

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON APRIL 30,1999, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., Friday, April 30,1999.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Thomas introduced The Reverend Gregory V. Eason, Sr., Senior Pastor of St. Philip AME Church, who gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
Martin S. Jackel, District Three
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

ABSENT: Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four
David L. Saussy, District One
Ben Price, District Six

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

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- 1. PROCLAMATION FOR WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTERS INCORPORATED OF SAVANNAH.**

Chairman Hair said, our first item today under Proclamations and Special Presentations is a proclamation for Wesley Community Centers. Before I read the proclamation I'd like to add a personal note. I had the privilege of serving on the board of directors of this agency for many, many years prior to coming on the Commission and I had to resign when I came on the Commission, but if you don't know what the Wesley Community Centers does, I suggest you drop by and visit. The Director is here and the Chairman. We have both of them here with us this morning. They celebrated their 50th anniversary here about two weeks ago. I went over on a Friday afternoon and then we had a great time over there. This organization really does a tremendous—, tremendous good works for our community. So I'd like to present this proclamation, and I'd like to read it.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, in 1948, Bethlehem Community Center was formed to serve the needs of Negro children and families' and in 1972 it merged with the Inner City Community Center to become Wesley Community Centers of Savannah, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Wesley Community Center meets the basic human needs of women, children, and youth, and enhances the lives of disadvantaged people in the greater Savannah area; and

WHEREAS, Wesley's Child Care and Development Center provides high quality, reduced-fee child care for young children of working parents, and serves up to seventy-five two, three, and four year olds through creative curriculum, music appreciation, educational computer software, field trips, and is served by community wide volunteers who share their time; and

WHEREAS, Wesley's Women's Creative Center will open its doors in Spring of 1999 to serve women of diverse backgrounds and socio-economic groups, helping to improve their understanding of themselves and each other.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Billy Hair, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, proclaim the month of May, 1999:

“WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTERS, INC. OF SAVANNAH”

and urge all citizens in our community to focus their attention on the needs of women, children and youth struggling to rise above poverty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed on this the 30th day of April, 1998.

/s/ Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Ms. Tammy Mixon said, good morning and thank you to the Chatham County Commissioners and especially you, Dr. Chairman [sic], Dr. Hair. Wesley Community Centers really appreciates all of the support that you have given us over the years and we hope that that support will continue as we strive to continue to meet the needs of women, children and youth who are struggling to rise above poverty in that community. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much for being here.

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2. MYSTERY CUSTOMER AWARDS

Chairman Hair said, the next thing on our agenda is Mystery Customer Awards. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt recognized Mr. Van Johnson.

Mr. Johnson said, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, and gentlemen, we appreciate this opportunity to present the April recipients of the Mystery Customer Awards. The Mystery Customer Award was designed to ensure the very best customer service at all times from all employees. Our Mystery Customer could not be found during the St. Patrick's Day holiday and went on vacation during the Easter holidays, but he or she was back on the job soon afterwards and identified three individuals who all rendered excellent customer service, and we recognize them this morning. As a footnote, one of our winners is under the weather this morning, so we would like to recognize her at our next offering. We have here with us this morning

Stephanie Smalls from the Office of the Child Support Receiver. Stephanie [Smalls] became a member of the Chatham County family in July 1990 as a Clerical Assistant II in the Child Support Recovery Office. She now serves as a Data Analyst for the Office of the Receiver of Child Support, and she's accompanied by Mark Hill. And also, we have as a token for our gratitude for your service—, good customer service, a check for \$50.

Ms. Smalls said, thank you. I appreciate that very much. Good morning everyone. Commissioner Rivers said, good morning. Ms. Smalls said, I try my best to help the customers as much as I can. For the life of me, I cannot think of whom I talked to so nicely to receive this award, but I do appreciate it. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Mr. Mark Hill said, I'd just like to say that Stephanie [Smalls] is very good at the art of listening and that's half the battle. When you're dealing with child support issues, you understand the emotions that come at you, and it comes at you from every angle. If you can weed through what is necessary to get to the point and to the issues that the person needs, that's half the battle, and she does a wonderful job for us. Thank you.

Mr. Johnson said, our second recipient is Elizabeth Tuten. Elizabeth [Tuten], or Beth, as she's known, began employment with Chatham County in April 1989 as Administrative Assistant II in the Public Works Department. She now serves as an Administrative Assistant in the District Attorney's office, and she's accompanied by Spencer Lawton, the District Attorney, this morning. And also for our congratulations on being selected as a public service award winner, a check for \$50.

Ms. Tuten said, thank you very much. Good morning. Several Commissioners said, in unison, good morning. Ms. Tuten said, thank you very much. My office, as well, has lots of the public coming to us for assistance. A lot of times where referrals are to be routed or people that are not familiar with the judicial process, and we do have people that are —, your first contact gets the brunt of your frustration. I think I have an idea from where this honor came to me. What I don't know is whether it was a hoax or a real issue, but I do —. County Manager Abolt said, it was real. Ms. Tuten said, at least I handled it well, and I'm grateful for that. Thank you. And next month —, I would like to say I'm very grateful, but I would like to donate a portion of my check. Next month I'm participating with Victim Witness in a bowlathon, if any of y'all would like to join, and I would like to donate a portion of this to that cause. Thank you very, very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Mr. Spencer Lawton said, I likewise want to thank you on behalf of Beth [Tuten] and all her colleagues. Beth [Tuten] is one of our most experienced and able Administrative Assistants, a group which does very difficult work under very difficult circumstances. It's also very important work and they do it under crushing deadlines and ever increasing volume. Beth [Tuten] is one of the most experienced and able, as I said, of our administrative assistants. She also understands the importance in that capacity of serving as a mentor, a model, an example for the other administrative assistants and indeed, for that matter, to everyone in our office, as an example of the professionalism to which the public we serve is entitled. If I could add just one other word in regard to the Receiver's office, Stephanie [Smalls] and Mark Hill. I'm sure you all are already aware that some time over a year ago the State declared its intention to shift that function essentially into the private sector, eliminating not all, but a large part of the function of the Child Support Receiver's Office, and what makes them positively heroic in my view is that they have worked extremely hard to make sure that as they basically are forced out of existence, that they do their job well, and that have done —, I've never seen anything like it in my professional career. They're essentially —, have been put out of business, but they have manned their guns, they've stayed in their trenches down to the last hour making sure that the job is properly done, and I think they deserve special commendation for that, and I'm very proud to have an association with both Beth Tuten as District Attorney and with the Child Support Receiver's Office likewise. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

Chairman Hair said, the next item on our agenda is Chairman's Items. I'm going to reverse those just quickly.

[NOTE: Chairman Hair changed the Order of Business and Item VI-2, Scottish Games, was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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1. CHOICE TO CREATE A CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP ON DISABILITY.

Chairman Hair said, the next item is to get some direction from the Commission on the creation of a Citizens Advisory Group on Disability. All of you are aware a couple of weeks ago we took, I think, a very important step and agreed on the Chatham Area Transit Authority to add, first, an ex officio member and then at some point when legislation changes, a full member. There's a lot of work that's been done in recent weeks on a Disability Commission, and the way this is structured is that it would be a commission that would advise both the City Council and the Chatham County Commission on disability issues. You have in your packet a letter from the County Manager that states that he and the County Attorney both think that this would be very valuable input to us if we get this commission established. They're not asking for money or anything of that nature. It's just basically to get our blessing in terms of giving us advice and input, and I'd like to ask consent from the Commission to proceed in support of this commission. Do I have any objection? [No objection was expressed by the Commissioners.] Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The Commissioners gave their assent to support the creation of a Citizens Advisory Group on Disability to work with the City Council and the Chatham County Commission on disability issues.



2. SCOTTISH GAMES.

Chairman Hair said, we have with us today representatives of our —, the Scottish Society of Savannah. One of the great things about living in our community is the diversity and all the things we have to enjoy, and we have upcoming our Scottish Games in a week, and at this time I would like to ask Mr. Marshall and his entourage to come forward and receive this proclamation.

Chairman Hair said, I think next year I'm going to ask them if I could get one of these kilts to wear. I always wanted to wear some of those to see what it felt like. Maybe they'll bring a kilt next year. Chairman Hair said, I'd like to read the proclamation:

WHEREAS, one of the prime reasons for the establishment of the Georgia Colony was that it would serve as a buffer between Spanish Florida and the Carolinas; and

WHEREAS, James Oglethorpe, looking for a sturdy and resolute force to man the Florida frontier, sent his agents to the Scottish Highlands where such people were to be found; and

WHEREAS, the result of his recruitment was the settlement in January 1736 of 177 men, women and children from the Inverness region, on the Altamaha River where they called their town New Inverness (now Darien); and

WHEREAS, this original group were [sic] joined by shiploads of their countrymen and formed themselves into the Highland Company of Foote and the Highland Rangers to establish patrols and outposts against incursions from Florida; and

WHEREAS, these Scottish Highlanders became General Oglethorpe's most trusted followers and were with him on every important occasion — The treaty of Coweta, Ft. Moosta, and the Battle of Bloody Marsh in July 1742 on St. Simons Island where, with elements of Oglethorpe's 42nd Regiment, they decimated the Spanish advance guard by pushing their main force back and eliminating Spanish claim to the South Atlantic Coast forever.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commission, do hereby recognize the heroic deeds of the people of New Inverness who along with the thousands of Scots who came to this area and helped in settling our great state, am proud to declare the week of May 23rd through 29th, 1999, as:

“SCOTTISH HERITAGE WEEK”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this, the 30th day of April, 1999.

/s/ Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. James Vejar said, sir, as President of the Scottish Coastal Games, I would like to welcome all of you to attend our games, which will held next Saturday, on the 8th of May, as a part of recognizing the divergence that we have in our own heritage, we want to share that with all the people in Savannah. There are a lot of Scots in Savannah, as you well pointed out. Scottish people are very proud of the things that they have accomplished throughout life. We've provided the roads. Mr. McAdams invented surfacing of highways, Mr. Fleming and his penicillin, but one of the most important products that we have invented is something, here [Scotch whiskey], and we'd like to share that product with all of you on the council, so we'll present this to you, as well as some tickets and some passes for you to come down and enjoy the games. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. I always go to these. I really enjoy them. They're very well done.

Mr. Murray Marshall said, I also want to thank you for your recognition. As President of the St. Andrew's Society of Savannah, I'd also like to invite everyone to attend the wreath-laying at the Scottish Monument at Noon on Monday, the 3rd. That's the intersection of Bull Street and Oglethorpe Avenue. I hope you will all —, and all of you also, will come and share with us that moment. Thank you very much for this.

Chairman Hair said, thanks. Thank a lot. I appreciate you folks coming. If this meeting goes on too long, then maybe we might break this open.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO/YOUTH COMMISSION (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, on April 14th, 1999, the Youth Commission of Chatham County observed "Kick Butts Day." Not in the sense that some of you may be thinking now. We're talking about tobacco, and this has been the theme observed all across the nation, so on the 14th of April the Youth Commission held a news conference to report their findings, and in doing so I felt that the results of the report was worth bringing to the Commission. Before you, you have a packet of what they have put together, and we hope that you will take the time to read those, you know, the information in the packet. So this morning I'm going to call on Mr. Van Johnson, who will in turn introduce those who will bring the report to us.

Mr. Van Johnson said, again, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, we're so proud of our Youth Commission. We want you to know that we were featured in a NACo article, and from that article we've received inquiries from all over the country from people that are interested in our Youth Commission. As a matter of fact, we have individuals coming to Savannah for the express purpose of watching our Youth Commission in action, and we're very, very proud of that, and part of the reason we're so proud is because of these young folks' ability and willingness to involve themselves on cutting edge issues that are of importance to youth. So we have with us talking about Kick Butts Day and smoking, Miss Leontyne Jones, who's the Chair of the Chatham County Youth Commission, and Miss Patrice Whitehead, who is our Vice-Chair.

Miss Jones said, good morning. My name is Leontyne Jones and I'm the Chair of the Chatham County Youth Commission. The Chatham County Youth Commission is made up of students from various public and private high schools. Chatham County Youth Commission, Partners to Community Health, and the Housing Authority Drug Elimination Program, completed a youth by operation to determine how easy it is for children to purchase cigarettes in Savannah. We are here today to announce the findings of our surveys completed on March 20th and April 7th of this year. In conducting the survey, we were able to buy cigarettes 51% of the time. The stores we surveyed were gas stations, convenience stores, drug stores, grocery stores, bowling alleys and restaurants. There were a total of 84 sales. We made 43 sales and 41 refusals, which led to a 51% success rate. In other words, over half the stores we surveyed were willing to sell cigarettes to children. We conclude from our data today that kids have easy access to tobacco products in Chatham County, Georgia. We believe that the tobacco companies not only market to children, but actively and aggressively attempt to lure them into smoking before they reach high school age. The results of this survey more than confirm the need for tobacco control policies that protect kids from tobacco. Kids are influenced by tobacco ads and promotions. Consider: A study by the U. S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention found that a number of young people who become regular smokers jumped 73% between the time R. J. Reynolds introduced Joe Camel in 1988 and 1996. The Joe Camel campaign relied heavily on give-aways and kids targeted promotions that encouraged youth smoking. We discovered this when every store we investigated had some type of cigarette promotion on the exterior which consisted mostly of window signs. We also found signs about not selling to minors at [inaudible] stores, but they were hard to detect because they were either too small or blocked by another object. At this time we will hear from Patrice Whitehead with a testimony.

Miss Patrice Whitehead said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Miss Whitehead said, on the day that we went into the —, went on the undercover buy operation I was in one of the cars and I went into a store to purchase cigarettes. I went into the store and I asked the sales representative, or whoever, I asked him, I said can I have a pack of some kind of cigarettes I asked for. He didn't ask for any identification, he didn't even ask how old I was. He was just like, okay, that's fine, reached down to get it and it came up to two something. If I would have bought the cigarettes, I would have been illegal myself, and so we were supposed to say I don't have enough money, let me go out to the car and get some, and when I —, I pulled out a dollar and I said, oh, I don't have enough money, he said, well, I'll pay the rest of it, and I'm like —, and at that point I was like, okay, he's not supposed to say that. So that's when I was like, no, no, I don't want you to have to do that so let me go out to the car and I'll get the rest, and that, I was just —, I was floored by that because, I mean, I don't —, I wasn't look —, I don't look old. I don't think I look too old, and so the point that he didn't ask me for any identification, how old I was or anything else like that and then offered to pay the rest just showed me that it's all about the dollar. I mean, that's all they worry about, and then I worried about who they hurt or, you know, selling to youth, and this is what really pushed me to ask the Commission to get involved in this issue.

Miss Jones said, as for me, one store went to —, the lady was sitting in her car getting ready to close, so I asked her could I go in and buy a pack of cigarettes. So she got the cigarettes down. No ID, no age, and I looked back up she had matches sitting on top of the cigarettes, so I asked her how much would they be and I fumbled around in my purse like I didn't have any money and she was willing to sell them to me, but no identification. We hope you, as our Commissioners, will stand up with us to help stop more than 3,000 young people age eight from becoming addicted to tobacco. We'd like to come back before you at a later time with representatives from the health care community and present a comprehensive plan of what we feel could help prevent the sales of cigarettes to kids in Chatham County. Thank you for your time and we appreciate your support.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you so very much for bringing that report to the Commission, and as I said to them on the day that they had the news conference is that I'm sure that this Commission will stand behind them in their effort because, as we all know, tobacco is the number one preventable cause of death in the United States, and we need to —, the merchants that are allowing this to happen, we need to make them aware of the laws that are on the books and if, you know, they don't want to cooperate, then certainly I'm hoping that in the County at least that we will take the appropriate action in support of these young people. We cannot allow this to continue to happen.

Chairman Hair said, I agree with you. We appreciate y'all bringing it to our attention very much, and thanks for your work on this.

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Chairman Hair said, before I call on Commissioner DeLoach, I would like to as a point of personal privilege recognize former Chairman of this Commission who I saw come in, Mr. Robert McCorkle. Mr. McCorkle, we're very glad you're here. And we also have Alderman Clifton Jones who is, I think, somewhere in the audience. There he is. We're glad to have you with us. We appreciate you coming. Thanks.

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2. EQUIPMENT FOR Y (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Chairman Hair said, I'd like to now call on Commissioner DeLoach, equipment for the "Y".

Commissioner DeLoach said, two or three weeks ago I came before the Commission and asked for funding towards the YMCA program over in West Chatham, and with that in mind they asked that we bring some program towards exactly what this would be funding, how it would be funded or what we were trying to do out there, so I've asked Randy Bugos and Ike LaRoche to come forward and basically give you a presentation of what we're attempting to do and the different things that are taking place out there with the YMCA.

Mr. Randy Bugos said, good morning. My name is Randy Bugos, I'm the President of the YMCA. Thank you for, Eddie [DeLoach], for inviting us. Bucky Johnson, one of my associates, is handing out a little position paper on the vision from the YMCA of Coastal Georgia. About three years ago the YMCA board got together and did a long range plan. That was in 1998 [sic], to look at the growth for the YMCA in the Coastal Georgia are. It included some short term goals as well as

some long term goals. One of those short term goals was realized in January of this year when we opened up the new southside YMCA down on Mercy Boulevard in conjunction with St. Joe/Candler Hospital. Another was realized just a couple of weeks ago, April 17th, at Tybee Island when we opened a new Tybee Island YMCA in partnership with the City of Tybee. There are also some major projects planned as part of this legacy program or long range plan. One of them is a 47,000 square foot facility in West Chatham that Eddie [DeLoach] is speaking about, a similar sized facility on Whitmarsh Island to replace the existing Islands and do some enhancement to Camp Venture also. The first project coming up is the West Chatham YMCA out in Pooler. We hope to start construction around July 1st. The project will carry a price tag of roughly three and a half million dollars with financing coming from the issuance of demand bonds. We met with the Savannah Economic Development Authority last week to pass some resolutions to get that process going. Those bonds will be repaid from a combination of personal gifts, contributions, corporate gifts, grants, and the money that we hope that we can raise over the next four or five years. In addition, we'll need about \$300,000 to furnish this facility out in West Chatham, and we're coming today to ask the County to —, the County Commission to help us with a \$75,000 grant as a part of that \$300,000. We brought some site plans here for the facility. It might be a little hard to see the site plan. The building plan is a little bigger. It will be one of the largest facilities, around 47,000 square feet as far as the "Y" goes. We've included an equipment list as the second portion to give you an idea of where the money would be spent in buying this equipment. So I'll stop there and ask and see if you have questions.

Chairman Hair asked, does anyone have any questions for Mr. Bugos?

Commissioner DeLoach said, the approach I was going to take on this thing and the reason I mentioned it and moved it back was that I was going to issue a challenge to the YMCA as far as we would donate \$75,000 if they would come up with the other \$225,000. As soon as they come up with that, then we'll add our \$75,000 to that. I feel it's important that not only do —, if we participate that the other group also participates, so I'm issuing that challenge, and if y'all want to accept it, I'd like the Board to put that in a motion and put it forward for a \$75,000 gift. Commissioner Odell said, if you make that a motion, I'll second it. Chairman Hair asked, don't you want to make a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, time out, time out. I've got a —. County Manager Abolt said, not donation. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, give me the right word. County Manager Abolt said, you'd just be —. Commissioner Odell said, contribution. County Manager Abolt said, be specific, only be for specific equipment. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, specific equipment. County Manager Abolt said, and it would be something received we recognize an asset.

Chairman Hair said, Jon [Hart], tell us how to phrase the motion. County Attorney Hart said, well, I think probably what needs to happen is that the Chatham County Recreation Authority probably needs to be the funding vehicle if y'all —, if this body so elects to do that. They have a little bit broader discretion and can accomplish the same purpose as —. Chairman Hair asked, so it would be a transfer to the Recreation Authority —? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, for that purpose.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let me make a motion that we transfer \$75,000 to the Recreation Authority to be given or to be —. Commissioner Odell said, earmarked. Commissioner DeLoach said, earmarked to the YMCA as soon as the \$225,000 is lined up. Chairman Hair said, and it would not be released until the 225 —. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, until the 225 is released towards the YMCA, equipping the YMCA in West Chatham. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second it.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion of the motion? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, I have some discussion here. Mr. Ken Earls said, question. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Jackel first.

Commissioner Jackel said, the County has a process for funding grants and aids and this is outside the perimeters of that. Unfortunately, I had to sit up here when the Cancer Society requested that they use the pavilion at Tybee and they wanted us to let them use it for free. I certainly support the aims of the Cancer Society. My wife has had a battle with cancer and I'm very sensitive to that, and I had to vote no on that because that was a contribution. It was not free. We had costs involved. I'm not sure —, and we all voted for that. I'm not sure what the rationale is how we do this when we've got the Library sitting out there demanding money, we've got other groups demanding money, and we have a process set up for grant and aids to cover this sort of thing. I certainly support what you gentlemen do, and I believe in the "Y" and in United Way sponsored activity, but I just don't see with what I've had to vote how I can be consistent in my voting if I voted for this and the way it's presented and it's not part of our regular voting. So unfortunately, even though I support what you do, I'm not going to be able to vote for it and I hope you understand.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Earls, do you want to make a comment?

Mr. Ken Earls said, I'd just like to know where is the money coming from. That should be in the motion, shouldn't it? County Manager Abolt said, it would —, as your action in the previous meeting for Brandlewood Park and Hesse School, it would come from your Contingency account.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes, that was the question I wanted to ask because I thought this was stated at the last meeting, in the records for the last meeting that this would come —.

County Manager Abolt said, it was stated —. Commissioner DeLoach said, it was stated in the last meeting. Commissioner Thomas said, that's what I thought. Commissioner Jackel said, and I missed the last meeting. Where's it coming from now? Chairman Hair said, the same place Brandlewood Park came from. County Manager Abolt said, Contingency. Commissioner Jackel said, well that's —, but it's the same thing. We've got a process for it and we need to stick to it.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Any further discussion? All the —. The Chair calls the question. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you. Mr. Bugos said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thanks. We appreciate y'all coming.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Board transfer \$75,000 to the Chatham County Recreation Authority from the M&O Contingency to be earmarked for equipment for the West Chatham YMCA when the West Chatham YMCA has raised an additional \$225,000 needed for equipment. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

None.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: GENERAL FUND M & O INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFER OF \$2,000 FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SUPPLIES ACCOUNT TO SALARIES AND FICA FOR TEMPORARY HELP TO COMPLETE A SPECIAL RECORDS RETRIEVAL PROJECT FOR THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT AND A CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$28,000 TO BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FOR CARPET REPLACEMENT IN THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S AND TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICES; A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS FROM INSPECTIONS RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT OF \$7,480 AND CONTINGENCY OF \$2,150 FOR CONSULTANT PRELIMINARY STUDY AND REPRODUCTION COST OF CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS (\$8,000) FOR CONSOLIDATED INSPECTIONS OFFICE AND FOR EMPLOYMENT OF A SITE PLAN REVIEWER ABOVE VACANT POSITION BUDGETED SALARY (\$1,630); A ONE PERCENT SALES TAX EXTENSION FUND (1993-1998) UNINCORPORATED ROADS TRANSFER OF \$18,470 TO CENTRAL AVENUE, CHEROKEE AVENUE, SAUSSY AVENUE AND SMITH DRIVING PAVING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AN E-911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE AND**

ADDITIONAL \$43,470 IN SURCHARGE REVENUE FOR TRANSFER TO SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND BUDGET AND APPROPRIATED TO POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR PAYROLL COST OF E-911 MARKET ADJUSTMENTS.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the following: General Fund M & O intra-departmental transfer of \$2,000 from Administrative Services Supplies Account to Salaries and FICA for temporary help to complete a special records retrieval project for the Clerk of Superior Court and a Contingency transfer of \$28,000 to Building Maintenance and Operations for carpet replacement in the Court Administrator's and Tax Assessor's offices; a Special Service District inter-departmental transfers from Inspections Restricted Expenditure Account to Inspections Department of \$7,480 and Contingency of \$2,150 for consultant preliminary study and reproduction cost of construction documents (\$8,000) for consolidated inspections office and for employment of a Site Plan Reviewer above vacant position budgeted salary (\$1,630); a One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) Unincorporated Roads transfer of \$18,470 to Central Avenue, Cherokee Avenue, Saussy Avenue and Smith Driving Paving and Drainage Improvements Project; An E-911 Emergency Telephone System Fund Budget Amendment to recognize and additional \$43,470 in Surcharge revenue for transfer to Special Service District Fund Budget and appropriated to Police Department for payroll cost of E-911 market adjustments. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A GENERAL M&O CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$37,690 TO THE MARINE PATROL BUDGET 004415 TO FUND OVERTIME, FUEL, AND EQUIPMENT COSTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED MARINE PATROL ANTI-THEFT TASK FORCE, TO BE KNOWN AS OPERATION WATER WHEEL.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is an innovative way of deploying our existing forces in a matter that continues to be a problem throughout the County, the many, many miles of waterway. The desire of the citizens of this County to locate, to live day in and day out along the water creates problems of theft. Our Marine Patrol is woefully inadequate. It also —, we must deal with the continued reoccurrence of boating under the influence. In past years the Chief has done the best he could with the resources given to amass our forces to mobilize. Not since the Olympics though have we been able to devote this type of intense patrolling. The shift from Contingency is from M&O because of the Countywide benefit. We're looking as a test case. We feel it has great application, particularly in the years to come. It would involve a very intensified patrolling of our waterways, targeting certain areas, and we will, as we have on the matter of the boat ramps, give you periodic as to progress made.

Chairman Hair said, in the staff report, I was a little bit confused. You're not asking for permanent positions —. County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Chairman Hair asked, you're asking for overtime? County Manager Abolt said, absolutely not. Chairman Hair asked, you're not creating position here? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, no sir. This is a test. Chairman Hair said, okay, because I —, I would probably be opposed to it if it were that. The way it's structured, I can support it. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, but, Russ [Abolt], what we will do for the upcoming budget year, we will have the test information in —. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, so that staff will be in a position so that if —, if it —, it might be wiser to have a —, an additional position if in fact the need is there rather than paying overtime. County Manager Abolt said, we are the first to admit, and if Commissioner Price were here, he'd echo it even louder than I, that we have, with the exception of the Olympics, been very paltry in our allocation of funds to Marine Patrol. It's getting to be more and more of a challenge and, again, the dynamics, the demographics, people are getting closer to the water. They're enjoying it. There are problems with thefts off docks. It is a continuing challenge for the Police Department. You're absolutely right.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any further —? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, I have —. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have some questions. I have —, first off, I have somewhat a philosophical problem in that this didn't come through the usual budgeting process. You know, I've said virtually every meeting we're up here on something from the criminal justice system that's outside the budget process and they want additional money. If this is

some sort of test type thing that we're going to see how it works, I didn't receive any information on what the perimeters are going to be, what are we going to consider successful, what the actual problem is that we're trying to solve. I just think it's an end run. It appears to be, I won't say it is. It appears to be an end runaround of a budgeting process. County Manager Abolt said, it is not and I candidly admit it's not. Chief Sprague can be more specific. Commissioner Jackel said, well, if we have the information then I will vote for it, but apparently —, I mean, I don't have what we're going —, I mean, since I've been in Chatham County, there have been problems, small thefts off of docks, maybe some larger ones too. What are we —, I see us providing two jet skis and four additional patrol boats. What do we hope to accomplish with all of this? What is going to tell us that this is successful so we want to continue it? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. I'll defer to Chief Sprague, but obviously we wish to translate this in enough of arrests. We also want to reduce the temptation for boating under the influence. We can in very descriptive fashion, as we have in our quarterly reports, exact specific measurements of the progress they can make. This is an area we did not include in the budget for the very reason that until we were certain as to where we are financially, we didn't want to make any commitment beyond a test, but we again can document, and I have been the one that has told the Chief in years past he could not do it because of other budget constraints, but the need far surpasses even this allocation. County Manager Abolt recognized Chief Sprague.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions? Chairman Hair recognized Chief Sprague.

Chief Tom Sprague said, yes sir. The best case that comes to my mind occurred two years ago when you're talking theft. Thefts don't occur every night on docks and boats aren't stolen every night at docks, but they are stolen and they're high dollar amount boats, and every Commissioner has boat owners in their districts, as shown by the 19,000 registered throughout the County. That does not count the other boats that are coming in the Intercostal Waterways and for other events and so on. About two years ago I had a friend who's a banker and he called me. He had a brand new boat, about a \$27,000 boat, was taken off his dock in the City of Savannah. The City of Savannah took the incident report, but it didn't go beyond that. He called me. We put on —, took the Marine Patrol off of what they were doing the next morning and they got right on it. Officer Parlin went up with a Coast Guard helicopter that he arranged. We found the boat that same morning, the morning after the theft. However, it was about a mile away and, true to their modus operandi, the thieves had moved it out and up the river from Rio Road, I believe, down that way. They had a larger trawler type vessel from the investigation that just —, they just yanked the engine completely out of the boat and then punched it and attempted to sink it. It was half sunken. The engine, I understand, was worth about \$15,000. That's a case of a high-dollar theft. It happens not every day, not all the time, but it is a problem. That's from docks. I've had calls from Commissioners on this Board here with regard to dock thefts where their constituents have boats and they —, you know about what you can do to lock up a boat at night when you leave it at a dock, and they're broken into and everything from life preservers to small engines are stolen. So that's one problem, and as we approach and come into the boating season, and Chatham County is noted for it, bringing businesses here in part. We don't have enough rolling stock to cover a 16-hour period. What this special operation would be able to do, and I would like to be able to do it on a year-long basis, but this is, as the Manager says, a trial basis. We're going to be able to utilize in-house manpower and overtime in order to go to 16 hours, two shifts, probably three to four days a week during the boating season. We're also going to be able to, during night time hours, to use our boats in high theft areas in surveillance. We have a boat that we recovered through a seizure and it's been converted over, it's unmarked, and we'll have the officer manpower there. Under theft cases we're linking up our detective division, and that means forensics also, so we're going to be able to take an instant investigatory look at a theft or another violation of the property angle and go from there to present a solid case to the District Attorney's office. As the boats go on and on, the BUI's are going up and up. Water safety is one of the primary concerns of the Marine Patrol and boaters are out there at night also. So we want to be able to hit and pulse and surge into this problem like we never have been able to do before.

Commissioner Jackel asked, was this —, did you bring this forward during the regular budgeting process? Chief Sprague said, we did a staff analysis on it last year and it didn't get to the Board in the final budget package, but it —. What it was, was we looked at it, and we found that with three additional officers and equipment we could go to a similar situation as now. Basically, 16 hours a day. If we had full time, we could do it year round because the thefts do occur year round although they're not overpowering, but they are high dollar and they're impacting on our boating public. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm not questioning that it impacts on the voting public and that there's a problem there. My problem is, if we've know there's a problem there, it should have been presented in the normal course of budgeting for us to consider and weigh it against everything else that the County has to do.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, in the —, and again without Commissioners Murray and Price it's difficult for me to testify directly on their behalf, but I believe one if not both gentlemen during your goal session last September brought up the issue of Marine Patrol. There was not enough sentiment to give adequate weight to it to put it in the budget. In past years Commissioner Price has put on the wish list more to Marine Patrol. The money has never been allocated. This is an attempt to try it to see how successful it is to recognize the demographics of the community, but it is not something that Chief Sprague or myself created. It has some history and it was initiated, we're the first to admit, by two members of this body that initially were looking at just their districts, but like the Chief has said, the problem is all pervasive and it affects each one of the districts.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions. I recognize Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Chief, and I commend you and our Manager, Russ Abolt. The sum of what you're saying is that you don't control the crime in Chatham County. You attempt to identify it and prevent it, but you don't get to a point and say, we've had 50 boat thefts and we're only covering for eight hours and so on the 53rd we can't take that one because we don't have the manpower. Basically, what this is a test period to determine is based upon the increase in thefts, I need to provide greater service. We might need to add additional equipment and manpower, and we're doing it through overtime as a test, and I commend you and Russ [Abolt] for doing this. I think that it's a logical way to do it, and I understand that you cannot dictate what the criminal level is going to be in Chatham County. Chief Sprague said, the courts say —. Commissioner Odell said, if we have 50 burglaries, the Judge can't say we're not going to do anything about the 51st burglary because we don't have enough clerical time. We do as many as there are out there to be done. If there is 100, then we do 100, if there are 200, we do 200, and that's what you have to do in order to prevent crime from happening. They have to be prosecuted.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let me call the question. Chairman Hair said, we have a call for the question. Commissioner DeLoach said, call the question. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a General M&O contingency transfer of \$37,690 to the Marine Patrol Budget 004415 to fund overtime, fuel, and equipment costs for the implementation of an Integrated Marine Patrol Anti-Theft Task Force, to be known as Operation Water Wheel. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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3. ADOPT STRATEGY REGARDING ISSUANCE OF DEBT AND COMPANION FUNDING TO ACCOMPLISH HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board, this is a follow-up to a presentation you had a few weeks back from the A. G. Edwards Financial Adviser firm. We are attempting to craft, with your full understanding and final concurrence, a strategy that would allow us to issue debt in certain high priority projects. This is a major shift in policy that certainly was initially introduced when you did discuss the matter of retaining the \$3,000,000 and using it as a way of showing to future investors in Chatham County that we're not only solvent, but serious about issuing debt. We're in comparative terms relatively debt free. We've gone through our —, the issues of the unfunded CIP, we've looked at such high priority projects as the heating and ventilating, air conditioning systems in the Montgomery Street Courthouse, building the Tag facility, remodeling some spaces on Montgomery Street, the old Jail facility. We've gone through a lot of CIP projects that aren't necessarily glamorous but continue to gain an awful lot of criticism by our neglect. I look particularly at what we refer to as general purpose courts, such as tennis and basketball courts at our existing parks. It is not uncommon for any member of the Commission to call me and say it's terrible, why aren't we doing something. I commend the Commission for moving in this direction, the reason being is that up until this opportunity to offer this as an option, we have been building things that are new but being unable to come up with sufficient monies to maintain what we now have. This is a major departure from that, and I think it's overall in the better interest of the citizens of Chatham County. The choices before you today are many. Staff can make recommendations. I do want you to consider though, in addition to what we have before you, your fully unfunded CIP. There may be other projects in there that might peak your interest. It is not absolutely essential the decision be made today. You may wish to have a full compliment of the Commission present or whatever. The only cautionary note on this all is because this policy is new, and again I wholly support it, we are going to, by any action of issuing debt, assuming a prolonged debt service obligation in future budget years. For example, given what we now have in debt looking in the year 2000, we would anticipate along with what staff has arranged here before you, we have an obligation of about \$1.3 to \$1.4 million next year that would be fixed cost we would have to cover.

Chairman Hair asked, where does that come from? This says 762? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. If you look at number two on page two, sir. I guess I'm just using round numbers here, sir. We're looking at the obligations we already have, the voting machines, the helicopter purchase, the Y2K actions where we deferred our debt obligations until next year, the Mosquito Control facility, in round numbers 675,000. Adding to that another 700,000, you've got, you know, 1.3, 1.4 million in fixed costs. Chairman Hair said, one of the things I particularly like about this approach is that it deals with things that are critical to the future growth of this County. You know, for example, the old Jail. Russ [Abolt] knows when I first took office, the first week I was in office I went over there and walked that building and looked at that, and that's something that needs to be done. We've got some serious needs, as you've said, Russ [Abolt], that have been neglected for 20 years. I like this approach. I think it causes us to, or allow us to do the, I mean, some very serious things that affect all the departments in Chatham County, and if we were to act on this list today or in the future, I think the citizens would be extremely well served by these projects. Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want to go ahead and make a motion to move in that direction as far as us making this a strategy and we get together at a later date with all the Commission and come up with —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll second that. Chairman Hair said, okay, we've got a motion and a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, Russ [Abolt], normally what is the time frame that we have in securing if we're going out to borrow money? Just the time frame. County Manager Abolt said, it would be a matter of a couple of months. It would be a couple of months. We'd work with the Financial Adviser. The interest rates, of course, are exceptional. We would try to with their advise, you know, get the best interest rate possible. That would dictate a lot of it. Our highest priority project would be the HVAC system, but overall the policy decision would set us in a direction. I cannot say with certitude whether the entire issuance would cover all of this or only a part based on priority, but the policy decision, I think, is very healthy. At the risk of sounding as self-serving person, I want to commend the Commission for going in this direction. This is something that should have been done many years ago.

Chairman Hair said, I would like to, Eddie [DeLoach], if I could, maybe not certainly amend your motion, but —, because I can't do that, but to also include in your motion that staff would take these projects, prioritize them both in terms of criticality as well as timing, you know, when —, and then give that back to us as a set of priorities, and then we could actually vote on them one by one.

Commissioner Rivers said, we can acquiesce to do that. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, but I would like at the same time to look at the possibility, and maybe I'm jumping ahead a little bit, on —, of the Library technology of putting that in to see how much the cost of that subject would be if we decide to —. Chairman Hair said, we could add that in there. County Manager Abolt said, that's an option you have. Chairman Hair said, I think that's a good idea. I would support that if they add that.

Commissioner Odell said, it's \$755,000. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, the technology part of it.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second we approve. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

Commissioner Jackel said, wait a minute. This is a vote for us to consider when the full Commission —. Chairman Hair said, this is just a vote as to the policy —. Commissioner DeLoach said, the policy. Chairman Hair said, that we would —. Commissioner Thomas said, the policy itself. Chairman Hair said, that we would go forward to debt financing as opposed to —, a policy decision. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt as policy the strategy outlined by staff regarding issuance of debt and companion funding to accomplish high priority projects and to also include in those projects \$755,000 for technology at the Bull Street Library. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RELEASE \$400,000 RESTRICTED FUND TO THE LIBRARY, NEW \$876,000 IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY'S 1999 OPERATING BUDGET AND A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$755,000 FOR TECHNOLOGY AT THE BULL STREET LIBRARY.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved that we remove the \$400,000 from restriction. Chairman Hair said, okay we have a motion to —. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, to remove the \$400,000 from restriction and a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the second part of their request, which is the \$876,000 in supplemental funding and the \$755,000 for technology. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Kaster.

Mr. Jack Kaster said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did everyone on staff receive this breakdown of our requested dollars? If you didn't, we have copies up here, but —. Commissioner Jackel said, I think I missed mine. County Manager Abolt said, I believe it's in your packet. Mr. Kaster said, it was in the packet, or should have been at least. Chairman Hair said, it's in here. Commissioner Jackel said, I have that. Mr. Kaster said, okay. Well, the first item, of course, in the —, is the operating budget request that would take our original budget request that you didn't have money to fund earlier, deduct the

salary increments, for instance, that would not be used because of the time of the year that we're in right now, and the net result of that is coming up with the \$876,000 required to adequately fund the Library's operation for the rest of 1999. If we got that funding, then we could open the Library in October of 1999. That would allow us time to go out and solicit applications for employment for librarians, et cetera, get them in here, hire them, train them and get the Library read for opening in October of '99. So we think that's a very important priority. I know you do too. The Library was one of your top three priorities in your goal-setting session last year for 1999, and we think that the Bull Street opening would certainly be a cornerstone of evidence that that is happening and that we're turning the corner on library service and library support in the County. The \$755,000 is the remaining technology items. You'll remember we've talked about a million three for technology a lot of times, and we were able through some salary savings, some contingency fund expenditures from construction, some SPLOST money, et cetera, to cut that down and buy some of the items so that the remaining items are \$755,000 to fund the technology we need to have Bull Street a first-class library. If there are any questions, I'd be glad to —.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I've got one question. Have we looked at —, you know, we're talking about keeping the inner city libraries open and talking about a whole lot of things, and everything in those inner city libraries are outdated. Have we looked at the possibility of doing some technological things to acquire some savings rather than the expenditures over and over and over again on books and —? Mr. Kaster said, the answer to that question is yes, and not just our library, but libraries throughout the country, throughout the world, have looked at lot at technology and the whole question of distance learning and so on is at work here, and the nub of all of that is that you still need books, you still need places to have the technology and that while it enhances the learning and the information process, it doesn't necessarily come up with a lot of new savings in the delivery of that information. It's much more efficient and you can get much more information at your fingertips, but you still need books, you still need places where people can pick up a book and sit down or pick up an encyclopedia and page through it as opposed to flipping through the Internet and getting that sort of —. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, it's amazing that you said that because when we were talking about bookmobiles versus buildings it was a whole different focus. Commissioner DeLoach said, I love bookmobiles. Mr. Kaster said, I don't agree with that. I don't think it was a different focus at all. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, but I was —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I like bookmobiles. Commissioner Rivers said, no, I was emphasizing the fact that the same point that you're bringing —, and, Eddie [DeLoach] —. Commissioner DeLoach said, don't get mad at me. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm talking to Mr. Kaster. It just relates to the same point that I was giving him before, the importance and the need of having a visible structure there that people can walk in and get books when they need it, not when a bookmobile comes by and I might miss it, you know. Mr. Kaster said, it wasn't going to be a bookmobile coming by like a bus stop —. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, we don't have to —.

Chairman Hair said, we're not going to —. We've already —, we're not going to debate that today. Commissioner Rivers said, I was just calling a point. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, good morning, Jack [Kaster]. Mr. Kaster said, good morning. How are you, sir? Commissioner Odell said, I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank you and the Library Board and especially Kathy Johnson and her citizen group. I really don't think the public has an idea of the substantial amount of time that you all have devoted to it. You're volunteers. It's an unpaid position, and often it's a position that goes without thanks many times. Our problem is one of money. For many, many years we have been content to remain and have, not a second-class library system, but a third-rate library system, and thanks to the Board and the citizens group, we have finally reached the point of maturity and said that little elements like having an adequate library services makes the quality of life here in Chatham County higher. So if we're talking about bringing in industry, those kinds of things are considered by major industries, and if you compare us with Charleston, Jacksonville, even some of the home cities here in Georgia, we are woefully low, and the people who are cheated by this are every citizen who desires to use our library service, and I just wanted to thank you all. I have been —, I've attended some of the meetings, but not all, and I know that's it's been a major task for the board and for Kathy [Johnson] and her group, and I appreciate your services. Mr. Kaster said, thank you very much. Thank you. Commissioner Odell said, that doesn't mean that I'll necessarily vote for you. Mr. Kaster said, that's all right. Commissioner Odell said, but I'm grateful, Jack [Kaster]. Mr. Kaster said, well, I appreciate it very much and I'm sure the rest of the board and the staff, particularly the staff of the library, and obviously it's not a big staff. That's one of our problems in they get a lot of requests for information and they help prepare and they've done a yeoman's job on this, and I'm thankful for that.

Commissioner Odell said, thanks, Jack [Kaster]. I think we have —, recognize some people to speak.

Mr. John Mitchell said, good morning. My name is W. John Mitchell and I'm a member of Concerned Citizens for Preservation of Libraries. In the beginning, as you all know, the Library Board had a strategic plan. It was conceptually flawed. It considered numbers only unfortunately and it misconstrued the community's true needs. Now we, the Citizens for Preservation of Libraries, we marshaled our forces of grassroots people in the various communities affected by this proposed —, these proposed closings. We sort of circled our wagons and adopted the attitude of David in his battle with Goliath. Now that battle came to an amicable conclusion at the last Library Board meeting. The board concluded that it was in the best interest of all parties concerned to keep the small branch libraries open and to improve them. The future of our youth demands that improvement. One of the board members, Oscar White, years ago when he was a property

inspector, I was buying a rental building. The building was in pretty bad shape. Oscar [White] came around and looked at that building and he came outside and he said to me, he said, Mr. Mitchell, the only reason that building is still standing is all the termites in there are holding hands. And in trying to keep the branches standing, the Citizens for Library Preservation were, in effect, the termites to help to keep the branches standing. The board is to be commended for their decision last week, and I concur with Harris Odell regarding, I guess, kudos to the Library Board for that particular decision, and we'd like to thank them and hopefully we can push forward to something a little more positive for Chatham County. God knows, the library situation is really atrocious and we really need to do something about it. Thank you all. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Mr. Mitchell said, and I'd also like to thank Mr. Kaster for his way of handling this "fight" that we had, and you're correct, there were a lot of emotions in this thing, and I think all parties involved handled themselves very nicely.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Anyone else like to speak? State your name for the record.

Mr. Franklin Williams said, good morning. My name is Franklin Williams and I am a resident of the Thomas Square neighborhood. I am also a friend of the library. I would —, in coming before you this morning, I would like to recognize a few people who have come this morning to show their support for what is being brought before you today: Clifton Jones, whom you have recognized, Alderman, City of Savannah; Robert McCorkle, former Chairman of the County Commission; Diane Kantor unfortunately could not be here this morning, but sends her regards; Don Mendonsa, former City Manager, Savannah, sends his regards; Erma Harlan, Executive Director of the C-E-L Library, retired; Kathy Johnson, whom you have recognized; Virginia Mobley, Thomas Square Neighborhood Association Chairperson and Citizen Advocate; Naomi Brown, Chairman of her neighborhood association and Citizen Advocate; Freddie Patrick sends his regards, Chairman of his neighborhood association, Citizen Advocate. I do not see Jeanne McCorkle here today, but she certainly sends her regards; Kaye Cole, former Trustee, C-E-L Regional Library; Gloria Holzman [phonetic] sends her regards, Citizen Advocate, friend of the library. Also I would mention that when we originally petitioned the Commission to consider committing to the Bull Street Library as our main library, as the flagship of our system, that we brought before you a petition signed by 3,000 of our citizens. They stand here with us this morning also. I would ask —, we are reasonable people and citizens of the City as you are, and if there are overriding concerns for the health, the well being and the security of our citizens to prevent you from granting this request at this time, we certainly can understand your reasons if you should deem it appropriate to share them with us. Otherwise, we're faced with presenting, in my opinion, a symbol to the entire community of opening this facility to which we've all committed in a very poor, underdeveloped manner. By releasing the additional funds that are being requested at this time, I believe we send the right signal to our community, which is what, in my opinion, you represent, which is the positive support of the intellectual, educational and economic development of our County. I respectfully ask you to reconsider your early positions concerning this requests and consider a favorable vote at this time. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Yes?

Mr. John Barrie said, I don't think it was an —. John Barrie. I don't think it was an accident this morning, the story of Yamacraw Village in the Savannah News Press. So, therefore, I think we're talking about seven libraries rather than six. So when we're talking about the budget, please remember Yamacraw and the great need for that library to be returned to Yamacraw.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Any —, Mr. McCorkle.

Mr. Robert McCorkle said, I'm not here to demand anything this morning. I sat in those seats for 22 years. I know all the problems that come up. But forever —, you're always going to have problems. I know you had the Jail. We were turning people out —, we were putting them in the front door and turning them out the back door. So we had to get together and finally we got together and built a new Jail. A good thing we did because a thousand people's in the Jail now. That means if we didn't —, if we hadn't done that, 600 of those criminals would be walking the street today. And then we come to the —, we had to have more room for the Courthouse. So we beat it around a little while and we come up with the money and we built this —, we renovated this Courthouse. We built roads. Suppose we hadn't built Montgomery Cross Road out there —, five-lane Montgomery Cross Road. You wouldn't be able to move out there. So I —, I always wondered why a person —, I hated to spend money. I think everybody agrees with that. I hated to spend it, but there's things that's got to be done for the welfare of the people of Chatham County, and I think one of the main things that we're up here today, I try not to interfere with another Commissioner because I had my chance, but I think the main thing that we can do here today, the number one priority is a first-class library to open up. Please let's don't open it up halfway. We didn't do this job halfway, we didn't do the Jail halfway, we haven't done the roads halfway, so please —. I think a library is one of the most important things in a community for our young people, for our business people that wants to do research. You know, I think we're trying to get new industry, the right kind of industry here, and with a new —, with a first-class library it will go a long, long way of doing that, and I think we, you know, the Library Board, just like this gentleman a few minutes ago was talking about, he congratulated the library for the time put it in, Mr. Odell, but that's true. You know, they don't get a dime. My wife was on that one time and they don't get any money. They meet and have long meetings. They try to do the very best they can with what they've got, but now we've got a chance and they're building a nice building. Let's don't open it up half done without the technical things and the books and the things they need in there. Let's open it first class and I'll tell you, gentlemen, you'll never regret it. It will be a legacy to you as long as we live.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. McCorkle. I'd like to make a couple of comments. Come on up. I'll recognize Mr. Earls and then —, Dr. Thomas as well, but I'd like to make a couple of comments in advance of that. I agree with what Commissioner Odell said. I think the Library Board is facing tough issues and we certainly haven't always agreed. We're probably not going to agree today, but I commend the service these folks give, but I think the truth of the matter is if it were not for this citizens group, I think there is a very high likelihood that those inner city libraries would be closed today, and I think this citizens group has done this community a great service by making sure that all of us were aware of the problems and the likelihood of what would have happened if we had closed those inner city libraries. But my problem, as I said to the board members that called me yesterday, my problem is that —, I have two problems actually. One is that I think sometimes the Library Board has not been sensitive to the fact that we have other needs other than the library in Chatham County, and I think sometimes when we've got a lot of money up here, they want a hundred percent of the money, and they think we shouldn't give any money to anybody else. And I've got a problem with that. I mean, I think we have a lot of needs in this community. There is no question the library has some serious needs, but so does every department in this County. So that's one of my problems. The second problem I've got is you're asking for almost \$900,000 for staffing. You know, I think —, you know, I might not be the smartest guy in the world, but I don't think it takes \$900,000 to open the Bull Street Library. I know all that's not for Bull Street, but I just think that what I have said to the board members, I think what should have been presented to us today was an option. We should have had Option A and Option B and Option C and Option D and said if you fund at this level we get one person, we fund at this level we get three people, we fund at this level we get seven people, and then let us make the decision, but to sit up here and give us requests all or nothing, you know, \$876,000, \$755,000 or nothing. That's what we were presented with today. And I've got a problem with that. I think what should have been presented to us was five or six options and let's look at the cost of each one of those options, and then I think we're intelligent and we can make a decision, but to sit here and say it's \$1.8 million or nothing, which is what's on my agenda, I've got a problem with that, and that's my comment. Mr. Earls, and then I'll recognize Commissioner DeLoach and then Dr. Thomas. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Mr. Ken Earls said, Commissioner Rivers, if you'd like to speak, go ahead. Chairman Hair said, no. I recognized you, Mr. Earls. I'll run the meeting. Mr. Earls said, okay. Excuse me. My name is Ken Earls. I do have a question. \$755,000 in technology. That is strictly for Bull Street, yes? Mr. Kaster said, no. Mr. Earls asked, that is not for Bull Street, strictly for Bull Street? An unidentified speaker said, it's says half for Bull Street Library, you're right. Mr. Earls asked, so what's the answer. Mr. Kaster said, the answer is it will be installed at Bull Street, it will serve the other branches in the system as well. Some of the things, it will serve people who want to dial in remotely from their office or their home, for instance. That's all of the technology. Installed at Bull Street, servicing the entire system. Mr. Earls said, okay, my next question is, just a quick skim through the listing expenditures for the technology, I see nothing in it for technology for the blind. Chairman Hair asked, is that true? Mr. Kaster said, there probably isn't anything in this technology section —? Mr. Earls asked, why not? Mr. Kaster said, but we have a special library for the blind and physically handicapped section and we have technology in that. Mr. Earls said, excuse me. That is going to be at the Thunderbolt Library. That is where that is going to be located I just found out because I received the issue in the mail. These are supposed to be public libraries open to the public. Any facility that is supposedly accessible to a sighted member of this community should in some way be accessible to a blind or visually impaired person in this community.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Earls, you made a statement. Do you have any other statements to make? Mr. Earls said, I want to know what is going to be done for the blind in this technology with this expenditure. Chairman Hair said, I think he just told you. There's nothing in this —. Mr. Earls said, nothing. Chairman Hair said, nothing, that's correct. That's the answer. Mr. Earls said, that's —, huh. Are y'all going to let that fly?

Mr. Bill Johnson said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, come forward please. Mr. Johnson said, I'm Bill Johnson. I'm the Assistant Director of the Library. It's not explicit in the list, but there is technology for the blind and for people with vision impairment in this plan. It includes screen enlargement software, it includes screen reading software and speakers. We already have in stock closed circuit television systems, so they're not on the list because we already have them. Chairman Hair asked can you do me —, can you give a list of everything to Mr. Earls? Mr. Johnson said, sure, I'd be glad to. Chairman Hair said, everything that deals with vision impaired. I like to see that list you give to him, and I'd also like a copy of that list. Mr. Johnson said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Ms. Groce and then Dr. Thomas and then Commissioner Rivers.

Ms. Karen Groce said, Karen Groce with the Library Board. I want to thank each of you that I spoke with this week. I wanted to make a quick point of clarification about the personnel portion of the request and make the point that of that \$875,000 [sic], only \$228,000 is for personnel. So if you would —, if you don't have the expenditure detail, we really want to get that to you so that's clear how much of that money is for personnel. And let me make the point that regardless of what you decide to do today, whether we decide that we need to present other options to you, the single thing that is driving our time line for the opening of Bull Street is the adequate personnel to open that facility that is fifty percent or a hundred percent larger than the old facility was. We have severe issues with personnel —, personal safety for people who might be attending the library. If we were to try and open it with a skeleton staff, we have some little issues about large spaces being unstaffed where children could pull up inappropriate things on the Internet. So the feasibility of opening without adequate staff is certainly very scary. Just let me remind you, \$228,000 is the single thing on here that's driving our opening date. So regardless of what you do today, please consider some funds so that we can get started on hiring the

people. We can work out on some of the other details, but we've got to get this going in order to —, to drive the opening date.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Groce. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Several questions that I wanted to ask have already been asked and answered, but I do want to make a couple of statements. First of all, I would like to say I appreciate the fact that the Library Board and others have taken the time to sit with the citizens that were involved with those inner city libraries to come to a conclusion that you have come to. As I told several of you yesterday that called me, I believe Mr. Kaster, did I speak to you? I told him yesterday that it's very important that when you make any major decision that's going to affect people's lives, then you need to make —, when there are changes, you need to make sure that they are involved from the very beginning, and so I hope that this has been a learning process for all of us because when changes need to be made, we need to make sure that we include those that the change will affect. That's very important. You cannot bring people on board after you have made decisions for that. That will not work and I'm sure that you've found out that's not going to work. All right, the other thing that I'm still not clear in my mind about the closing of the —, not closing of the inner city libraries, what is going to happen after the one year? I'm still not clear on that.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Kaster, will you answer that question please?

Mr. Kaster said, yes, I will try to. The —, at the same board meeting where we announced and voted on the plan to keep them open and what we would do with the \$400,000, et cetera, we also said that the board would take the inner city libraries as an exception to the strategy in our long range plan which has criteria for branches, and those criteria being to serve a 20,000 population area with a 50,000 circulation per year. So we would exclude them. By so doing, then they are on the same level and the same basis as any other branch in the system as far as being funded with whatever funds we get in subsequent years. So —, and I mentioned at the time, you can't say we're going to keep them open forever or we're going to do anything forever because we don't know what we're going to do next year with anything until you all render explicit in the budget that we get. So it's our intent that those branches would be treated, as far as allocating resources are concerned, the same as Tybee or Wilmington or the Mall or Bull Street or anything else. Does that help?

Commissioner Thomas said, I guess it helps, but it, you know, what you just said, reminded me of what took place several years ago in the school system. They said about the same thing. They were about to close some of the schools, particularly the one that I was at, Haven, Bartow and some of the others, and they deliberately let those facilities go down so that they would close them in the end, and I mentioned that to you. I hope that this is not in the plans for these libraries. Mr. Kaster said, it certainly isn't in the plan and the thing that I mentioned to you on the phone last evening is that, and you agreed to participate in that fashion, is that I would ask you and the board will ask two or three other influential people in the community to —, who have no special axe to grind in this issue, to observe what we're doing, maybe meet once a quarter and say what's happened in those libraries, what should have happened, are we on the right track or aren't we. So that we don't just two years from now say those doggone things aren't being used, let's close them down, or whatever the case might be. So I'd ask that we do that kind of monitoring mechanism to ensure that we don't lose track of where we're going. Commissioner Thomas said, okay. I think that's bottom line to make sure that we don't lose track of where we want to go with this —. Mr. Kaster said, okay, that's good. Commissioner Thomas said, and to keep the involvement of the people at all times. Mr. Kaster said, I agree. Thank you.

Chairman Hair asked, any further things, Dr. Thomas? Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Kaster, can I asked you a question? Mr. Kaster said, sure. Commissioner Rivers asked, what does it actually take to keep the inner city libraries open, not this year, but what will the requirements be for next year? Mr. Kaster said, well, if we do the same thing next year that we're planning to do this year, the requirement will be \$400,000. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, so —. Mr. Kaster said, last year we spent \$192,000, now we're going to spend —. Commissioner Rivers said, I understand. Mr. Kaster said, so it would be \$400,000. Commissioner Rivers said, I got your question, so that means —, and I'm saying to this Board and I'm saying to John Q. Public that that means there's \$400,000 of continuing revenue, that there has to be a revenue stream built to keep this thing going. That's number one. Number two, we're looking at \$228,000 for salaries. Mr. Kaster said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, that has to be a revenue stream that has to be built in, a continuing revenue stream. I don't know what else in this \$876,000 that will require —, that will require a continuing revenue stream. These things become important so when I'm looking here and I'm sitting here, and John Q. Public is not sitting here, I am looking at where do I get money to make this operation go forth. Okay? And I don't only have to work about you because when this adds up, it probably adds up over a million dollars. I've got to worry about the Sheriff who we just gave some money to, over almost a half a million dollars of one time money that in the infusion is salaries that has to be in his budget next year, and he might have some additional requirements. The D.A. came with the same proposition, you see. So with all of these things, I don't know about these guys sitting up here, but it tells me that if we're going to come up with it because new growth is not going to absorb all of the short falls that we've got, and there are a million other things that we —, we're talking about debt service, we're talking about the \$755,000 that if we go out and prioritize it and go out and put it into our debt service, that's another piece that has to be put into a permanent revenue stream. So, hey, look at me. Look at what we're operating with and if John Q. Public is ready for a tax increase, I'm willing to do it for the library, I'm willing to do it for the Jail, I'm willing to do it for salaries, whatever it takes to operate this County and make it function, if it's going to enhance and broaden the tax base, so somewhere along the line we like to think that

we can lower the taxes, then I'm all for it, but prepare me and prepare yourself that we don't have monies that we can continually operate with and the only thing we're doing is sitting up here doling out and once we dole out the monies that we've got on hand, which is not continuing money, that's just a one time drop, and when we finish emptying the coffers, that's going to be it.

Mr. Kaster said, well, Commissioner, I don't want to mislead you or anybody else on this part. Commissioner Rivers said, no, that's —. Mr. Kaster said, I would say two things. One is we're talking about the Library, which is an essential public service. An essential public service. Commissioner Rivers said, I agree. Mr. Kaster said, it shouldn't be mixed in with things that are discretionary that you have to give funds for or want to —, it's an essential service. Number two, the operating costs of Bull Street, the \$228,000 which would be personnel, we also have money in here we have to pay utilities, we have to pay communications which are more for a 66,000 square foot building than the 32,000 square foot building, and those are all recurring costs, and next year it's going to be a full year, not a part year —. Commissioner Rivers said, we understand. Mr. Kaster said, so that the operating costs for the library system in Chatham County is going to cost more money. It's going to take a bigger piece of the tax revenue that you have or more tax revenue. If you have more, it might not take a bigger percentage of it, but it's going to take more tax money. I would —, I told this Commission before that if we want to get to be average with other communities of similar size, we're going to have to more than double in the next seven years. I don't want it all in one year, but in the next seven years, more than double the amount of operating resources that this Commission gives to us. So if you get started on that now, you'd have to give us fifteen percent a year more, or twelve percent a year more, I should say, for the next six or seven years, every year.

Commissioner Rivers said, and what makes that difficult is that I've got people that's sitting here that's underpaid. Mr. Kaster said, I understand that. Commissioner Rivers said, that I have to find money to keep them up each year, that I've got to increase the cost of living each year, you see. So there are other essential things that's vital to this County. Mr. Kaster said, I agree with you. I just wanted to be sure that everybody understands. Commissioner Rivers said, I understand and I have the Library at heart, but here again fiscally from that standpoint, how much can we give, how much can we do and how much can we do and do timely. Mr. Kaster said, I agree. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. I'll recognize Alderman Jones.

Alderman Clifton Jones said, I just came to more or less lend my support to this issue, this library issue in total. For the past several months we have seen the community torn practically apart on this issue. We do know as a community too that we would like to have a first-class library, and in doing so it must have support from somewhere. Being on the City Council, I realize how tough it is to fund things of this nature. We can discuss this over and over and over again, but in the end it's going to be up to you, the Commissioners here. The public is crying out to you to open the Library on time, fully equipped, where they can go there to have the technology that's necessary today, where they could have a first-class facility. The reason I'm with this continue [sic] today is because the Library just happens to be in the Fifth District. I read the reports, I've seen and heard most of the arguments, and they come well represented in terms of what we are discussing today. I'd just like to say to you gentlemen and lady that if there is a way to fund this library system and open it on time as planned, then you do it. If not, then let us know that it cannot be done, and if there must be adjustment, then make the adjustments, but please let's move forth with trying to get it open on time. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Clifton [Jones]. We appreciate you being here. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm going to go ahead and try a little motion here and see if we can stir the pot. Okay. I'm going to make a move to include the \$755,000 they request for technology into the forthcoming debt funding —. Commissioner Rivers said, we already did that. Commissioner DeLoach asked, we already did that? Chairman Hair said, we didn't do it officially. Commissioner Jackel said, we didn't do it —. Commissioner DeLoach said, we haven't done it officially though. Chairman Hair said, we just talked about could we do it. Commissioner Rivers said, I included it in the motion that was made. Chairman Hair said, well —. Commissioner DeLoach asked, you did? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Rivers asked, didn't I include that in the motion? I'm almost sure I did. The Clerk said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach asked, so we don't need to do it then, right? Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, it would be repetitive. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, then it —. All right, let's don't do it again. How about that? I like that. How about this other one? Take the —, I'd like the Library Board to come back to us concerning the operating fund that you have there. I think you can tell by the conversations that we have up here, we've got a real problem with taking one time monies and putting it toward operating costs because it just tears up the next year's budget when we go in and try to develop that budget. We need some kind of approach from the Library Board that we feel like that we can stomach right now, and as far as I'm concerned I spoke to the Library Board, each one of you, and I told you there's no way I can fund operating accounts out of one time monies. I don't know how many folks up here agree with me, but I think that the majority do. We just cannot just hand you eight hundred and something thousand dollars on monies that we have for one time because next year it's going to cut our throat and we don't want to have to go down this road twice. So we need some assistance from you, and I've spoken to you and I said I'm sorry if you don't have enough people to staff that the last three months of the year. We'll deal with it when it comes up in January, but my thoughts are you do with what you've got as far as staff goes. I'm just —, I cannot fund staff. I just can't get there based on this year's budget and based on one time monies. Technology, I feel like we can all get there with that part of it, but we've got a real problem on operating and how it actually pans out because next year it's going to increase considerably since it will be

a full year process then. So if y'all could come back to us May 14th with a —, something. I, you know —, I'm not telling you how to write it up and I'm telling you what you're going to end up with, but we need something that gives us some options down the line that we can come together with as a group and say I don't want to do this but I understand and I'll be willing to do this based on this because we're going to have to cut a compromise here somewhere, but it won't be the \$850,000 [sic], but it will —, maybe we can get somewhere close.

Chairman Hair said, so I understand the motion is the Library Board would come back to us on May 14th with various options for the \$876,000. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Chairman Hair said, the \$775,000 [sic] would be included —, is already included in the debt service request, and that the Board would come back to us with various funding options for the \$876,000. That is \$876,000 and lower options as well. Do I have a second to that motion. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion to that motion?

Mr. Kaster said, I have a question. I'll be glad to give you some options right now or we can come back with some options. The question I had is whether those options would be \$876,000, \$600,000, \$391,000, but that's operating money. Chairman Hair said, that's what you've got —. Mr. Kaster said, I'm not suggesting, Eddie [DeLoach], that you use one time money for operating costs because I know that would be mischievous next year. Chairman Hair said, that's what we have to do. That's what this —, if we funded that request, that's what we've got to do, we've got to use one time money this year. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. That's the most —. Chairman Hair said, we don't have —. Mr. Kaster asked, you don't have any Contingency funds —? Chairman Hair said, no. Mr. Kaster asked, no dollars, nothing? Chairman Hair said, just one time money. Mr. Kaster said, when we go to hire the people —. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're cutting our own throats. Mr. Kaster said, we hire them for four months? Chairman Hair said, no, that goes back in this budget. That's the point we're trying to make to you, Mr. Kaster, is that any money you got today or on May 14th is one time money through the rest of this year. That's got to be funded into the regular budget next year. Commissioner DeLoach said, it just sets us back whatever amount —. Chairman Hair said, okay, it just means that you —, plus you, you know —. So what we're saying is, you know —, I think you're seeing from the consensus of the Commission, you know, we don't have support for \$876,000 for salaries, for operating money, for that money, and if you come back —. Mr. Kaster said, salaries are \$228,000 for salaries. Chairman Hair said, okay, but if you come back to us —, but see now that's my —, you made my point. That's the point I was trying to make earlier. Ms. Groce got up here and said you need \$228,000, you know, to open Bull Street. Why didn't we see a request for \$228,000 for Bull Street and then add these other things and give them to us option one, option two, option three, but you didn't give us that. Mr. Kaster said, it's \$228,000 for personnel to open Bull Street. It's \$66,000 for communication costs. It's 80-some thousand for utilities. You've got to have the air conditioning. Chairman Hair said, right. Mr. Kaster said, and it's things like that —. Chairman Hair said, I understand that. Mr. Kaster said, and they're all on this piece of paper with those titles. Chairman Hair said, I understand that, but what Commissioner DeLoach is saying is today, April 30th, you don't have five votes for \$876,000. That's what we're saying to you. We're saying to you come back to us with options less than \$876,000 on May 14th and you may get five votes. That's what we're trying to say to you. Mr. Kaster asked, including salaries? Chairman Hair said, yes, and give it to us, but give us options, various options, Option A, Option B, Option C, with different price ranges on those options. Commissioner DeLoach said, it's just a dose of —. Chairman Hair said, but you don't have five votes for \$876,000. Mr. Kaster said, I recognize that. Chairman Hair said, okay, well, then that's what the motion. Mr. Kaster said, I just want to understand exactly what you want. We'll get you exactly what I hear you're asking. Chairman Hair said, okay, and if there are any questions, give us a call and we'll be glad to tell you.

Commissioner Rivers said, I don't know. They've got five up here, but I —, hey, I'm not going to fuse anything into this budget at all that's continuing revenue. Now if we do it one time drop money, I might consider that, but that's foolish. It's just starting a fire to destroy everything that you're trying to build.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Jackel said, the motion is —. Commissioner Thomas said, motion is to come back? Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Chairman Hair said, come back on May 14th. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request to release \$400,000 restricted fund to the Library. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Library come back on May 14, 1999, with various options for the requested \$876,000 in supplemental funding for the Library's 1999 operating budget. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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5. **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.**
- **SHERIFF DEPARTMENT - ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN (ONE POSITION)**
 - **BRIDGES DEPARTMENT - BRIDGE TENDER (ONE POSITION)**
 - **STATE COURT - JUDICIAL CASE MANAGER (ONE POSITION)**

Chairman Hair recognized Sheriff St. Lawrence.

Commissioner Odell said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Commissioner DeLoach said, I want to hear. I love to talk with you. Chairman Hair asked, have you got a lot of money you want to keep up with out there at the Jail? You and the County can't —.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I don't know, but maybe it's not good for me to follow the Library. In any event, this position has actually been vacant since July of '98. The lady had cancer, she just died three weeks ago and she handles all the bond money and everything, and we've had to get temporary help and move other people. We just need to get that problem resolved. That's why we have it on there.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hairsaid, the motion passes. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Bridges Department, Bridge Tender, one position. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Robert Drewry.

Mr. Drewry said, good morning. As you may know, the bridge houses —, the mechanical draw bridges have to be manned and operated 24 hours a day every day of the year, so when a vacancy does occur we have to incur the overtime and then the [inaudible] there.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, State Court, Judicial Case Manager, one position.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve and a second. Commissioner DeLoach said, I just love to have Mr. Blair up here. How you doing?

Mr. Carlton Blair said, fine, thank you very much. How are you? Commissioner DeLoach said, lovely. Commissioner DeLoach said, second, second.

Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

Commissioner DeLoach said, it's just great to see you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Sheriff's Department, Accounting Technician (one position). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Bridges Department, Bridge Tender (one position). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]
3. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: State Court, Judicial Case Manager (one position). Commissioners Thomas and DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Action Calendar. Anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Let's pull off, what is it? Item 4. Chairman Hair said, Long Point Hammock. Is that it? Commissioner Jackel said, uh huh. Chairman Hair said, okay. Anything else? The Chair will entertain —. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, wait a second. Item R. I think that's it, 4 and R. Chairman Hair said, okay. The Chair will entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence] has got a question. Sheriff St. Lawrence asked, Mr. Chairman, is there going to be any discussion on Item 7. I think it's an item we've already talked about. Chairman Hair said, yes. We did talk about. I referred it to the Attorney and the Attorney said that that was the appropriate approach. If you've got any questions —. You might want to explain. Commissioner DeLoach said, we had four votes up there. Chairman Hair said, have the Attorney explain to you what he explained to me. Commissioner DeLoach asked, we've got to have another vote, don't we? Commissioner Odell said, we didn't have a quorum. Commissioner DeLoach said, we didn't have but four people voting. Well, we all voted except —. There it is, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, now she's voted. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

Chairman Hair said, all right. I need a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner DeLoach said, we already —. Commissioner Jackel said, we already did that. Chairman Hair said, all right.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 4 and 12-R. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 9, 1999, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 9, 1999, as mailed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1 THROUGH APRIL 21, 1999.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 1, 1999, through April 21, 1999, in the amount of \$3,947,695. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A PERPETUAL EASEMENT ON MR. TENCH C. COXE'S PROPERTY BEING EIGHTY FEET IN WIDTH PARALLEL TO PROPERTY OWNED BY THE GDOT, KNOWN AS DREDGED MATERIAL CONTAINMENT AREA (DMCA) 12A, IN JASPER COUNTY, SC, TO GDOT. [DISTRICT N/A (JASPER COUNTY, SC).]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request for a perpetual easement to GDOT on Mr. Tench C. Coxe's property, being eighty feet in width parallel to property owned by the GDOT, known as Dredged Material Containment Area (DMCA) 12A, in Jasper County, SC. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RECORD LONG POINT HAMMOCK, ACCEPT THE PERFORMANCE BOND AND SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND APPROVE RECOMBINING THE SUBDIVISION INTO THE EXISTING STREETLIGHTING DISTRICT, BUT WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR NEW STREETLIGHTS INSIDE THE SUBDIVISION. [DISTRICT 4.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I don't —, I don't under —. It's not explained enough well to me here why we should waive our requirements for streetlighting inside the subdivision. County Manager Abolt said, it's not waiving. What has actually happened, this is a community within a community. It's going to be a gated community within Long Point that the individual property owners, in addition to paying the assessment costs that they benefit from, from the balance of the subdivision, will be paying for their own streetlights. It will not be an assessment for those. It will be ornamental, [inaudible] type lights borne by them as they purchase their property in the gated community. Commissioner Jackel asked, if they're having more lights than what is required, why is it that we have to waive the requirement? County Manager Abolt said, they are going to choose, as I understand it from talking with Mr. Bungard, a much more expensive way of illuminating their property. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand that. I mean, that's like saying you've got to have a hundred, but we're going to have two hundred. If they're going to have in excess of what's required, why do we have to waive it. County Manager Abolt said, well, the —. Commissioner Jackel asked, aren't they exceeding our requirement? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. If Mr. Bungard will come —. Commissioner Jackel asked, isn't that what you're telling me, they're exceeding the requirement. County Manager Abolt said, no sir. I don't think that the requirement meshes with their design plan. In fact that type of illumination is not the standard illumination that we would see in traditional subdivisions. It's a type of illumination that's unique to this gated community within Long Point. Commissioner Jackel said, but it meets the minimum requirement for lighting?

Mr. Al Bungard said, yes. They will have street lights. There's more expenses. They're going to pay extra for them out of their pocket.

Chairman Hair said, okay. We don't have a quorum, so can't take a motion or a second. We'll do that when the quorum comes back. Let's go ahead and deal with the other item.

* * *

Chairman Hair said, okay. The Chair will entertain a motion to approve Item 4 and Item R on the Action Calendar. Commissioner Jackel said, I so move. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request to record Long Point Hammock, accept the performance bond and subdivision agreement and approve recombining the subdivision into the existing streetlighting district, but waive the requirement for new streetlights inside the subdivision. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RECORD OLDE TOWNE PLACE, PHASE 1, AND ACCEPT THE PERFORMANCE BOND AND SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request to record Olde Towne Place, Phase 1, and accept the performance bond and subdivision agreement. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A GIFT DEED AS PROPOSED BY MR. CAREY B. SHORE FOR THE DONATION OF LAND FOR BRANDLEWOOD PARK TO CHATHAM COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE DEED. [DISTRICT 5.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a gift deed as proposed by Mr. Carey B. Shore for the donation of land for Brandlewood Park to Chatham County and authorize the Chairman to sign the deed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF K-9 VEHICLE TITLES FROM CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO THE GEORGIA STATE PATROL.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the transfer from Chatham County Commissioners to the Georgia State Patrol the titles to two (2) 1999 Ford Expedition motor vehicles, VIN 1FMRH1868XLA72692 and 1FMRU1860XLA71715, to be used for K-9 purposes only. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AND FORMALLY SUBMIT THE ACCOMPANYING GRANT APPLICATION WRITTEN BY THE CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve and formally submit the Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant Application written by the Chatham County Sheriff's Department for continuation of the Statewide K-9 Certification Program by the Chatham County Sheriff's Department Regional K-9 Resource Team and for continuation of the Explosion Incident Specialist/K-9 Liaison Officer and Narcotics Interdiction Specialist. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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9. REQUEST BOARD OF APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION SERVICE TO SUPPORT AND ADVANCE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION/DIVERSION AND RECYCLING ACTIVITIES IN CHATHAM COUNTY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Chatham County and the University of Georgia Extension Service to support and advance solid waste reduction/diversion and recycling activities in Chatham County. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO JANUARY 22, 1999, BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE SAVANNAH AIRPORT COMMISSION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement for Intergovernmental Agreement entered into January 22, 1999, between Chatham County and the Savannah Airport Commission. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A NEW SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 1999. PETITIONER: JOHANNES MATTHEUS DU PLOOY D/B/A JOHANN'S ORIGINAL PIZZA, LOCATED AT 1190 KING GEORGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the petition of Johannes Mattheus du Plooy, d/b/a Johann's Original Pizza, located at 1190 King George Boulevard, for a new Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 1999. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. First renewal option to the annual contract to provide bond counsel.	Finance	Oliver, Maner and Gray		Funding requirements will be defrayed from proceeds of each bond issue.
B. <u>Deductive</u> Change Order No. 4 to the contract for construction of Phase I of Placencia Canal Improvement Project for adjustments in actual bid quantities and additional miscellaneous work performed.	Engineering	T.B. Powell	(\$6,657.05)	N/A - Deductive Change Order
C. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for paving and drainage improvements on Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive Project for additional work	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	\$34,549.44	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Paving of Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive project.
D. Change Order No. 3 to the contract for paving and drainage improvements on Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive Project for addition of a 6" water line and one (1) fire hydrant	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	\$18,463	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Paving of Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive Project

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
E. Final renewal option to the annual contract to provide uniform shirts and trousers	• Police • EMS	Frank's Uniforms	Current contract pricing with a 5% manufacturer increase	•General Fund/M & O - EMS •SSD - Police
F. Terminate annual contract to provide uniform and uniform accessories from American Uniforms Sales, Inc., and award contract.	•Police •Sheriff •Detention Center	•Frank's Uniforms •West Chatham Warning Devices •Fund Mon Express (MBE)	Varies	•SSD - Police •General Fund/M & O - Sheriff •General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
G. Annual contract, with renewal options for four additional one-year terms, to provide various types of high volume printing requirements	Various	Paul Wynn and Associates	Varies	• General Fund/M & O - Various •SSD - Various
H. Rescind the purchase of one (1) 1999 Ford Explorer and award purchase to local vendor	Police	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$23,250	SSD - Police
I. Annual contract, with renewal options for four additional one-year terms, to provide wrecker service	•Police •Fleet Operations	Sapp's Wrecker Service	No Charge to the County	N/A
J. Change Order No. 1 to the utility relocation contract agreement for additional costs in materials and labor for the Dredged Material Containment Area (DMCA) 2A	Harbor Maintenance	Savannah Electric and Power (SEPCO)	\$159,439	General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT)
K. Reject bids received for post storm and disaster	Solid Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A
L. Contract for selection and purchase of advertising services	Solid Waste	Robertson and Markowitz Advertising and Public Relations, Inc.	\$15,855	Solid Waste Restricted Revenue Account
M. Contract for professional services for the design/engineering of the new Mosquito Control facility	Mosquito Control	Gunn-Meyerhoff-Shay Architects	\$206,950	Funding provided through agreement with Savannah International Airport Authority
N. Contract for the purchase and installation of a telephone system	SPLOST	Bell South	\$275,000	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center
O. 5,000 meeting room stack chairs	SPLOST	VIP Total Office Solutions (MBE)	\$268,320.50	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center
P. Folding tables and table trucks	SPLOST	Virco	\$119,919.30	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center
Q. Stack chair truck dollies	SPLOST	Mity-Lite	\$4,350	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
R. Contract to provide classification and compensation study	Human Resources	Yarger Decker and McDonald, Inc., Boise, ID	\$183,740	•General Fund/M&O - \$148,830 •SSD - \$34,910 (Pending Fund Balance appropriation from FY 1998 audit)
S. Change Order No. 1 to contract preparation of an environmental mitigation plan and monitoring for wetland permitting for the interchange and entry boulevard for Hutchinson	SPLOST	Environmental Services, Inc.	\$13,600	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Hutchinson Island Interchange and Entry Boulevard
T. Change Order No. 4 to the contract for raising dikes for Dredged Material Containment Area (DMCA) 14B to include replacing existing storm drain drop inlet sluice (weir) in DMCA 14B	Harbor Maintenance	Tri State Consultants	Not to exceed \$22,000	General Fund/M & O - Harbor Maintenance (100% reimbursable by GDOT)

As to Items 12-A through 12-T, except Item 12-R:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 1 through 12-T, except Item 12-R. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

As to Item 12-R:

CONTRACT TO PROVIDE A CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY, DEPT.: HUMAN RESOURCES, SOURCE: YARGER DECKER AND McDONALD, INC., AMOUNT: \$183,740.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Chairman Hair asked, do you have any questions?

Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Are you satisfied with this plan and the requirements of what we're going to do here? Mr. George Lynch said, I am, sir. Yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, I have no criticism. I think this is wonderful. I was one of the ones, if not —, I think I was the one that requested that we do this and the others joined in, otherwise it wouldn't be on here —, on the agenda, and I just wanted to let the people in the County know that we have hired or plan to hire a firm to come in and conduct a survey to see what we need to do about reclassifying people and their jobs and if we're paying them for the appropriate work that they do, and I think this is a step in the right direction, and I just wanted to make it public. Mr. Lynch said, thank you, sir.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Okay, we'll take a vote when we get a quorum back. Let's go ahead and go to —, there are no First Readings. Let's go ahead with the Second Readings. County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, you're not going to be able to do the First Readings until you have a quorum. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, get somebody in here please. Commissioner Jackel said, there is no First Reading. Second Readings. County Attorney Hart said, Second Readings. Excuse me.

[Pause while waiting for a quorum to return.]

Chairman Hair said, okay. The Chair will entertain a motion to approve Item 4 and Item R on the Action Calendar. Commissioner Jackel said, I so move. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 12-A through 12-T, except Item 12-R. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray and Price were not present.]

- 2. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Item 12-R. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

None.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. **THE PETITIONER IS REQUESTING THAT A 30.36 ACRE TRACT OF LAND LOCATED ALONG U. S. HIGHWAY 17 SOUTH, SOUTHWEST OF CANE BREAK ROAD AND SOUTH OF BASIN ROAD, BE REZONED FROM R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A PUD-M-10 (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-MULTI-FAMILY) CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING.
 MPC FILE NO. 99-12617-C
 [DISTRICT 6.]**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of Petitioner Rod C. Spann, Agent (for W. H. Varn, Jr., Owner), that a 30.36 acre tract of land located along U. S. Highway 17 South, southwest of Cane Break Road and south of Basin Road, be rezoned from R-A (Residential-Agriculture) to a PUD-M-10 (Planned Unit Development-Multi-Family) classification to allow construction of multi-family housing. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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- 2. **AMENDMENT TO SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE. NOTE: Public hearing will be held on the 30th of April. NOTE: Updated staff report prepared which includes minor ordinance amendments.**

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to —. Before I get into the actual item, we are required to have a public hearing. I will open the public hearing and we'll take any comments, if there are any, and then we'll go back and approve the item. So, therefore, I'll declare a public hearing open on the Solid Waste Ordinance. Was there anyone who would like to speak to this issue? Hearing none, I will close the public hearing on the Solid Waste Ordinance. Therefore, I'll read it: Amendment to Solid Waste Ordinance. I'll entertain a motion to approve.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, just for the sake of the record you were not required officially to advertise the public hearing. Staff placed an ad in the local paper. For whatever reason, it did not make it into the paper. There was

a very good coverage though on the Chatham page two weeks ago on a Sunday, but again official written notification is not required so you may take the action.

Chairman Hair said, yes. We dealt with that with the lawyer this morning, so we're okay. Thanks. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance, which include the addition of a specific definition for hazardous waste (Section 2), addition of the Inspections Department criteria for a County burn permit (Section 4), changing the wording from "door locking mechanism" (Section 6-G) to "door Latching mechanism", and changing reference to "incorporated areas" to "unincorporated areas" (Sections 7-A and D). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Saussy, Murray and Price were not present.]

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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3. CONSOLIDATION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENTS - UPDATE.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

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4. TO PROVIDE BOARD WITH AN UPDATE REGARDING THE EXPANSION OF IN-LINE SKATING AND HOCKEY FACILITIES.

Chairman Hair said, I understand there's someone that would like to speak on Item 4 in the Action [sic] Calendar. Mr. Golden, would you just do a brief remark I suppose. What's it about? Anyone want to make a comment?

Mr. Jim Golden said, Mr. Chairman, this is just information and you have a group here that has pledged to support the inspection of these outside skating and hockey rinks and pledged their support to the County.

Chairman Hair said, that's great. Commissioner Thomas said, very good. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Mr. Danny Robertson [phonetic] said, my name is Danny Robertson, born and raised in Savannah. I left a little while and came back. Glad to be back in Savannah. I have been since '92. In November of last year we formed an organization

called the Wilmington Island Youth Hockey Association. The purpose of the organization was to copy other sports oriented groups and sponsor teams to play on the Lake Mayer facility and to encourage the development of new facilities in the Savannah area, Chatham County, and also to pursue development of the sport into a high school sport, a junior high sport, and we've had some strong interest in the sport on Wilmington Island. We fielded presently two teams in the last league and we're going to have three teams in the next league. We've traveled out of town to tournaments. It's been something that has been brand new and really has taken off. Thanks to the support of the YMCA the program has grown tremendously and we're looking forward to more facilities. I guess the correlation would be the sports hindered by lack of facilities. It would be like having one baseball diamond and everybody playing on it. That's what we've got right now. There's a number of organizations that we've —, groups that we've talked to that show support: the YMCA, Billy Knight from the Board of Education on Wilmington Island is interested in the development of the sport into the school system, Joe Shearouse has showed [sic] an interest in development in the inner city with it, and the Savannah Sports Council has assisted me in running a tournament in August here at the Savannah Civic Center in conjunction with the push for the pros, which is the Savannah Lightning Semi-Pro In-Line Skate Hockey Team. It's going to have an event August 14th, and we're going to host 18 teams on the Friday before and the Saturday during the day in a youth —, 10 and under, 12 and under, and 14 and under tournament. This will be a primary fund raiser for our organization to begin the process of coming up with money to help the County to build a facility on Wilmington Island, and we're also interested in seeing the facility developed throughout the County because again if you just have one rink and one section of town, it's limited to the exposure and the number of kids that can participate in the sport. If you haven't been to a in-line skating and hockey game and seen these kids on skates, you need to go. It's one of the most exciting sports that I've been involved with. I have four children and I've been to every kind of sporting event that you can in new sports and by far this is the most exciting. There are other developments throughout the region. Hilton Head has a rink and is talking about building a second one. Beaufort has a prime facility, Columbia has a prime facility. We're going to Myrtle Beach this weekend for a 20/14 tournament. Atlanta has a facility called the cooler. It's a multimillion dollar facility where they have two ice rinks and a roller rink. We're going to a tournament there next month. Just a lot of activity and hockey in general. There's a big interest in the Civic Center trying to push for an ice hockey team. Hockey is now not only limited to the North, it's expanded throughout the United States and we'd love to see our kids be able to utilize various facilities, and we've put together the beginning stage of a proposal that identifies a piece of property that's County-owned that could be developed into a recreational park to include hockey, and it's just something that the kids need. We put money in our kids, they put money back in our community at a later date, as we all know. And we appreciate your support. This is Carl Eastwood. Carl's my main coach for my team right now and a very strong advocate to the sport.

Chairman Hair said, we appreciate you bringing this to our attention and continue to work with Mr. Golden in terms of market development, but you know we saw when we put the one at Lake Mayer, you know, how popular it really was and, of course, that was done primarily with private money. We put a little money in it, but I mean we will certainly consider it, you know, at the appropriate time. Thank you for coming. Thanks for making it work.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.



5. MONTHLY ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.



EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Hair said, we need a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of —. County Manager Abolt said, land acquisition and personnel.

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



ADJOURNMENT

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

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1999

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK