

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON JANUARY 8, 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 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 8, 1999.

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II. INVOCATION

The Reverend John Savage gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

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 Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven [arrived approximately 9:05 a.m.]
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ABSENT:	Ben Price, District Six
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IN ATTENDANCE:	Russ Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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YOUTH COMMISSION

Chairman Hair said, we have our Youth Commissioners with us today and I'd like to introduce them. We have Chanel Inge, who is a Senior at Johnson High School, we have Ashley Lamas, who's a Senior at Savannah Christian, and we have Melissa Messenger, who's a Senior at Savannah Christian. We're glad to have y'all with us. If you'll just raise your hand if you want to talk about anything, I'll be glad to recognize you. Thanks for coming.

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V. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

1. ELECT A CHAIRMAN PRO TEM AND SET THE DAYS AND TIME FOR REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 1999.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion for Chairman Pro Tem. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll move that Priscilla Thomas remain as Pro Tem. Chairman Hair said, well, this is Pro Tem. She's Vice Chairman. Commissioner Murray is—. Cm said, Priscilla Thomas is—. Commissioner Rivers said, Commissioner Murray. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion that Commissioner Murray is Chairman Pro Tem and we have a second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Congratulations, Commissioner Murray.

Chairman Hair said, now we—, do we need to take a motion on the days and times of the calendar? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. I'll entertain a motion to approve the calendar for the days and times for regular Commission meetings for 1999. Commissioner Thomas said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair said, any second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], if something comes up that we see in advance that we need to change one of those, how much advance would we have to have to do it? County Attorney Hart said, two weeks. County Manager Abolt said, I don't think it's that much. County Attorney Hart said, I don't know. Chairman Hair said, I think it's seven days and I think we—, as long as you advertise it. I think it has to be advertised seven days in advance in order to change it. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Commissioner Rivers moved to elect Frank Murray as Chairman Pro Tem for 1999. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]
- 2. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following meeting days and time for regular Commission meetings for 1999: At 9:00 A.M., on the first and Third Fridays in February, November and December, 1999, on the second and fifth Fridays in April, and on the second and fourth Fridays in January, March, May, June, July, August, September and October, 1999. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Price and DeLoach were not present.]

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VI. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. SALARY DISCREPANCIES, SHERIFF ST. LAWRENCE.

Chairman Hair said, I think most of you are aware of this. This is something that I'm very concerned about. I wrote the Manager a letter back in October when the budget was put together. I had some real concerns about this and I'd like for Sheriff St. Lawrence to come forward and express his concerns, and I do think this is something that we need to rectify.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. My problem with the pay plan—, the pay plan's a good plan. My problem is I have the same class of people working in the Sheriff's Department, and this applies to certified officers, four years or more as I understand the plan that was approved, and to give you a for instance, over in the CNT, the Counter Narcotics Team, I have people assigned over there. I think it's seven. The County Police have them too. They're get incentive pay and my folks are not, and you're just taking the class people, the same class and taking part of them and put them on a special plan and not put the other, and that's really my beef, and it's going to cause me morale problems. As I understand, when I talked with the Manager, this was something they were going to try in the Police Department and if it worked, then we'd see later on, but I don't—, I have a difficult time living with that with the morale problems it's going to cause me. When we talk about trying to stop retention and so—, or trying to retain people that we have, my turnover is greater than that of the Police Department, and there are valid reasons for that. The City Police—, most of the comments I got, people are leaving to go with the cities for better pay. That is being corrected with the five percent and what you have done. When they go to the County Police, the pay has always been the same but they had the take-home cars, and the vast majority of our people do not have take-home cars, and I'm not opposed to that program. I started that program back in the 70's with the approval of the Commission, but it's caused me great problem because a same class of people are not being paid the same, and I know that when I find out about and talk to the Manager and I talked with the Chairman later, the figures that were asked for from Human Resources, they came up with the

figures. I have not seen the actual specifics of how's betting paid what, but what we're asking for that we be treated the same and paid the same, the deputies. It has no effect on my pay, I want you to know that, but it will effect the troops, and I think they're deserving of it and they're certified and meet the same qualifications as everybody else.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Thomas and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Thomas asked, approximately how many people are we talking about? How many officers are involved? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we're probably talking about 230, something like that. Commissioner Thomas said, around 230. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, now we have more officers than that, but this only applies to certified and people with four years or more. Commissioner Thomas said, oh, the certified. Oh, okay. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it's my understanding from talking with Mr. Kaigler from Human Resources—. Commissioner Thomas said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, I did do that and that is correct. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's my understanding. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can we make that into a motion and go ahead and approve? Chairman Hair said, yes, sir. As far as it comes from the Commission that we move in that direction. Chairman Hair said, okay. I have a motion, do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any further discussion? I do think is the right thing to do—. Commissioner Thomas said, it is. Chairman Hair said, I think this is fair and I think the Sheriff has brought up a very good point. No further discussion, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Sheriff.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Sheriff St. Lawrence that the modular pay plan approved by the Commission on December 18, 1998, for the Chatham County Police Department be applied to members of the same class in the Sheriff's Department, i.e., certified officers with four or more years of service. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]

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2. RECOMMENDATION ON CEMA DIRECTOR.

Chairman Hair said, you remember a few months ago when the CEMA Director vacancy came up I appointed myself and Commissioner Murray and Dr. Thomas to go through the applications and go through the process, and we're now ready this morning to make a recommendation to the full Board, and we would like to recommend that Phillip Weber, who is the current Interim Director, be the permanent CEMA Director, and the process is if you approve our recommendation, then I submit a letter to GEMA and Mr. Hutto will come and interview Mr. Webber and then GEMA will submit his name to the Governor, and then the Governor will officially appoint him. This is the process. I want to make sure everybody is clear on the process that we go through.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Murray said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. Further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, Mr. Webber is with us. Congratulations, Mr. Webber. He has done an outstanding job as Interim Director, and I'm sure he will continue that same outstanding service.

Commissioner Thomas asked, could you have him stand because I don't know him. Chairman Hair asked, pardon? Commissioner Thomas asked, could you have him to stand? Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Webber, could you stand up please? [NOTE: Mr. Webber stood.] Commissioner Thomas said, okay. I like to put a name with a face. Okay. All right. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the recommendation of Mr. Phillip Webber to the position of Director of Chatham Emergency Management Agency. Commissioners Murray and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR MOTHER MATILDA BEASLEY PARK (COMMISSIONER RIVERS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, yes. We have been holding this part out and planning over the last two years and we're about [inaudible] on Phase One, and I'm asking that we go ahead and direct staff to dedicate that park on January 16th.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Russ—. Commissioner Rivers said, or do the ground breaking on the 16th. Chairman Hair said, on the 16th. Russ [Abolt], did you have—, do you have a problem with the planning of that? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. May I point out, Commissioner Rivers, you had made a comment which I think is very valid. In the future, when we do these on the weekends appears to be a problem in getting all people available on the calendar. So, this certainly is in Commissioner Rivers's district and something we want to make sure is done—.

Chairman Hair said, I take it—, those of us that work, I think weekends are better for these kinds of things. Everybody—. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers asked, can we change that time from 11:00 to 11:30 to accommodate those who are going to attend the breakfast that morning? Commissioner Thomas said, breakfast. Chairman Hair said, right, the breakfast. I think that's—, because most of us are going to that, five or six of us are. To 11:30. Does anybody have a problem with 11:30? Okay, Russ [Abolt], we'll set it for 11:30. We don't necessarily need a motion on that. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Chairman Hair said, direct the staff.

Commissioner Murray said, let me ask a question? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Murray asked, once the groundbreaking is done on this project, is it ready to go? The reason I'm asking, I know that the Community Center on the Islands we did groundbreaking about—, almost five months ago and they still haven't started yet. That's why I'd just—, I'd like to see groundbreaking and then see work being done.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Two different—, two different approaches to it. In this case we have a more traditional park. There is no design/build. Commissioner Murray said, oh, okay. County Manager Abolt said, in the case of the one on the Island, that had to be, you know, designed after an award was made. The one major thing waiting in this is potential acquisition of additional property, but we did not want at least the first phase of the project to be delayed any further.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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2. PROPERTY ON SUNCREST AND HIGHWAY 80, SITE PLAN REQUEST, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Commissioner Murray said, the reason I put this on the agenda, and I discussed it with, I think, Pat Monahan at one point and said that there was really nothing that the County could do because they met all the requirements for this particular piece of property. My concern is that evidently the future property owners, if they have not bought that property yet, went to the Zoning Board of Appeals. From what I understand, there was about three people speaking in behalf of a variance that was issued, and it's about 35 to 40 residents in the area opposing it for a lot of legitimate reasons, which were there was no site plan presented, there was a traffic problem. It's one of the most dangerous intersections we have on the Island at Suncrest Boulevard and Highway 80. Just this Christmas a young lady was killed there, and there have been several deaths there with automobile accidents, and they continue to happen, and we just went through the first part of this year—, I mean, the last year and the latter part of the following year [sic] rezoning that whole strip of land to have larger lots because the residents had requested that. We went with that and approved it. I just feel like there are too many problems that have not been addressed on that particular piece of property, and I'm a little concerned that the Zoning Board of Appeals could give a variance on something like that and the go-ahead without a site plan, without checking with the traffic problems that are there, and a lot of other issues that are taking place at that intersection. I don't know whether we can do it or not and, Mr. County Attorney, I think you will probably be the one that will have to tell us, but if we can stop this long enough to put a committee together to look at it, to go through it and see what needs to be done and at least a site plan presented and go through the MPC and then back to the Commission with it, I think that something has to be done. I don't know whether we can legally do that or not, but if we can then I would like to do that.

County Attorney Hart said, well, they're still going to have to get a site plan approval if they go ahead and start to develop the property so MPC may have a second crack at it even though a variance—, you know, I haven't looked at the variance. I'd probably need to look at that. Commissioner Murray said, I guess my problem is how does the Zoning Board of Appeals give a variance when they haven't even seen a site plan of what's going to happen there. County Attorney Hart said, I don't know the answer to that.

Chairman Hair said, it's the process, I think, that needs to be looked at, Jon [Hart]. I share Commissioner Murray's concern. I think the way this was done is suspect.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't know who owns the property or who owned before if these people have purchased it yet or not, but something's not right with the process it went through. Chairman Hair asked, so would you look into that, Jon [Hart], and bring something back to us as a staff report. Any further questions?

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

County Attorney was requested to review and bring back as a staff report.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED 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. INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES IN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION. Tabled at meeting of December 18, 1998.

Chairman Hair said, we agreed at the last meeting that we would take this off the table today and vote it up or down, Commissioner DeLoach's request, so I'll entertain a motion to take this off the table. This is a proposed change in the homestead exemption.

Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, okay, it's off the table. I'll recognize Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, back in the same place, I'm asking everyone to look at this homestead exemption for the homeowners. I suppose everyone looked in the paper this morning. I notice the trailers and the \$2.00 plus \$3.00 that on the front page. This is no different from the homes in your neighborhood that folks are living in that have been priced out of their homes due to the fact that it's a back door tax created by the increased value of the property. I'm still proposing and would appreciate support on the item to give a homestead exemption to everyone who buys a home in Chatham County based on the approach that we discussed at the last meeting, and anything—, the only thing that I can add to it that I haven't discussed before is there's a turn over in home ownership on the average of every seven years, so it's not like we're freezing the digest in Chatham County by doing this. Homes turn over an average, and it's it's a national average, of every seven years, so there will be a continuation of the increase in value of the homes, and in—, so that one group will not overly carry the load for another group. So what it will do is give the person who buys a home an idea of the tax that they have for the rest of their life unless they move to another location. I think it's something that everyone, especially the taxpayer in Chatham County, can support and I'd appreciate the Commission supporting that. Any questions?

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I just wanted to get some clarifications. First of all, if we approve this, then the State Legislature has to—, they'll have a bill to be presented and if passes, it would be passed for all 152 counties, right? Commissioner DeLoach said, at the present time it's set up for local—. Commissioner Murray said, 159 counties. Commissioner DeLoach said, I mean, it is set up for local legislation at the present time. Commissioner Murray said, oh, it's local legislation. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Murray said, okay, and if it passes, then that would be—, in other words, that would take care of the School Board, the City of Savannah, any taxing governing body in Chatham County to comply with this. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. That would be the approach that would be taken. All would have to basically freeze their homestead exemptions, or work their homestead exemptions based on the approach that we have discussed in the past. Commissioner Murray said, the other side of this, and I probably will support it to see if can get through the local delegation, but the other side to this is, you know, we tried to reduce the millage by the amount of reassessments this past year, which probably would have been a little bit less money than this, if this passes, would give the people on their taxes, and there were only two people on the Commission in favor of doing that, and to me this seems like the same type situation that if we had all done that, it would have resolved it then. I don't have a problem supporting it to see if it can go up there, and if it comes back and what form it comes back in, whether they approve it or not, but I just think that we need to look across the board any time we're working with budgets or setting the millage rates for the County or anything else, that we need to look at it and we could have resolved it, you know, several months ago, but again it has to come up every year if we did it that way.

Chairman Hair said, let me ask one question and then I'll recognize Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner DeLoach, have you seen the legislation as it's written? Commissioner DeLoach said, uh huh. Chairman Hair asked, does it have to come back to us for us to look at the—, any revenue impact it would have on the County before or, if they pass it, we would have to accept it regardless? Commissioner DeLoach said, we'd have to accept it. I mean—. Chairman Hair said, regardless of the impact? Commissioner DeLoach said, sure. I mean, you've already seen the legislation. I mean it's been out, we already had a copy in our file and all. We know what the impact is. It's already been given to us from Gary Udinsky as far as the dollars we'd lose "this year." I mean, all the numbers are out there. You know what they are. This is just a tax saving to the taxpayers of Chatham County, and it's something we need to support. That's—. Commissioner Murray asked, is there any possibility they will change that? Any form when they pass it if they do pass it? Commissioner DeLoach said, no, it—. Chairman Hair said, that was my concern, would we have a chance to look at it after? Commissioner DeLoach said, it would only pass based on—, it would only pass based on the form that was sent to them and they've already written the legislation. Commissioner Jackel said, it could be amended. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner DeLoach said, it would not be what we sent up there at the time.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, in regards to this setting the millage rate, and I can agree with Frank [Murray] on that, but the thing of it is, if we do that we're also setting it for the School Board also, and I think this is one thing. The way that it's set up now with this bill, this would be mandatory. Commissioner Murray said, we only set our own, we don't set the School Board. Commissioner Saussy said, well, right, but this would. Commissioner Murray said, well, this would across the board, yes. Chairman Hair said, but if we supported it and the School Board didn't support it, my understanding is the Legislators still are not going to go forward with it because they'd have to agree. Is that correct, Commissioner DeLoach? Commissioner DeLoach said,

the Legislators would have to agree to it. Yes, local legislation would have to agree to it. Chairman Hair said, but I mean if the School Board said no, then it would be a dead duck—, a dead deal, right? Commissioner DeLoach said, right. That's correct. Chairman Hair said, so it would require—. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think we're working on some false assumptions here. First of all, the taxes are not being reduced. There's no way that I'm going to believe, or most people really look at this that they will understand that anyone's taxes are being reduced. There's going to be a shifting of who pays the taxes. As long as our budget remains a fixed amount, somehow we have to come up with that money, and when we come up with it with Plan A, Plan B or Plan C, whether it's Jones, Smith or Johnson who pays, or whether it's the business community or the homeowner, if our budget is \$100 million, we've got to come up with that money. This plan doesn't do anything to reduce the spending. It just is going to make a difference in who pays the taxes. So talking about this as a plan to reduce people's taxes I think is a misnomer. It's not what this is about. It's shifting. Now I think before people shift plans on the tax on who's going to pay, the simplest thing in the world, which has not been done yet and I've been asking for, is to go back five years or three years maybe even, over what has happened with our taxes for the last three years and say, okay, starting in 1995 if this tax plan had been in place, here's how it would be different today, here's how much you would have to raise the millage, or might possibly lower the millage. I think we'd have to raise the millage. Here's how much it would affect the commercial interest in town, here's how it would affect the renters in town, here's how it would affect the homeowners in town. That statistical information is out there and I think should have been presented to us and then we could get a better idea of who's going to shift it to it. Of course, when we're talking about just the last three years, we're talking about a period of basically no inflation, and no one has told me what the consequence would be if we went into a period where over some period of time we had 10%, 20% or 30% inflation, and some future Commission is faced, because there is no other way of doing it than sitting down and saying we've got to raise the taxes six mills because everybody knows we've had this inflation. Well, the people are knowing it and they're still not going to have their taxes raised 6%. So, without that information having been put forward, I don't see how I can support a bill that we don't know the impact and who it's going to transfer the taxes to. It's not cutting the taxes, it's just a question of who it's transferring it to.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner DeLoach, would you like to respond to that?

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. In fact, you're correct, it is not cutting the taxes. That is a definite, and that is one of the main selling points to this whole program. In fact, it's not cutting taxes because we couldn't operate the government because we had to use the 1.2 mills of reevaluation just to pass a budget this time. So, that's true. It's not cutting the budget. What it does do though is in future years, as we progress forward, any time you start doing your budget, that will already be eliminated. The 600,000—, and the numbers are there and they've given you the numbers, and I explained to you on the numbers, roughly \$600,000 this year, \$600,000 is what the reevaluation figure is for the homeowner part of the reevaluation, \$600,000 out of the—, what's the reevaluation, 1.2 or what is it? What is the reevaluation tax? County Manager Abolt said, it was 5% of which half of that was to be from reevaluation. Commissioner DeLoach asked, have you got any numbers? Commissioner Jackel said, we used 1.2 million last meeting. County Manager Abolt said, yes, it was—. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, so \$600,000 of that is reevaluated homeowner homestead exemption tax. That's what—, that's the number that we're working with—. Commissioner Jackel said, 1.2 million. Commissioner DeLoach said, excuse me? Commissioner Murray said, 1.2 from what I understand at the last meeting. Commissioner Jackel said, at the last meeting, 1.2. County Manager Abolt said, realize it was one of your options in the budget the adopted, and it said 2½% would be the projected reval. If you chose not to budget at that level, staff looking at M&O, SSD and CAT estimated 1.2, 1.3, not assigning a discreet amount to each one of those budgets. You're talking 1.2, 1.3. Commissioner DeLoach said, let's say a million dollars. Okay, so we take a million dollars out of the budget, but we don't take it out of this budget so we can operate just based on what we've got going right now everything operates fine. We all know what our numbers, we move along, and then next year we don't come up with another million dollars, and then the next year we don't come up with a million dollars. If it's—, and you asked about the last three years. It's less than a mill increase in taxes if you had to increase the taxes, but you would have to vote on that tax increase. I think that's where the, you know—, I think it's easy for us to sit up here and say I don't support it and there's a thousand reasons not to support it because it's an easy tax for us to use. It's easy for the School Board, it's easy—, the only one it's hard on is the person who's paying the tax. We don't have—, we can sit up here, and I passed the budget. Just like Frank [Murray] said, I passed the budget the other day that had it in there. I know it's easy to do. We don't have to vote on it. We're not in front of the taxpayer saying, I'm increasing your taxes because I've voting for a millage increase today, because I've already slid one in the back door on you with the—, and the homeowners it was \$1 million roughly. What I'm saying is, this allows the homeowner to know who's raising his taxes. It freezes that homeowner, if they buy a home here they don't have to—, they don't have an increase in their taxes anymore. I don't see where that's going to strangle the growth of Chatham County at all. I think it will enable people to grow in Chatham County. I just don't see where we're going to lose by doing this, and the commercial people they're able to offset it by increasing the costs. Everybody will end up paying somewhere along the line, but the homeowner can stay in their home. That's the most critical thing in this thing is the fact that a person who's on fixed—, well, not just the fixed income. It doesn't matter, and it doesn't matter how much money they've got, it doesn't matter how little money they've got, it's just a person should not be taxed out of their home, and this—, all we're doing is running people out of Chatham County by increasing the taxes on the homes around here. It just doesn't happen, and we just need to pass this. We won't starve, the world won't end, and it will be a better situation for the homeowners in Chatham County. That's all.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Eddie [DeLoach], I've just got a question for you for clarification. What I'm trying to do is resolve in my mind what Martin [Jackel] has said that if the expenditures remain fixed and this would limit what a particular homeowner would pay, then it is not a tax reduction, it is simply shifting that tax obligation to those other individuals if you do not do something to the spending. Commissioner DeLoach said, that is exactly right. That's exactly right. Next year you will not have—, if this—, based on the numbers that historically we've got right now, if you did not pass—, if you passed this this year and it went into effect, next year you would not have that million dollars to use to spend. That's the key to it. Commissioner Odell said, or you would have it, but it would be coming from those not affected from this [inaudible]. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, you would not have it unless

you went up and said, I am going to increase the millage tax in Chatham County. You would have to vote for a millage increase to make your taxes—, I mean, the value come up, and it would shift it from that homeowner to the new homeowner, to whoever else other than the person who holds their house for a length of time. Now the average is seven years, so it's turning over every seven years. So it's not like this person bought this house and they're going to say there from the day they're 20 years old until they're 90. I've owned three or four houses since I've been old enough to buy homes. I have moved up in value and—, thank God, and each time I did not question the value of that tax. What I did question when I got that homestead exemption form and then I paid—, I agreed that I had a homestead exemption, and then I get something from Gary Udinsky telling me my daggummed [phonetic] property has gone up and I've got to pay the suckers more money, and that sucker is me. That's what's so bad.

Commissioner Rivers said, you're probably the only guy up here that's moved out of his home that many—. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, but the point is, I mean, it's shifting every seven years so it's not frozen, it's not like we're going to go to the dark ages and all of a sudden we're going to stop. It's going to continue to grow and that base is going to continue to grow. All it does is slow down. For the person who wants to stay in their home, they do not have a tax increase running them out of their home. That's all, guys.

Commissioner Odell said, I just have a follow-up question. We [inaudible] logic, following up on Commissioner Jackel's question and we agree that it would be shifting, but in the alternate what we have to do is to come back and make a decision as to increasing the millage. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. It would be a decision made by this Board.

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

Commissioner Rivers said, you see, basically we're not talking about anything if it's just a method, it's just a methodology because if you take some taxes away, you're going to have to definitely replace those taxes, and if we sit up here and agree to raise the millage, if you give me an exemption, you still raise the millage on me and you're actually taking that money back. It's just the methodology in which you do it. You're not really giving me no relief [sic]. If we decide to raise the millage, and that's an option. All you're doing is saying, well, hey folks, I'm going to raise your taxes in order to get this million dollars, but I'm going to take it off of you know. I come back to you and say I need enough, I've got five votes up here to do that, then I'm in the same position tax-wise. Commissioner DeLoach said, that does not give it back to the homeowner. That—, what you said does not give it back to the homeowner. If you go the way we're going it now dilutes the value to the homeowner when you go back with that tax exemption. It just dilutes the value that the homeowner receives from this. His taxes go up \$25,000 and whenever you go back and you say I'm going to reduce the millage, I'm a nice guy, well when you reduce the millage, it goes over—, it spreads over the entire community whether a person had an increase in taxes or not, so that person who did get an increase has been screwed. We don't need to be doing that in Chatham County. We need to give these people a relief here. Now, I cannot fathom how we can't support this. I am a daggummed [phonetic] Democrat and, by God, how in the world I can't get a Republican to support this is beyond me. [Laughter.] Commissioner DeLoach said, I mean, I'm sitting here [unintelligible comments when several individuals began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner DeLoach said, but the point is this is good for everybody. It is not a Democrat, this is not [inaudible]. This is good for Chatham County. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] serving homemade ice cream today.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach, I'm going to support this. I'll tell you—, I'm going to tell you why I'm going to support it. It fixes only a small portion of the problem, but I'm willing to eat this elephant a bite at the time. This does have some difficulties. It does shift the tax burden from the guy that lives in a half million dollar house to the guy that's renting, paying \$400 a month rent, because his rent is going to go up when that apartment taxes go up with that owner, so it does—. That bothers me a little bit. It does shift it, and also I think we have to be careful that we don't get into this mind set that just because we can always raise taxes on commercial property without something bad happening down the road because that's not going to happen. You say, well, they can always raise prices. Well, they compete with the guys across the river and the guys from Jacksonville, and they can't always raise prices, and so I do think that—, and you will continue to hear me in July of every year saying we still need to roll the millage back for the reappraisals because I think we can't continue to pass that on to commercial properties and others who rent as well. So I do think this addresses a small portion of the problem, and I'm going to support it for that reason, but I think this is the first step and I think we need to continue to look at other ways of also reducing the taxes on those that rent and also the commercial property as well. Commissioner Thomas said, I agree. Commissioner DeLoach said, I agree with that. Chairman Hair said, so, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Murray said, Eddie [DeLoach], I just wanted to ask you one question and that is can we make this retroactive back to the last three years because I think that's when we really starting pumping it up? Commissioner DeLoach said, oh, man, they were killing me. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy and then I think we're ready to vote.

Commissioner Saussy said, Eddie [DeLoach], I'm glad to hear that you've come around to the Republican view, and I do support you and have all along. I call for the vote.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a call for the question. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to remove from the table and place before the Commissioners for consideration the motion made and seconded at the meeting on December 18, 1998, to adopt a resolution in support of legislation regarding the homestead exemption. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

2. Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board adopt a resolution in support of proposed legislation regarding the homestead exemption. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Price 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 SET MEETING WITH SAVANNAH MAYOR AND ALDERMEN TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF INSPECTIONS MERGER.

Chairman Hair asked, you would like me to set that meeting up? County Manager Abolt said, please, sir, yes. Chairman Hair said, and the people that need to be there will be—. County Manager Abolt said, you all plus the Mayor and Aldermen. Chairman Hair asked, you want the entire Commission meet with the entire Council? County Manager Abolt said, I think it would be very helpful, sir? Chairman Hair asked, can I suggest maybe an interim step before we do that? Would it be possible for maybe—. County Manager Abolt said, whatever you say. Chairman Hair said, me, you, Floyd [Adams], Michael [Brown], and the two attorneys to meet first and see if we can work it out, and if not then have a full meeting rather than have a full meeting first? Would y'all allow that? Would y'all agree to that first? Let's try to do it at that level first, and if we're not successful, then the second step of the process would be full Commission, full Aldermen. Do y'all agree with that? [NOTE: No objection was voiced by the Commissioners.] Chairman Hair said, shall I modify that, Russ [Abolt]? Let's do that. Okay, so that's what we'll do and we'll set that up—, try to set that up in the next 10 days.

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2. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF ACTIONS LEADING TOWARD AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO INMATES OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY JAIL.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, this is really presented after some discussion a few months ago as to the validity of the solicitation procession. Mr. Lynch in concert with Sheriff St. Lawrence and Gary Blake have prepared a staff report, which has been reviewed in some detail by some outside folks who are recognized for not only their understanding, in one case, of what prison health services is all about—. Excuse me. What health services for those in a Detention Center are, not to be confused with one of the contractors, and also a person from Charlotte/Mecklenburg who were looking at the overall purchasing procedures. The result of the staff report is that two very discreet, distinct and different options are presented. One would be to allow us to proceed with a new solicitation to the RFP and the second would be consideration of a protest of prison health services that argues that the contract should be awarded to them. I would defer to Mr. Hart as to the validity of that. Certainly, in either case it is solely your choice.

Chairman Hair said, I'd like to make a comment. My only concern about this is, first of all, if you look at what the consultant said, basically, it said exactly what we've heard when we were here before, and at that last meeting we voted it was seven to one to do what we've done so far, but then the next step would be to rebid it, and I personally think it needs to be rebid. That's what we said we were going to do, and I just think we need to do that. Now that we've got that report, and that's what—, I think we just need to follow along with what we already voted on and we should rebid it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make the motion—. Commissioner Saussy said, I'll second it. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I just have a question. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Rivers asked, are we going to send out revised specs with those to make sure—. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. That was the idea. The idea is take what the consultant said, revise the specs based on the consultant's recommendations, and then rebid it. That was the problem that all of us had the last time. So we definitely need to—, we're not going to rebid it at the same specifications. We're going to take that consultant's recommendation and rebid it.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can we talk to the—. Never mind. I just wanted to find out something from the consultant. Do we have him here? Chairman Hair asked, is the consultant here? Commissioner DeLoach said, or whatever. Can you give me information?

Mr. Larry Palmer said, I'm the representative of Prison Health Services, and we would like to address this. Chairman Hair said, you were not at—, apparently, you were not at the last meeting. We voted a month or so ago and at that time there was a lot of confusion, so what we agreed to do and what the commission voted on was that we would get a consultant, which we've done,

and re—, answer a lot of questions that a lot of us had about the specifications, and then rebid the contract, and that was the motion that was passed the last time, and that's all we're saying we're going to follow that. May I make any comments to the [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, well, we've already voted. You're certainly allowed to make a comment. Certainly. Mr. Palmer said, my name is Larry Palmer. I am the regional vice—, senior vice president for Prison Health Services, and we certainly recognize and respect the Board's responsibility to exercise due diligence in any expenditure of taxpayer funds. I would simply reiterate and point to the independent consultant's reports that the process, as it was conducted, was fair and that in removing any pricing considerations, it did not change the evaluation committee's ranking of Prison Health Services as the preferred bidder, that we had followed all of the County purchasing rules and regulations during this process, and respectfully assert that the protest that brought this to your attention did not follow those regulations, and that we have extended our contract with the County on a month-to-month basis per their request during this process, and we are willing to continue to honor our original bid to the County, even though the 60-day period has long since lapsed. We've been here for over six years providing services to the County and the Sheriff, and we respectfully request that the Board reconsider the recommendation of the evaluation committee.

Chairman Hair said, let me say to you, maybe it's a stating of the obvious, but just to make sure, our—, there was no concern about your company and the services your company provided. We were very, very pleased. Our concern really was with our own internal procedures and that was our concern. It was not—, have anything to do, there's nothing negative about your company, and that's not any reason why we're rebidding it. We had some problems with our own internal process, and that's what our concerns were. So it—, there's no way does this reflect on your company or the services of your company because to the best of my knowledge everybody is very pleased with your company. It did have to do with our own internal processes and how the specifications were written and the lack of specificity in some cases and those kinds of things. So I want to make sure that you understand that this desire to rebid has nothing to do with any displeasure with your company or the services provided by your company.

Mr. Palmer said, I appreciate hearing that and again we'll just ask that it be reconsidered.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. All right, everybody needs to vote on the motion, okay. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you. The motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that staff advertise and issue the revised RFP, as previously directed, for award of a contract to provide health care services to inmates of the Chatham County Jail. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR MINOR STAFF RESTRUCTURING, ABANDONING TEN (10) POSITIONS TO FUND CREATION OF FOUR (4) NEW POSITIONS FOR LIBRARY. NOTE: Item pulled from agenda on January 6, 1999.

Chairman Hair said, Item #3 has been removed at the request of the Library Board

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

- **BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS - MAINTENANCE WORKER IV AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC - 2 POSITIONS**
- **JAIL - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III - 1 POSITION**
- **BOARD OF ASSESSORS - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III - 1 POSITION**
- **CEL REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD - EXEMPTION FOR ALL LIBRARY POSITIONS FROM THE 90-DAY HIRING FREEZE**
- **DISTRICT ATTORNEY - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I - 1 POSITION**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, you know, this is our first meeting of the year and we've discussed this before, but I—, it's an opportunity now to look at each one of these requests individually and make a sound decision and not just say it's in here, we need to approve them. It gives us an opportunity to save some money in the long term over the year if we stick to the 90-day hiring freeze, and if we don't do that I would also—, I would request that we at least take them one at the time.

Chairman Hair said, that's fine if that is the wish of the Board. Do you want to take them one at a time and vote on them individually? Commissioner Thomas said, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, if that's fine, we'll—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I second that. Chairman Hair said, okay, that's what we'll do. The first one we'll vote on then, I'll entertain a motion for Building Maintenance and Operations, Maintenance Worker IV and Building Maintenance Mechanic, two positions. I'll entertain a motion. None, no motion?

Commissioner Jackel said, I'll move to approve it. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor of that, vote yes—. Commissioner DeLoach said, we have a question. Question. Chairman Hair said, yes, okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, if we're going to take one of these one at a time, are we going to ask for comment from the person who's involved in it? Chairman Hair said, if you have a question about it, if you wanted to ask a question. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm just following—. Chairman Hair said, yes, if you have a question about it, certainly. All in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner DeLoach said, who's handling it? I've got a question. Chairman Hair said, all right, Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, tell me about this, Mr. George [Lynch].

Mr. George Lynch said, okay, sir. Commissioner Odell said, what he really wants to know is why can't it wait. Is that true? Commissioner DeLoach said, that's it. I mean that's what Frank [Murray] wants to know. Commissioner Odell said, I'm speaking for Eddie [DeLoach] and he's speaking for Frank [Murray]. Mr. Lynch said, and I understand all three of you, sir, and I'll try to answer your question. [Unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Mr. Lynch said, our problem very simply is the fact that at both the Jail and at the other facilities, ranging from this Courthouse to the Judicial Courthouse to the libraries up and down, we've got one heck of a work load in the maintenance area, and these are maintenance spaces. If we do not keep them filled, we're unable to keep up with the PM as well as the corrective maintenance that has to occur. What do we do get into a box, we go out and contract. Generally speaking, when you go outside of your in-house workforce, it costs you substantially more money. That's the reason that in these maintenance skills we try to keep them filled at all times. Now at the Jail you've got a little bit different situation. One of these spaces is out doing Jail maintenance for Gary Blake and Sheriff St. Lawrence. Out there we're tied in also with the surveillance systems, the security systems, the locking systems. Believe me, it's terribly important to keep those working and working darn well. Once those—. [Unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners began speaking at one time.] Mr. Lynch said, once those sliders start going at the wrong time, you're in deep trouble. So that's the reason.

Commissioner Murray said, George, you've convinced me on that, but I do have some questions. Chairman Hair said, are you finished, Commissioner? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Murray asked, what—, do our maintenance people take care of the woodwork and trim on the outside of this building or do you contract that out? Mr. Lynch asked, of this building? Commissioner Murray said, of this building. Mr. Lynch said, on the windows we are contracting where we most need that and the reason is we do not have the capability for working up safely on your third, fourth floors. Commissioner Murray said, all right, the only reason I bring that up if something's not done pretty soon, you're going to start losing some windows. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir, we're aware of it.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any further questions? All those voting—. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Okay, the next—. Commissioner Jackel said, oh, yes. Commissioner Murray said, see what it will get you if you listen. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at one time.] Chairman Hair said, when we get to the Action Calendar we're going to see if Commissioner Jackel has made a new year's resolution. That's what I'm waiting on.

Chairman Hair said, Jail, Clerical Assistant III, one position. The Chair will entertain a motion. No motion? Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second, okay. Any questions?

Commissioner Murray said, does Gary—? Chairman Hair said, Sheriff St. Lawrence. Commissioner Murray asked, Sheriff, do you or does Gary [Blake] handle that? Which—? Chairman Hair asked, can you answer questions about this position, Sheriff? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Gary [Blake] is right here. Chairman Hair said, oh, Gary [Blake] is here. Okay, I didn't see Gary [Blake] back there. Gary [Blake], could you explain why you need to waive the 90-day hiring freeze on this position?

Mr. Gary Blake said, I don't know how anybody can follow George Lynch. This is a data entry clerk position basically. Clerical Assistant III, but it's data entry. These are—, it's a small unit. We only have seven people in the unit and they work actually 24 hours a day to enter data from the inmates that are coming into the Jail. When one person is short in that unit, it really makes it very difficult and basically that's it. It's a tough position to keep filled because it's—, a lot of these people have to work four to twelve and twelve to eight, and that's not a desirable shift for people because they can get jobs throughout the County for, you know, eight to four. So when we're short in that area it really hurts us and gets us down, so we just like to fill that position as quickly—.

Commissioner Murray asked, how long has that position been vacant? Mr. Blake said, it just became vacant. We've been trying to keep those positions filled as quickly as possible.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Next item, Board of Assessors, Clerical Assistant III, one position. The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair asked, is anyone here to speak—, I see Mr. Udinsky back there. Would you like to come forward and defend this? Commissioner DeLoach said, Gary [Udinsky], God bless you, bubba.

Mr. Udinsky said, I'm glad to hear we're such a bipartisan group. Commissioner Murray said, I don't know why you smiled when you looked over here. [Laughter.] Chairman Hair said, that's why he smiled. Mr. Udinsky said, this position was vacated primarily because of an early disability retirement. That disability retirement was granted, I think, the middle part of December. The position was effectively vacant because the person was out on sick leave for several months prior to that and there's a big backlog in that division. The position is in the personal property division and the first part of the year, as you know, [inaudible] forms are sent out and that's their busy season. So they're already behind and needing the position filled anyway. It has effectively been vacant for

a relatively long time and, frankly, even if you were to grant the waiver, by the time it was filled it's going to be 60 days anyway, and it's already been vacant for about 30 and it's going to take us another 30 days to fill it.

Chairman Hair said, so it's a 30-day rather than 90-days. Commissioner Jackel said, 60 instead of 90. Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, the next one, CEL Regional Library Board, exemption for all library positions from the 90-day hiring freeze. I've got a real problem with this one.

Commissioner Odell said, I make a motion that that be denied. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to deny. Chairman Hair said, do we have a second? Go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, by way of background, last year we ran into a problem with State support, their basic support for the library. [Inaudible] their maintenance of effort requirement of any jurisdiction receiving State funds. In 1997 we found ourselves having to infuse a very large amount of money at the end of our calendar year, fiscal year, because the salary savings that were amassed were substantial, but also they found us below the previous year level of support. Last year you granted this type of waiver so we would avoid getting in that position again.

Chairman Hair said, but we also got extra money there too this year that would offset that, so—. We have a motion to deny that. Commissioner Murray said, I'll second, but I question—, not really a question. Well, I guess it is a question. There was something on the agenda that was taken off today that was going to take, I think, eight or ten of the personnel were going to be gone to add more to the library. Were those ten positions in other areas of the County or was it--? County Manager Abolt said, we had incomplete information. That's why it was pulled off the agenda, so I'm not prepared to discuss it. Commissioner Murray said, I just have a problem right now approving anything that the library asks us for, especially with what they put out over the Internet, and I think that if—, I don't know if anybody from the Library Board's in this audience or not. If they are, you can come to the podium because I'll be glad to talk with you about it. But I think what they did and what I read that came out in our packets was absolutely uncalled for. Commissioner Thomas said, it is. Chairman Hair said, yes, very unprofessional. Commissioner Murray said, and if they want to deal with us that way, then we'll deal with it that way. We can control the budget.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to deny. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to deny. Commissioners Saussy and Jackel voted in opposition. The motion to deny carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion to deny passes.

Chairman Hair said, the next one, District Attorney, Administrative Assistant I, one position. Anybody from the District Attorney's office? Michael [Kaigler], are you going to—? Commissioner Murray said, well, he'll be a lot shorter than Spencer [Lawton]. Chairman Hair said, yes, that's true. Chairman Hair said, we can chicken dance, right?

Mr. Michael Kaigler said, from the information we received from the District Attorney's office, they had an Administrative Assistant II that they filled a short time ago. That person came to work and did not work for a short period of time. To fill that position they moved internally and that created this Administrative Assistant I position. That resulted from a vacancy they filled previously.

Chairman Hair asked, any questions on that one? Do I have a motion? Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion. Chairman Hair asked, to what? Commissioner Odell said, approve. Chairman Hair said, approve. Do I have a second? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, let me—, Frank [Murray], I'd like to commend you. I think that was a great idea. I like the idea of going through them individually. Commissioner Murray said, well, it gives you a [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, it does and I think that's a good idea and that's a good change. I appreciate you bringing that up.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following position: Building Maintenance and Operations - Maintenance Worker IV and Building Maintenance Mechanic - 2 positions. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
2. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following position: Jail - Clerical Assistant III - 1 position. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
3. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following position: Board of Assessors - Clerical Assistant III, 1 position. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
4. Commissioner Odell moved to **deny** the request of CEL Regional Library Board for exemption for all library positions from the 90-day hiring freeze. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to deny. Commissioners Saussy and Jackel voted in opposition. The motion to deny carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

- 5. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise the following position: District Attorney-Administrative Assistant I- 1 position. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, all right, now we're going to see if Commissioner Jackel's made a new year's resolution. We get to the Action Calendar. Commissioner Jackel, would you like to pull anything off.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just want to first say that I think the strings in the adagio were a little bit trill. But, anyhow, moving right along, I'd like to pull A, H, I—. Chairman Hair said, wait a minute. A, eight? Wait a minute. You said eight? Commissioner Jackel said, A, Alpha. Chairman Hair said, okay, 10-Alpha. Okay. Commissioner Jackel said, India, Kilo. Chairman Hair said, India, Kilo. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't see any Kilo. Commissioner Saussy said, there's not a Kilo there. Chairman Hair said, is that it? Commissioner Jackel said, M, N, O, L. Chairman Hair said, there is no L. There's not an L. Commissioner Rivers said, there's an L, there's an L. Chairman Hair said, I don't have an L on mind. Commissioner Rivers said, Change Order No. 1 to the contract to paving of Central, Cherokee and Saussy Avenues. Chairman Hair said, I don't have L. Commissioner Thomas said, page 10. The Clerk said, on page 10 is L. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, L then M.

Commissioner Murray said, I had a couple, but he skipped most of them. Chairman Hair said, okay, which ones do you want? Commissioner Murray said, E. Chairman Hair said, E. Commissioner Murray said, G and J. Chairman Hair said, and G and J. Okay, anybody else want to pull anything? All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve to balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes—. Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got to pull #7 just to go over it. The Clerk said, I'm sorry, who seconded that? Commissioner Thomas said, I did. Commissioner Murray said, #7. Chairman Hair said, okay, pull 7. All right. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 7 and 10-A, 10-E, 10-G, 10-H, 10-I, 10-J, 10-K, 10-L, 10-M, 10-N, and 10-O. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

[NOTE: See Items 7 and 10 for discussion thereon.]

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

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- 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 18, 1998, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 18, 1998, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 10, 1998, THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 1998.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period December 10, 1998, through December 30, 1998, in the amount of \$6,038,331. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 3. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR HERON CREST SUBDIVISION PHASE 2 AND TO COMBINE THE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT WITH THE EXISTING DISTRICT.**
[DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to record the final plat for Heron Crest Subdivision Phase 2 and to combine the streetlight assessment district with the existing district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR HERON CREST SUBDIVISION PHASE 6 AND TO COMBINE THE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT WITH THE EXISTING DISTRICT.**
[DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to record the final plat for Heron Crest Subdivision Phase 6 and to combine the streetlight assessment district with the existing district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATIONS, RECORD THE PLAT FOR HENDERSON GOLF COMMUNITY PHASE 1C, AND INCLUDE THE STREETLIGHTS WITH THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED STREETLIGHT DISTRICT.**
[DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to accept the right-of-way dedications, record the plat for Henderson Golf Community Phase 1C, and include the streetlights with the previously established streetlight district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATIONS, RECORD THE PLAT FOR HENDERSON GOLF COMMUNITY PHASE 2C, AND INCLUDE THE STREETLIGHTS WITH THE ESTABLISHED STREETLIGHT DISTRICT.**
[DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to accept the right-of-way dedications, record the plat for Henderson Golf Community Phase 2C, and include the streetlights with the previously established streetlight district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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- 7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT TO HAUL COVER MATERIAL FROM THEIR BORROW PIT TO THE SUPERIOR LANDFILL ALONG LITTLE NECK ROAD.**
[DISTRICT 7.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I just wanted to kind of just go over that, the fact that this—, one of the choices—, I hated to do that. I hated to recommend that we do that, but in fact if we don't do that, we're going to end up with a lot more trucks on that road hauling from further distances than where it's located, so when it comes up and these people ask questions, I want them to be able to realize that although it is putting trucks on Little Neck Road, it will limit the length of the travel rather than have to pull from further distances. So that's the reason I'm approving—, recommending approval.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have some questions on the time here. I think they were talking about an earlier time on Saturday and then it changed from 8:00 A.M., to 3:30 P.M. I would like to see if they couldn't start later on Saturday and end earlier on Saturday. Commissioner DeLoach said, the only thing I can add to that is there's a lot less traffic on Saturday out there on that road than there is during the work week. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, but if you're trying to sleep a little bit later on Saturday, 8:00 A.M., is pretty early to have disruption on the road. Commissioner DeLoach said, there are no homes where they're hauling from. Commissioner Jackel asked, there are no homes? Commissioner DeLoach said, there are no homes going out—. This is a short distance they're on the road, but it's a lot less traffic then. If they can haul more of it on Saturday you're better off. Commissioner Jackel said, if there are no homes I can go with that.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the request for Waste Management to haul cover material from their borrow pit to the Superior Landfill along Little Neck Road. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A STREETLIGHT AT THE INTERSECTION OF OLD MONTGOMERY ROAD AND MONTGOMERY CROSSROAD. [DISTRICT 1.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request for the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Old Montgomery Road and Montgomery Crossroad. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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9. REQUEST FOR NEW SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1999. PETITIONER: WILMA LEA WEAVER, D/B/A CHEERS TO YOU RESTAURANT/LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 135B JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request of Petitioner, Wilma Lea Weaver, d/b/a Cheers To You Restaurant and Lounge, located at 135B Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for new Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1999. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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10. 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. First renewal option to annual contract to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	Human Resources	Resource EAP, Inc.	\$9.25 per employee per year	General Fund/M & O - Human Resources
B. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide electrical maintenance and repair services	Various	Joyner Electric	Same terms and conditions	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various •CIP - Various
C. Annual contract, with renewal options for two additional one-year terms, to provide welding and metal fabrication	Fleet Operations	H & H Steel Co.	\$16.50 per hour	General Fund/M & O - Various

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
D. First renewal option to annual contract to provide various types ammunition	Various	Master Cartridge Corporation	Same terms and conditions	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various •Confiscated Funds - Various
E. First renewal option to annual contract to provide reprographic (copying of blueprints and photographs) and reproduction service	Various	Coastal Reprographics and Supply (WBE)	Estimated annual cost \$24,210	•SSD - Engineering •CIP - Various •SPLOST - Various
F. Confirmation of annual maintenance contract for the County portion of the 800MHz communication system	ICS	Motorola Communications (sole source)	\$135,015	General Fund/M & O - Communications
G. Award contract for the paving of Dolan Drive	SPLOST	Triangle Construction Co.	\$399,948.20	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Road (pending transfer) NOTE: Transfer will include a 10% contingency
H. Confirmation of emergency purchase for one (1) Ford pick-up truck	Public Works	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$17,643	SSD - Public Works
I. Confirmation of emergency purchase for one (1) Ford Explorer	Police	O.C. Welch Ford	\$22,866	SSD - Police
J. Annual maintenance agreement for the book theft detection systems	Library	3M (sole source)	\$11,677	General Fund/M & O - Library
K. Confirmation of emergency Change Order No. 1 to the contract to provide design, engineering and specifications for the replacement of HVAC controls and air handling system in the Judicial Courthouse to include the engineering, design, preparation of "bid ready" plans and specifications and a cost estimate for chiller replacement at the Judicial Courthouse	Building Maintenance and Operations	Rosser International	\$15,000	CIP - Building Maintenance and Operations
L. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for paving of Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive, for additional fire hydrant on the Central Avenue paving	SPLOST	Arco, Inc.	\$5,410	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Paving of Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive
M. Amendment No. 1 to the contract that provides that GDOT will acquire the wetlands mitigation site of approximately 180 acres located in Chatham and Effingham counties	SPLOST	GDOT	\$196,860	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Pooler Parkway, Phase II
N. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for Hutchinson Island utility extension, necessitated by unforeseen conditions including encountering an unknown, unmapped storm drain and water main and the attendant need to reroute utility lines	SPLOST	Southern Champion Construction, Inc.	\$21,538	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Hutchinson Island Utility Extension

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
O. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for Hutchinson Island utility extension, necessitated by the need to reroute water and sewer extensions due to delay in adjacent road construction	SPLOST	Southern Champion Construction, Inc.	\$83,175	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Hutchinson Island Utility Extension

ITEM 10-A:

FIRST RENEWAL OPTION TO ANNUAL CONTRACT TO PROVIDE AN EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP), HUMAN RESOURCES, RESOURCE EAP, INC., \$9.25 PER EMPLOYEE PER YEAR.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel asked, does that mean that for every employee we have our cost is \$9.25? Mr. Lynch said, yes, per year. Commissioner Jackel asked, so it's like an insurance premium? Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, it's like an insurance premium. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, and if we use the service just a little or we use it a great deal our cost is fixed at \$9.25. Mr. Lynch said, I'm going to ask Michael Kaigler, but I believe the answer to that is yes. Commissioner Jackel said, well then the question then becomes are we satisfied that that's a fair premium based on our usage.

Mr. Michael Kaigler said, well, we went out on competitive bid to service and they gave us the best price. We also after the first year, looking at the renewal, we sent out a survey to the employees that use the service and we got a great response back from them.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I understand the employees that are using it are satisfied. I mean, this is like an insurance premium. Instead of whatever it is, the cost is we're paying, would we come out better paying it on a per basis cost or are we better with a kind of premium? Mr. Kaigler said, well, we get more—, we get training services included in that, but our usage has been fairly good, fairly good.

Chairman Hair said, it also makes it much more difficult to budget that way too. It makes it much more difficult to get a handle on a number. This is a much better way, it's sort of like a guaranteed price tag. Mr. Lynch said, capitation. Chairman Hair said, yes, I think it's a, you know, it's fair way, and if it's a competitive bid, as I think it was—. Mr. Lynch said, yes, it was. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what was that word, Mr. Lynch? Chairman Hair said, and this was the low bid, right. Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. Commissioner Jackel said, it just that EAP is not—.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll move. Commissioners Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ITEM 10-E:

FIRST RENEWAL OPTION TO ANNUAL CONTRACT TO PROVIDE REPROGRAPHIC (COPYING OF BLUEPRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS) AND REPRODUCTION SERVICE, COASTAL REPROGRAPHICS AND SUPPLY (WBE), ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST \$24,210, SSD-ENGINEERING, CIP-VARIOUS, SPLOST-VARIOUS.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, the—, Russ [Abolt], the only thing I wanted to ask what it says SPLOST - Various, is that because some of that is used for the SPLOST projects? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. This is an open-ended option for certain usage that we can budget from different accounts.

Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair said, I've got a motion for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ITEM 10-G:

AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE PAVING OF DOLAN DRIVE, SPLOST, TRIANGLE CONSTRUCTION CO., \$399,948.20.

Commissioner Murray said, my question on that, the transfer will include a 10% contingency, is that included in that \$399,948.20 or is that in addition to that? Mr. Lynch said, no, the award is—. Chairman Hair said, Al [St. Lawrence] is saying no it's not—. Al [St. Lawrence], it's not included? County Manager Abolt said, what we will do is, sir, because of the short lead time we had to prepare this agenda, on your next meeting on the omnibus budget report, which is the first thing you normally handle, we'll have the amount to cover this plus the 10% contingency. Chairman Hair said, so the 10% is not added. Commissioner Murray said, the 10% is not in that figure. Mr. Lynch said, the contract is 399. The 10% contingency is separate from that. Chairman Hair said, it would be 440 instead of 399. Mr. Lynch said, if we have to use that contingency. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, okay. I don't know why it couldn't—, what was so [inaudible]. Commissioner DeLoach said, APAC was in that too.

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

ITEMS 10-H and 10-I:

- H. CONFIRMATION OF EMERGENCY PURCHASE FOR ONE (1) FORD PICK-UP TRUCK, PUBLIC WORKS, J. C. LEWIS FORD, \$17,643, SSD - PUBLIC WORKS.
- I. CONFIRMATION OF EMERGENCY PURCHASE FOR ONE (1) FORD EXPLORER, POLICE, O. C. WELCH FORD, \$22,866, SSD - POLICE.

Commissioner Jackel said, this is the same thing and there's a couple more in here. They're all vehicles. They all seem to be purchased individually. It seems like every docket comes up has one, two, three or four vehicles. I want to purchase four at a time or ten at a time and see if we can't get a better price in purchasing. Mr. Lynch said, sir, we would be delighted to do it. Fundamentally, however, the—, and for good reasons, there has not been a budgeted funded program to handle the vehicle buys. Commissioner Jackel said, well, we've got four on this one. Couldn't we have bid all four together?

County Manager Abolt said, remember what happened is, at the end of your last—, well, at your last meeting I recommended we draw down to zero on what contingencies we had because of our acute vehicle problem. So they were about in spending what money—, they've only had this money in the proper accounts since the 18th of December, so you're seeing—. We would hope in years to come we would have enough money to buy, you know, all these vehicles in the Spring. But absence that we are faced with this fill in the gap where we have acute emergencies.

Commissioner DeLoach said, but it is—, they did—, all of them were bid at one time though. I mean, if you got the money on the 18th, you went out and said I need to buy forty-five cars here and they bid on them—. County Manager Abolt said, I wish we could have had that many. Commissioner DeLoach said yes, well, whatever it was, but they were—, you handed it to J. C. Lewis and said, here are all the cars we need, what's the price on them. They did it that way. Commissioner Jackel said, not in this case. Mr. Lynch said, well, we went a little further than just one, of course, to make sure that we got a competitive price.

Chairman Hair said, also, too, Commissioner Jackel, one problem with that is that we have such diverse needs of our vehicles, and it's hard—, I mean, if you put a four-door, medium sedan in with a, you know, a heavy duty truck, 4 x 4, those are two totally different animals and it's hard to sometimes to package them. I could certainly see a need why—, you could package some of them, but also I could see—, a lot of them would have to be individual purchases or individual bids because of just the—.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, H and I—, H is a pickup truck, I is a Ford Explorer. Those are—, those could have been purchased together. Mr. Lynch said, sir, pardon me. We went out to the J. C. Lewis's on both. We went out to the other folks that you see listed. As a consequence, at the same time they were giving us quotes on both vehicles. Just as a matter of info, once you have competition, which we do have on each of these, you have really got to go way up on the curve to get any quantity type discount. Our experience, when both we and the City of Savannah on police cruisers were getting funded early, we found there wasn't much of a saving with the combined thing. Where we got better prices was when we were able to get them before the lines closed and we had to go out and shop them off the lots during the Summer months. You don't get much saving on volume.

Chairman Hair said, George [Lynch], what we might do though to really—, and it wouldn't take any extra time or effort really, and use the approach Pat [Monahan] used over on the Trade Center. We might—, you could bid on them individually. Like in this case, let's say you bid these two individually. You send them out at the same time and the dealer gets both of these at the same time, and you could say you could bid on them individually or you could bid on them as a package of two, and then you could take the best price, whether it's the package of two is the best price or the individual price, and that would give the dealers the option and still in some cases where that would be an advantage, we could take advantage of and [inaudible]. It wouldn't take anything extra. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't know that you could do that. Chairman Hair said, well, we did that on the Trade Center. Commissioner Jackel said, well, if some guy comes in and he's the low bidder for two and some guy comes in and he's the low bidder for one, but he's substantially lower on one, you throw out the two bids and take the one or—? Chairman Hair said, no, you just take the option. You'd have the option to do—. [Unintelligible comments when several individuals were speaking at the same time.] Mr. Lynch said, I call it the buffet system, whichever works best. Chairman Hair said, you'd take the lowest price regardless. If it's individual, you take it. If it's, you know.

Commissioner Rivers said, it's cheaper for the County to do it that way. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Rivers said, if they take by line item—, if you send me a bid and I bid on something, you take it by line item and you go down that line item. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval of H and I. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

ITEM 10-J:

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE BOOK THEFT DETECTION SYSTEMS, LIBRARY, 3M (SOLE SOURCE), \$11,677.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I guess because of what this is we need to approve it, but I just wanted to [inaudible]. Commissioner Odell asked, if they said the books are so old, why do we need to—? Commissioner Murray asked, why do we need to protect them? Chairman Hair said, nobody wants to steal all those old books. Mr. Lynch said, gentlemen, I defer to you. Commissioner Murray said, you've got a good point there.

Chairman Hair said, that's right, that's exactly right. I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll move—. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair asked, to what? Commissioner Jackel said, to approve. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

ITEM 10-K and 10-L:

- K. CONFIRMATION OF EMERGENCY CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF HVAC CONTROLS AND AIR HANDLING SYSTEM IN THE JUDICIAL COURTHOUSE TO INCLUDE ENGINEERING, DESIGN, PREPARATION OF "BID READY" PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND A COST ESTIMATE FOR CHILLER REPLACEMENT AT THE JUDICIAL COURTHOUSE, BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS, ROSSER INTERNATIONAL, \$15,000
- L. CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT FOR PAVING OF CENTRAL, CHEROKEE, SAUSSY AVENUES AND SMITH DRIVE, FOR ADDITIONAL FIRE HYDRANT ON THE CENTRAL AVENUE PAVING, SPLOST, ARCO, INC., \$5,410.

Chairman Hair asked, Martin [Jackel], can you discuss these three together so I can read them one time and not individual? Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Chairman Hair said, let me read them all and then we'll discuss them all at one time and vote on them as a package because they're all the same type of thing. [Chairman Hair then read the items into the record.]

Commissioner Jackel said, on K is this in addition to what we already had agreed to? I mean, why are we—? Mr. Lynch said, it's a scope change, sir. The contract that we had for design and engineering was on air handling, controls and ducting. That contract takes, if you would, one-half of the problem we've got over in the Judicial Courthouse, which as you and Commissioner Odell know particularly is rather crucial. Why did we only go one at that time, because that's all the money we had. So we've got them started on the long one. Now we're picking up the second part of it, which deals with the chillers. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Mr. Lynch said, we're doing it fast track quite simply because we stand at risk of having a catastrophic failure of that system. If we have a catastrophic one, I don't know about school, but court's out for a while. So that's the reason we're doing it this way.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'll move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Lynch said, thank you, sir.

ITEM 10-N:

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT FOR HUTCHINSON ISLAND UTILITY EXTENSION, NECESSITATED BY UNFORESEEN CONDITIONS INCLUDING ENCOUNTERING AN UNKNOWN, UNMAPPED STORM DRAIN AND WATER MAIN AND THE ATTENDANT NEED TO REROUTE UTILITY LINES, SPLOST, SOUTHERN CHAMPION CONSTRUCTION, INC., \$21,538.

Commissioner Jackel said, on N, we've got about a 10% change order in here. Mr. Lynch said, on Item N, sir, the amount of that actually would come out to be significantly less than 10%. What we're talking about is where on the Savannah side of the river, think of a bore going under the Savannah River. You've got to bring the connections back into the City water and sewer system. There was an unmapped, unidentified drain and an unmapped, unidentified water main that got in the way of where we were going. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Mr. Lynch said, this is your typical relocation of a utility. Commissioner DeLoach said, GIS would have taken care of that. Ben [Price] is not here, I wanted to pump it up for him.

Commissioner Jackel said, I move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I've got a motion to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

ITEMS 10-M and 10-O:

- M. AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT THAT PROVIDES THAT GDOT WILL REQUIRE THE WETLANDS MITIGATION SITE OF APPROXIMATELY 180 ACRES LOCATED IN CHATHAM AND EFFINGHAM COUNTIES, SPLOST, GDOT, \$196,860.
- O. CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT FOR HUTCHINSON ISLAND UTILITY EXTENSION, NECESSITATED BY THE NEED TO REROUTE WATER AND SEWER EXTENSIONS DUE TO DELAY IN ADJACENT ROAD CONSTRUCTION, SPLOST, SOUTHERN CHAMPION CONSTRUCTION, INC., \$83,175.

Chairman Hair said, just to be technical, we need to take a vote on M and O. Commissioner Jackel said, well, we're on O now. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 10-B, 10-C, 10-D, and 10-F. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Item 10-A. Commissioners Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

- 3. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 10-E. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
- 4. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 10-G, 10-H, 10-I, and 10-J. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
- 5. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Items 10-K and 10-L. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
- 6. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Item 10-N. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]
- 7. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 10-M and 10-O. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

- 1. **THE MPC RECOMMENDS THAT A 2.42 ACRE PORTION OF THE HENDERSON GOLF COURSE PUD-C DISTRICT, SHOWN AS PARCEL "C" ON THE HENDERSON APARTMENTS PHASE II CONCEPTUAL PLAN, BE REZONED FROM THE CURRENT PUD-C CLASSIFICATION TO A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS FURTHER IDENTIFIED BY PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: P.I.N. 01-1028-01-63 PART. MPC FILE NO. 98-12354-C DISTRICT 7**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

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- 2. **AMENDMENT TO THE OCCUPATIONAL TAX ORDINANCE TO DELETE THE STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (SIC) CODES AND REPLACE THEM WITH THE NEW NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (NAICS) BUSINESS ACTIVITY LISTINGS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

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

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Bill Saxman.

Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] answer to a question. Bill [Saxman], the only question I have on this is when we were removing the density, and I read the writeup that you have on it, but with the new designs of these buildings, is that going to increase or decrease the density of that point?

Mr. Saxman said, well, it would allow them to increase them, but there would be limitations that the Planning Commission would have to, working with the County Engineering Department, make sure there is no traffic impacts, they would have to be on arterial streets and they would have to have water and sewer and those kinds of infrastructure.

Commissioner Murray asked, what is the real purpose in approving this? Mr. Saxman said, we've had problems where you have a unit development coming in and a density of, say, single family range. This particular one came up out on Whitmarsh Island where they have a density of six units per acre, and there's nothing—, there's not a problem with the use and the location of it, but in order to get the number of—, excuse me, the beds that are in that particular facility, the density would have to be raised up. The base density would have to be raised up in the 12, 15, 30 category in some cases, but these are senior citizen congregate housing and they generate about one-quarter of the traffic volumes, and in order to try to keep our densities down and to instead of open up a Pandora's box where the guy next door could come in and say, well, the guy next door's got a density of 15 units per acre, I want that same density, then we've got to defend why he can't get it and the other one can, so we're in a sense saying that these types of units are less impacting on a neighborhood so why not give them a higher rate of occupancy than a standard housing unit. Commissioner Murray said, I don't have a problem with it. Is this—, this will affect the one that's going in right next to the Baptist Church on Johnny Mercer, is that right? Mr. Saxman said, right.

Commissioner Jackel asked, what do we say to the people that say, you know, I bought here because it's a single family and there's—? Mr. Saxman said, the ordinance does allow the increased density now, but we found a number of them in the last two or three years where they have to go in and actually change the base density because the unit is compatible with the area from what they're proposing and the citizens haven't had a complaint. I don't know of any particular situation over these congregate care facilities where they have had a problem, and in this particular one we worked with the Logical Growth Committee, we worked of course with our staff and the County Engineering staff in assuring that what was proposed is going to be workable instead of having to go in and rezone those properties from six units per acre, say, up to 15 units per acre to allow that number of beds to be put in that facility. This is one way of handling that without going through that.

Commissioner Murray asked, couldn't they also go in there and build apartments on that same land? Mr. Saxman said, not in a PUD—. Commissioner Murray said, I'm talking about with this. I'm talking about—. Mr. Saxman said, yes, eventually if something happened to that plan and all of a sudden they drop, then they can come back. You've got the higher density and somebody could put in conventional housing at that higher density. This way it keeps the density down. If that project goes under, then you still have the density.

Commissioner DeLoach said, second.

Commissioner Jackel asked, what happens—, what I'm concerned about here is how tightly drawn is this that this is senior citizens congregate housing? What I'm concerned about is if for some reason they can't make it as that and they hold it, someone opens it up as housing for old drunks or something like that, are they going to qualify and those people going to ruin the neighborhood? Mr. Saxman said, [inaudible] be a different type land use. The land use—. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry? Mr. Saxman said, the land use category would qualify and protect them from having those kind of changes in land use. It would have to be a congregate care facility for the aged or senior citizens before it—? Commissioner Jackel asked, what does that mean? Mr. Saxman said, anyone that's considered basically over 55 years of age that would—. Commissioner Jackel asked, that's in the statute, that's in the consideration, age 55? Mr. Saxman said, well, you have some handicapped persons that would go under some of those. Commissioner Jackel said, I think there's a concern here of this coming in the neighborhoods. We battled this in my neighborhood and we were successful where they wanted to convert a hospital to Girl Scouts. We weren't so concerned about that, but we were concerned that if it did work, once it was established who else could come in there. Mr. Saxman said, only someone that qualifies as a senior citizen congregate housing facility. The County zoning regulations define that terminology. Commissioner Jackel asked, so we would be—, all right, so it would be that—, for old drunks would qualify then if they needed medical care and they were over 55. Commissioner DeLoach said, they've got to be 55 though. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. I think—.

Commissioner Murray said, I can tell you, what they're proposing right now, and that's why I asked the questions, it's a much better situation and more protection with what they have in there right now, and this is [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, I'm not sure if you're for or against those drunks. Based on your question, I don't know. Commissioner Jackel said, let's say they have rights too. Chairman Hair said, I wanted to clarify that. I understand that.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, it's up to 100% and the net density is shown on the zoning map. Mr. Saxman said, that's currently what it is now. Commissioner Jackel said, now. Mr. Saxman said, right, but we're saying if you're on an arterial street and this particular case came up, they'd need it higher than a hundred density in order to make that work, and we're saying if you're on a major arterial street and you're in compliance with the master plan that's been approved for that PUD and if that can all be worked out—. Commissioner Jackel said, that would preclude them building a highrise or anything of that nature. Mr. Saxman said, right. They would have to look at the density and compatibility of the surrounding land uses, and if the highrise was going to create a problem with the neighborhood, then they could turn it down based on that factor. Commissioner Jackel said, that's why once this thing's established, I'm not sure who you're going to be able to turn down in a residential neighborhood. Mr. Saxman said, well, they're allowed now in residential areas. Chairman Hair said, they're there now. Commissioner Jackel asked, they're there now? County Attorney Hart said, they're there now. That's the problem, Mr. Jackel.

Commissioner Murray said, as a matter of fact, you've got a house in Sea Gate, you've got a house in East Pines. You've got places all around and we've had a problem with some of them, but it's nothing we can do about it.

Commissioner Jackel said, if I understand what Mr. Saxman told me that they had not been able to put them in places where it's single family—. Mr. Saxman said, no, we've got—, we've had to increase the density where they wanted to go in in some places in order to allow—. Commissioner Jackel said, you had to make an exception and increase the density to let them in, but what I hear from the people that I represent is the only thing they have to protect them is zoning. They don't have restrictive covenants, the people I represent, and it's—. Commissioner Murray said, but the zoning would not apply in this. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry? Commissioner Murray said, the zoning would not apply in this. We've got zoning in these subdivisions where you have these right now. Commissioner Jackel said, what I'm saying is I'm not sure this is drawn up tight enough to preclude a misuse of these type of facilities in residential neighborhoods. County Attorney Hart said, this is much tighter than what you already have. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, but they may still need to be tighter is what I'm saying because it doesn't have any cap at all.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let's just go a little tighter and then we'll get tighter when we—. Chairman Hair said, there again, I think you're right, but maybe we need to go ahead and approve this and it makes it tighter, and then if we want to modify it again, go back and—. Mr. Saxman said, that's what staff has been trying to do is we have with these various petitions based on the directive the Commission has had for us to amend the ordinance. We're trying to go back and we coordinate with the legal staff to make sure what we're doing is in accordance with the legal requirements and at the same time we're trying to clear up the language. So we are working hand in hand with the legal staff to try to make sure these things are done in the proper manner.

Commissioner Murray said, well, it's much better than what we have and I'll move for approval. Commissioner Jackel said, it's not necessarily—. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Jackel said, better than we have because if the area is zoned single family, you can't put one of these things in there at all. Mr. Saxman said, you can't now. Commissioner Jackel said, unless you get an exception. Mr. Saxman said, well, you can't now. This is zoned PUD-M, but the planned unit development density that is set up is set at six, which is the equivalent of a single family development, but it would not preclude someone from coming in and clustering—, put one unit per acre over here and end up having eight acre units over here, so if the overall density of that tract of land's got to be no greater than six, there is flexibility in that.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second to approve. Are there any further questions? Commissioner Odell said, I'll call for the question. Chairman Hair said, call for the question. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to see us look into—. Mr. Saxman said, we're in the process of going through the whole—.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve an amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Regulations to remove density limitations for senior citizens congregate housing within PUD-M districts and add certain design standards. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Price was not present.]

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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The meeting of the Board of Commissioners reconvened following conclusion of the Executive Session.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.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