

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON MARCH 12,1999, 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, March 12,1999.

=====

II. INVOCATION

Chairman Hair gave the invocation.

=====

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

=====

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 Ben Price, District Six Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven
----------	--

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

=====

YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair said, I would like to introduce our Youth Commissioners that are with us this morning. We have Carvell Allen, who's a freshman at the Savannah Arts Academy, and we have Bonita Taylor, who is a junior at Windsor Forest. We're glad to have y'all with us.

=====

V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**1. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF MARCH 1999 AS “MENTAL RETARDATION AWARENESS MONTH.”**

The first thing on our agenda this morning is to issue a proclamation to declare the month of March 1999 as Mental Retardation Awareness Month, and I believe there's some folks —, I see Debbie over there. I would like to first read the proclamation. Chairman Hair then read the following proclamation into the record:

Dr. Jackson said, I'm Prince Jackson, Jr., Chairman of the CERC, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and our staff who are here with us this morning, I would like to thank the Commission from all of our hearts for declaring this Mental Retardation Month. It shows that to recognize that while God created all men equal, circumstances sometimes makes us unequal, and to recognize those who need to be recognized I think speaks highly of this Commission. So on behalf, Dr. Hair, of my fellow board members and our staff who are with us here this morning, I want to thank the Chatham County Commission from the bottom of all of our hearts for this recognition and may God continue to bless you in the work that you're doing. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Jackson. Thank you very much. We appreciate y'all being here. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you very much.

=====

2. INTRODUCTION OF GRAND MARSHAL FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE.

Chairman Hair said, the next thing on our agenda this morning, we're supposed to have the Grand Marshal here, but unfortunately he had a serious scheduling conflict, as they often do, but we have with us the General Chairman of the Parade, Mr. Joe Cetti. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Cetti.

Mr. Joe Cetti said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Council for inviting us up here. Grand Marshal Harry Deal said he's very, very sorry he couldn't make it. He was looking forward to it, but he had a prior schedule and he had wanted to go ahead and fulfill that, and he said I could step in his place. I don't have the sash on, but I'll be here and, as y'all see, I've left some goodies on your —, and some bags up there for y'all. So if you don't put your green on, it's hurray when he finds you. As we've been attending luncheon, if you don't —, if there's not a Sheriff available, he becomes the Sheriff and he asks some real interesting questions that nobody can answer. Not even Harry [Deal]. But we do appreciate it, we thank the Commission for having us, and we look for a great day. We happen to have a pretty large parade this year. It's not the largest, but it's pretty close. We've got 285 units, we have 30 professional floats, like about 35 bands. People in particular that are coming are the Mummies will be in town, a band out of Philadelphia, which is going to be really exciting, so they're a great band to listen to. The Summeral [phonetic] Guards will be performing in front of the Cathedral at ten o'clock, and do a 18-minute silent drill, which is really going to be something special. Then we have our family floats of about 40 family floats, and we're looking for, like I said, a very large parade. I was listening to the weather real close this morning and it looks great. It's going to be a little bit warmer than it is right now, but it's going to be a great day and we're looking for a fantastic parade, so I hope everyone will attend, and I hear y'all are going to be riding in cars, so we're looking forward to seeing y'all there. And a top of the morning to you and Erin Go Bragh. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Joe [Cetti]. We appreciate you being here.

Commissioner Saussy said, I believe I hear a little leprechaun around here playing some music. Chairman Hair said, I hear some music. I don't know where all that's coming from. We had —, Commissioner Murray and myself had the pleasure of being at the Investiture last Sunday and were very, very impressed. If you don't know Mr. Deal, he's quite a character. He —, I was telling Joe [Cetti] earlier this morning before the meeting started that I've seen a lot of Grand Marshals, but I don't think I've ever seen anyone enjoy this as much as Mr. Deal is. He is really, really enjoying it and you can just tell that by everything that he says and does. Mr. Cetti said, yes, he's very excited about it. It's something that every Irishman in Savannah, especially Catholic Irishmen, that's something that they would love to have, and he's a very special gentleman. He's very interesting to listen to. We have a little thing when we go to places Harry [Deal] likes to talk a lot and we listen to him. But what we do is, I know he'll see this later on, but we always carry this sock with us because we were at the Investiture and Harry [Deal] was —, his private Investiture by the Parade Committee, and Harry [Deal] was talking and somebody said put a sock in it, Harry [Deal], so —, but it's a joke we have and I take it out and he looks at me and pushes me away and keeps talking. It doesn't matter what I say. But I know he's enjoying himself. He's —, it's the highlight of his life and, you know, we're proud of him. He's our man of the year and he's going to have a great day on the 17th. He'll always remember it. It's something that will be etched in his mind. So thank y'all very much. Bye, bye.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Joe [Cetti]. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Chairman Hair asked, does anybody have any comments.

=====

VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. CITIZENS FOR LIBRARY PRESERVATION, JOHN BEARY - 10 MINUTE PRESENTATION.

Chairman Hair said, the first item is Citizens for Library Preservation. On your agenda it says Mr. Beary, but he has relinquished, I believe, his time to Mr. Mackey. Is Mr. Mackey here? In his absence, Mr. Beary, do you want to —. Mr. John Beary said, Mr. Mackey isn't here.

Mr. Richard Riley said, Mr. Mackey is running a little late, but the Citizens Preservation Committee gave me the opportunity to speak in behalf of Mr. Mackey. If I may, I have a handout for each Commissioner. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Riley, you're aware they requested 10 minutes on the program. Mr. Riley said, correct. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Riley said, I'll be very brief. My purpose for being here is, first of all, I'm a member of the Chatham County-Effingham-Liberty Library Board. I'm coming today because I understand that another item will be coming up on your agenda concerning the deletion of 11 positions and the renewing of those 11 positions with four other positions. I'm here to speak against that because I'm concerned about some things that's going on with the Director of the Library and some things that has [sic] occurred. In front of you, you will see a letter that I sent to Mr. Dickerson requesting certain information. I said I was a member of the Finance Committee. In three days Mr. Dickerson responded to my memo of March the 8th. You see the findings is this: Those positions, the savings from those positions in 1998 apparently have been spent on other items, which is number five on the second page of Mr. Dickerson's response. The board of —, the Library Board had no input into this. We had no idea these items were spent and at present, based on what Mr. Dickerson has said to me, we have a \$6,000 to \$8,000 deficit in our operating expenses. Based on what he said that the cost of the 11 positions were, which was \$196,000, during the year of 1998 he overspent by approximately \$81,000 if all of these funds came from salary savings. The purchase of 36 computers for Bull Street was an item that nobody on the board, at least none of the members who were concerned, knew about it. It was just arbitrarily done. The budget has been altered. Due process, or the process that has been prescribed by the charter of our board has not been properly followed. Furthermore, in a memo that he wrote to Mr. Abolt, as you will see as you go down, number one about the 11 vacant positions, they will be deleted. This was on February the 19th of 1999 that this memo was sent. This is the memo, I believe, that came before you at the last Commission meeting. Number two says the County funds allocated for the vacated positions will be used for the four new positions, but what he did not say to you is that all of those funds had been deleted based —, or depleted on what he gave to me on item number five of his memo. That means that you were not given the whole truth and nothing but the truth to make a decision on.

Further, I requested that all transfer items —, as you can see, most of the funds were transferred from certain accounts, 4010, 4030 or 4050 and 4110. I'm not certain at this point what all those accounts are, but I do know one thing. These kinds of decisions divide the community. They were not done in a good spirit. These were items that we worked on as a Finance Committee. They came to you. You did not give us enough money to put in for library materials or new staff members, and Mr. Dickerson on his own accord took the liberty to go around the Board and do what he wanted to do. So I'm telling you that as a Board, when you decide on that today, I'm requesting that you table it because, number one, the Library Resource Manager, we have not had an opportunity to study that as a board, to look at the impact —, the long term impact that it will have on our funding because apparently what he is attempting to do is to wrestle control of the personnel department away from the County, and we need opportunity to study the cost impact that it will have on our budget. So I'm here to speak on behalf of the Citizens Preservation that we take —, that no vote be taken or that a vote against the changing of those positions be made until Mr. Dickerson can explain himself at the next Library Board meeting, which will be on March the 23rd. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Riley. Just for the record, Mr. Riley, that item currently is on the table and unless five Commissioners want to take it off the table, it will stay on the table today, but that will be a decision the Commissioners will make. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, who employs Mr. Dickerson? County Manager Abolt said, the Library Board. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? Commissioner DeLoach asked, do you employ Mr. Dickerson? Mr. Riley said, well, under the charter the Library Board is supposed to employ Mr. Dickerson. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, that answers my question.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, how many Library Board members do y'all have at the present time? Mr. Riley said, I believe there's about 11 or either 13. We have some in Liberty and some here in Chatham. Commissioner Murray asked, out of that how many people on the Library Board have been involved in the decision making process of what's going on with all the branch libraries and also the Bull Street Library and the construction phase? Mr. Riley said, well, as a whole, most of us sit on different committees on the board. Particularly me, I'm on the Finance Committee and the Building Committee. In these situations —, in this situation it was not an issue that was brought before the board. My concern was the board is responsible for submitting the budget to the County Commission, who then gives us the money, and my contention is that any alteration of that budget or any fund should have come back through the board for us to vote on as a whole and not basically allow the Library Director the discretion to change at will or transfer funding. So as far as the Finance Committee, this is nothing that came back to the Finance Committee on these positions. We talked about it during the putting together of this year's budget —. Commissioner Murray said, excuse me. I understand that. That was not really my question. My question was not necessarily about the finances and what was going on with that, but is the overall board

aware of everything that's going on as far as the cutting back of hours at different branches and shifting people from one branch to another during certain hours and what's going on at the main library on Bull Street —? Mr. Riley said, no sir, we're not. Commissioner Murray said, or just a few people on the board and the Director making those decisions? Mr. Riley said, and that appears to be the case. Commissioner Murray said, all right, because I—. Well, I won't get into that right now.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions of Mr. Riley? Commissioner DeLoach said, I've just got one. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want to understand. This policy that's put in place to close these libraries basically are, you know, their idea of thinking about closing libraries, it was basically done without the authorization of the Library Board, is that what you're saying? Mr. Riley said, no sir, I'm not. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, just tell me this: Did the Library Board, and I'm including you in that, did you vote on this program that's developed here? Mr. Riley asked, which program are you talking about? Commissioner DeLoach said, the one on the libraries that were either closed or not closed or whatever, was there a vote taken and all people voted, or —? Mr. Riley said, no sir. Commissioner DeLoach asked, you did not get to vote on those? Mr. Riley said, the proposed library cuts —. Commissioner DeLoach said, not the cuts. I'm talking about the library closing the libraries, the program that was developed by the Library Board, as I understand it, that we got up here —? Mr. Riley asked, are you referring to the strategic plan? Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Did everyone have an opportunity to look at that strategic plan and did everyone have an opportunity to, one, voice their complaints and, two, vote on it? Mr. Riley said, no. I was not on the board at that particular time, but I will —. Let me make mention to you that at this point the strategic plan as it is, we voted at the last meeting to change the strategic plan to reflect the wishes of the community. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is that —? Mr. Riley said, and let me further state that the strategic plan has nothing, absolutely nothing to do with the budget process. The budget process is a yearly operation that we undertake. That is what I'm saying is the spirit of the budget that was in '98 and '99 has not been followed. The strategic plan calls for a \$96 million capital outlay. At this point, we have not built one single building in accordance with the strategic plan. We've been in the renovation building except for the wing on the Bull Street Library. So if the strategic plan as a whole has not been incorporated into any of the votes or plans that we've taken as a board, and that is what we need to be mindful of, the strategic plan does not give the Library Director the discretion to have a loose [inaudible] mentality when dealing with computers, particularly with the political environment that we have going on in this community.

Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Well, that's the issue I was getting to as far as the, you know, political environment we've got going right now, and I want to make sure —, I want to understand that when initially this strategic plan was developed, and this is what we're talking about. I'm not talking about computers nor anything else. When this strategic plan was set up and developed, the Library Board voted on that strategic plan. I don't care whether you were on there then, and I don't know when this took place. I don't have a clue. What I am concerned about is if in fact the Library Board —, because the direction of all comments that are coming are basically that, one, Jack Kaster and Lon Dickerson had done all this and it's all taken place without any authority or anything coming from the Library Board, and I have been to the Library Board meetings and I get a different —, I get a different information when I go the Library Board meetings. In fact, those people did in fact vote on this program, and this is a program that was developed by the Library Board, not by Lon Dickerson, not by Jack Kaster. It was voted on by you, a board member. You weren't there and I understand that and I'm not questioning what, you know, your opinion about it. All I'm saying is this is a board decision that was made. It's not a decision made by those two gentlemen back there, and this is not anything directed by them or otherwise. The folks we've got on there that were appointed there have good common sense, or the ones that I saw there that night that were working there and working on the Library Board were excellent people, and they voted for this. Now if we did it wrong or if they did it wrong, then we need to get it right, okay. But there's not —, I don't want this thing directed in the point that we've got a bunch of intrigue and everybody's sticking everybody and all this because it doesn't do us any good to divide the community so that we end up getting what you want downtown when in fact you split up the entire community to do that. What we need to do is —, and it's already being done, just like you said, they voted to scrap that strategic plan and we're going to get a new plan. That's what I understand based on the last meeting of the Library Board. So I think we need to shift from the divide and conquer approach that we've got going right now and go towards the fact that let's try to figure out what's best for the inner city libraries and move forward, and whatever that might be I'm fine with, but we do have a Library Board, which in fact you are one of them. You also have the opportunity to hire and fire Mr. Lon Dickerson if you're not satisfied. Now that's my understanding based on what you told me. So if you're not satisfied, that's your call. If you've got the votes to do that, that's all it takes. That's your opinion now, and if that's the way the board wants to do it, do it, but don't beat them over the head all the time and use them for a whipping dog because the point is we need to get past all this and move on to —, if we're going to keep them all open, that's fine. We up here want to do what y'all want to do, but y'all are supposed to be telling us what to do because you're on the Library Board, and if y'all will just do that. And I wish everyone of y'all would come to the meeting whenever y'all put a project, you know, come up with a strategic plan. I don't want one or two coming up here so that they get, in fact, the ones that they're directing the Library Board. I want all of you to come up because all of them voted for that. Not necessarily everybody agreed with it, but everyone had an opportunity to vote on it, and I wish we could just get past the rhetoric and go on and figure out what's best for everyone. It's fine with me whatever y'all decide that is, but I wish the Library Board would do it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner DeLoach. Thank you, Mr. Riley. I appreciate you very much being here.

Commissioner Rivers said, I think he has a —, Tim Mackey. Chairman Hair said, well, Mr. Mackey, I don't—. We had 10 minutes scheduled and we've already gone 20 minutes. Mr. Beary was going to give you the 10 minutes, and Mr. Riley took the 10 minutes. So, I mean —. We have the item on the agenda later and if that item is taken off the table and it's voted on, I'll be glad to recognize you to speak at that time. I think that would be fair.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

=====

VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. CRUISE LINES SEEKING NEW PORTS (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, we received —, all the Commissioners received a letter from the Chatham County Ports Planning Committee, John Snedeker is the Chairman. From what he outlines in here and from what else I know about having Savannah as a port for cruise ships, I think we need to forward on this as fast as possible. It seems to me that we have been overlooked a long way in being a port of cruise ships. We are within drive time of Atlanta, Macon, Columbia, Augusta, Greenville, and it just makes sense for these people to board the ships here rather than getting on a plane and flying down to Miami. I think it would be helpful for us. It would be a big boon for our area. These people would come down here and I know a percentage of them would stay and visit in our city and hopefully spend some money here. So I would like us to do what we can to direct staff to move forward with seeing this happen.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Jackel. I served on that [inaudible] Planning Committee and we already had a visit to Orlando with —, the Mayor was invited but he —, Councilman Gephardt went, Dick Knowlton, also Doug Marchand from the Ports Authority and that is under way —. Planning is under way to do this. It is a great idea. It's not a very expensive proposal and it will bring an awful lot of development to our community. So it is a fine idea. Anybody got any questions about that?

Commissioner DeLoach asked, was there something that you wanted to do, Martin [Jackel]? Commissioner Jackel asked, do we need to put that in the form of a motion that we direct staff to come up with a plan for implementing direct commercial.

Chairman Hair said, well, I don't think it's a County proposal totally. I think would be more appropriate for us to cooperate with the other agencies that are already in this planning process, which would be the Port Authority, SEDA. That's the way it's going now, so —, that we'll play full partners with the other people I think would be more appropriate.

Commissioner Jackel asked, can we just recognize that we have a consensus on the Board to support —. Chairman Hair said, to support it. Commissioner Jackel said, moving forward. Chairman Hair said, I think that would be appropriate. That would be certainly appropriate, and if you will —. Maybe we'll go ahead and make an official motion. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, I make a motion that we have the consensus of the Board that we support having Savannah as a port for cruise ships. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Price and Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. And that will be very helpful to us if we continue to plan this process to be able to say the entire Commission supports this effort. I think it will be very, very helpful. Also, one final point I'll make on that, we're also working with the Navy League in Savannah. We have a number of Navy ships that have called here last year as well, so what we're looking at is maybe a facility that will serve both cruise ships and the Navy ships when they come in. Now we have to turn Navy ships away because they have to use the commercial berths, and if the Garden City Terminal has a berth, we use them, but if they don't we turn the ship away. So, we're sort of looking at combined Navy ship/cruise ship kind of terminal. We're already in the process of planning that now.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved that we have a consensus of the Board that we support having Savannah as a port for cruise lines. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

2. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY AND CAT DIRECTOR (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I sent this is one memo but I think it needs to be divided up. We —, I think our evaluation of our County Manager, Mr. Abolt, has been useful for us. I think we've learned in the process of evaluating Mr. Abolt and I think he has responded excellently to our evaluation and it's been a give and take back and forth that's been good for everybody. While reviewing the material for the next evaluation it dawned on me that we ought to do this for the County Attorney and we ought to do this for Scott Lansing, who directs CAT. They're the people that we have —, and I will bring that up during that the CAT Board. I think it would be more appropriate there. The whole CAT Board should be involved in that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I'd like to also ask that we also look at any of the employees that we direct, such as the Clerk, that the Commission directly oversee, that we also give them —.

Commissioner Jackel said, I accept that. I think we ought to. Everybody needs a certain amount of feedback to ensure that you're going in the right direction. I mean these are people who work with us and want to do the right things and we need to give them a pat on the back when they're doing right or if we think they need to be going in another direction, we need to let them know that too. Do we need this in the form of a motion, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Hair said, I don't think you do. I wouldn't think —, we don't need a motion do we? Chairman Hair said, not unless you want one. I mean it's —. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we —. County Attorney Hart said, y'all have the absolute right to review whoever you want to have work for you. Chairman Hair said, I'm not sure —, the CAT Director I think we may have a legal issue there because —, since he's actually not an employee of —. He's actually an employee of —. I'm not sure if we have a legal right to do that with CAT records, but we can look into that. Commissioner Jackel said, I think we could —, well, we need to take that up with the CAT Board, but I think we could evaluate him. Chairman Hair said, well, I think we can evaluate the contract. I don't think we can necessarily evaluate the individual. We need to get a legal ruling on that. I don't know if we could evaluate an individual. We certainly could evaluate the performance of the contract. County Attorney Hart said, that's something I'd like to have some input from counsel for CAT before —. Chairman Hair said, maybe the two of y'all could give us a recommendation on that. Do you accept that, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, certainly. Chairman Hair said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. Board directed County Attorney to get with counsel for CAT and furnish a recommendation to the Board regarding evaluation of the CAT Director.

=====

3. BRIEF REPORT ON YOUTH COMMISSION TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call on Mr. Van Johnson, who is on the advisory board for the Youth Commission, to come forward, and he will give you a brief report, and also Bonita Taylor, Youth Commissioner, will also bring a brief report.

Mr. Van Johnson said, good morning, Dr. Thomas, and gentlemen. On behalf of 23 of Chatham County's best hopes for the future we wanted to thank you. On behalf of their parents, loved ones and teachers, we say thank you. We thank you for an excellent opportunity to further challenge and further develop an entity of your own creation, the Chatham County Youth Commission. We boarded a train for the 600-mile journey to the nation's capital late Sunday night with parents and well wishers packing the Amtrak Station. We learned on the train that our Monday afternoon meeting with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas had been canceled due to the cancellation of all Supreme Court events because of Justice Blackmon's remains lying in state in the rotunda of the Supreme Court. We met with Executive Directors and the executive staff of the National Association of Counties, who informed us that we might be the only active County Youth Commission in the country, and that there is no program presently in operation to the extent of Chatham County's own Summer Bonanza. We ventured to our most emotionally exhaustive event, the United States Holocaust Museum. All of a sudden our youth realized that the atrocities that they had read about in history books and saw on TV were horrifyingly real. They saw the mutilation of innocent people. They saw the uniforms that they wore, they read their names, they saw the shoes that they wore, read their letters, saw their living quarters, and they heard the voices of the survivors. Our youth were touched. Many even shed tears. We all now know that oppression to people anywhere is a threat of oppression to people everywhere. The next day we went to the White House, however, the President was out of the country so we understood. Then it began to snow —, and snow and snow and snow and snow. Many of our youth, being from the South, had never seen this much snow. Snowballs were flying everywhere. On the grounds at the White House, at the Lincoln Memorial, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, at the FBI Headquarters. It is such an exhilarating feeling to be able to throw snow, and our Youth Commissioners became children again. Even some of us older ones, who will remain nameless at this time. You know, like singing holiday carols. We then went to the Hart-Dirkson Senate Office Building, rode the Senate subway to the Capitol where we assembled in the rotunda for a tour. We then met with Senator Max Cleland, who took the time to time to dialogue with our youth. We even met Senator Phil Graham and a senator that one of our youth commented, wasn't he an actor at some point. We then had a meeting with Representative Jack Kingston too, but we couldn't meet with him immediately because he was serving as Speaker of the House, so we went to watch. After Representative Kingston finished presiding over the House of Representatives, he met with us, took pictures with us, and I think he even threw a snowball or two. We then rushed to Union Station because it was time for us to return. Twelve hundred miles and 16 inches of snow later, we are back armed with memories of a lifetime. We would have to especially thank Dr. Thomas for

volunteering to be a part of our experience. We also have to thank our County Manager, Mr. Russ Abolt, for taking an active interest in our Youth Commission and our interim Human Resources Director, Mr. Kaigler, for helping us to make it happen. I personally would like to thank Ms. Debra Allen and Ms. Wanda Meier, who took time away from their families to make the trip, and Ms. Connie Roberts, Ms. Millie German, and Ms. Louise Copeland for serving as control central for these anxious parents while we were away. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Mrs. Beverly Whitehead, who helped us develop this idea in its formative stages. I just have to believe that since Beverly always had a flare for making things special that she didn't arrange for snow to be in Washington, DC, while we were there. But 16 inches? We have Bonita Taylor that's with us and she's going to give a youth's perspective on our trip.

Miss Bonita Taylor said, good morning. We took a trip to Washington, DC. It started on March 7th and we arrived in Washington around 12:30 p.m., on March 8th. We stopped at Union Station, that's where the train let us off, and our first stop was NACo, National Association of Counties headquarters, and we took a tour with Ms. Dottie Byars, which happened to be the most informative part of our trip. We learned that NACo is the only organization in the country that represents all the counties of the U.S., and we also learned that its main purpose is to serve as the voice of all the counties for information that is heard in the White House and in the halls of Congress. Our second stop was the Holocaust Museum, and this was probably the most enjoyable experience. Even though the information wasn't new to most of us, it was still touching and, like Mr. Johnson said, made some of us cry. After that we had dinner and returned to the hotel for the evening. The next day we visited the White House and we met with Max Cleland and Jack Kingston. It was all an interesting trip. The best part probably was snow and along with the Holocaust Museum, and we were [inaudible], which also had been a new experience for a lot of us. Like I said, the best —, the most informative part of the trip was the NACo tour and the most enjoyable part was the Holocaust Museum. I think the trip made our —, made us closer, the Youth Commissioners closer, and I feel that will make our organization stronger to help us in the future. We'd also like to thank Dr. Thomas, who just came back from DC and is going back tomorrow. I'm glad that she thought enough of us to take time out of her busy schedule to go with us on this trip.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, 'mam. Chairman Hair recognized Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I'd just like to add one last thing. We'd like to thank Mr. Johnson, Wanda Meier, Debra Allen, for going on that trip and also for spearheading everything. Everything was just up to par. We would be very proud —, we should be very proud of our young people because we did not have not one problem, not one problem. They followed everything to the tee, and we are so proud and we are thankful to the County Commissioners for allowing our youth to go on this trip and for helping out. You're going to see bigger and better things from these young people. While we were away one of our students, I can't remember her name at this particular moment, but she received notice that she had been accepted —, was it Georgia Tech? At Georgia Tech come Fall of this year, so our young people are doing great things and we want to continue to encourage them, and thank you, Commissioners, for allowing that to happen.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. You have played a major leadership role in this, and it is a wonderful program. Dr. Thomas is being a little bit modest. Yesterday at agenda review she shared with the County Manager and myself that while they were at NACo that the National Association of Counties is very impressed with this program and is considering using it as a model for other counties around the country, and they will be looking upon our operation and that sort of thing, so that is something that is quite an honor. We appreciate your leadership, Dr. Thomas. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.



CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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

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



ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, we've had a request from Commissioner Price and Commissioner Rivers because of —, one in the case of a conflict with one of the persons who're going to appear and the other is that Commissioner Rivers has to leave, so if we could take Individual Items 2 and 3 first and then go back to our regular agenda, I'd entertain a motion to do that. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, Mr. Chairman, could you include 5 and 6 on that also? Chairman Hair asked, the workshop and the golf course? We're talking 2 and 3 on the Individual Items. Commissioner Rivers said, right, and then we go to Tabled Items. I'd like to leave the library tabled. Chairman Hair said, well, that would be up to —, if we don't get a —, if we get a motion to take it off, we'd have to entertain the motion and then —. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Chairman Hair said, that's okay. Commissioner Rivers asked, can I ask that we act on that prior to me leaving. Chairman Hair said, okay, so you want to do 2 and 3 on Individual and 5 and 6 on the consent —? Commissioner Rivers said, right. Chairman Hair said, on the Tabled Items? Commissioner Price said, there's no action needed to leave it on the table. Chairman Hair said, well, that's right unless somebody wants to take them off the table, we'll just have to —. Well, let's wait until we get to that item. The motion's already passed.

(NOTE: Items IX-2, IX-3, VIII-5 and VIII-6, respectively, were taken out of order and were heard at this point on the agenda.)

=====

VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

- * **1. REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE, JUNIOR WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION (CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).** Tabled at meeting of February 19, 1999. County Attorney directed to furnish a legal opinion on how Commissioners can proceed and bring back to Commissioners on next agenda. *See report from County Attorney.*

Chairman Hair said, it was tabled, I need a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, this is under my name and Commissioner Saussy. This is —, what we really had this on the table because we needed a legal opinion and we got the legal opinion saying it was legal now so, Commissioner Saussy, I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Saussy said, okay, I'd like to make a motion that this be given to —, this request for transportation assistance be given —. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Saussy said, as a —. Chairman Hair said, we need a number, Commissioner Saussy, because yesterday in agenda review there were two numbers that Dr. Thomas and the County Manager and I talked about, one was 13-something and one was 25. I need a number. Commissioner Saussy asked, 25? Chairman Hair asked, was it 13? Is that the number? Okay, let's get the number in the motion. What's the number? What is the number, we just need to get the number in the motion.

Ms. Sue Waters said, you are correct. There were two numbers. One was 16 and the other was 25. Chairman Hair said, yes, I knew that was right. Commissioner Saussy said, let's make it 16. Chairman Hair said, this is the 16, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, ten four.

Chairman Hair asked, all right, any questions on that? All those --.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, the motion needs to be made that that money be sent to CAT for purposes of the distribution out of the County. Commissioner Saussy said, that's what I said, as indicated by —. County Attorney Hart said, and that CAT then make an accounting as to the transportation costs. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. County Manager Abolt said, and if I may, sir, these funds will be your contingency, so you'll be drawing down contingency. Chairman Hair said, right. That's correct. All right, we have a motion —.

Commissioner Saussy said, I think this is a very good program and I think it will bring a lot of people into Savannah and I think we will recoup this money.

Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second to that motion? Commissioner Murray said, yes, I seconded it. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve sending \$16,000 from Contingency to Chatham Area Transit Authority (CAT) to help defray the cost of transportation for the Junior World Weightlifting Championship and that CAT then make an accounting to the Count as to the transportation costs. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- * **2. GARDEN CITY ANNEXATION, DEAN FOREST ROAD SOUTH OF 16 (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).** Tabled at meeting of February 19, 1999. County Manager and County Attorney to prepare a resolution regarding annexation of unincorporated area by municipalities, which resolution is to be presented at next meeting for consideration by Commissioners. See resolution for Board action.

Chairman Hair asked, do we want to take it off today, Commissioner DeLoach? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair said, all right, make a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes to take this off the table.

County Manager Abolt said, we have a resolution for you to act on if you choose. We'd have to fax it immediately to the Legislature. In effect, we'd be asking for a change in annexation laws to eliminate determining contiguity by way of right-of-ways [sic] or other public property. Commissioner Murray said, didn't they recess —, I understand they recessed yesterday and won't be back until Monday. County Manager Abolt said, they very well could have. I know they only have five days left, sir.

Chairman Hair said, well, I think we still should pass a resolution. I think that this really addresses a serious problem and it's not just in the west side because Commissioner DeLoach brought it up, but it's the same problem. I was approached by the Airport Director this week and he said that he just saw a request from the City of Pooler to annex up to Pipemaker's Canal but not take Pipemaker's Canal into the annex so they don't have to keep Pipemaker's Canal, and he was very upset about that and I don't blame him. I mean, that's the kind of stuff that we've got to stop and that's what this resolution addresses, and —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make that a motion. Commissioner Saussy said, I second that. Chairman Hair said, all right, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board adopt a resolution urging the Legislative Delegation to seek an amendment to the applicable sections of the Georgia Code so as to require during annexations that "contiguous" boundaries exclude any consideration of rights-of-way of a road (unless owned by the municipality), a creek or river, rights-of-way of a railroad or other public service corporation, lands of some other political subdivision or lands owned by the State of Georgia. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 3. SKATING RINK CONFLICT (COMMISSIONER PRICE).** Staff to investigate and audit non-profit corporation to determine where donations have been applied.

Chairman Hair said, we're not ready for three yet, Ben [Price]. Do you agree? Commissioner Price asked, Pat [Monahan]? Chairman Hair said, Pat [Monahan] says we're not ready.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This action was not removed from the table for consideration by the Board.

=====

- 4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE NAME OF THE TRADE CENTER AND ITS MAIN SPACES.** Tabled at meeting of February 19, 1999. Tabled with direction that all Commissioners submit their suggestions to the County Manager for ultimately being submitted to the Trade Center Authority for negotiation and that a list then be brought back to the Board for approval. *As of writing, no suggestions have been received as to naming separate facilities.*

Chairman Hair said, I don't —, we're not ready for four yet either because we haven't got —, the staff's not got the record —, that's on the names of the Trade Center.

Commissioner Jackel said, let's take a look at the names of the Trade Center. Chairman Hair said, well, only if you can get it off the table. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. I move that we take it off the table. Chairman Hair asked, do you have a second to that motion? Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor of taking it off the table vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Murray said, if we take it off the table all we can do is discuss it and table it again. We don't have —. Chairman Hair said, that's exactly right. We don't have a staff report. Commissioner Jackel asked, oh, we're waiting on the staff report? Chairman Hair said, yes. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Murray said, wait a minute.

County Manager Abolt said, on the Trade Center we're not waiting on a staff report. Y'all left it where if you had suggested —. Chairman Hair said, we would submit names and we didn't do that. County Manager Abolt said, staff has nothing more to do. Chairman Hair said, exactly. That's exactly —. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, we've got five votes. Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Price voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Murray, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion to remove this item from the table failed by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not removed from the table for consideration by the Board.

=====

- * **5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR MINOR STAFF RESTRUCTURING, DELETING ELEVEN (11) POSITIONS TO FUND CREATION OF FOUR (4) NEW POSITIONS.** Tabled at meeting of February 19, 1999. Tabled until Board gets clarification.

Chairman Hair asked is there a motion to take it off the table? Commissioner Murray said, I'm not sure. I guess that's the only way that we can allow —. Commissioner Price said, discussion. Commissioner Murray said, discussion is we do that. Chairman Hair said you cannot discuss this motion unless we get it off the table. So if there's not a motion to take it off the table, it stays on the table?

Commissioner Rivers asked is it worthy discussion? Commissioner Murray said, the only reason I wanted to do it is Mr. Mackey was here and he came in to make some discussion and was not allowed to speak because we had already gone over that time, and I would —. Commissioner Odell said, I think he's waving his head, he'll waive his —. Commissioner Murray said, well, okay, I won't even bring it up then. Commissioner Saussy said, leave it on.

Chairman Hair asked is there a motion to take it off the table? Commissioner Price said, I'm going to try the motion to see if the votes are there. If not —. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second to that motion? The motion fails for lack of a second.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not removed from the table for consideration by the Board.

=====

- * **6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE USE OF NON-MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO FUND PROJECT IMPACT.** Reconsideration requested by Commissioner Saussy on February 19, 1999.

Chairman Hair said, I need a motion to reconsider. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I just —, I'm in favor of this, but I'd just like to make some —, this thing went over so quickly last time. I don't know why it didn't get any input on it, and I wanted to have some. I would like to make a motion to approve the use of the non-matching funds on FEMA to fund Project Impact. I think it's a real good program, and that these funds be used to offset any salaries that are now paid any County employees that may take on this task. That's the motion. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Murray said, I'll second for discussion. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what are we talking about? Commissioner Murray said, now if you —. Commissioner Saussy said, that's what's usually been done in the past, and I'd just like to have it done again. Chairman Hair said, so in other words, it would be a dollar-for-dollar wash. Is that what you're saying? Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Commissioner Price said, we need to vote for reconsideration first though. Chairman Hair said, we've already done that. We did that. It's on the floor. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Chairman Hair said, so it would just be a dollar-for-dollar. In other words, you're saying taken out of general funds, that that money would be taken to offset the salaries. Is that what you're saying? Commissioner Saussy said, it would do —, yes, to offset —. In other words, the task of whoever's given to, it wouldn't be any increase of salary for them or whoever. This is --, usually what we've done in the past was for several other things where we had funding like this.

Chairman Hair said, I can support that motion. The only thing I would suggest, and it might could accomplish the same thing, we could use that, if we didn't offset salaries, we could use that money for other things related to mitigation and it would still keep all salaries the same, but we still would be able to use that money for mitigation purposes. It would be to offset salaries and you wouldn't be able to use that for —. The money was already given us in a federal grant for that purpose. You could accomplish exactly the same thing.

Commissioner Murray asked, this is just a grant for two years, right? A two-year grant. Chairman Hair said, yes, that's correct. That's correct. Commissioner Saussy said, \$30,000 for two years —. Chairman Hair said, that's correct and, see, that way you could use the money for mitigation purposes and not —, and you still accomplish putting in there no salary increases. You've accomplished exactly the same thing, but yet we'd still be able to use that money for the —, for mitigation, which is —, I personally think would be a better motion. I could support either one, I just think it's better —, why leave that money on the table, that's what I'm saying. Commissioner Saussy said, well, we wouldn't be leaving it on the table, it would be, be using it --. Chairman Hair said, well, you'd would be using it, but what I'm saying is that money is already budgeted this year. You could leave, you could use that money for mitigation purposes. Commissioner Murray said, in other words, you'd use \$15,000 a year for mitigation. Chairman Hair said, yes, because that money's already in the budget for the salary, so no salary increase but just —, you see what I'm saying? Just use that money for mitigation purposes. I think it would be —, you're accomplishing exactly what you want to accomplish, Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Murray asked, can we do that?

County Manager Abolt said, you could eliminate salary reimbursement on the plan, but you can do it. Chairman Hair said, yes, exactly. Commissioner Saussy said, correct. County Manager Abolt said, that would be very appropriate. Commissioner Saussy said, that's fine. Chairman Hair asked, that's the motion? That will be better, and that way you can use the money for whatever's, you know, for mitigation and that way you don't do a —, otherwise, you're going to —, in essence, you're going to lose that money. Commissioner Saussy said, okay. Chairman Hair said, okay. Do you make that motion? Commissioner Saussy said, that's fine. Chairman Hair asked, have I got a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Saussy moved to reconsider the vote taken on February 19, 1999, on the motion to approve the use of non-matching funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund Project Impact. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve the use of the non-matching funds from FEMA to fund Project Impact and that the funds set aside to cover a project coordinator (\$15,000 a year for two years) be set aside for mitigation projects. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- * 7. **PURCHASING ITEM N: CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE TRAVEL SERVICES CONTRACT TO PERMIT A SERVICE CHARGE OF \$10 FOR EACH AIRLINE TICKET TRANSACTION; SOURCE: FOUR SEASONS TRAVEL; AMOUNT: \$1,580 PER YEAR; FUNDING: GENERAL FUND/M & O - VARIOUS, SSD - VARIOUS. Reconsideration requested by Commissioner Saussy on February 19, 1999.**

Chairman Hair said, first I need a motion to reconsider. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll move for that. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion will be reconsidered. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, the main reason I brought this up, this is —, I realize this is a contract and it's not a whole lot of money for the next three or four months. It just seems to me when we go into a contract, we need to —, the people need to honor that contract, and I just feel that —, this is my feeling that we don't need to change it.

Mr. George Lynch said, let me say, sir, the contract indicated that in the event that there were a further cut in the commissions paid by the airlines, that they may come before the Board with a request for an adjustment. They are not in violation of their contract. Commissioner Saussy said, oh, I knew that. Mr. Lynch said, and I want to make that point clear. When they did make that proposal, we brought it before y'all, as required by the contract. Clearly, the Board at its pleasure can either approve or not approve.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second, do I have a second? I don't have a second to approve it? Commissioner Saussy said, I'll make a —. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second it. Commissioner DeLoach said, second the tickets, man. Chairman Hair asked, any further discussion? I mean, this is a common practice in the industry. I just think this is —. All right, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Jackel moved to reconsider the following item, which was approved on February 19, 1999: Purchasing Item N: Change Order No. 1 to the travel services contract to permit a service charge of \$10 for each airline tick transaction. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Change Order No. 1 to the travel services contract to permit a service charge of \$10 for each airline ticket transaction; Source: Four Seasons Travel; Amount: \$1,580 per year; Funding: General Fund/M&O - Anderson-Cohen Weightlifting (pending Board approval of contingency transfer). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- * **8. PURCHASING ITEM P: CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE CONTRACT INCREASING THE HOURLY RATE FOR OPERATION OF THE WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER FROM \$38.78 TO \$45 PER HOUR; DEPARTMENT: ANDERSON-COHEN WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER; SOURCE: TEAM SAVANNAH, INC.; AMOUNT: \$20,152.80; FUNDING: GENERAL FUND/M&O - ANDERSON COHEN WEIGHTLIFTING (PENDING BOARD APPROVAL OF CONTINGENCY TRANSFER). Reconsideration requested by Commissioner Saussy on February 19, 1999.**

Chairman Hair said, this was asked for reconsideration by Commissioner Saussy. I need a motion to take it off the table —, to reconsider. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of reconsideration vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the item is reconsidered. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion for approval. Commissioner Saussy said, okay —. Chairman Hair said, let's get a second. We have a motion, do I have a second? And then I'll recognize Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Murray said, I'll second it. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a second.

Commissioner Saussy said, the only thing I want —, I think the Team Savannah is doing a great job in running things over there and they have had a considerable increase in the amount of people that are visiting down there and doing things, but this is a 16% increase and I don't know whether that much increase is warranted. Commissioner Jackel said, he's still the lowest bidder by far. Commissioner Saussy said, this is not up for bid. Chairman Hair said, this is not a bid. It's a change order.

Mr. Lynch said, yes, sir. We have had approximately a threefold increase in the number of people that they are handling. The rate that was initially established was established over three years ago. They had coped, I think, very, very effectively

through a variety of strategies in coping this with very significant increase in workload. In negotiations with Team Savannah, staff reaction was that the increase indeed is warranted. Can I add more? I don't want to get verbose, but —. Chairman Hair said, no, that's fine. You're verbose enough, that's fine. Mr. Lynch said, thanks, sir.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, the only comment I'd like to make is it's probably one of the heaviest used facilities we have that we built with sales tax money in the recreational field. It is also probably the most diverse group of people using that facility than any other facility we have in the County. And I just commend them for what they're doing out there. The other part of this is the equipment is not ours. They own their own equipment and everybody's allowed to use that equipment. And to be honest with you, I don't know how they do it the way they do it. I'd rather not see any hours cut back or anything else.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Commissioner DeLoach said, hold it for another three years at that and you'll be all right.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to reconsider the following item, which was approved on February 19, 1999. Purchasing Item P: Change Order No. 1 to the contract increasing the hourly rate for operation of the Weightlifting Center from \$38.78 to \$45.00 per hour. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Change Order No. 1 to the contract increasing the hourly rate for operation of the Weightlifting Center from \$38.78 to \$45.00 per hour, Department: Anderson-Cohen Weightlifting Center; Source: Team Savannah, Inc.; Amount \$20,152.80; Funding: General Fund/ M&O - Anderson-Cohen Weightlifting Center (pending Board approval of contingency transfer). Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: GENERAL FUND M & O CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$4,780 FOR SOUTHCHASE 1999 ANNUAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO PROPERTY OWNERS; A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$9,210 FOR AN INCREASE IN COASTAL GEORGIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER DUES; CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND CNT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$22,290 FOR UNDERCOVER AUDIO AND VISUAL EQUIPMENT; AND POLICE CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$46,780 FOR TWO SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES.**

Commissioner Thomas said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Jackel said, let's not run through this so quickly here. Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Price said, so ahead, Martin [Jackel]. Chairman Hair said, go ahead.

Commissioner Jackel said, in a little over two years that I've been up here virtually every agenda has something on it for Police. We never see anything on the budget for the Juvenile Court or Superior Court or Maintenance Department, whatever, but I think if we went back and tracked this, it's —, there's a special radio, there's another radio, there's a third radio, there's a special piece of equipment, whatever. I understand that this time it's coming out of contingency, but there's a pattern here that is not meeting our usual budgetary requirements of making oral presentations and putting these things forward. Now somewhere we've got to draw the line on these things. I mean, I understand it's essential work, but we do have a process and we keep coming back. There was something on the previous budget —, previous agenda that we gave funds and here we are again. I'm not against our getting the equipment these people need to do their job, I just wonder why the process that we normally have for approving these things, we're not doing it that way.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Jackel was kind enough to ask that question of me yesterday and I am prepared to respond. You must realize that I —, well, not I personally —, I have been very stingy with all departments as far as equipment replacement or new acquisition. If you look at the budget submittal and you look at the bottom of each departmental page for equipment, there's an R or an A designation. The R means replacement, the A means new or addition. In this year as in past years there's been very little R's and certainly no A's. In the case of the two departments Commissioner Jackel referenced that are in the report, they are eligible, like the Sheriff's Department and sometimes the District Attorney's office, I believe, for confiscated funds. They were not given the opportunity, as were other departments also not given the opportunity, to have General Fund money to pay for that equipment. They will in certain areas where they have confiscated monies and where the expenditure is eligible come back and, in effect, still acquire the same equipment. That's the reason why it is. I also confided in Commissioner Jackel and I'll also confide in you all that next week —, next meeting Mr. Danny DeLoach of Superior Court has come in. They've had two copy machines that have crashed. We're going to ask you to transfer \$16,000 out of M&O to deal with it, and the commonality is that we are not systematically replacing equipment or, in the case of law enforcement, we are not upgrading our equipment as is necessary from the General Fund. We have relied in the main on confiscated dollars, which can be used for this. Chairman Hair said, okay —.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I would like us to keep some sort of track of this and see where we go in the future months. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, are we going to have something —, I hope we don't have something on every agenda. If you would just give me a make —, a chance to make one kind of a side comment. We also have been having a great many copiers, and I heard what you're saying that we're not replacing and then —. As I go around the courthouse and the other things, too often I think I see these fancy copiers sitting up there and someone's making one or two copies is all they're making. We might come out better purchasing small ones that we could keep adjacent to the big ones so when we just needed to make one or two copies we do that and not put the —. It may not make any sense to do that, but it's something we might want to look at.

The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, okay, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following: General Fund M & O Contingency transfer of \$4,780 for SouthChase 1999 Annual Special Assessment to Property Owners; a Special Service District Contingency transfer of \$9,210 for an increase in Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center dues; Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund CNT Contingency transfer of \$22,290 for undercover audio and visual equipment; and Police Contingency transfer of \$46,780 for two special purpose vehicles. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

2. PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF A. G. EDWARDS ON OPTIONS TO ADDRESS \$4.3 MILLION IN EXCESS FUNDS 1993-1998 SPLOST.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, if I may with the permission of the Board, as Mr. Layton and Ms. McNabb come forward here, I would like to introduce for the benefit of the media and those who may wish to testify on this that there be no confusion. I realize the Board has received certain letters asking for possible access to this money. We want them to understand that this is a function of a sales tax that was collected from 1993 through the first of October of 1998. State law says that when you collect excess beyond in effect what your ballot authorized you during that final quarter of the collection period, it might be used for indebtedness. That's what the testimony we brought for you today and the advise of our financial consultants.

Mr. Dick Layton said, thank you, Russ [Abolt]. Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, I'm Dick Layton. I think at least some of you may have seen me before. I am the Regional Manager for A. G. Edwards Finance in the Southeast. We have served as financial advisor to the County for a number of years and we've been asked by the County staff to at least give our reading on what legally the County may do with the excess collections of SPLOST proceeds and what the implications of that is. I have with me Dianne McNabb, who is a Managing Director and who does quite a bit of the work with David [Persaud] and Russ [Abolt] and other County staff, and who I think has prepared a letter most of you should have received a copy of, and she's here to address that. I'm going to have to excuse myself. I've got a plane to catch and a funeral to attend this afternoon so I will be leaving, but Dianne [McNabb] —, I have reviewed everything she's done. We stand a hundred percent behind her recommendations. Again, it's a policy matter before the Board as to what to do with your money. Our job basically is to advise and make recommendations and I think Dianne [McNabb] is prepared to do that and answer any questions you may have about it. Again, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, that I've got to leave.

Ms. Dianne McNabb said, thank you. I'm sure all of you have read the letter that we have prepared and submitted to the staff a couple of weeks ago. I'll quickly go over the three alternatives that we presented. Basically the SPLOST proceeds can only be used to pay debt service. So you basically have three alternatives as to how you use that for debt service. The first alternative would be to use it for current year debt service. You've got about \$5.9 million in principal and interest that's due this year. You would simply use that instead of the tax dollars that have currently been set aside for that. The other alternative would be to prepay some outstanding bonds that are expected to become due in the future, and as we set forth in our report, there are none of the —, none of your bonds are subject to prepayment at this time. The third alternative would be to invest that money in order to basically prepay bonds in the future when they can be prepaid. And when I did the financial analysis on that, it's not economical for the County to undertake that because the bonds are outstanding at higher rates than you would be able to invest that money, so you would be incurring negative arbitrage. Additionally, in order to invest that money State law restricts how you can invest that money so that you would earn even less than what you would ordinarily earn on existing County funds, which I think makes it an even better case for using it for current year debt service to free up that money. You could take that freed-up money and invest it at higher rates than you could if you were to set that money aside. So basically our recommendation would be that you use those SPLOST funds in accordance with State law and pay a significant portion of your current year debt service. Now in looking at these alternatives, we also reviewed the County's current financial position, and as your financial advisor we thought it would be remiss if we didn't point up certain things that we noticed. The County's general fund balance has declined since the beginning of 1994 from slightly over \$15 million to approximately \$4 million at the end of 1997, and at the end of 1997 the unreserved or uncommitted portion of that fund balance was only \$2.25 million. Based on preliminary unaudited numbers, and my understanding is the audit —, the final audited numbers should be available in about a month, but based on those preliminary unaudited numbers, your unrestricted, unreserved fund balance is probably going to be less than a million dollars. That amounts to less than five days operating expenditures for the County. Based on the rating agencies' general criteria, and again it's general criteria by the rating agencies, they say they would like to see a fund balance equal to one to two months of expenditures. Based on that and your unaudited 1998 figures, your fund balance based on their criteria should range from \$6.8 million to \$13.7 million. And again, we're looking at right now an unaudited fund balance of less than a million. I think another thing that you might want to take in —, given this negative trend and given the very small, less than five days operating margin that you've got, I think the rating agencies, who do a periodic review, are going to be very troubled by that. Now —.

Commissioner Jackel said, why is that? Ms. McNabb said, well, it's just —, I think you can equate it to your own personal bank account. Commissioner Jackel said, I can't equate it to my own personal bank account, and here's why, because I may not earn any money next month. The tax money is going to come in each month at the County. We're not, I mean, we're not Oglethorpe Mall and sales might be slow or whatever. I mean, we know the money's going to be there, so I don't —, it's not analogous to me, my personal finances or a business to what the County is because we're not depending on those fluctuations of good sales years and bad sales years. Ms. McNabb said, the significance here is that we're talking about figures as of December 31st of each year, which is when the County is theoretically flush with tax dollars. That's when your funds will be at their very highest. You're not going to be able to levy the bulk of your revenues again until later Summer or early Fall, so if your fund balance is less than a million dollars on December 31st, that's basically —, you're going to have to operate on non-property tax dollars until that next property tax cycle comes around whereas if we were talking about fund balance as of June 30th, for example, as some governmental year ends, I think a lower fund balance would not be as significant because they're just two months away from receiving —, beginning to receive the bulk of their revenues.

Commissioner Price said, explain the effect on the credit too, Dianne [McNabb], if possible, in this situation. Ms. McNabb said, well, I think that given the negative five-year trend and given the —, if the fund balance does come in at that low amount, I think that it's very likely that the credit rating agencies may lower the credit rating on the County's bonds. The County currently has very high credit ratings in the double A category. There are very few governments in the State of Georgia that have that good a credit rating.

Commissioner Jackel asked, if they —? Chairman Hair said, wait a minute. Commissioner DeLoach. Let's go in order please. Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I think that —, something I think we need to get in front of the press as they write this. This is a policy decision that was started not this time and it's been continued on with Billy [Hail] and the rest of us up here. It's a policy that we can either have tax dollars in the bank or we can have them back to the citizens. We have chosen, the group before and this group here, has chosen to keep a low fund balance and turn money back to the citizens. Now that's a policy decision. Whether it affects the bond rating, that's an issue that we need to take up, but that is a policy, one that Bob McCorkle and that group, they created and Joe Murray Rivers was on the Board then. They had a large fund balance. That was an issue that we decided we did not need to be carrying around a bunch of cash that belonged to somebody else so it was turned back to the citizens a number of times when we reduced the millage. So I really feel like it's a policy thing. If somebody will give me a middle ground to work in, I'll work in, but I really think this is just a policy decision that maybe we differ from our financial —, the people who are recommending us to set aside \$10 million or \$12 million.

Ms. McNabb said, and that's exactly right. It's a matter of it's strictly a policy decision. It's just my responsibility to alert you to what I think could potentially happen. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, but let's say we had this question of our bond rating. What is the —, you know, say we are a triple A and top of the line and all that other stuff, and then you come in there and we don't carry a lot of money and they know this five-year slip is based on a policy, do they take into account the fact that this is a policy of the government based on your approach, or do they just say the Oglethorpe Mall, just like you

were using the analysis, they didn't have so many dollars in the bank, they reduce them. Do they take that into consideration the fact that —? Ms. McNabb said, they do take that into consideration whatever the policy is and —.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, is your pay performance in the past also considered? Ms. McNabb asked, pardon? Commissioner DeLoach asked, is your pay performance in the past also considered? Commissioner Price said, payment of the debt service. Commissioner DeLoach asked, payment of debt service? All of that's tied to it too. Ms. McNabb said, that is —, you're paying —, what your credit rating is technically is the likelihood that you will be able to pay principal and interest in a timely manner and to the extent that you have very little cash reserves, then that limits your ability to pay principal and interest in a timely manner. You have certain debt service payments that are due on January 1st of each year, and so what they would look at is, well, what if something happened, what if the Tax Commissioner didn't get bills out on time? Now certainly that is less likely to happen here in Chatham —. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, Danny Powers wouldn't do that. Ms. McNabb said, well, it does occur in other governments, and so the way that the rating agencies would look at it, they look at what's the possibility, what could go wrong, what could happen, and again with less than a million dollars, you're talking about five days worth of operating expenditures. The other thing that concerns —, that I just want to bring up is we're talking about December 31st of '99 rolling around and Y2K, and I don't —, I'm not an alarmist about Y2K, but I also don't want to be sitting on December 31st, 1999, with not having any cash.

Commissioner Odell said, before you change, have we —. Had you finished? Commissioner DeLoach said, not really. I'm just letting her finish her comment. Go ahead.

Ms. McNabb said, again, I felt like I just wanted to let you know what I felt like the rating agencies very well may likely do. I do think that whatever your policy is —, the question would be how low are you going to let the fund balance get, and that's what we would have to tell the rating agencies: This is the Commission's policy, the fund balance will get no lower than X-amount, and then they will be —, they will look at that policy and they will say, okay, based on their review, how does that impact your ability to pay your debt service in a timely manner.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, how is our debt —, based on the amount of monies that are generated, how is our debt as a County? Ms. McNabb said, you're a very low debt level. Commissioner DeLoach said, very low. Okay, so if we had a very low debt level, we have a great payment program. I mean, we pay our bills pretty good, and we've got a policy set aside that we're not going to —, we're not going to hold the money in the bank, we're going to give it back to the citizens, and a rating agency would look at that and they would say, hey, those guys haven't got any sense over there, they're reducing the debt and we're going to go broke. I don't see that. I think it's a policy issue and I'm concerned that I don't want this going in the paper with the idea that we're running the County broke. Ms. McNabb said, I don't —. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're not running the County broke and we're not putting the County in a perilous situation because we decided we wanted to spend all the money we had. I want them to know that this is a policy that not only our group but the group before us said we're not going to hold the citizens' money, and therefore we're at a million dollars. That's what I want —, I want that information out and that's what I want to make sure everybody understands. This is not we're spending every bit of the money that's in the till and we aren't —, and we're irresponsible. I want them to know this is a policy that we've got that was —, the preceding group also had, and this is the direction we're going. That's all I'm trying to do here. Ms. McNabb said, absolutely, and the choice to operate without a rainy day fund is —. Commissioner DeLoach said, is a call. Ms. McNabb said, strictly a policy matter.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell then Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Odell said, Eddie [DeLoach] has answered —, asked most of my questions. My concerns are that the recommendation is that we should have between \$8 million and \$13 million into the fund, is that true? Ms. McNabb said, I'm telling —, that wasn't my recommendation. I'm giving you what the rating agency guidelines are. Commissioner Odell said, I understand. The guidelines. Ms. McNabb said, their guidelines would be between \$6.8 and \$13.7 million. Commissioner Odell said, and the reason for that is if there is a major unplanned activity, then there would be sufficient funds theoretically to cover that major, unplanned activity and still meet your debt obligations. Is that true? Ms. McNabb said, uh huh. Commissioner Odell said, we had, because as Eddie [DeLoach] has indicated, made a decision that we would have a low fund balance of even a million dollars or thereabout. The theory in my question, or the foundation for my question is, if we have that unplanned, unscheduled catastrophic event and we have to go into the market for funds in that we have less than a week, my question is does that substantially impact the rating we would receive those funds on? It would? Commissioner Price said, that's the bottom line. Commissioner Odell said, right, and is that not in fact a cost that would ultimately be borne by the taxpayers that we had claimed to save money for? Ms. McNabb said, oh, yes. If your —, the lower your bonds are rated, the higher the issue cost will be on any debt. Commissioner Odell said, so in essence the impact is that by having a low fund balance potentially it could cost more than just collecting overtime and having to set aside in the recommended levels from \$6.2 to \$13 million, it could cost you more money or actually cost the citizens more money. That's what I understood you to say. Is that in fact true? Ms. McNabb said, if and when you issue new debt. Commissioner Odell said, right. Ms. McNabb said, okay. It's not going to impact your existing debt. Your existing debt has a fixed interest rate. It would be on new debt. Commissioner Odell said, and debt ratio was this County is in an excellent position —. Ms. McNabb said, you have very low debt. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Ms. McNabb said, I think, and it's being repaid in a very conservative manner as far as —, and when I say conservative, quickly, within the range of what the rating agencies would want to see. I don't think that it's unreasonable for the County to consider taking long-lived assets and using long-term financing to pay for those long-lived assets, and then at that point then you're spreading

the costs of those assets over the period and over the tax periods in which they're being utilized, and with your good credit rating at this point in time and your low, low debt, you have less than —, except after you take into consideration, for example, the Weatherwood situation where we had money set aside for that and then the Hospital Authority, which is being paid by the hospital, if you pull that out of your debt, your debt's really less than \$50 million, and for a county the size of Chatham, that's really very low.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, did you get that? Commissioner Saussy said, make sure that's reported.

Ms. McNabb said, and that's very, very low and very positive. But again I think the rating agencies —, and again I'm just —, I'm not trying to influence your policy, I'm just trying to share with you what I think the rating agencies are going to look at.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Murray said, when you first start you mentioned by law this money can only be used on certain things. Ms. McNabb said, debt service. Commissioner Murray said, debt service and debt service only. The reason I'm asking that question, I'm sure I'm not the only Commissioner up here that's got many phone calls of everybody wanting \$30,000 here, \$50,000 there, \$2 million here. I just want it to be made plain that we can —, by law we can only use this money for debt service. Ms. McNabb said, that's right. That's right, but my understanding is that you've already levied the tax though to pay this year's debt service, so that if you use \$4.3 million to pay this year's debt service, then you have \$4.3 million in current year taxes that have been freed up. County Manager Abolt said, that's correct.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Jackel said, and that's exactly the point I want to address. I appreciate your warning in there that we should not use that \$4.3 million that's freed up for recurring expenses, that it should just be for non-recurring. That's part of your recommendation. Ms. McNabb said, that's right. Commissioner Jackel said, which I think is an essential part because I think we can get in a lot of trouble if we use it for recurring expenses and building it in the budget. It should not be built into the budget that way, but for non-recurring.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, let me make sure I understand. Let me put it this way. If we take this debt —, take this \$4.3 million and we paid off the debt service now, that frees up the other. Now we still need a larger amount in the bank so to speak to cover any bonding or anything like that. We're pretty tight during the first part of the year, but at the end of the year we usually have, if I'm not mistaken, a pretty good —, a lot of money coming in. So why couldn't we hold off on doing things until the end of the year with most of this money. I know some of it we need right away, heating and air conditioning. Is that something that would help us in the bonding issue? Ms. McNabb said, from the rating agency standpoint I think that what their question would be is, what do you intend to do with it. Okay, so that it's there and we can represent to them it's there this year, but they're going to go a step further and they're going to say, okay, so what's going to happen to this? If the policy is that we're going to spend down to a million dollars in fund balance, then they're going to assume that that money will be spent.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, Russ [Abolt] is raising his hand because he knows I'm getting ready to ask him some questions. County Manager Abolt said, thank you. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, he looks depressed too. Commissioner Price said, you know, I'll go ahead and recognize him —, I'll go ahead and recognize the County Manager reserving my question. County Manager Abolt said, please go ahead. Commissioner Price said, you know, Russ [Abolt], you're the real steward of all this, you're the Manager. You're the guy that looks over this and makes sure, and what is your feeling about the situation? I mean, you and I have had discussions about this over the years, but —?

County Manager Abolt said, ladies and gentlemen, there's no question as to the wisdom of the advise you have, and we've had this same conversation. I've been here 11 years, I've certainly participated and Commissioner Rivers and others have led the charge even before I got here. The issue is reserve, but it is a policy issue, and there's nothing wrong with a policy that's clearly explained. I was party to the discussion of the previous County Commissions when you in front of everybody said the intent is to lower the cost of government in every way we can. In several cases that cost was artificially low. For example, the previous Commission took on the Counter Narcotics Team, the School Resource Officers. All that was done absent any additional levying of tax. So what has happened over the years, we've given what I refer to as top shelf service at bottom shelf cost and done clearly as a policy realizing all reserve will be exhausted. Now the issue on fund balance, I would not recommend to you and I have not for a number of years that we go out in the market because we'll get bloodied quickly. We understand that, and I must tell you in our past issues of some years ago, both Ms. McNabb and Mr. Layton have been excellent in representing us to both Standard & Poor's and to Moody's as to the wisdom of what this Board has done. Now the issue on fund balance, let me explore with you a minute. Let's assume for the sake we had a million dollars or \$5 million in fund balance. If that was the policy of this Board, you still have the option in the months ahead if there is a crisis. For example, and I don't want to [inaudible] panic, but if there is that problem that we feel is going to happen with

the HVAC system, you're going to turn to me and say, Mr. Manager, where do we get \$2 million right now. I will say, you've got in fund balance this amount of money, and that will be the logical place.

Commissioner Price asked, what, Diane [McNabb], other type of mechanisms exist for financing where we wouldn't necessarily have to go out into the market for bonds? I mean, for instance, the HVAC system. Is there any type of lease purchase arrangement on something like that where it's not necessarily something that you go out and have to go into the market with? Ms. McNabb said, now I've bid out a lot of lease purchase transactions for the County and HVAC system is something that could in fact be put under a capital lease and paid off over approximately a 10-year period most likely. So there are capital lease alternatives, but I should point out that just because we don't go into the —, don't do a public offering —. Commissioner Price said, right. Ms. McNabb said, doesn't mean that the —, the rating agencies are responsible for reviewing you periodically. Commissioner Price asked, well, what would be —. Ms. McNabb said, and they —, go ahead. Commissioner Price asked, the most cost efficient and what would be the right move to make if we wanted to try and reserve some of this money, but by the same token, to go ahead and do some of these capital projects that we need to do in Chatham County? Ms. McNabb said, well, you can take this money and you can invest this fund balance at a relatively high rate, probably I guess in the local government investment for close to five percent, and that's just current money. That's not even —, that's like a money market fund. You can —, it's totally, practically you can get it out the next day. So you can invest that money at a relatively high interest rate. You could go into the market, issue bonds to be repaid over, say, a 20-year period for the capital project that you're interested in doing, and issue those bonds at less than five percent. So in the long run, it should effectively end up costing the taxpayers less because you're going to be able to earn more on that money invested than you're going to pay when you borrow in the public market. Commissioner Price said, municipal rates have gotten that low. Ms. McNabb said, municipal rates —, they're higher now than they were —. Commissioner Price said, six —. Ms. McNabb said, three months ago. Yes, six months ago, but they're still extremely low. The issue is, you can always invest in taxable obligations because you're a tax-exempt entity and your debt —, but you can borrow at tax-exempt rates, so when you borrow money and invest what other money you have, you have a built-in spread that automatically makes money for the County, and I think that that's the way many of the counties that I work with choose to look at their fund balance versus using bonds as a mechanism to pay the —. Commissioner Price said, if we put a package of projects together and did it —, and did it often and went out to do that, in your opinion how would the rating agencies treat us? Would they keep and maintain our AA rating or would they, because of our past spending policy, would we be subject to a downgrade from there? Ms. McNabb said, you know, I can't absolutely predict what the rating agencies would do, and even if we had a rating analyst standing up there they would say, well, I'm just one member of the committee, so we can't absolutely tell you what would happen. Commissioner Price asked, if they saw that we were going to take this money and pay down current year debt and use that currently as the contingency fund that we need to have and turn around and go out and issue 5, 10, 15 million, whatever it is that we need to do to get these projects —. Ms. McNabb said, I think they would be far less likely to downgrade you. Commissioner Price said, okay, and we would still be doing it at a dollar for dollar if it's 4.3 versus 4.3, we'd be doing it at a cheaper —. Ms. McNabb said, yes. Commissioner Price said, rate doing it that way than just going out and spending it. Ms. McNabb said, in investing the money.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, to follow up on what Ben [Price] was talking about, if we took the —, if we took the money that does come available and put it in a restricted fund balance for the use of "the air conditioning unit," per se, and we could —, what could we do with it then? County Manager Abolt said, there's a term that you used that will raise a flag in New York. It's restricted. To them a restriction does not allow them to count it for the good side of their account. So —, we have a great deal of restricted contingencies in any one year. That's why in the letter to you the advise has been very specific to use the term unrestricted. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, the only —, just let me just say what I think about unrestricted fund balance. We have a tendency to use all the unrestricted fund balance that there's left. I mean, like Frank [Murray] said, you know, you get calls every day with money that —, \$10,000 or \$20,000 that, you know, that it's going to make my life perfect. You know, we're up here and we vote on it, but so I have a concern to leave something unrestricted. I like to tie it up and stick it somewhere to where I know that I've got the money but if I don't need it right now and it's long term, we'll better off with it. Now how do I get there and not get everybody excited in New York? Ms. McNabb said, if you had a policy —, if you had a policy, and I do have to work with counties that have this policy, of maintaining a —, an unreserved but designated fund balance equal to one month's expenditures, so it's unreserved yet it's designated, and it's designated by policy so that it's theoretically there not to be touched but remain a rainy day fund. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is that a —?

Chairman Hair said, I really think if you listen to everything that's been said, particularly from the advisers, first of all we don't have 4.3 because even if we —, because we've already obligated, what, 700,000 of that. County Manager Abolt said, you have about 3½ million that's discretionary. Chairman Hair said, and that does not include a major item that's on the agenda next that hopefully we're going to fund. So if we take out those numbers, we're probably looking at about 2.9 million in terms of cash, and I just think that it would be foolish for us to pay cash for something that we could amortize over a 10-year period. I think it would be foolish, for example, to take two million of that and put —, buy a HVAC system for the courthouse when we can amortize that over 10 years and still keep that money in reserve for that rainy day, and I think if we take that 2.9 million and keep —, make —, put that in our reserve account and then deal with the capital outlay at the courthouse, that \$2 million on a 10-year lease, I think that's the best of both worlds. That way we allay some of the fears of the financial advisers by getting that fund balance back up and we also deal with the capital needs of the courthouse, which is a severe need. There's no question about that.

Commissioner DeLoach said, we also are putting a debt on the next group of Commissioners or the next cycle. You're adding a debt that you've got to pay every month, boomp, boomp, boomp, boomp. And, I mean —, I mean, I don't like to pay —, I don't like paying bills [inaudible], so how do you deal —? Chairman Hair said, well, her answer to Ben's [Price] question was that it was cheaper if we did it that way, than if we —, if you take the cost of money, Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not talking about the cost of money. I'm not —, I mean, I understand it's even, but even if it's even and I pay the bill, somebody doesn't have to pay it later. I mean, I don't have to come up here and Russ [Abolt] say, oh, by the way, you've got this air conditioning bill that's going to be \$500,000 this year, and everybody says, well, we're not going to raise the millage. Well, where are you going to get the 500,000? Well, I don't know. Isn't that a debt —? Chairman Hair said, well, if you go back to your point earlier though about policies, about drawing the fund balance down —. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair said, well, we've had a policy of funding capital improvements over lease purchase agreements ever since I've been on the Board and probably a long time before that. I mean, we even financed the Sheriff's radios over a five-year period, so we already have a policy in place of taking large capital expenditures and leasing purchasing, so if we didn't do that, then we would be going away from that policy, so I think we'd be consistent with both policies if we took the 2.9 million and put it in reserve and take the capital improvement and fund that over a 10-year lease purchase. I mean, I think that's —. Commissioner DeLoach said, let me ask you —, let me ask you this, and what I'm trying to get to. It's like having 25 credit cards, you know. One of them is okay and we all get along fine with them and we pay our monthly payment, and then all of a sudden we get another one, and then you just get two or three of them and, by God, all of a sudden you can't pay. Oh, Lord, what am I going to do? My problem is, what is the point or where is the point that we've got enough of this lease purchase program in place to where we're going to overloading the horses. Commissioner Price asked, where's the balance? Commissioner DeLoach asked, where's the balance. That's what I —, I mean, I just need to understand where's the balance. I don't have a problem with the policy. I understand it and it's an excellent approach, but at some point in time you get to the point that you're overloading your monthly cash flow and you can't make —, you can't carry the wagon.

Chairman Hair said, I understand that, Commissioner DeLoach, but you've also —, Ms. McNabb has also said that we have an extremely low debt so we aren't there yet. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm not questioning our debt, but my point is, I mean, just because you've got low debt, that doesn't consider the cash flow. The cash flow is one thing, debt is another, and we've got to know, yes, you've got it going here, and there's some level in there and those folks know it. I don't have a clue about it.

Chairman Hair said, if we have no further major questions, why don't we just get a motion on the floor and let's —. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible] and answer my question.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, that question, I don't think, is properly asked to Diane [McNabb]. Let me try to answer from the perspective of the real world as far as this Commission. Our lease purchases are used to kind of like putting it on the gold card and defer it to next year. For example, as opposed to a first dollar purchase of \$900,000 worth of computers to solve Y2K, we lease purchase them. We put it forward to 2000. The Public Works Department needed some —, a big machine to grind up debris because we have storms, \$250,000. We lease purchased a helicopter. The problem is not of the financial advisor, the problem is come the Summer of the year when you all get your digest figures and you make the decisions as to millage based on the current year, when in effect by deferring obligations saying, well, we'll just continue the current level of expenditure for the next fiscal year, you are assuming on-going fixed costs lease payments, and that's the answer to your question.

Chairman Hair asked, okay, would anybody like to make a motion? I'll entertain —. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I need —, I want to make a motion to restrict and do it based on her recommendation as far as being able to —. Whoa, go back up. I don't want to say restrict, okay. Commissioner Price said, designated. Commissioner DeLoach said, wrong word, okay. Wrong word. Don't get excited. What she recommends about putting it in the bank and then borrowing against it or issuing bonds, based on that approach. Chairman Hair said, well, that's what I suggested, Commissioner Jackel and I suggested. Commissioner DeLoach said, I love it. You suggest it, but you can't make the motion. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. I can't —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I will help you make a motion, just tell me how to say it. Chairman Hair said, this certainly has been a turn of events. Let the record show this, Madam Clerk. I would suggest that we take, and I'm going to use 2.9 because I'm assuming that we're going to spend some money on the next item to get the pay right.

County Manager Abolt said, well, if I may, Mr. Chairman, on that because I want to help everybody out at this point. It's very important if you would turn to page 16. This starts out with the letter from Mr. Persaud and Ms. McNabb, but 16 shows you as best staff can identify certain obligations, two of which would be recurring. Commissioner Price asked, what does it relate to, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, okay, page 16 there's a column of information and some numbers. You'll see the 4.3 million at the top. Below that now and we've been listing over the many weeks, we know for sure on number one, and this is a recurring expenditure, but you did make certain financial decisions. You adopted a 1999 spending plan that it would allow certain departments to be out of balance unless some action were taken. For example, you had a very, to the point testimony from Judge Beam of Juvenile Court and there were some other cuts that were not made in the 1999 operating plan with the understanding we'd make it up out of the 4.3 million. That totals \$274,030. That is, to use the current term, it is a reoccurring expense. To replenish contingency, certainly we either have to address the contingency in this allocation or we must look towards our fund balance that comes out of the 1998 audit. Then we have the issues that the Chairman has referred to, and this is only an estimate based on a staff estimate that you did make a

motion a number of weeks ago trying to achieve parity with a modular pay plan. It was effect —, in the Special Service District Police Department, and you wanted it to apply to the Sheriff's operation. Our best estimate, and it will be the next item, as the Chairman refers to, that's \$475,000. If you add those two figures together and then, that's about \$800,000, subtract from the 4.3, you would in effect have \$3.5 million that would be eligible for action under the motion now contemplated.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chair. Chairman Hair said, yes, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers asked, can I caution everybody to —, as you look over these items one and three, that these are recurring expenses that we are only going to take care of out of this money this year. So we've got to look ahead and see as our decision —, we make our decision here, that this budget is not in balance. We're putting it in balance, but then in the 19 —, in the 2000 budget, we're going to be out of kilter again.

Chairman Hair said, I think that's a good point, Commissioner Rivers, but on number three, that number is going to go to 207 as a recurring figure. That won't be 475 or however —, whatever it is now. It will go back, because that's just a catch-up number. It will go back to a recurring figure of 207. The recurring number would be 207. Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask this question. County Manager Abolt said, certainly, now this 475 that applies, even if it drops down to 270 [sic], do we have —. Chairman Hair said, 207. Commissioner Rivers asked, do we have another increment to put here to make that difference or to make it equal with what the Police Department is going to get? County Manager Abolt said, well, I believe you had —, I don't want to refer to the Sheriff, but I believe you're going to have increments that will go in compensation for employees in all departments in the year 2000. So, I mean, I think it's fair to answer that question in context. It's just two departments.

Chairman Hair said, well, I think, we're actually getting two items mixed up here because that item of 475 is the staff's recommendation. I think you're going to get some other recommendations —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, the [inaudible] cost, Mr. Chairman, is \$203,000 —. Chairman Hair said, \$203,000. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it's all agreed upon by the three departments. Chairman Hair said, 203. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes. I just wanted you to know that. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's like in 2000, that's 203, right? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, right. Commissioner Price said, 2000 budget. Chairman Hair said, if we use —, instead of using the 3½ million figure, if we use the 3 million dollar figure, that still would give us leeway to adjust that —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, and so instead of 2.9, Commissioner DeLoach, if we use the figure of 3 million in reserve and then —, for capital outlay through lease purchase, that would be the —, that's what I'm the consensus on the Board.

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Price said, that's how you form a motion, say so moved. Chairman Hair said, I can't do that legally, I can't make motions. Commissioner Price said, I know you can't. Commissioner DeLoach said, we've got you covered though.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the following use of the \$4.3 million 1993-1998 Special Purpose Sales Tax (SPLOST) Excess Revenues: \$274,030 to fund FY1999 budget obligations (State Court Clerk \$21,140, Sheriff \$16,230, Tax Commissioner \$40,140, Superior Court Administrator \$49,100, Juvenile Court \$147,420) and \$3,000,000 for reserve. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COMPENSATION.

Chairman Hair recognized Sheriff St. Lawrence.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, I don't have to tell you I didn't look forward to coming up here this morning on this subject. When I met with you in January considering the discrepancy in the pay plans after we had requested that we be compensated the same in the Sheriff's Department as the Police Department, we had no idea at the time that we would discover that on January the 1st, prior to the implementation of the pay plan in the Police Department there was a great discrepancy already. Something that's occurred, according to staff report that was done by Mr. Kaigler, which I concurred, something over the last nine years. I don't know how. I'm not fixing the blame anywhere. I just know that it has occurred. I know we talked about —, we're talking about three alternatives here today, and let me remind you that in 1989 Long and Associates did a pay study in which they recommended they place law enforcement employees of the Sheriff's Department and the Police Department at the same pay grades according to rank. I don't think there was any question about that at the time it was done. Everybody was happy, but if you go to paragraph number five in the staff study, or the staff report, when comparing your averaged January 1, 1999, salaries of the Police Department's officers against the average of the Sheriff's deputies, we discover that the average salary for police officers is \$1,824 higher than the average salary for deputies. Total disparity, as of January 1, 1999, this is before any pay plan went into

effect, equates to \$448,623. This disparity existed prior to the implementation of the new plan for the Police Department. When you compare the average salaries of the two agencies after the implementation of the pay plan recommended by Human Resources —, now these are numbers that, the numbers that we have agreed upon —, disparity would become even greater. The average deputy salary becomes \$2,105 less than that of the average officer. I think the bottom line is, you know, and I don't feel that —, I feel that because they're the same class of people, they should have been treated the same all along. And again, I'm not fixing the blame. We can't do nothing about what's happened in the past. We've got to suck it up and go on, but I think we have to recommend Alternative #2, and I don't have a choice in the matter as far as I'm concerned. I think the employees deserve that. It's unfortunate that they weren't getting it all along. Whatever it was or whatever the cause of it was, I don't care about that. We're here and now and we're trying to do something about the disparity. I have the people here that were involved in working the pay plan, and again these are numbers agreed upon by not only the Sheriff's Department, but the Human Resources Department and the Finance Department. I apologize for it taking —, having taken so long, but again we didn't know that we were going to run into this disparity that existed prior to the implementation of the Police payments.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, with this cost, 475 to implement [inaudible]. Sheriff St. Lawrence asked, do what, sir? Commissioner Odell asked, what would be the first year cost we're talking about? \$475,600? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no sir. No sir. That's the recommendation. The recommendation in the staff report that you follow that, but that's —, that don't correct it. The recommendation that I'm making in Alternative #2 is that \$864,630. That would put everybody on the same level. Now, again, these are figures agreed upon. These are not figures that I pulled out of the air.

Chairman Hair said, you know, one of the concerns I have with the staff recommendation is that it corrects half the problem. In other words, it takes the 474 and it gets us halfway where we need to be, but it doesn't get us all the way. The Chair's recommendation of 865 goes ahead and solves the problem once and for all and then remember that number goes back to 203 next year. Now —. Commissioner Price asked, what did we just —? Chairman Hair said, well, we just allocated —, we have roughly a million because we just took three of the 4.3 and put in reserve. So, it's on your staff report, the County Manager just pointed out to you that 475 is already included in that number. Commissioner Price said, okay. Chairman Hair said, okay, so, and we didn't use the 475 number, we considered the 4.3 —, we used —, so you've got a million there. But I think we have several alternatives. I personally can support the full 865. I think what that does, it takes it back to parity and it takes it back to January 1st, which is when the County Police raises went into effect. Now if you wanted a compromise position, and I would hope we would support the 865 personally. We've got the money to do that now based on that previous motion, but if we don't go with the 865, we could save some of the money if we just slid the beginning date, instead of making it January 1st, you could make it March 1st or April 1st and make that 865, 650 or whatever, if we could get a sliding scale to see what that number is, but I just think that if we vote on the 475, we have to look these people in the face and say we've only fixed half of your problem, and I think if we're going to go to this effort, let's do it right and let's get it done and let's do it —, fix it and then it will be finished, but I think in trying to say we're going to spend 475 and get us halfway to parity, you know, is not the way we should do it. So I would recommend either the 865, or if you want to change the beginning date of the raise, that you're still not treating them totally fair because, again, the Police raises began January 1st, so if you say the Sheriff's deputies' raise don't begin until April or May, you're not treating them fair there either. The only really true fair proposal is the 865, and that way you're treating them totally fair. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy. Commissioner Odell said, I haven't finished. Chairman Hair said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Odell said, Al, if we implement it not from January 1, but we implement it in June, realizing we don't live in a perfect world, what is the cost then? It's not 875 —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I don't have those figures. I did do some work with the figures. As of April 1st it would reduce that amount by \$216,157, which would bring it down to \$648,472. I think the main goal here is that I have got to be able to look them in the eye and say you're on the same level; you should have been all along, but you wasn't [sic]. We can't do nothing about that, but let's straighten it out from here and go on. I think to do anything less than that I think is terribly unfair and something that was not of their making. It's just something that's happened. Commissioner Odell said, yes, but we can get that way two ways. We can get that way either by doing it effective April 1, which is 648, or we can do it making it retroactive to January 1, which is 875. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, correct. The lesser of the two evils is to go to April 1st. I —, because they will be on the same level, Commissioner Odell, and I don't —, I don't —, I'd rather have the whole enchilada, but I mean, I'm also smart enough to realize that money don't grow on trees. I told you that I didn't look forward to coming up here this morning, and I didn't, but I have got to try to respond to this problem that I've got. Commissioner Odell said, I understand. What —, you know, I guess my comment was that if the Human Resources and central administration and your staff come to the conclusion that there is an inequity, that this would resolve the inequity, then I say we should do that April 1st, and the reason is that we're saying 250,000. We correct the problem for the future, but we have a lot of other little problems —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I understand that. I'm not —. Let me just point one more thing and let me say that even if you don't bring them up to that level, whether it's April 1st or January 3rd or whatever, here's what's going to occur, and this is —, I concurred with this staff report that was written by Mr. Kaigler and his staff and we both signed off on it, but the Sheriff's Department has the turnover ratio of the two agencies. Deputies can leave the Sheriff's Department and, for higher salaries at the Savannah Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies, they can simply transfer to the County Police and earn more money. Now that's wrong. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, and it puts me at a very disadvantage —.

Commissioner Odell said, I agree. You shouldn't be a training pool for other departments that do comparable things where they're sworn officers. I agree.

Commissioner Jackel said, let me correct that. That's what I'm not sure about. Commissioner Saussy said, I think we've got an order here, do we not? Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry, go ahead. Chairman Hair said, yes, we do. Commissioner Jackel said, and you're next. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, you know how Commissioner Jackel is. Commissioner Saussy said, I don't understand Attachment 2, and maybe I'm not understanding it correct, the '99 Law Enforcement Pay Plan Implementation. Under the Police Department we show 120 officers a the total \$223,480. That equates to \$1,862.33 per officer. Now if we go with the Human Resources Department's recommendation with 246 officers in the Sheriff's Department, it equates to \$1,929.07, which is pretty close to what the Police Department — Sheriff St. Lawrence said, but, Commissioner Saussy — Commissioner Saussy said, and then we go to the other one and it comes out to \$3,514. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's because — Commissioner Saussy asked, what's the difference here? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, the problem is that when we got into this we thought it was going to be a very simple procedure. We were going to have more officers involved, as I think Commissioner Thomas asked, how many officers we had involved, but basically it would work out the same per person or, you know, basically in dollars and cents, but what we found out, that before the County implemented the pay plan for the Police Department, we found out there had been a serious discrepancy that has occurred over the past few years that puts us —, that put us way down in the whole that we didn't anticipate was there, we didn't know was there, and that's acknowledged by Human Resources Department as well as what we've been furnished with the figures because we took the exact figures from the Police Department to pick individual's pay plan, and we placed our people —, not to try to put them ahead in any fashion, but trying to bring them up to parity with these people. We couldn't do it under the pay plan by itself simply because there was such a disparity prior to the pay plan being implemented that we were not aware of. And, again, I've heard it all, you know, it could have been because of merit increases. I don't buy that. Merit increases were stopped for everybody at the same time. So I don't know how it occurred, Commissioner Saussy, to answer your question except that there was a large discrepancy when we got into this about the pay plan because we were given a figure of, very honestly, \$207,000 plus fringe benefits or whatever, but because of the serious discrepancy that had occurred prior to January 1st that we were not aware of, we couldn't do it. Commissioner Saussy asked, well, are we —, we're comparing apples with apples? I mean, certain officers' duties [inaudible] — Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, absolutely. Commissioner Saussy said, other officers do. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, absolutely. You're not —, you know, Human Resources is here, the people that worked on it, on the numbers. They've been working on this for two months, they're here, and they're —, you know, these figures have been agreed upon by the people that need to agree upon it, Human Resources, Sheriff's Department and Finance Department on the fringe benefits and everything that's included. We made sure that was all done before we come back to you although we put it off a lot longer than we expected, but we didn't expect the problems that we had.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel —, oh, I'm sorry. Are you not finished?

Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Let me get back to the regular thing. Under the —, if we adopted Alternative 3, this gives you what you —, part of what you need right now, but it allows us to go forward and correct the thing over the period of the next —, rest of the year. Is that correct? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Commissioner, I certainly can't recommend that. Not only has this gone on now for some time prior to January 1st, that's unfair, but to go on, that's compounding it as far as I'm concerned. It's just not fair. I hate to be the one to stand up here and tell you that, but, I mean, I've looked at these things everyday the last two months and I've seen what the serious discrepancies are and how differently the Sheriff's Department deputies have been treated. Now, I'm bringing it to you and I don't know but one way to correct it. Chairman Hair said, there is only one way to correct it. Commissioner Saussy said, and this, of course, will drop down to 207,000? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, 203. Commissioner Saussy said, 203,000. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's the recurring cost on it, 203. What we're doing is we talked about the 648, we implement it April 1st, everybody will be up to the level they're supposed to be. We won't go back to January 3rd or beyond that because the discrepancy, like I said, sometime you can't do nothing about some things that occurred in the past. You just, you know, suck it up and go on. Commissioner Saussy asked, who are we including in this 246 and what —? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, everybody but me, sworn officers, certified officers is all that we're talking about. That's all the Police plan was based on.

Chairman Hair asked, you're not talking about secretaries or —? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, and what I had to do, it may have run the cost a little higher, maybe requires a little explanation. I had to take, even though CNT has their own budget, their own payroll, I had to put that in this because that may take the money —, accounting procedures call for them transferring the money out of my budget over into theirs, so I had to add them to it as well. That was my instructions from Finance and the Manager's office.

Commissioner Saussy asked, could we talk to Finance a minute? Where is Finance? David [Persaud]? County Manager Abolt asked, whatever you need, sir. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I just wanted to find out what their —, you. County Manager Abolt said, we do not disagree on the numbers at all, sir. Commissioner Saussy said, okay, but the recommendation from —, and also Human Resources. Do you concur with Human Resources' recommendation or, and I don't want to put you on the spot, but —? County Manager Abolt said, I want him to answer, but I'd like to have a chance to answer. Please let me have —. Commissioner Saussy said, go ahead, County Manager Abolt said, I don't want to be —, if you want to talk to Mr. Persaud. Please understand, as we entered the challenge, it was based with very little

discussion on the part of the Board. It occurred shortly after you adopted the budget for this year. There was an item under your policy items and it had to do with Sheriff compensation. The Chairman had asked and we gave him a terribly rough estimate, we did not have a chance to work with the Chairman —, or with the Sheriff, as to what it would cost and we said, very roughly 207,000. The Board said be instructed to, in effect, you know, apply the same plan, and then the Sheriff's done an excellent job, which is what has happened, and we brought forward what amounts to three choices, but staff has had no more specific direction from you than that, and the reason I was trying to compromise of giving the other financial challenges was to let everybody know from the get-go, this Board has made a multi-year commitment to address disparity in compensation. You have and we all know, every department out there, including portions of the Police Department, that realize that there's going to be other adjustments in the out years. My only caution and why I don't recommend fixing the entire thing in the Sheriff's Department is, and you've seen a little, I believe, in communications from some of the other departments, is that you will have accomplished something that is of consequence, but then from a standpoint of a pay strategy is it going to create other problems. And the only reason I did not present a modular pay plan for any department in the M&O is, remember, that's where we had all of our challenges, that's where you wanted to set aside \$400,000 for the Library, that's where you wanted to make sure that, you know, other things were done. In the Special Service District, of which the Police Department is one of the major departments, we had a budget that was really \$200,000 lower this year than last. So we're able to do that and do it well within your guidelines. To extend it over into the M&O departments was —, it seemed to be at the time excessive. Had it not been for the introduction of the 4.3 million and the options given to you financially, I would not be able to identify other sources of revenue.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, you know, one thing I do not like about this whole scheme of this thing here is that this should have been done at budget time and we should have raised the millage for it because this is a recurring revenue and we should put the revenue stream in place. Now if you do part of what the Sheriff wants, then next year you're going to have to look for the balance of the 864 [sic] to infuse in there plus the 465, so it's a nonrecurring revenue. I —, you know, I don't have no objection as to fairness and equity in pay, but we need to address and we need to be aware that we're going to address it with a permanent revenue stream, so if it takes raising the millage, we do it, and that's what we're going to have to do too.

Chairman Hair said, well, I don't disagree with the first part of your —, I disagree with the last part of your statement about increasing the millage, which I would oppose. Commissioner Rivers said, well, I mean —. Chairman Hair said, but the first part though is why it didn't come until now, I mean, the Sheriff didn't know about this, quite frankly, and I don't know how you could have solved the problem you didn't know about, and I think it became very aware recently that this was a disparity. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, what it puts us at —, where it puts us at, yes, if we do it, we've got some money now, we've got \$4.3 million that we can play with, and sure we can go back to that \$4.3 million next year and do the same thing, but when it runs out, it's going to force somebody —, I may not be here, but it's going to force somebody to increase the millage or cut somebody or cut staff or we're going to have to do some juggling, and I'm telling you very frankly you need to do it, and you need to do it right.

Chairman Hair said, okay, the Chair will entertain a motion.

Commissioner Saussy said, I make a motion that we adopt the Human Resources Department's recommendation number three. Chairman Hair said, all right we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second that. Chairman Hair said, all right, that's the 475 now and that does not get the disparity. All those in favor of that motion, vote yes —.

Commissioner Jackel said, well now, let's have some discussion on this. Chairman Hair said, I just asked for discussion. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I —. Chairman Hair asked, do you want some? Commissioner Jackel said, yes. I'd like for Mr. Kaigler to come up please. I've been very concerned about the turnover in both the Sheriff's Department and also in the Police. I'd some explanation on how this money is going to stem where the turnover is occurring and is the money directed to the turnover area. It seems to me the money is directed across the board. Mr. Michael Kaigler said, that is correct. The Sheriff is, except for the majors and captains, the —, there's a disparity in the actual pay in the corporal's and the sergeant's and the lieutenant's ranks, and those are the areas that the Sheriff is attempting with his recommendation to correct. Commissioner Jackel asked, how is this thing going to affect the turnover thing? Is it going to —? Mr. Kaigler said, I think it's the Sheriff's contention that if his officers are paid exactly the same as the officers in the County Police, then he won't have the turnover. It won't be, I guess, a desire for his officers to leave the Sheriff's Department and go to work for the County Police. Commissioner Jackel said, turnover is coming on —. Turnover is coming in the on lower ranks. Is there enough money going into those ranks to stop the turnover? That's the question. Mr. Kaigler said, I think with his recommendation, the Sheriff and his officers have addressed that. He has looked at salaries overall and I think he feels that that will —, it may not stop it all, but he feels that it will stem the tide of the officers leaving in lower ranks. Commissioner Jackel said, I keep hearing you saying the way the Sheriff feels, you're —.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel, the motion has already failed. How much longer do you need. Commissioner Jackel asked, the motion's already failed now? Chairman Hair said, yes, the motion's already failed so —. Commissioner Saussy asked, how has the motion failed? Chairman Hair said, because we already have five votes to oppose it.

Commissioner Saussy said, you haven't even called for the vote yet. Chairman Hair said, well, we did. Commissioner Price said, we pressed the button.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I make a motion? Commissioner Rivers said, I can really tie this thing up now. Commissioner Price said, don't even go there Joe Murray [Rivers]. Don't even go there. Commissioner Thomas said, don't play games. Let's just deal with the —.

Chairman Hair said, I just think that let's solve the problem and let's don't solve it half way, and that's the half way stage. All right, the motion fails. The Chair will entertain a motion. The Clerk said, we need to have a complete vote. Commissioner Price said, we need a completed vote, a complete vote. Chairman Hair said, everybody's got to vote, one way or the other. The vote was unanimous to deny the motion. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm going to make a motion that we go to the April 1 beginning, which will be —. Chairman Hair said, 648. Commissioner DeLoach said, 648. Commissioner Thomas said, I second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. Any discussion on that motion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thanks.

Commissioner Odell said, now you've corrected that. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it's corrected, as of April the 1st.

Commissioner Rivers said, now, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to make a motion to reconsider? Commissioner Rivers said, no, I don't want to make a motion to reconsider. I just want y'all to bear in mind of what effect and an impact that's had —. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's one of them credit cards one carry it over to the next year.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve Alternative 3 of the staff report. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. The motion failed unanimously.
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt the Sheriff's recommendation to approve the transfer of \$648,472 to the Sheriff's budget effective April 1, 1999, to provide equal salaries for law enforcement employees. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING TO PROVIDE POLICE PATROL SERVICE AT CERTAIN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Hair and Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, this is an issue that has been under investigation by the Police Department for a number of weeks. Chief Sprague and Mr. Golden came to me about three or four weeks ago saying something must be done. It had reached the point of being totally intolerable. The damage being done as well as the overall denial of the use of these key recreation areas by those folks entitled to use have reached the boiling point. We have a proposal to shift money out of contingency, \$32,000 in SSD Contingency, that would deal with zero tolerance and the eradication of this problem. I do want to point out that even though a local newspaper did report this in advance of even this official report to you, please understand that it was not in response to a news report. It has been under investigation for a number of weeks.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval but I would like some discussion. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], you know, we had this same problem a number of years ago, and knowing that we've had those problems, why have we not checked these things on an ongoing basis? County Manager Abolt said, we have —, I don't want to be defensive, but —. Commissioner Murray said, it looks like —, to me what it looks like right now is we resolved the problem so we just quit watching for it and went on about our business and now it's reoccurring again, and it's [inaudible] get much worse than it was before. County Manager Abolt said, I want to always be careful of my response to you, but this is not a new problem for sure. I think it has either been raised or lowered to the level of Internet advertisement. It has become quite common knowledge as to where people who practice this may go and it is of epidemic proportion. It is, as the County Attorney mentioned to me in a meeting, it is something that is not peculiar to this year. It goes on certainly in restrooms, particularly in both public and private uses. We have reached the point though of total

intolerance with it because it has gotten to a point where we have people coming to us saying they cannot enjoy these recreation areas because of this deviant behavior.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve and authorize funding to provide police patrol service at certain recreational facilities. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

5. SET WORKSHOP WITH SAVANNAH CITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS STATUS OF MERGING INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENTS.

Chairman Hair said, this next item is really just a setting of a date. This is the workshop with the City Council to discuss the status of merging Inspections. There's been —, the Mayor and I have had two additional meetings on this and the staff, Mr. Abolt and Mr. Brown, have met and their staffs have met, and we're very, very close according to Mr. Abolt yesterday to having recommendation, and they're asking that we set this meeting for the 25th of March, Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. It will be here in this Commission chambers. We'll be hosting the meeting, and I do think that we're very, very close. I had stressed to the Mayor that we have always, this Board voted eight to one to do this, and we've always been ready to do it, and hopefully we're going to have the City Council —, at least five members of City Council to support this on the 25th. We're going to have a full presentation and you'll be able to ask any questions and hopefully after this meeting we'll be able to put it on both agendas, both the County agenda and the City agenda, and get this thing done. This needs to be done in my opinion, and I think the [inaudible] is beginning to support that. Ten o'clock on March 25th. That's a Thursday —. Pardon me?

Commissioner Jackel said, are we fixed on that time? Ten o'clock can kill the whole morning for me. Chairman Hair said, well, it kills it for me too, but, I mean, when you try to get nine Council members and nine Commissioners plus the staff, it's very, very difficult, Commissioner Jackel, to do that, and this has already been set with the City Council, as I understand. Is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, it was a joint proposal. I would be —. It's certainly convenient to the City Council. That's the day they meet. This is the time for them a work session, so you have the option if you wish to express it differently. Commissioner Jackel said, well, the way we did it, you know, when we did, either —. My preference is either first thing in the morning so I could do it and finish it or four or five o'clock in the afternoon so I could go on and —. County Manager Abolt said, it's your —. Commissioner Jackel said, or even as we have done it during the lunch hour, but when we do it at ten, time we get here and time we do it, the whole morning's gone and it seems like there's —.

Chairman Hair said, I would agree with that, Commissioner Jackel, but let's just say this. Why don't we just —, this one's pretty much set, let's leave this one like it is and then say in the future let's try to direct staff to try to set—. Commissioner Jackel said, we said that several times before and I did a memo on it. Chairman Hair said, but I think it's going to cause us a lot of logistical problems if we try to change it now. Commissioner Saussy said, let's make sure in the future that's done. I agree with Martin [Jackel].

Chairman Hair said, this is very important. Let's just get this done.

Commissioner Murray asked, do we need to vote on that? Chairman Hair said, no, we don't need to vote on it. It's just a matter —. County Manager Abolt said, well, sir —. Chairman Hair said, we would like to have —. County Manager Abolt said, I'll ask you to vote on it for purpose of open meetings. Essentially, you're setting a special meeting.

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, okay, I have a motion. Is there a second? Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to set a workshop for March 25, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Meeting Room, 124 Bull Street, with the Savannah City Council to discuss status of merging Inspections departments. Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO SEEK LEASE-PURCHASE FINANCING OF GOLF CARTS FOR Henderson GOLF CLUB (PAYMENTS FROM OPERATIONS OF GOLF COURSE.)

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion for approval. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request to seek lease-purchase financing of golf carts for Henderson Golf Club (payments from operations of golf course). Commissioners DeLoach and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

7. 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.

- **MAGISTRATE COURT - DEPUTY COURT CLERK III (1 POSITION)**
- **JAIL MAINTENANCE - BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (1 POSITION)**
- **LIBRARY - LIBRARY PAGE I (5 POSITIONS)**
- **DISTRICT ATTORNEY - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II (1 POSITION)**
- **VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE - VICTIM ADVOCATE (1 POSITION)**
- **ICS - SYSTEM ANALYST**

Chairman Hair said, the first one is Magistrate Court - Deputy Court Clerk III (1 position). Is anybody here from Magistrate Court? Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion that we approve. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Do you want to come forward please? Our policy is that we take these individually now, so —. Would you like to tell us why it's critical to fill this?

Ms. Pam Blake said, yes sir. This position deals directly with the public. Our office is a very high volume office for many civil actions and it's imperative that we have this position to be able to help the public.

Chairman Hair asked, any questions? Commissioner Murray said, yes. How long has the position been open? Ms. Blake said, two weeks. It's been vacant for two weeks? Commissioner Murray asked, how long have y'all know it was going to be vacant? Ms. Blake said, we got a week and a half notice. Commissioner Murray said, a week and a half.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we've got a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thanks.

Chairman Hair said, Jail Maintenance - Building Maintenance Mechanic (1 position). Mr. Blake, Mr. Sheriff, you going to defend this?

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, it really —. Jail maintenance would work for Mr. Thompson, so I —. Chairman Hair said, oh, that's right. Why don't both of you come forward. Let's have a little overkill here. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I can only —, since they work for Mr. Thompson I can only say that the jail maintenance staff they have out there has more to do than they can do, I know that. Now, again, the —, Mr. Thompson handles the hiring and firing of those people.

Mr. George Lynch said, I have nothing to add, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. Any questions? Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Price said, Fred [Thompson] didn't even have to get up.

Chairman Hair said, Library - Library Page I (5 positions). Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to District Attorney's office - Administrative Assistant II (1 position). Is anyone from the DA's office here? The Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, Victim Assistance —, Victim Witness Assistance - Victim Advocate (1 position). Anyone here for that position? Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, ICS - Systems Analyst I. Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? Any questions? Commissioner Saussy asked, are you going to find somebody we can hire? Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following position: Magistrate Court - Deputy Court Clerk II (1 position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following position: Jail Maintenance - Building Maintenance Mechanic (1 position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
3. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following position: Library - Library Page I (5 positions). Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
4. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following position: District Attorney - Administrative Assistant II (1 position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
5. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following position: Victim Witness Assistance - Victim Advocate (1 position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
6. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following position: ICS - Systems Analyst I (1 position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

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, Commissioner Jackel, it's five after twelve, do you want to take anything off the agenda? Commissioner Jackel said, Items 6, 13, and I want to look at the Holiday Inn - South on the liquor license. Chairman Hair said, give me the number, I don't know that. Commissioner Jackel said, it's Item 16-A. County Manager Abolt said, C. Commissioner Price said, C. Chairman Hair said, okay, 16-C. The Chair will entertain a motion for the —. Commissioner

Murray said, I've got 3 and —. Chairman Hair said, 3. Commissioner Murray said, and 19-M and 19-N. Chairman Hair asked, 19-M and which one? Commissioner Murray said, N. Chairman Hair said, M and N.

Chairman Hair asked, anybody else want to take anything off? All right, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, motion —, do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 3, 6, 16-C, 19-M and 19-N. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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

=====

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 19, 1999, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 19, 1999, as mailed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 11 THROUGH MARCH 3, 1999.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period February 11, 1999, through March 3, 1999, in the amount of \$5,508,567. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A SEVENTH ANNUAL RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE NECESSITY OF THE \$1.50 E-911 CHARGE.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't have a problem with the 911 charge, the \$1.50 on individual phone lines. I expressed this once before and I'll express it again when we put it on. I do have a problem with all cell telephones and all the extra lines. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, I did ask that question as to timing. Because that legislation came along after this, we're required on an annual basis to do essentially the same resolution. That will be before you in the months ahead. I believe in the Fall of the year. This is on the fixed instruments. The cell phones is an issue we deal with in the, and again I believe it's late Fall.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, okay. We have a motion, do we have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a seventh annual resolution to reaffirm the necessity of the \$1.50 E-911 charge. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AMEND THE UNFUNDED CHATHAM COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE TOM TRIPLETT COMMUNITY PARK PHASE II, BURROUGHS PARK PHASE II, RUNAWAY POINT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PHASES II AND III, EAST BROAD MOTHER MATILDA BEASLEY PARK, GOLDEN SPORTS COMPLEX RENOVATION AND PADDLE BOAT/EQUIPMENT PROJECTS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to amend the unfunded Chatham County Capital Improvement Program Budget to include the Tom Triplett Community Park Phase II, Burroughs Park Phase II, Runaway Point Neighborhood Park Phases II and III, East Broad Mother Matilda Beasley Park, Golden Sports Complex Renovation and Paddle Boat/Equipment projects. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO TRANSFER \$100,000 FROM THE 1993-1998 SPLOST RESERVE FOR SPECIFIED PROJECTS FOR CONSULTING SERVICES TO DEVELOP A CONCEPT, SURVEY AND DESIGN FOR A NEW INTERSECTION ON STATE ROUTE 204 (ABERCORN STREET EXTENSION) BETWEEN INTERSTATE 95 AND US HIGHWAY 17.**
[DISTRICTS 6 AND 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to transfer \$100,000 from the 1993-1998 SPLOST reserve for Specified Projects for consulting services to develop a concept, survey and design for a new intersection on State Route 204 (Abercorn Street Extension) between Interstate 95 and US Highway 17. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE JOHNNY MERCER/HIGHWAY 80 INTERCHANGE PROJECT.**
[DISTRICT 4.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, where are we going with this thing? Commissioner Murray said, I've got some questions on it too. County Manager Abolt said, okay, if I may —. Commissioner Murray said, you had already pulled it off so I didn't mention it a second time. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Jackel said, this thing is talking about another flyover at this intersection and we're going to need this thing. They say otherwise we're going to have sort of a gridlock. Commissioner Murray said, that's what they're saying, but that's not what I agree with. Commissioner Jackel said, and —, I have some questions whether that is needed and we need to spend the money and know a lot of people out there are against it, so —.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may and without boring you with all the details, but this was voted on by the people. The issue there becomes from a legal standpoint whether or not when folks voted for something whether the project in effect could not be built. County Attorneys in the past have opined that it would have to be determined to be unfeasible. That's part answer to your question, but at the time it was voted on, it was to be funded a hundred percent by local SPLOST money. This is just a continuation of negotiations the Chairman's been party to with Commissioner Shackelford trying to free up some money to build the road at Hutchinson Island. It was most necessary and, in effect, borrowing from that SPLOST money. In this case we're setting in motion the opportunity for the State to fund it. If you determine it to be

feasible, which right now the State has said the traffic counts are there, you would proceed not with having to finance locally beyond utility and some other costs that did not equate to \$11 million. This particular strategy though at this level, even though you deal with the other later, I think it essential to maintain the integrity of the previous negotiations.

Chairman Hair said, yes, I would agree with that. I want to make a statement after Commissioner Murray makes a statement.

Commissioner Murray said, I just have a real problem with it. Totally. We —, it was on the referendum a while back and it was approved. We've been through a lot of conversation about it. As a matter of fact, we put it totally on hold up until, I believe, January of '98 before we could start doing anything else back on it. We've been told it wasn't going to be needed and now all of a sudden the State's saying they will fund it. They're going to fund it with Federal funds because it's a Federal highway. If they want to fund it, let them fund it. I don't think we need to put a dime into it. I don't —, we tried to take and have this project taken off of the list to begin with to utilize some of those funds that were allocated to that project for some of the other road improvements and also some of the studies and everything for the road improvements in the Islands area. I still think that's what we ought to do with it. I am not in favor of freeing up all these \$11 million or whatever is there to put over on Hutchinson Island. I will not support that. This project was done in the Islands area and I think some of that money has to be used for the road improvements, the studies we need and other things going on. I've talked with Al Bungard about it, I've talked with Russ [Abolt] about it. We may agree on part of it and disagree on other parts, but I will not support any of this unless we can take this totally off of the list and forget about it.

Chairman Hair said, well, the comment I would make is that this is part of the negotiations. I think there is a lot of opposition out there too, but I really think that we probably need the County Attorney to revisit the long term issue, Commissioner Murray, in the sense that the previous County Attorneys have said that we really have to build it unless you can determine that it is infeasible to build, and I'm not an engineer but I would think that it would be pretty hard pressed to prove that it's not infeasible —. County Attorney Hart said, if they build it, yes sir. Chairman Hair asked, am I interpreting that correct? County Attorney Hart said, that's pretty much the way the law reads in that regard.

Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. If the State is taking the project over, it's just like the State was going to take over the Youth Detention Center when we allocated \$5 million, and then they said they didn't need the money. Now they're telling us they don't need the money to build this. County Attorney Hart said, the point —. Commissioner Murray said, it's the same thing. County Attorney Hart said, the point I'm trying to make here is that this was voted on a referendum and designated as part of the SPLOST funds and the tax was levied based on that project. Now y'all have the authority —. Commissioner Murray said, so was [inaudible]. County Attorney Hart said, y'all have the authority to determine something to be infeasible as a practical matter and not fund it, but if the idea is to swap federal dollars for local tax dollars so that there's a greater benefit, you get to the situation where if we build it, it's pretty hard to say that it's an unfeasible project, which at that point we're in a situation of what you do with the freed-up money. Commissioner Murray said, well tell me how we got the Youth Detention Center then. The State said after we allocated \$5 million we no longer need that \$5 million, they didn't want our money. The State's telling us the same thing on this project. How did we take that one off and you're telling me we can't take this one off. County Attorney Hart said, I'm not saying you can't take it off. I'm just saying that if you take it off and the money's there, I'm not sure you've freed the money up. Commissioner Murray said, it sounds to me like it's one of those things of what feels good, let's go ahead and try it. I'm not in favor of it and I'm not going to support it.

Chairman Hair said, all right, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk said, I'm sorry, I didn't hear a second. Commissioner Price and Commissioner Odell said, second. Commissioner Odell said, you have two seconds. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a Local Government Project Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Johnny Mercer/Highway 80 Interchange Project. Commissioners Odell and Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGIA CENTRAL RAILWAY, L.P., THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE TWIN BRIDGES TO BE CONSTRUCTED OVER POOLER PARKWAY, PHASE II.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve an agreement between Georgia Central Railway, L.P., the Georgia Department of Transportation and Chatham County for the twin bridges to be constructed over Pooler Parkway, Phase III. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 8. REQUEST FROM GEORGIAN WALK DEVELOPERS, THROUGH THEIR AGENT, HUSSEY, GAY, BELL AND DEYOUNG, FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS, TO BEGIN THE 12 MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD, AND TO REDUCE THE BOND AMOUNT FOR SUGAR MILL SUBDIVISION, PHASE 6. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Georgian Walk Developers, through their agent, Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung, for the construction of the improvements, to begin the 12-month warranty period, and to reduce the bond amount for Sugar Mill Subdivision, Phase 6. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

9. **REQUEST FROM THE ZAREMBA GROUP, THROUGH THEIR AGENT, THOMAS & HUTTON ENGINEERING, FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS AND TO BEGIN THE 12 MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD FOR STEEPLE RUN AT SOUTHBRIDGE (ALSO KNOWN AS SOUTHBRIDGE PHASE 14).
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from The Zaremba Group, through their agent, Thomas & Hutton Engineering, for the construction of the improvements and to begin the 12-month warranty period for Steeple Run at Southbridge (also known as Southbridge Phase 14). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

10. **REQUEST FROM KONTER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, THROUGH THEIR AGENT, HUSSEY, GAY, BELL AND DEYOUNG, FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY TO RELEASE THE SUBDIVISION BOND FOR LIONS GATE SUBDIVISION PHASE 3C, ACCEPT THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT DEDICATIONS, AND ACCEPT THE PAVING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR COUNTY MAINTENANCE.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Konter Development Company, through their agent, Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung, for the County to release the subdivision bond for Lions Gate Subdivision Phase 3C, accept the right-of-way and easement dedications, and accept the paving and drainage improvements for County maintenance. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

11. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN AND CLERK OF COMMISSION TO SIGN AN APPLICATION REQUIRED BY GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND FOR ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE FLASHERS AT SKIDAWAY NARROWS DRAW BRIDGE ON SR 204 SPUR.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to authorize the Chairman and Clerk of Commission to sign an application required by Georgia Department of Transportation and for acceptance of maintaining the flashers at Skidaway Narrows Draw Bridge on SR 204 Spur. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

12. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF 196.19 ACRES OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE PIPEMAKERS CANAL FOR \$575,000.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the acquisition from Solomon Kahn, et al, of 196.19 acres of land adjacent to the Pipemakers Canal for \$575,000. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

13. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE LETTER OF CONSENT ALLOWING THE WEST BROAD STREET YMCA TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE CHILDREN & YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm very much in favor of this. I just wanted to let everybody know that we're letting them come in and —, the YMCA, and apply for these funds so they can get the funding.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel 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 Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve a letter of consent allowing the West Broad Street YMCA to apply for a grant from the Children & Youth Coordinating Council. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

14. REQUEST FOR NEW LICENSE FOR BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 1999. PETITIONER: EMMETT P. HOTARD, D/B/A DAIQUIRI ISLAND, LOCATED AT 4700 HIGHWAY 80 EAST. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request of Petitioner, Emmett P. Hotard, d/b/a Daiquiri Island, located at 4700 Highway 80 East, for a new license for beer, wine and liquor pouring for 1999. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

15. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER POURING LICENSE FOR 1999. PETITIONER: CHERI STOKES KELLER, D/B/A JANIE ARKWRIGHT'S KITCHEN, LOCATED WITHIN KELLER'S FLEA MARKET AT 5901 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request of Petitioner Cheri Stokes Keller, d/b/a Janie Arkwright's Kitchen, located within Keller's Flea Market at 5901 Ogeechee Road, for renewal of a Sunday sales of beer pouring license for 1999. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

16. REQUESTS FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1999.
A. PETITIONER: JOHN R. TURNER D/B/A PEARL'S ELEGANT PELICAN LOCATED AT 7000 LAROCHE AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]

- B. PETITIONER: JOHN ROBERT TURNER D/B/A ISLAND OYSTER BAR, LOCATED AT 444 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]**
- C. PETITIONER: DAVID M. THORNTON D/B/A HOLIDAY INN - SOUTH, LOCATED AT I-95 AND HIGHWAY 204. [DISTRICT 6.]**

Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 16-A and 16-B. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel as to Item 16-C.

Commissioner Jackel said, it's my understanding that a regulation is that they must sell over 50% of their annual gross sales of food before they can sell spirits on Sunday. They don't list anything in the gross receipts from food. The form's improperly filled out. Commissioner DeLoach said, they've got a restaurant. I don't know [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand that, but what they list is they list their receipts from room rentals. They do not list their receipts from food. The form is improperly filled out and I think it would be improper for us to approve it at this time until the correct information is listed. You know, I mean, I've been kidded about this before, but I do read this material.

County Manager Abolt said, we have Mr. Monahan, who frequents the establishment. Mr. Patrick Monahan said, I apologize, Mr. Anderson's not available and I don't think that Mr. Jensen knows the answer, but a couple of years ago the General Assembly amended that law so that hotels can include rooms as part of that equation. It's not just as if you were a restaurant, it's just food versus beverage, but in the instance of hotels, motels and long term accommodations, they can include room rentals as part of their revenues to figure that mix. It was a special accommodation that the General Assembly made for those types of establishments and that's why you will notice on all the hotels and motels they generally report rooms and mixing the rooms as part of their food. Now some will break it out, but they're not required to do that. That's just the way that —. Chairman Hair said, you're saying this is filled out correctly. Mr. Monahan said, State law allows that [inaudible].

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second. All those —.

Commissioner Jackel said, let's hear from the County Attorney. Is that so? County Attorney Hart said, I'm going to be honest with you. Without knowing the question was going to be raised in advance, I didn't have an opportunity to look at it and I, at this point, I'll be glad to look at it, but I—. Commissioner Jackel said, I think we ought to make sure that that is so before we approve it. Chairman Hair said, well, then you —, the only way to accomplish that, you're going to have to make a motion to table. Commissioner Jackel said, I will make a motion to table.

Chairman Hair asked, does that motion have a second? The motion dies for lack of a second. That takes us back to the original motion. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Murray, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve the following requests for renewal of Sunday Sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1999: (A) Petitioner, John R. Turner, d/b/a Pearl's Elegant Pelican, located at 700 LaRoche Avenue; and (B) Petitioner, John Robert Turner, d/b/a Island Oyster Bar, located at 444 Johnny Mercer Boulevard. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Price moved to approve the request of Petitioner, David M. Thornton, d/b/a Holiday Inn - South, located at I-95 and Highway 204, for renewal of a Sunday Sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1999. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Murray, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

17. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A QUITCLAIM DEED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the following quitclaim deed in exchange for satisfaction of delinquent taxes which have now been paid: Mary Tarrer, PIN 20042-05-010, \$517.36. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

18. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A DEED OF CORRECTION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve a deed of correction issued to correct a clerical error in the legal description on the original quitclaim deed to Frederick W. Kramer, III, PIN 11019-01022 N/K/A 81019-01022, recorded in Chatham County Records in Deed Book 129-G, Page 846. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for the construction of Wheaton Street Widening and Skidaway Road Intersection Improvements for additional work on the project	SPLOST	Arco, Inc.	\$20,459.21	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Wheaton Street Widening Project
B. Change Order No. 5 to the contract for designing the Middleground Road Widening Project for additional work on the project	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung	\$31,113	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Middleground Road Widening Project
C. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for raising of Dredged Material Containment Area (DMCA) 13A for the construction of a ramp at DMCA 14B	Harbor Maintenance	Tri State Consultants	\$35,500	General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT)
D. Annual price agreement for "Anvil 10+10"	Mosquito Control	Clarke Mosquito Control Products (sole source)	\$105 per gallon	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
E. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide door mat rental services	Various	Riverside Uniform Company	Same terms and conditions	•General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various
F. Final renewal option to annual contract to provide janitorial services to the "Downtown" locations	Building Maintenance and Operations	Basics Cleaning Company	\$148,940.40 (includes 2% annual increase)	General Fund/M & O - Building Maintenance and Operations
G. Second renewal option to the annual contract to provide food services for the inmates at the Detention Center	Detention Center	ABL Management	\$1,179,972	General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
H. Contract renewal to provide psychological services for inmates at the Detention Center	Detention Center	Dr. Nic D'Alesandro	Same terms and conditions	General Fund/M & O - Detention Center

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
I. Contract award to provide a closed drainage system from exposed pipe to the Placentia Canal	Engineering	A.D. Williams Construction Company	\$12,106	CIP - Drainage Improvements
J. Final renewal option to the annual contract to provide janitorial services for the "Southside" locations	Building Maintenance and Operations	Quality Cleaning Contractors, Inc.	Same terms and conditions	General Fund/M & O - Building Maintenance and Operations
K. Contract award to drill and install monitoring wells at Pine Barren Waste Treatment Plant (Pooler) and to cap existing wells and piezometers wells	Water and Sewer	Clayton Group Services, Inc.	\$7,985	Water and Sewer
L. Change Order No. 1 to the contract to resurface a parking lot and to construct parking lots at Armstrong Atlantic State University, for the milling of heaved areas and the relocation of a 10-inch water line	Engineering	R. B. Baker Construction	\$23,000	Funding will be provided by Armstrong Atlantic State University
M. Two (2) 1999 Ford Explorers	Police	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$45,708.50	Confiscated Funds - Police (pending Board approval of transfer)
N. Withdraw 1985 Wellcraft Marine Patrol 32-foot boat from the surplus property list	Police	N/A	N/A	N/A
O. Confirmation Change Order No. 2 to the contract for the construction of Runaway Point Park for additional services	SPLOST	H.P. Davis, Inc. (WBE)	\$3,470.55	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Runaway Point Park
P. Declare surplus and transfer to Thunderbolt Police Department four (4) obsolete Motorola STX 800 radios	CNT	N/A	N/A	N/A
Q. Rescind award of annual contract to furnish Bates Model 14 "K-9" boots from Smyrna Police Distributors and award to Uniforms by Patrick	•Police •Sheriff •Detention Center	Uniforms by Patrick	\$95 pair	•SSD - Police •General Fund/M & O - Sheriff •General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
R. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for horizontal boring to Hutchinson Island to bore and case under Grand Prize of America Avenue to permit rerouting of sewer line on Hutchinson Island	SPLOST	Southern Champion Construction, Inc.	\$114,730	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Hutchinson Island Utilities

Items 19-A through 19-R, except 19-M and 19-N:

Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 19-A through 19-R, except Items 19-M and 19-N. Commissioner Odell - seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

Item 19-M:

Chairman Hair said, let's go ahead and —, you want to do M and N together? Commissioner Murray said, yes, I can. Chairman Hair said, all right, let me read both into the record. M is two '99 Ford Explores, Police Department, J. C. Lewis

Ford, Amount: \$45,708.50, and Item N is withdraw 1985 Wellcraft Marine Patrol 32-foot boat from the surplus property list. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'm in favor of both of them. The only question I have on M is I notice we're buying new vehicles for the Police, and I think that's fine. I think we need them, but what about EMS where we have some vehicles that are —? County Manager Abolt said, confiscated funds, sir. This is the one Commissioner Jackel was asking about. Commissioner Murray asked, we can't buy emergency —. Mr. Lynch said, also the fact that it's forensic —. County Manager Abolt said, not with confiscated funds, sir.

Chief Sprague said, Commissioner Murray, the reason is this is being —, these are being purchased with confiscated funds. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but we can't purchase ambulances with confiscated funds? Chief Sprague said, no sir. Those funds by law have to be —, they have to be used to purchase equipment for law enforcement for police work and that's from the federal and the state side of that law.

Commissioner Murray said, okay, well, I was just saying since EMS falls under Chatham County Police, they can't be considered police work? Chief Sprague said, not unless I want to go to jail, sir. Commissioner Murray said, well, you have a nice one out there. I'll move for approval on this. Item N was —. Chairman Hair said, Frank [Murray], let's make a motion on M first and deal with M. Let's go ahead and pass M. Commissioner Murray asked, you want to do that—? Chairman Hair said, yes, let's do it separately. Commissioner Murray said, all right, I move for approval.

Commissioner Price said, I've got a question on that. Chairman Hair asked, on M? Commissioner Price said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Thomas said, I second. Commissioner Price asked, where is Unadilla, Georgia? Commissioner Saussy said, Unadilla's just —. Commissioner DeLoach said, between Cordele and [inaudible] on I-16. Commissioner Saussy said, just above Vidalia.

Chairman Hair said, all right, do I have a motion? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, that's on Item M.

Item 19-N:

Chairman Hair said, Item N. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, what are the plans for this boat? I mean, you're going to keep it and utilize the boat? Chief Sprague said, Commissioner Murray, in preparing it for sale we got the County Attorney's opinion before we came to the Board to request to surplus it and y'all voted to let us surplus it. Then we found out from GEMA and we found out from FEMA that their laws of regulation said we couldn't sell it after a two-year period, but in getting it ready for sale after y'all voted to let us surplus it, we incurred some expense on it to where we brought it up to where it's usable.

Commissioner Murray said, that's a nice boat. I move for approval. 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 Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 19-A through 19-R, except Items 19-M and 19-N. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 19-M. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
3. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 19-N. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

XI. FIRST READINGS

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

None.

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. **PETITIONER, PHILLIP R. MCCORKLE, AGENT (FOR MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP), IS REQUESTING THAT A 12.9 ACRE TRACT WITHIN THE 634 ACRE HENDERSON GOLF COMMUNITY BE REZONED FROM A PUD-C (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-COMMUNITY) CLASSIFICATION TO A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY-BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE PETITIONER'S REQUEST BE APPROVED.
MPC FILE #98-12381-C
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Bill Saxman.

Mr. Saxman said, in summary, the Planning Commission did hear this issue before us before with a recommendation or request for a B district, a Business district, or another district to allow a mobile home park —, mobile home sales lot, I'm sorry. They've withdrawn that request. They're basically just asking for the property to be rezoned to a P-B-C, which is, in general, the same zoning it's under now except it's under a PUD district under the Henderson Golf Community. The same uses basically will be allowed. It does have a little bit of difference in the design standards, but review procedures will require MPC and the County staff to review and a overall plan for the 12 acres will be required. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Saussy and Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion for approval. Any further discussion? All those —. Commissioner Price said, you could put a [inaudible] or such as that in there? Chairman Hair asked, pardon? Mr. Saxman said, no, not in a B-C district.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the petition of Phillip R. McCorkle, Agent (for multiple ownership), requesting that a 12.9-acre tract within the 634-acre Henderson Golf Community be rezoned from a PUD-C (Planned Unit Development-Community) classification to a P-B-C (Planned Community-Business) classification. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

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.

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

3. STATUS OF THE PROGRAM TO DEVELOP THE CHATHAM COUNTY SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY (HOUSE BILL 489).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

=====

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF FINAL SETTLEMENT OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA V. 0.258 ACRES OF LAND; LOIS HAMM GILES, INDIVIDUALLY, CIVIL ACTION NO. CV98-1064-FR, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,000.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve final settlement of Chatham County, Georgia v. 0.258 Acres of Land; Lois Hamm Giles, Individually, Civil Action No. CV98-1064-FR, in the amount of \$42,000. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

APPOINTMENTS

1. COASTAL AREA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to appoint Leo Story and Fraser Bowen to the Coastal Area District Development Authority to replace Joe Murray Rivers and Stephen Stramm, whose terms expired March 1, 1999. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

2. HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY COUNSEL

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to appoint Catherine E. Chmelar and Christopher Scott to a three-year term on the Historic Preservation Advisory Counsel. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

3. YOUTH FUTURES AUTHORITY

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to appoint Mr. Gwyn Hall and Mr. Frank Hardeman to . Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

4. CHATHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to appoint Harris Odell to the Chatham County Hospital Authority to replace the position previously held by Edna Jackson, term expiration on 10/24/04, and reappoint Jerelyn V. Moore with term expiration on 10/24/04. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

5. CHATHAM NURSING HOME AUTHORITY

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to reappoint Sheila Morley, Herbert Griffin and Rick Gnann to the Chatham Nursing Home Authority with term expiration on December 16, 2001. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

6. METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to reappoint Hilda Whitaker to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Commission with a term expiration on April 1, 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

7. SOUTHEAST GEORGIA EMS COUNCIL

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to reappoint Mr. Zach Shuman to serve on the Southeast Georgia EMS Council with a term expiration on June 30, 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

8. GEORGIA ALLIANCE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to appoint Harris Odell to serve on the Georgia Alliance Community Hospital. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

ADJOURNMENT

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

=====

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1999

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK