott Stell Community Parks and add new fitness equipment at Tom Triplett Community Park. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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11. REQUEST BOARD CONFIRM APPLICATION FOR 1999 URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. [ALL DISTRICTS.]

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm just proud that we're doing this, and I just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention. We need to do more about our urban forest. We're losing it and we need to protect it, and we need to enlarge it. I think this is the first step in the right direction. Commissioner Saussy said, right.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I second that motion, Martin [Jackel]. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request to confirm application to the Georgia Forestry Commission for 1999 Urban and Community Forestry Grant Assistance Program for \$20,000 in matching grant funding to continue and expand the 1998 "Before You Burn" educational campaign, with \$7,500 in matching County funds from the Restricted Inspection Fee Account. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Price were not present.]

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Confirmation of the emergency contract award to provide the fabrication and installation of exhaust hoods and associated control panel	SPLOST	Baring Industries	\$73,607	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E)
B. Computer equipment	Police	Dell Marketing (sole source)	\$25,901	SSD - Police (pending Board acceptance of Grant)
C. Redistribution of surplus County property (computers, monitors and a printer)	Purchasing	St. James Catholic School	N/A	N/A
D. Confirmation of Change Order No. 2 to the contract for the design and construction of the Tatemville Community Center for revised requirements for the City of Savannah	SPLOST	DMK Construction	\$17,000	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Tatemville Community Center (pending transfer)
E. Full-size pick-up truck	Mosquito Control	Willoughby Ford, Thomson, GA	\$24,712.95	CIP - Vehicle Maintenance (pending Board approval of carry-overs)
F. Renew contract to provide engineering services to Chatham County relating to the County road program	Engineering	Frank Sweat, P.E., d/b/a Road Systems Management, Inc.	Not to exceed \$5,900 per month	•SPLOST (1985-1993) - Administrative Expenditures •SPLOST (1993-1998) - Administrative Expenditures

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 12-A through 12-F. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

1. **PETITIONER: ARF DEVELOPMENT GROUP, L.L.P., OWNER. THE PETITIONER IS REQUESTING THAT A 296 ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF STATE ROUTE 204, 2.1 MILES WEST OF BUSH ROAD, BE REZONED FROM R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A PD-R-SM (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-RECLAMATION SURFACE MINING) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO CREATE A BORROW ACTIVITY, WITH AN ULTIMATE USE AS SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE APPROVED.
MPC FILE NO. 99-12519-C
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as First Reading.

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2. **PETITIONER: JOHN V. LACEY, AGENT FOR MARIE S. JAMES, H. CURTIS JENKINS, III, AND MARVIN C. JENKINS, OWNERS. THE PETITIONER IS REQUESTED THAT A LOT SHOWN ON THE COUNTY TAX MAPS AS A 0.3 ACRE PARCEL LOCATED ON WHITEMARSH ISLAND AT 1032 OLD OATLAND ISLAND ROAD AND AN ADJOINING 0.7 ACRE UNDEVELOPED PARCEL BE REZONED FROM A R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO A P-B-N (PLANNED NEIGHBORHOOD-BUSINESS) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE, RESTAURANT OR RETAIL STORE. THE MPC RECOMMENDED DENIAL.
MPC FILE NO. 98-12425-C
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as First Reading.

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3. **PETITIONER: CHRIS STOVALL, AGENT FOR SAVANNAH REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL LANDFILL, INC., OWNER. PETITIONER IS REQUESTING APPROVAL OF A REVISED GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO ALLOW AN EXISTING SINGLE-BAY TRANSFER STATION LOCATED AT THE SAVANNAH REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL LANDFILL TO ALSO ACCEPT MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND EXPAND TO A FUTURE THREE-BAY TRANSFER STATION/PROCESSING FACILITY. THE SITE IS WITHIN A PD-R-IL (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT RECLAMATION-INDUSTRIAL) ZONING DISTRICT AND IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUADRANT OF THE INTERSECTION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 21 AND GULFSTREAM ROAD ON A 117-ACRE TRACT CURRENTLY APPROVED AS AN INDUSTRIAL LANDFILL. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS.
*NOTE: THE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THIS AGENDA ITEM STATED THAT BOTH A GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND A SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD. HOWEVER, ONLY THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN REQUIRES BOARD ACTION. IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT, IN THIS INSTANCE, THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS ARE IDENTICAL.***

**MPC FILE NO. S-98-12360-C
[DISTRICT 7.]**

[NOTE: The following discussion was taken out of order and was held immediately prior to the Chairman declaring a recess for the Board to reconvene as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.]

Chairman Hair said, we don't take debate on First Readings, we just want to pull it out at the request of the Petitioner. This is the Item #3, this is the Savannah Regional Industrial Landfill. The Petitioner wants to pull this off because he is concerned that maybe there was not sufficient legal notice or something not clear in the legal notice, and so he's asked that item be pulled from the First readings, and with unanimous consent I'll do that. We'll pull that item, that's dealing with the Savannah Regional Landfill issue. It's been pulled from the agenda.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was withdrawn from First Reading at Petitioner's request.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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- 3. **PROVIDE INFORMATION ON COUNTY PHOTO COPIERS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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4. PRESENTATION OF INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 1999.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Murray moved the Board recess to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell, Price and DeLoach were not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened.

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STATEMENT REGARDING TARGET SUPER STORE

County Attorney Hart said, I'm sure the Commissioners have received a lot of phone calls, and the point I was going to make is that Target has a number of development groups that have contacted the County Attorney's office to indicate they are looking at alternative sites, some of which they think are superior to the location where we are going to put the tag office, maintenance, and consolidated inspections. There are other options and other sites available. I had two people make that well known to me and there was a good bit of discussion of how the County was going to take land it acquires from the State and then pick out a private developer and give them the property. As the Commission is well aware, we can't do that that way. If we were going to dispose of the property, we would have to dispose according to the law. You need to remember there are other folks out there that don't think this is the only site that Target is interested in.

Commissioner Price asked, the group that came to you, are they authorized to be looking at property for Target? County Attorney Hart said, I know only that there are a number of groups that are looking. Commissioner Price said, so they are competing with other groups that are trying to find a site? County Attorney Hart said, yes.

Commissioner Jackel said, there was talk that they had property adjacent to this. Is that true? County Attorney Hart said, I don't know.

Commissioner Murray said, one comment I would like to make. I read an article in the newspaper or heard —, I believe I read it in the newspaper, regarding possible use of the Youth Detention Center. There is a 20-year lease on that property right now. I would hope that any time the newspaper is writing anything that they would research the issue before they start writing stories.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON WESTLAKE AT ACL BOULEVARD FOR A PARK.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Board approve \$40,000 for the purchase of property located on Westlake at ACL Boulevard for a park. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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APPOINTMENTS

- 1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION - APPOINT MS. DOT OWENS, REALTOR; CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH - REAPPOINT DR. ROSLYN TAYLOR; DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES - REAPPOINT DR. J. W. JAMERSON, III; MH/MR/SA REGIONAL BOARD - LEM HIGHSMITH.**

Vice Chairman Thomas asked the Clerk to read the appointments. The Clerk read the following: Metropolitan Planning Commission, appoint Ms. Dot Owens, Realtor, to replace James Sheppard; Chatham County Board of Health, reappoint Dr. Roslyn Taylor; Department of Family and Children Services, reappoint Dr. J. W. Jamerson, III; and MH/MR/SA Regional Board, appoint Mr. Lem Highsmith to replace Mr. Bill Griffin.

Commissioner Rivers moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeLoach. Vice Chairman Thomas called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the following: Appoint Ms. Dot Owens, Realtor, to the Metropolitan Planning Commission to fill the position previously held by James Sheppard, which term expires 04/01/02; reappoint Dr. Roslyn Taylor to the Chatham County Board of Health, which term will expire 12/31/05; reappoint Dr. J. W. Jamerson, III, to the Department of Family and Children Services, which term will expire 06/30/04; and appoint Mr. Lem Highsmith to the MH/MR/SA Regional Board fill the position previously held by Mr. Bill Griffin, which term will expire 07/30/02. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Vice Chairman Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1999

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK