

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON AUGUST 13,1999, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, August 13,1999.

=====

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Frank Murray gave the invocation.

=====

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

=====

IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four David L. Saussy, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two Martin S. Jackel, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five (arrived approximately 9:15 a.m.) Ben Price, District Six Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven (arrived approximately 9:15 a.m.)
----------	--

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

=====

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to Proclamations and Special Presentations, and at the request of staff I'm going to reverse the order and do first the presentation from St. Joseph's/Candler Health Care System of proceeds from Count Basie concert.

[NOTE: By a consensus of the Commissioners, the order of business was changed and Item V-2 was heard at this point on the agenda.]

=====

V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. MYSTERY CUSTOMER AWARDS.

Mr. Van Johnson said, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, good morning. It gives me pleasure this morning to recognize our Mystery Customer Program Award winners. This is the mechanism to award Chatham County employees that have rendered consistent excellent customer service. Our winners are today Poppe Nezbeda, who joined Chatham County in 1989 as a member of the Building Maintenance and Operations Division of the Central Services Department. She continues to serve in the Central Services Department. She actually encountered our mystery customer a couple of months ago and we are finally pleased to be able to make the formal presentation of her certificate this morning.

Mr. Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, Mr. Lynch is out of town today. We're certainly pleased not only for the entire Central Services Department, but I must add as far as the County Manager there are countless times during the day when I have to contact Poppe and that department and they're tops. They never show their emotions and they never show at times when it's tense. They're always there willing to serve whether it's early in the morning or late at night.

Ms. Poppe Nezbeda said, thank you. It's been a pleasure serving everybody the last 10 years and I hope to continue for several more.

Mr. Abolt said, I don't consider a camera in the hands of a police officer a photo opportunity. Chairman Hair said, it is a photo op, but not necessarily the kind you want.

Mr. Johnson said, our next winner is Antoinette Burrell. Antoinette began a career with Chatham County as a temporary Clerical Assistant II in October of 1997. She became permanent as a member of the Inspections Department and she presently serves as a Clerical Assistant III in the Investigation Division of the Police Department. Ms. Burrell is accompanied by the Chief of Police, Thomas Sprague.

Chief Sprague said, Toni [Burrell] could probably be voted the most congenial person in the Police Department. When she came from labor pool, I had so many people, both officers and civilian personnel, come to me telling me that this lady needs to be hired permanently. She has proved to be that type of employee that Chatham County can be proud of because the Police Department certainly is.

Ms. Antoinette Burrell said, thank you and I will continue to do a good job.

=====

2. PRESENTATION FROM ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF PROCEEDS FROM COUNT BASIE CONCERT.

Mr. Paul Hinchey said, Chairman Hair, Commissioners, good morning. I'm Paul Hinchey of St. Joseph's/Candler and I'd like to also introduce Mr. Harvey Granger, who's Chairman of our Board of Trustees, and Cecil Abarr, who's the Vice Chairman of our Board. We're delighted to be here this morning. You may recall back in May the Chatham County and St. Joseph's/Candler sponsored a concert with the Count Basie Orchestra over at Trustees Theatre, which was so generously donated by SCAD, in memory of Mrs. Beverly Whitehead, who as you know was Director of Human Resources for the County and who worked tirelessly for everybody here, and for those of you that were there, and I know many of you were, it was a very enjoyable night. It was very family oriented, the music was fantastic, there were a lot of children there, and there was a lot of diversity, which was —, it was magical that evening. And I also wanted you to know that we sold and had almost a thousand people who attended that concert, so it was at near capacity that night, so a good time was had by all. The proceeds from that event are going to some support groups that were of tremendous interest to Mrs. Whitehead, and that's the Summer Bonanza Program, the Chatham County Youth Commission, and Fibromyalgia Support, which was the disease that Mrs. Whitehead suffered from and was so debilitating to her, and before we present those proceeds I'm going to ask Dr. Paul Bradley, who was Mrs. Whitehead's physician and is going to be chairman of this Fibromyalgia Support Group just to come up and say a few words, if I could.

Dr. Paul Bradley said, thank y'all for having me back. It's been two months since I've been here. I hope everyone has found their physician since the last time. I see Commissioner DeLoach isn't here. I hope he's not still out wandering looking for one. We thank y'all for everything you've done for us and the gratitude is sincere. Fibromyalgia, and I'll try to be brief, is a very difficult disease. For everyone here who's lucky enough not to have it, every morning probably should get up and say a prayer. If you have fibromyalgia, you wake up in the morning and you hurt. You hurt typically from the top of your head

to the bottom of your feet and it makes very little sense. You go to your physician and your physician tells you you tested normal. You have a bunch of x-rays and the x-rays are normal and yet you hurt from the top of your head to the bottom of your feet from the morning —, the minute you get up in the morning until the time you go to bed at night, and the pain can be anywhere from mild to severe. And it's hard to fathom that for those of us who are fortunate enough not to experience it, and hopefully none of us will. But if you do, it's life altering and it makes one's day anywhere from uncomfortable to downright miserable. Fibromyalgia affects several million Americans. It's a well recognized disease, but it's one for which the treatment is sparse and an outcome is varied. It can affect men, women and children, but for the most part for some reason it affects women. We're very fortunate that we've been able to make some significant progress and in the memory and the honor of Mrs. Whitehead we were able to raise some money, and Candler/St. Joseph's Health System is going to be able to offer some significant community programs. We're going to have a Fibromyalgia Self-Help Course beginning in September. It will be a seven-week educational program, which will provide patients with knowledge and skills necessary to manage their symptoms more effectively. The money that we've raised from Mrs. Whitehead and the Count Basie Concert will go toward assisting the people of Chatham County. We've put together a committee and they're in the process of trying to figure out exactly how we're going to be able to spend those funds. Some of the ideas will be obviously for education and some may be for funding advancement of research into the disease. In Beverly's memory and for all the unfortunate victims of this disease though I'd like to thank both the County and St. Joseph's/Candler for their commitment and for their financial support. Thank y'all. Commissioner Jackel said, thank you.

Mr. Hinchey said, I'd like to have Mr. Granger come up and Mr. Abarr to give these checks. Just two more quick things. The Candler Foundation—. Commissioner Jackel said, take your time. Mr. Hinchey asked, take my time? The Candler Foundation has established the Beverly Whitehead Memorial Fund where we can run these proceeds through the foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, which will help solicit these funds for the future. That's item number one, and item number two is that we've been so encouraged by this event that we've agreed to make this memorial concert an annual event. We'll be doing it again next year. We've already got a committee going that's planning the gala. We'll get the date out to you early so that hopefully you can attend because I know you all are very busy, but I think you'll really enjoy it. It was a real magical evening. So if I could I'll ask Commissioner Hair to give this check to Dr. Bradley for the Fibromyalgia Support Group, and if Mr. Granger would give this check to Commissioner Thomas for the Summer Bonanza Program, and Mr. Abarr we have a check to Commissioner Rivers for the Chatham County Youth Commission. And in that night, so you'll know, these checks that were distributed to the County today are \$13,500, which we hope is just the beginning of what we're trying to do to really make a dent in what is somewhat of an unknown disease, but is much more prevalent in this community than any others may realize. We thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, I would just like to say thank you so very much. It certainly was a magical evening and at this time I would like for the Summer Bonanza, some of the children who are here today and I believe three volunteers, they're here and I'm going to ask them to come forward, and I'm going to ask T' Erica Johnson if she would accept this for the Summer Bonanza Group. Please come forward. We have three volunteers with us this morning: Mrs. Keitt, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Youmans. T' Erica [Johnson], on behalf of the Candler/St. Joe [sic] and the Fibromyalgia Foundation, we would like to present this to the Summer Bonanza and we hope that you will use this very wisely. I'm expecting great things from you. You've got to learn a lot about fibromyalgia.

Miss T' Erica Johnson said, on behalf of Summer Bonanza I would just like to say thank you and all this money will be used very wisely.

Commissioner Rivers said, good morning everybody. First of all, let me thank Mr. Hinchey, Mr. Granger and Mr. Abarr for even entertaining and helping us —, and Dr. Bradley, for even making this possible. You can't imagine what all went into it and hopefully next year that y'all aware of it that we will have much participation coming from this whole community toward arresting or toward eliminating fibromyalgia. You cannot imagine —, I met a lady that shops in my store on a day to day basis and I didn't know anything was wrong with her, but she has it. She looks perfectly healthy, but this is a debilitating disease and we want to do all that we can to assist. But again, our gratefulness goes out to Candler/St. Joe for being the sponsor and to Paul Bradley for assisting in it. We love and appreciate you all and that includes the whole audience. Let me present this check to Mike Kaigler for the Youth Commission and I know that this will be used wisely because we are educating young folks as they participate in the Commission business. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, before we get to the Mystery Customer Award, as a fellow Commissioner of Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Rivers, I know personally the amount of time and effort that these two Commissioners put into this project, and I would just like to offer a word of personal thanks to you, Joe [Rivers] and Priscilla [Thomas], for the great job that you folks did and again maybe next year when we know the date we all can get behind this project and make it even more successful and all nine of us can attend. Again, my thanks. I know what you did, probably more than most people, and I thank you for it. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you.

* * *

Chairman Hair said, before we move on I want to recognize Commissioner Rivers for a final comment on the --.

Commissioner Rivers said, yes. I just wanted to back up for a moment. I would be remiss if I didn't mention really the three key people that I thought that made —, helped to make this whole thing go and the whole wheel turn, and that's our County Manager Russ Abolt, Mr. Mike Kaigler and Mr. Van Johnson. Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, they were the folks that really —, right in the trenches that really was on the phone, that made this thing go. I mean,

they kept in contact with us, but they did the leg work. Commissioner Thomas said, that's right. Commissioner Rivers said, and thank y'all. We appreciate it.



VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. EOA ANNUAL REPORT.

Chairman Hair said, it's my pleasure to introduce the Executive Director of the EOA, Mr. John Finney, to present their annual report.

Mr. John Finney said, first of all, I'd like to say good morning —. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Mr. Finney said, to the Commissioners. I believe you have in front of you a copy of our annual report. If you will look at the front cover, you may recognize Clark Gable or at least Savannah's answer to Clark Gable, Commissioner Hair. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner DeLoach said, I appreciate that lead-in, but I won't go there.

Mr. Finney said, it is very difficult for nonprofits to operate without receiving some help from City and County governments, United Way and some other foundations. At EOA we feel it's proper and fitting to come back to the Commissioners after receiving funding and simply say today that we thank you very kindly for the monies that you have given us to operate. As a matter of fact it takes about \$999,000 every year just to match our Head Start funds, so you can see that we really have to raise a lot of money and in-kind contributions. What we'd like to do this morning is to officially present this annual report to you. I'm not going to do the whole report, but I would like to point out the fact that if you will look at page eight and nine you will see our effort in the area of housing and homeless services, and I will simply read the bylines that we've submitted in the news release. That EOA homebuyers class graduates qualified for \$1,330,20 in loans last year. That means individuals who came through our homebuyers class actually received this amount of money in loans. These were people with bad credit, some people who thought that they would never own a home. But thanks to the loans —, at least the funds that you gave to EOA, we were able to counsel those people and send them to financial institutions so that they would become homeowners. Secondly, we saved 48 homes from foreclosure last year. That means that 48 people would have been without homes that they had made initial investments in. And then, thirdly, our Weatherization Department saved over 135 homes last year by making certain types of repairs and renovations. So I guess what we're saying is when you look at what the County gave us, which is about \$11,000, and when you look at the fact that the graduates from the classes qualified for \$1,330,620 in loans, we consider that to be a significant investment. And, of course, we just signed an agreement with First Union Bank to counsel their homeowners and we will also be working with the other financial institutions. I'm not going through the entire report, but I would like to call your attention to page nineteen. If you will look at page nineteen, you will see a breakdown of our budget. The agency now operates with a budget of around \$8,290,716. Our auditing firm is Robert McCorkle, Mike Canady, Inc. If you have any questions about the taxpayers' funds, and we feel that we need to be accountable as we receive funds from you, that we need to come back each year and let you know how we have spent these funds. So this is the official report. If you will look at the last page, we decided to dedicate this particular 1998 booklet and annual report to three great Savannahians: Gertrude Greene, Dr. Thomas D. Austin and for which our homeless shelter is named, and of course Joel James, who was appointed by the Chatham County Commission. So, ladies and gentlemen, that's our annual report. If you have any questions, please give me a call. If you have any financial questions, you may want to give the audit firm of McCorkle and Canady, Inc., a call. Thank you very kindly and we appreciate the funding.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, John [Finney]. We appreciate you being here, and I'd be remiss if I didn't say that the man standing before us is probably one of the most dedicated public servants that Chatham County has ever seen. John [Finney], you do some wonderful work and we want you to know we appreciate what you do. Mr. Finney said, well, we appreciate what you do and we just want to say thank you very kindly. Chairman Hair said, thank you, John [Finney].

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.



VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. ROAD AND DRAINAGE PROJECTS (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Chairman Hair said, next under Commissioners' Items we're going to have briefing, I think, on road and drainage projects. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. I asked to bring this before the Commission and before the people to go over the details of where we are specifically on drainage programs in Chatham County. We started collecting monies and a lot of people have asked me in West Chatham due to the amount of rain we had, the sixteen inches, where the money was, what's happening with the money, are we going to get a drainage program any time soon, so I thought it would be a good idea for us to get out and let everyone know exactly where it is so that a lot of the questions would be answered ahead of time. Also, I want to mention that I feel like it's important to note that the drainage program that we've had in place as far as the maintenance that we've done, that we've been maintaining over the last three years from the monies we did with the splitting of the penny with the municipalities has gone a long way to alleviate a lot of problems in the drainage areas, especially in West Chatham that I know of. We did not have near the flooding that we had in 1994 even though we had a larger amount of rain in a shorter period of time. So I think it's important to note that the maintenance program is working that we have in place and we need to continue that, but also I want everyone to be aware and understand where we are on our drainage program because there are multimillion dollar long term jobs that people need to be aware of as far as where we're at in the overall time frame of this thing because it takes so many studies and all this stuff. You just don't go out and get a shovel and dig a ditch. So I wanted everybody to know where we are so I'm asking that Al Bungard, I think —, is he going to take the lead on this?

County Manager Abolt said, if you'd like the presentation now, yes sir, we can. Commissioner DeLoach said, I think we ought to have a presentation for the people here, for the TV and so we'll know exactly what's going on as far as the drainage program is concerned. County Manager Abolt said, we can reposition the charts then, sir.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. I do want to make a note that we will be having meetings in West Chatham in all the municipalities and a couple of the outer areas so that we can go over all this and make sure that the citizens are aware that might not see it on TV, but I'll be glad to work with any other Commissioners if they want to have a meeting in another area. County Manager Abolt said, we're also very proud of what —, the work of Mr. Drewry and his department in drainage canal maintenance.

Commissioner Murray asked, is that going to be turned around so that —? Chairman Hair said, yes, put it on the side maybe so that everybody can —, we'd like the citizens to be able to see it. Mr. Bungard said, you're more familiar already with the project. Chairman Hair said, yes, we can put it on the side so everybody can see it.

County Engineer Al Bungard said, actually I didn't know I was giving a presentation today just to have the charts ready, but thank you for the opportunity to do this. Let's start with the drainage program. You've already talked about the maintenance. I think that has helped. We right now have 16 projects under the '98-2003 SPLOST that we're working on. Under the monies y'all approved long before I got here, we started the design work on several canals: Placentia, Pipemakers and Hardin. The design is complete on the Placentia Canal. We have finished construction of Phase 1, Phase 2 we're acquiring the right-of-way and it should be under construction this year. We have completed the hydraulic analyses for Pipemakers Canal. I'm having meetings now with Georgia Ports Authority and various activities up the Pipemakers Canal, and one phase of that is actually under construction. The Savannah Airport Authority had a project nearby and we worked with them. We picked out a segment under kind of a joint venture project, and we're actually widening several thousand feet of that now. The next phase will be, hopefully by the end of the year to, work in the Georgia Ports Authority area and then we'll continue the right of acquisition up the length. Right now we have enough funds to make the improvements to what we all refer to 50-year [inaudible] to 24 hours from the Savannah River up to I-95. Hardin Canal, we've completed the hydraulic analyses, we're preparing the right-of-way plans and right acquisition on that will start within probably six months at least. We have projects then, working under design on the Little Hurst Canal, that is under design by our consultants, the Atlantic Creosote, Range Road is not under design yet. We're working with Garden City, Port Wentworth, Georgia Ports Authority to try to cost share some improvements there in conjunction with their development. Conaway we've already started right-of-way acquisition. That feeds into the Pipemakers Canal. And then Village Green we awarded a small contract last time to improve the outfall there. Let's say, West Lake Springfield, another large one, I've been working with Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart. We have completed the design. We have —, including the right-of-way plans. I'm negotiating with the Army for access and the improvement there, and we hope to have that under construction within six months to nine months. And then Wilmington Park Canal, we're nearing design completion on that. Those are the major ones. There's a few smaller ones up there that I won't go into detail. What's driving us right now is our ability to collect the money. We're collecting about, I think it's two and a half million dollars a month and we're spending it about as fast as we can on the right-of-way acquisition and construction. I do not anticipate, if it goes according to the plan, this money accumulating like it did in the road program. On the road program —.

Commissioner Price said, before you go there. Mr. Bungard said, yes sir. Commissioner Price said, we had a meeting Tuesday night in Georgetown, but would you please indicate Fawcett Canal and to the general public where we stand on that.

Mr. Bungard said, okay. We have a final —, we have a design on the Fawcett Canal. Because of money it's going to have to be broken into two phases. Phase 1 will deal with the outfall basically from around the —, well, the lagoon from the center southward all the way out to the Grove River. And then Phase 2, as a result of some information received, and some

information we had before, we're looking at some alternatives to drain that water northward along the railroad line. We still have —, we're looking for a way to do it without getting on the railroad. That's been the problem all along. It was never designed to handle water that way. We've also learned as a result of our analyses that many of the pipes in there were not —, it was a —, it's the most complicated subdivision we have, the way it was built. We found 24-inch pipes leading into 18-inch pipes. You know, all those things will be remedied, but that will have to wait for a little more money, but we intend to fund that Phase 2, you know, later on down the line. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, road projects. Mr. Bungard said, okay, road projects. Well, I'll start with —. Commissioner DeLoach said, start with —, I've got one. Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2. Mr. Bungard said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, 21 overpass. Mr. Bungard said, right. Jimmy DeLoach Parkway. Commissioner DeLoach said, Highway 80 overpass.

Mr. Bungard said, under design by Thomas and Hutton. Our environmental permit we should have in a few months. We have the center line laid out. We have the right-of-ways defined. We —, I should have the plans for that next week. The —, we're doing the drainage analysis because that was required. That should be under contract right now by March of 2001 I think is the date we're looking at. That's actually three months earlier than GDOT had programmed. I'm going to try to beat that also. I know that's —, that might be a unique experience, but that's the goal.

Jimmy DeLoach —, let's see, Pooler Parkway, that's Phase 1 or the part one of Phase 2 that's under construction. We had some problems with the railroad, the crossing easement. GDOT was working that. I think that's resolved, and the second part for which we already had the groundbreaking should be under contract. There's two contracts for one project. It should be underway in October.

Commissioner Saussy asked, how about Truman Parkway?

Mr. Bungard said, Truman Parkway. As of yesterday I was told in Atlanta that the final Environmental Impact Statement had been signed by the Federal Highway Administration. I just got off the phone with Walker Scott a few minutes ago, and in anticipation of that and receiving the preliminary final plans, which should have been —, a good set of final preliminary plans now for some months, we're going to try to schedule what we call the plan review in anticipation in —, it has to be after the record of decision, which we now, if everything goes according to schedule, could be as early as end of October, and then we're going to try to schedule all of those requisite reviews we have to go through in the first week in November. This is actually two to three months earlier than the time line that JJ&G presented when they were here. Commissioner Jackel said, that's good. Mr. Bungard said, also, we've acquired more properties in the meantime, early acquisition by folks who came to us and said, in fact there's two more on the agenda today, to acquire their property. That's moving along well. Georgia Regional has already been given notice to vacate their facilities by October. We're looking at starting the construction of the bridge section at DeRenne Pump Station earlier because it turns out we have to —, we call it in the business, you know, surcharging it, loading up the dirt to get the consolidation. We can probably have that under construction by January. That also speeds up the construction time of the overall project. Normally that would be part of the big project. We'll bring it out earlier. Also, there's a landfill I have to remove. EPD is working very well with us. We hope to have approval to do that within 60 days and I can get that started right after the record in the City. So —, yes, sir?

Commissioner Price said, the overpass, Southwest Bypass, 204.

Mr. Bungard said, Southwest Bypass. There's still, as I put in your report, the interagency dispute, I called it, between GDOT, the Corps of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service about the impact on the salt water marshes. As of yesterday I was told that that is being delayed on a month by month basis. It was scheduled for a September let, now they're going to have to postpone it until October. The issue is the ramps. I happen to agree with GDOT. They want us to reduce the ramps to 25 miles per hour. I'm saying that's in violation of the Astro Design Guide. It's unsafe and that's the battle we're going through. They want us to spend a couple of million extra dollars bridging it, which is also in our mind unnecessary. That's what we're going through.

Commissioner Price said, two other projects. The Science Drive Relocation Project as well as the widening of Coffee Bluff Road.

Mr. Bungard said, okay. White Bluff/Coffee Bluff, the environmental assessment is being reviewed by the Georgia Department of Transportation. It should go to Federal Highway within the next month, and then, you know, there's the usual process after that. We're at least a year away from construction there. The Science Drive, it is paved from both ends, but we still have the problems at the intersections. Those have to be closed off. I think we're talking about being done in about 45 days now, but I'd have to go double check that.

Commissioner Saussy asked, how about Whitfield and Diamond Causeway?

Mr. Bungard said, Whitfield's under design. Environmental permitting, layout, that we're still at least a year away on having for the plans for that.

Commissioner Saussy asked, on drainage, what is the criteria when someone goes in with a large parking lot, and so forth, on the impact of those around it? How do you go about looking for those?

Mr. Bungard said, well, what we do is we take a look at the —, the City's exact same procedure. You know, how is the runoff increased, you know, into the pipes around there. That's why we're required to trench facilities to hold some of that water back so it doesn't, you know, immediately rush and overwhelm the systems. But that's the hydraulic analysis we make the consultants go through and we check their calculations. Commissioner Saussy asked, is the impact on something like that dependent on the size of the parking lot area? Mr. Bungard said, absolutely. Commissioner Saussy said, because I've got one that you might know of off of Whitfield onto Lavon. Mr. Bungard said, yes sir. I mean, the issue is obviously water that used to soak into the ground and now it just concentrates, until the time of concentration is reduced and we have to hold that water back to allow it to drain off, you know, at a slower rate. Commissioner Saussy said, well, there are new products out there. You might look at these. It's call pervious concrete. Mr. Bungard said, yes sir. We —, all those are available to consultants. We don't design the projects for them. Commissioner Saussy said, I know you don't, right. Mr. Bungard said, we often make those suggestions. That's why we encourage green space. All those things help.

Commissioner Murray asked, Al [Bungard], can you give an update since they let us know yesterday on the four-laning of Highway 80 from Bryan Wood to Bull River and also removal of the old Bull River Bridge?

Mr. Bungard said, yes. I've been trying to get that bridge removed for some time, and now that project should be under construct —, or awarded I believe now by October is what they're looking at. That will not include the widening of the bridge. They will four-lane beyond the bridge all the way up to the next bridge. We tried to include the next bridge in that, but that got tied into the environmental problems on the marshes and Fort Pulaski, but as part of the contract to widen 80 between the Bull River and the other —, the Lazaretto Creek, you know, they will remove the superstructure of the old bridge that's falling down at —, by Williams Seafood, and then once the environmental documentation is complete for the bridge construction, they'll come back and remove the piers and all that.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I need to go over mine one more time, and I need to put a date, time of the year or month or something there beside the name of the project so people can kind of key in on those things. So if we say Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2, I want a —, kind of just give me a day we're talking about here. Maybe not necessarily a day, I'll take a month. Mr. Bungard asked, well, what about a season? Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mr. Bungard said, because if I tell you June and I make May I'm a good guy. If I tell you June and it's July, you know. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll go season. Mr. Bungard said, they gave me a reduced version here. Chairman Hair said, but not decades though. Mr. Bungard said, oh, come on. Summer of 2001. Commissioner DeLoach said, Summer of 2001. Okay, now, Pooler Parkway. Mr. Bungard said, that should be contract by —, I'll give you a month. October. Commissioner DeLoach said, October. Pooler Parkway, second phase. Now, and the 21 overpass that's going to Bonny Bridge and all that, you know. Mr. Bungard said, oh, the interchange at 21. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Mr. Bungard said, I think we've got that scheduled for let in October. Commissioner DeLoach said, October of this year. That's good. I just wanted to get the days down so if somebody asks me I can say Al said this. Mr. Bungard said, thank you.

Commissioner Saussy asked, is that October date for Truman Parkway both phases, three and four? Mr. Bungard said, no, Phase 3. Commissioner Saussy asked, we are doing them separately? Mr. Bungard said, that was a trick question, right, sir?

Chairman Hair said, however, Commissioner Saussy, yesterday this was the discussion as well. They informed us that it's going to take less time to build four, so they're still anticipating the completion being exactly the same. Even though they're going to start it probably seven or eight months later, it will still be completed the same time as three.

Mr. Bungard said, the EIS is for all three. Remember? Commissioner Saussy asked, what is the completion time? Mr. Bungard said, the EIS for all three is —, will be October/November time frame. Construction then for Phase 3, it's about a mile longer. The plan is still to get the design done for Phase 4, let so they finish the same time. We're talking about 2003.

Commissioner Rivers asked, are all the canals on the west side, none of them are on the south side? Commissioner Saussy said, yes, they don't have anything but rain on the westside. Commissioner DeLoach said, we just start —. Mr. Bungard said, it's too flat on the east side to have any canals. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're just moving into that area, see. That's the problem. Commissioner Saussy said, the east side doesn't have any —. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're just moving in discovering new territory. We're developing those things as we go.

Chairman Hair said, I would also like to add one other thing about Truman Parkway. We —, and this was reiterated yesterday to me. We have really a good partnership with DOT, and yesterday the State Engineer came up to me in the hallway and informed me that he had been instructed by the DOT board member to give me a weekly briefing and —, on Truman, and he also told me that our board member, Mr. Triplett, had clearly indicated to him that this was the number one priority and that he was going to be talking to me frequently to see if these briefings had been taking place so I really do think that the DOT really understands the importance of this, and we've already seen probably a three or four month increase in time —, or decrease in time to speed this project up, and I think we will continue to see that effort. So I can

assure you DOT clearly understands the importance of this road to us, and our partnership with them is really paying off, and they're monitoring this on a weekly basis I can assure you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

=====

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Chairman Hair declared the meeting of the Board of Commissioners in recess at 9:45 a.m., and the Board reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Following adjournment of the meeting of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

=====

VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

* **1. PURCHASING ITEM U. *Tabled at meeting of July 23, 1999.***

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
U. Annual contract for the operation of the Whitemarsh Island Community Center	Parks and Recreation	St. Joseph/Candler Health Care System	\$75,711	General Fund/M & O - Parks and Recreation

Note added staff report dealing with discussion with Memorial Medical Center.

Chairman Hair said, at our last meeting we tabled an item that dealt with the contract for the operation of Whitemarsh. We need to take that off the table. I'll entertain a motion to do so. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second to take it off the table. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas —. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt. County Manager Abolt said, gentlemen, you had asked that we communicate with Memorial Medical Center, which we did do. We have a staff report summarizing their interest in this. It is a little beyond what we had envisioned. It's our recommendation that we proceed with the contract with St. Joseph's/Candler.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], I was not here at the last meeting when this came up. I was glad it was tabled. I've read the proposal from Memorial and also the one from St. Joseph's. Why would we go out and spend almost \$76,000 to have somebody manage a facility when we could put somebody in there full time and run the program and manage the facility ourselves for less than that or about the same amount? County Manager Abolt said, it's our attempt to privatize, sir. That was it. This is the first time in which we've —. Commissioner Murray said, I understand privatizing, but you don't —, I'm not in favor of privatizing if it's going to cost us more money to privatize than it does to do it in-house, and I don't know whether we can do it in-house that cheap or not, but —. Chairman Hair said, I think that's —. Commissioner Murray said, almost \$76,000 is a lot of money and I would think that we could have somebody in there to run programs out of that and coordinate the facility itself. I understood the facility was going to be open for different organizations within the Islands area to come utilize the facility and to schedule and process things like that, and granted I don't see a problem with having some programs run in there, but I don't want to see programs being run and take away from the citizens that have been looking for a long time for this facility to open up and not be able to utilize it when they need to utilize it too. So I —, I really, and I don't know whether anybody else has any discussion on it or not at this point. If they do, I'll wait for that.

Chairman Hair said, I think Mr. Golden could probably answer specific questions, but I think it would be very difficult for us to operate it with that amount of money. If you look at the total proposal, I think that's —. Commissioner DeLoach said, not with the number of people. Chairman Hair said, I think that's a very reasonable figure. I think it would be very difficult for us to operate it for that number.

County Manager Abolt said, without —, well, Mr. Golden can respond, but we thought it was creative. It also gives us maximum opportunity rather than having staff, we could look at contracts and we were —, at the staff level were great. Please —.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I will say on Memorial's proposal, it went above and beyond where I would take it. I'm not right now anxious to turn over the swimming pool, the Aquatic Center, to —, under a different contract at this point, and that was part of their proposal. I don't understand why. I don't know if anybody's here from Memorial that would address that. Chairman Hair asked, is there anybody —? Commissioner Price said, say that again, Frank [Murray]. Chairman Hair said, he was just saying that the comprehensive proposal Memorial submitted in response to this included also taking over the Aquatic Center, which really wasn't part of the original idea. That's what —. Commissioner Murray said, I don't understand why that was thrown into it.

Chairman Hair asked, any —? Do you have specific questions, Commissioner Murray, or are you just —?

Commissioner Murray said, yes. Well, on the scheduling, how will that be done? I mean —. Mr. Jim Golden said, the schedule for after hours can be done, coordinated with the department, with the manager of that. Just like, for instance, we're already getting calls of folks wanting to use it for various reasons, teaching classes and dancing and also cheerleader clinics, whatever have you. After hours operation will be a rental type setup. It will be coordinated through the department and the schedule will be handled after —. Commissioner Murray said, excuse me. When you say after hours —. Mr. Golden said, after hours. From 10:00 to 6:00 this is scheduled for six days a week. Commissioner Murray said, six days a week from 10:00 to 6:00. Mr. Golden said, yes sir. So anything after six would be available for rental —. Commissioner Murray asked, what goes on from that 10:00 to 6:00, six days a week? What takes place? Mr. Golden said, 10:00 to 6:00 you have a bona fide program of activities and games and crafts. You have —. Commissioner Murray said, so in order words from 10:00 to 6:00, six days a weeks, a citizens group in the Islands area cannot go in and use that event [sic] for any type of meeting. Is that what we're saying? Mr. Golden said, no. Well, it could be special meetings. We can coordinate that like any other facility. We can work with the management. If they have a very special meeting coming up during the day, we can work that out, block it out. But it's a schedule there designed for the senior citizens. In the afternoon it's for the youth. Commissioner Murray said, so the senior citizens would have use of the facility from 10:00 to 6:00 —? Mr. Golden said, no sir, it'll be a split shift, like [inaudible] midday and a shift that will go to two o'clock, and then in the afternoon we have a suggested schedule like from 4:00 and right on after that for youth. It's a bona fide schedule based on the feelings of agencies submit their cultural affairs and activities that might meet the needs of the Islands. Commissioner Murray said, what I'm saying is, I do not want to take away from the citizens in the area that would utilize the facility for meetings and things, and it sounds to me like that's what we're getting ready to do. Mr. Golden said, we will —. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not trying to take away from the senior citizens side of it either. I think they also were part of the programs that we expected to do in there. Mr. Golden said, well, we've got other requests already. We just —. Commissioner Murray said, I know there are other request. Mr. Golden said, make —, we will marry that in with the uses of the center, make sure it will be usable for everybody.

Chairman Hair said, we have a representative from St. Joseph's/Candler. Would you like to make a comment in response to Commissioner Murray's question?

Ms. Melissa Allen said, hi. I'm Melissa Allen with St. Joseph's/Candler Health System and I helped put that proposal together and I think I might be able to help answer your question. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Ms. Allen said, the calendar that is put together is extremely flexible and it's meant to meet the needs of the community, and when Mr. Golden and I have spoken that's exactly what we wanted to make sure that it is, very, very flexible, and if there is a community organization who would like to meet there, it's simply a matter of calling and reserving that time. Those calendars are published monthly and can change at any time. We wanted it to be flexible and that was the beauty of it because we knew that the needs were going to change. We didn't want to lock anything in so, for example, if there's a club organization who would like to meet there the next month, it's simply a matter of calling and saying we'd like to meet there at three o'clock on the 15th next month and we'll just block that time out and we'll not schedule an event during that time. Commissioner Murray said, okay, that answered my question.

Chairman Hair said, I think that would be better than to leave the total —. Ms. Heimes, do you have a question?

Ms. Marianne Heimes said, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, Commissioners, well that sort of answered my question, but it raised a few more. The Islands people are very, very pleased to have a community center. We've waited for it for a long time because we do not have a place to have meetings. Now I heard the word rental after 10:00 to 6:00, and I'd like to have that clarified because I sure don't want to have to rent a place to hold meetings in our community center, and a lot of people do meet in the evening. A lot of town meetings are held in the evening. If we have a problem in the community, the meeting is going to be in the evening and I don't think we should have to pay for that.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Golden, would you address that please? Mr. Golden said, those activities that comes under rental classification, having a meeting will not be —, we have someone who wants to teach dance classes and charging fees, those individuals —. Chairman Hair said, commercial operation. Mr. Golden said, those individuals to dance we've already let them know what the rental rate will be, and they have no problem. But just a meeting, town meeting, whatever have you, no problem. Chairman Hair said, very good. Any —?

Ms. Heimes said, just one other thing. I wanted to commend the Garden Club on Wilmington Island. They have agreed to provide the sprinkling system for the new community center, which I think is very generous of them, and it's another example of the citizens out there trying to work with the County. If you remember, the median, the ICLG helped with that. So I just didn't want this to be in the minutes that it will be available.

Commissioner Murray said, speaking of that median, does the sprinkler system still work? I haven't see it on in quite a while, so I was wondering. County Manager Abolt said, it's pretty brown out there. Ms. Heimes said, it's pretty brown.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Price first and then Commissioner Rivers. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, one of the initial concerns I had was that we only —, we had limited bidders on this project, limited in the sense that we didn't have the other health institute in this community able to bid on it or even have knowledge of it before when it came to us originally. So I'm glad that we now have Memorial's proposal to look at. Of course, my question is Memorial's \$72,000 and St. Joseph's/Candler is \$75,711. There's a \$3,711 difference from Memorial is being offered and yet staff still comes back to recommend Candler/St. Joe —, St. Joe/Candler, stating that their proposal earns a slight edge on the basis of rental arrangements for private functions, provisions of computers and games for patron use and having the Islands YMCA with its knowledge of Island preferences working with them. I —, we've heard from the St. Joe/Candler folks. I wonder if there's anybody here from Memorial that would like to address this —. Chairman Hair said, I asked that question a while ago. Is there anybody from Memorial here to address it? Commissioner Odell asked, were they notified to be here? That's the question. Commissioner Price said, well, I think they knew. County Manager Abolt said, they knew it's on the agenda. Commissioner Price said, well, I think they knew. Chairman Hair said, I think if they got the contract —. Commissioner Price said, I think they knew. Commissioner Odell asked, they could assume that it was going to be on this agenda? Chairman Hair said, I would have to assume that they —, if they wanted the contract, they would know that —. Did they not know —?

Mr. Jim Golden said, none of the proposal is with Memorial. They refer the contractual arrangements with the City of Savannah. It would not be to do any contractual arrangement with Memorial. They say we'll have to do it with the City for the services. That's the difference in telling us —. Chairman Hair asked, so we couldn't contract directly with them anyway. Mr. Golden said, no sir, we do not. Commissioner Price asked, why? Why couldn't we do it directly with Memorial and do it with St. Joe/Candler? Mr. Golden said, that was the recommendation in their proposal. They said —. Commissioner Thomas said, Memorial is —. Chairman Hair said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Thomas said, Memorial is the one who suggested it. Commissioner Price said, I just wanted to clear that up.

Chairman Hair asked, okay, any further questions? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, now we're looking at these contracts for \$75,711 to renew St. Joe/Candler service for operations and management over Whitemarsh Island Center. So, I'm looking at that fee. Now I'm looking at Individual Action Calendar, I'm looking at a budget amendment transfer of \$40,000 from CIP to General Fund M&O for operation of Whitemarsh Island Center. Is that —? Chairman Hair said, that's part of the 75, right? Commissioner Rivers asked, is that inclusive? Commissioner Murray said, that's the balance of this year. County Manager Abolt said, the contract is annual. The allocation is the balance of the fiscal year, and really the allocation is a bit high. Remember that was an allocation projected back at the time we were looking at fund balance and helping with the center, not knowing when the center would be available. Commissioner Rivers said, all right. In addition, in addition to that we're transferring this \$40,000 from CIP. Now, this center is going to be continually operated. Where are we —, have we looked at putting that money in there on a permanent basis and do we have a permanent revenue stream running to —? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, we don't, and this was, of course, presented in the budget message. We identified several things at the time of budget preparation last November that were coming on line that would have to be addressed from revenues yet determined and we would have to cover in the interim from fund balance and non-reoccurring revenue. The \$40,000 for the balance of the year source is non-reoccurring revenue. Commissioner Rivers said, here again, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues sitting here the need to develop revenue streams for these projects that we have already okayed. We've okayed these projects without foreseeing operational dollars in place for them. Same thing with Triplett Park, same thing with any other facility that we've been operating, and I think we need to start focusing on permanent revenue stream for these additions that we've made

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Rivers, you're absolutely correct. Any further questions? The Chair —. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Ken Earls.

Mr. Ken Earls said, we were just back here looking, talking about the \$40,000. The annual —, if we're understanding it right, the annual cost to run it is \$75,700 or whatever —. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Mr. Earls asked, why, since

we're through more than half the year, are we paying \$40,000, which is more than half of the annual cost? Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, we —, it's not an exact science. They will only get paid for the services rendered. We had \$40,000 programmed to go in the running of this center not knowing when it would open. They will get no more than the actual service delivered, and at the end of the year any money not used will go into fund balance. Chairman Hair said, so they bill actual —. They get paid for services. If we don't use that money, that's just the maximum it will be. County Manager Abolt said, that's correct. Chairman Hair asked, does that answer your question, Mr. Earls? Mr. Earls said, that works. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Murray said, on this, do we have an open date yet? County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Anderson will work with the Board, Commissioner Murray, and the Chairman to ensure that we have a time convenient to your schedule as well as those wonderful groups that made this possible.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor —. Commissioner Price said, a citizen has a question?

Mr. Jack McCall asked, where's this thing located? Commissioner Murray said, it's next to the school off the connector road. It sits right by the school. Mr. McCall asked, right next to the school? Commissioner Murray said, it's a building that they just finished building. It backs up to the Demere tract of land with trees and all, it backs right up to that. Chairman Hair said, right next to the school. Commissioner Murray said, parking and land area and all that. Mr. McCall said, I live out there and I never even heard of it.

Chairman Hair said, everyone needs to vote. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the annual contract with St. Joseph's/Candler for the operation of the Whitmarsh Island Community Center in the amount of \$75,711. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

2. VERBAL UPDATE ON MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER SHACKELFORD TO DISCUSS FLYOVER OPTIONS, U.S.80 AND JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.

Chairman Hair said, I have some very good news for everyone. I'd like to pass out a letter to the Commissioners. Commissioner Price said, point of order, Mr. Chairman. Do we need to untable this? Chairman Hair said, I —, it's an information item. County Manager Abolt said, I'd take it off the table. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hair said, yesterday we had a delegation that went to Atlanta: myself, Commissioner Murray, Senator Johnson, Mr. Triplett, Mr. Abolt and Mr. Bungard. We met with the Commissioner and all of the senior staff and I brought back a letter from the Commissioner that I think did exactly what needed to be done. They agreed —, first of all, this project was on their schedule, it was in what they call a TIP, Transportation Improvement Plan, to be constructed in 2003. They agreed to take it out of that plan and not build it and they agreed to also at the same time continue to monitor long term, in their long range planning, if at any time in the future, 10 or 12 years, 15 years, it was needed, they would bring it back to the table for discussion, but they agreed to take it off the table, take it out of their plan and not build the flyover. [Audience applause.]

Chairman Hair said, I can say to you that we received absolute total cooperation from DOT. It was a very, very congenial meeting. Everyone agreed, and quite frankly it was a very short meeting. We presented what we —, what our concerns were. They readily agreed with us, and that was the end of the problem. So I want to commend everyone that was involved in this project. We appreciate the support of the citizens on this, but also Mr. Triplett and Commissioner Shackelford deserve a lot of credit, and it was a very successful program.

Ms. Judith Grissette said, good morning. That's wonderful news. Thank you. The Concerned Island Citizens applaud you for your magnificent road improvements throughout the County and for recognizing the 1991 improvements to the Johnny Mercer intersection has accomplished the task of being able to move volumes of traffic safely and efficiently, long preserving the beauty of the Islands. All of Chatham County and Georgia citizens benefit from today's decision. Their tax dollars will be going to more urgent projects. And we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to you, the Commission, for all the fine work you do to protect and promote the interests of the residents of Chatham County. I would like to give you a standing ovation.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you very much. We appreciate that. Thank you. We appreciate y'all coming today. Commissioner Murray wants to make a comment.

Commissioner Murray said, to follow up what Commissioner Hair just said, it was a great meeting. The DOT worked very well with us, and again I would like to compliment them for their support in working with Chatham County on the road systems that we have today. But the other part of this project, they will take a look at it to see if it meets any criteria that the State has to have to make any other improvements to that intersection. One maybe a de-acceleration lane and from the marshes and maybe some improvements coming around the curve by Long Point. If it meets the criteria, they said they would certainly look at it and see. So we may be able to get some other improvements to that intersection. That's not a guarantee because it does have to meet their criteria first, but that's something else they will look at for us.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have one short comment. Let me just say to some of my friends I see out there that too often I hear from citizens that they feel detached from government, their government isn't listening to them. Well, I got in this thing because of Cecil sitting out there saying I want to talk to you about something at a party, and then I talked to Commissioner Murray and he says yes we need to do something about it, and we heard from other citizens. So, you know, we're trying to listen and we need to hear from good people like you, and I appreciate your efforts and your contacting us because we represent you and we want to work for you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. And I've responded —, many of you wrote your personal notes, those of you that wrote me letters, I've responded back to you that we would do everything we could, and I think that was very successful. Thank you. We appreciate your input.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to place this item before the Commissioners for discussion. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Verbal report received as information.

=====

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 TRANSFERS OF \$700 WITHIN THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR BUDGET FOR TEMPORARY LABOR CHARGES, AND \$2,000 WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUDGET FOR TEMPORARY POOL CHARGES; A CONFISCATED FUNDS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TRANSFER OF \$4,530 FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENCY TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF AN EMERGENCY COMMAND POST; BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO TRANSFER \$40,000 FROM THE CIP FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND M & O FOR OPERATION OF THE WHITEMARSH ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER; A TRANSFER OF \$50,000 FROM THE ONE PERCENT SALES TAX (1993-1998) RESERVE FOR SPECIFIED PROJECTS TO THE ONE PERCENT SALES TAX (1993-1993) MISCELLANEOUS TO IMPLEMENT THE MAPPED STREET ORDINANCE; AND A CIP FUND CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$6,000 TO THE MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT FOR ARCHITECTURAL FEES.**

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. Any discussion?

Commissioner Jackel said, yes. I've got some questions about this. Emergency Command Post, it says \$4,500 here but I thought in the material it said it was 80-something thousand. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Remember the difference has to do with —, I think the testimony you received last time as to the grant not being a hundred percent because of our lack of compatibility with Federal requirements on injuries to officers off duty, and this is a requirement of the Federal government that we're looking possibly to solve with compensation work that's being done by our consultant. We had to make up the difference and the difference comes to [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel asked, so what is it? Is the cost to us \$4,500 or the cost to us the \$80,000? County Manager Abolt said, \$80,000. Commissioner Jackel

asked, that's the real cost? County Manager Abolt said, yes. The grant money could not cover a hundred percent. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. Then the next question I have based on that is shouldn't this be a budget item and shouldn't this possibly be in next year's budget instead of —? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Jackel said, instead of up for us right now. County Manager Abolt said, remember at the last meeting Chief Sprague was before you and you were at that time, I think, the Board was very supportive and has been, repeatedly going out for Department of Justice block grant money, and that's what we've been doing. We have n way of knowing when it comes out. They do come out. We compete and we compete very satis—, we think in a very fine fashion.

Chairman Hair asked, any further discussion. Commissioner Price said, call the question. Chairman Hair said, cal the question. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following: General Fund M & O transfers of \$700 within the State Court Administrator budget for temporary labor charges, and \$2,000 within the Administrative Services budget for temporary pool charges; a Confiscated Funds Special Revenue Fund transfer of \$4,530 from Police Department contingency toward the purchase of an Emergency Command Post; budget amendments to transfer \$40,000 from the CIP fund to the General Fund M & O for operation of the Whitmarsh Island Community Center; a transfer of \$50,000 from the One Percent Sales Tax (1993-1998) Reserve for Specified Projects to the One Percent Sales Tax (1993-1993) Miscellaneous to implement the Mapped Street Ordinance; and a CIP Fund contingency transfer of \$6,000 to the Mosquito Control project for architectural fees. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

2. TRADE CENTER BUDGET RECONCILIATION. Does not affect guaranteed maximum price.

Commissioner Price said, I move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, I've got a motion to approve and a second. Any discussion?

Commissioner Murray said, I'm just sorry all those people left because in this motion it's transferring \$5 million of those funds out of that project that we just discussed over to a Hutchinson Island project, so that assures the funds won't be there to build it.

Chairman Hair said, okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Price said, that's a good one, Frank [Murray]. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the transfers from 1985-1993 SPLOST Fund and the 1993-1998 SPLOST Fund for road projects on Hutchinson Island related to the Trade Center and adopt the Trade Center Budget as presented. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

3. SIX-MONTH BUDGET REPORT WITH APPROPRIATE BUDGET RECONCILIATION.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this is as we do during the budget, give you an update on where we stand looking at the current status of respective budgets and then making mid-course corrections as appropriate. There are some trends there that continue to cause us some concern. We are asking a mid-course shift of some dollars realizing that if the trend continues, we may have some difficulties at the end of the year. I will tell you up front that the Sheriff has been very cooperative and in conversation with him in spite of the trend data, he is very confident that his current bottom line budget will sustain it in the black. It may not be necessary to shift money in, either to the Sherif or to the Detention Center. All would say there is we wouldn't shift it in. We'd just keep it in reserve in the event that the optimism does not hold true. But essentially we've got some line item expenditures that are under —, that are overrunning for which we feel we should make some mid-course allocations.

Chairman Hair said, but I have a question about that. Are you basing recommendations on line items or on total budgets? County Manager Abolt said, it's a combination, sir. For example, if you go to page six of the staff report —. Chairman Hair said, well, my question is —. County Manager Abolt said, I can answer it better by —. Chairman Hair said, if we have

—, I can see being very concerned about a total department's total. I see less concern about line items as long as that department head is responsible for making those adjustments. County Manager Abolt said, I understand you. If I may, I'd like to have the benefit of looking at the specifics, which I apologize for. That's the only way I can really correctly answer your question. It's on page six of the staff report. In our temporary labor pool, which Chief Sprague referred to during the presentation for excellence in customer relations, because of the 90-day hiring freeze and the total usage of that, we're just flat out of money. On the court expenditures for indigent defense, we know this is the minimal we need now based on that cost and it does not address the new cost coming down as the result of lifting the hourly charge limit, which you're all well aware of. On the Sheriff's items, as I mentioned, we'll hold on that. Clerk of Superior Court, the postage is killing them and there's an explanation as to why. That is not going to be able to correct itself.

Chairman Hair said, that is not my question. My question is the \$423,420, the total. You're on page six? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, I am, sir. Yes sir, I am, at the bottom —. Chairman Hair asked, is that —, does that represent the total department budget —? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, that —. Chairman Hair asked, differences or does that represent line item differences? County Manager Abolt said, it's line item differences. I'm explaining the sum of what I'm giving you right now, and I said based on the Sheriff's conversation we can hold back from that with a little budget note, the amount of money going into the Sheriff's operation as well as the Detention Center overtime. And again, if may I mention Clerk of Superior Court, the postage overrun and that is a constant. Marine Patrol we've had some charges that should have been made last year that were not that we're picking up on. So my recommendation —, and again I don't want to diminish what you see in the six-month report, but we do —, we again continue to look at those trends in solid waste, we look at operation costs. You know, our concern as they are usually at this time of year, it's our responsibility to keep you abreast of where we are, but again giving certain line items that appear to be very exact in their depletion, we would ask for some mid-course correction. The only modification I would make should be those of the Sheriff and the Detention Center with the understanding that if necessary we might have to shift in by the end of the year.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions?

Commissioner Jackel said, yes. I'm very concerned about the —, and that's not listed in here, but it's listed inside, unless I'm looking at it and not seeing it, the Group Health Insurance Fund. The deficit is estimated at \$850,000? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Is there some explanation why it is —, our predictions and the money we set aside were so wrong? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, our predictions are on. We brought to your attention during the budget message, in fact a year ago during the six-month report of the continuing, you know, cost exposures. It was our choice in my budget message to continue to monitor. We do have to shift some funds in. It is a recurring expense. We do again, though not to be overly optimistic, we'll be coming forward to you in partnership with our health care provider in doing some what they refer to as disease management on certain key issues, high blood pressure, issues that we see that are very costly that we feel we can make a substantial inroad in as far as cost. We're just trying to be, you know, very fair to all concerned realizing that in the short and long term we do have some exposure. It's not alarming, but we have to start making some adjustments, and that's what you see later on in the agenda relative to some covering costs for the balance of the year.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, in the past we've gotten to this point in the year and I've seen us do some things that we turn right around and we reverse come budget time. What I mean by that is, I've seen us actually reduce millage rate and then turn right around and increase it come budget time even if that budget took going into the following few months of the next year. But I do think that we need to at least go back to what the amount would be in the reduction of the millage rate to be able to say that we are not going to do any backdoor taxation. In other words, whatever the increase in assessments that is —. What I want to know is, in all of the budgets that we're handling, M&O, SSD and the CAT budget, what numbers —.

Chairman Hair said, we're not on that item yet. We're still on budget reconciliation. That's the next item, Commissioner Price. Commissioner Price said, all right. Well, I will —. Chairman Hair said, hold your comments until we get to that item. Any further questions about the budget reconciliation?

Commissioner Murray said, I've just got one. Russ [Abolt], what would we need to do, and I guess Billy [Hair] too, to start at our next meeting to redo the indigent defense, how that's done. It is taking more and more money, and we've been through this years ago and changed it. County Manager Abolt said, sir, I—. Commissioner Murray said, somebody said something about a time clock at the courthouse and the jail, but I don't think that would work. County Manager Abolt said, sir, you're well versed and we've all lived through this together, and there's various —, well, there are certain things that we've tried before. There are certain initiatives by this Board, or the previous Board, that were not successful because of the constitutional right to have defense provided. I, at the suggestion of Attorney Hart, I have talked to both Danny DeLoach and Chief Judge Perry Brannen, and next week I'll be meeting with the Tripartite Committee asking for their attention to this, but when all is said and done, and Jon [Hart] can speak better than I, we have a position of not being able to put a ceiling on certain expenditures which are guaranteed as a result of the Constitution. Commissioner Murray said, well, where I have a problem with it, and I've seen some material, is we've got some attorneys that are making it for a living based on indigent defense, and I don't see how they could have time for any other clients. If you'll look at the hours that they have put in for Chatham County for indigent defense, then we are paying them —.

Commissioner Murray said, Judge Brannen —, and if I may, I don't mean to speak for him, but he was very candid and I will offer them at this point because of your question, when I met with him earlier this week, he referenced the appointments that can be made by this body to the Tripartite Committee and through me possibly, which may not be the appropriate messenger, he urged that I urge you all as you make those appointments and certainly have free access to those appointments to convince them, to convey to them your concern because when all is said and done my understanding of it is that those ladies and gentlemen on that Tripartite Committee will determine the appropriateness of charges from respective attorneys.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, Commissioner Murray and I have talked about this at some length. We don't think there should be the ability to say you can only spend two hours in preparing to represent some guy charged with a serious felony. We don't think that the Constitution and the court rulings would prohibit that, but we were considering the idea of putting a cap on what any particular attorney could make in a year. So if you reached a level of \$20,000, we would say we're not giving you any more cases, it must go to other attorneys. That would spread out the number of attorneys who could be doing it because we had one attorney last year that got \$100,000, and we just think that's unreasonable, and by spreading it out we think we will have better control over what goes on, and no one will be trying to milk the system as we think some of them currently are.

County Manager Abolt said, I will convey that to the committee and again I will say what Judge Brannen said as far as the possibility of the Board delegation of the Board meeting with members.

Chairman Hair asked, would it be possible for us to maybe have the Chairman of that committee come before us and let us express as a body our feelings and, you know, say that we expect some changes in that —. Jon [Hart], I see you —.

County Attorney Hart said, yes, this is a very difficult question that you're dealing with right here. Indigent care and defense is basically governed under the auspices of the court and the U. S. Constitution and the Georgia Constitution. The Georgia Supreme Court came down and said you can't put caps on attorney's fees, and it's got to be on some performance based, hourly based scheme that is reasonable. That doesn't mean we have to compensate somebody at a regularly \$200 hourly rate or something like that, but what it does to you is it opens up your budget so that it's, just as y'all have pointed out, it's an ever extending spiral outward, and the primary mechanism that has been used to control those expenses has been this Tripartite Committee, which involves bill review or audit review of bills so that you bring those down within the realm of reality. If anybody that's had a Federally-appointed case in court, and we have two attorneys that have done that here, knows that when you present your bill there it is audited very closely and probably not everything on your bill is not going to get paid, and I think we're going to have to encourage the Tripartite Committee to be fair but to really scrutinize bills so that the tax dollar goes as far as it can go in expending the taxpayers' money on this type of care, but from the Commission's standpoint this is a budget item that I'm afraid is going to continue to increase and continue to cause problems that way, and there's I think Commissioner Jackel's suggestion about capping attorney's fees for particular individuals above a certain rate is probably one mechanism of spreading that out a little bit more. Oddly enough, I've been contacted this month by two separate County Attorneys that have looked at what they plan to do about their system and have completed studies about going into a public defender program, and both of those studies came to the clear conclusion that while this is an expensive way of handling this matter, it is less expensive than going with a public defender office. So, you know, your only alternative to working within the mechanism we have here is to go into a public defender situation and then you start having competing interests between that and the DA's office.

County Manager Abolt said, that was addressed by the previous Board and was turned down.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Odell I have a question based on something you just said. When you said the Supreme Court ruling does not allow the capping of fees, are you saying it doesn't allow a capping of fees, total fees, like for the service rendered or it does not allow a cap, for example, on an hourly rate? I mean, if somebody charges \$800 an hour —. County Attorney Hart said, you can agree on a reasonable hourly rate. What the problem has been is most of these programs, including ours, has tried to take the Criminal Code and break it down into various felonies from murder down to theft by taking and giving a number not to exceed: \$300 for this, \$500 for that, not to exceed \$3,500. Well, obviously, if it's a very sophisticated criminal case, \$3,500 may not adequately afford that defendant the right to counsel because it's going to take somebody \$6,000 worth of effort to properly prepare that case, and they have said you cannot pigeon-hole every case into these little bracketed situations. That does not mean you can't negotiate with the private attorney and say your hourly rate would be X or Y and then leave it open to the market to decide whether they wish to participate in that. Obviously if we get the number so low that nobody participates, then we've got to raise the number.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I think in the Federal system, Jon [Hart], and having been randomly appointed to a substantial drug case in Federal Court, the hourly fee is set and it's substantially more than what the County pays. My concern is that I don't do court appointed cases and have not done it for 10 years, and I know you don't do court appointed cases, Jon [Hart], and —, before becoming County Attorney hadn't done —. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't. Commissioner Odell

said, and I don't —, you don't either, Martin [Jackel]? My concern is that there are some attorneys that if a person goes out and commits a heinous crime that the sheer thought of it makes you sick. We have attorneys who will go in, represent those people and represents them to guarantee their constitutional right. I'm not going to —, I don't do that, but there are people who do and I'm just concerned that if we limit those people who are capable of handling the case by putting a cap, I think it might be arbitrary. I'd like to be on any study committee that we do because we don't have an option as to providing indigent defense. We will do it. We will do it. Now there are a couple of ways we can do it, and I think the way that we've done it, while expensive, is substantially cheaper than going in-house. I'd like to participate in that.

Chairman Hair asked, any further questions or comments on the budget reconciliation? Do we need approval of that?

Commissioner Jackel said, I think that we not only need to meet with the head of the Tripartite Committee, but we also need to meet with the person that runs the appointments of the attorneys because those are two different —.

Chairman Hair said, maybe we could on some future agenda maybe arrange for an item on the agenda and have the head of the Tripartite and the Court Administrator here and let them know exactly how we feel and maybe have a —, I don't think we —, we don't need to have a dialogue —, a two hour dialogue about to solve the problem, but at least maybe letting —, sort of giving direction to these people as to this is what our concern is and we'd like for you guys to come back with some recommendations on how to solve it, and then —.

Commissioner Odell asked, Billy [Hair], could we save time in this meeting by if you appointed a subcommittee consisting of Martin Jackel, myself and Frank Murray, and we meet with the Tripartite Committee —. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to do it, Frank [Murray]. Commissioner Murray said, I don't mind doing it, but I'm no attorney. I don't know the legal side of it I can tell you that right now. Chairman Hair said, well, I think you need —. Commissioner Odell said, we don't need an attorney. What we —. Commissioner Murray said, the only thing I was trying to come up with is, and Martin [Jackel] and I have discussed it in the past, is some way to see if we can, not say we aren't going to represent these people because we have to, but to see if there's some way we can do it that's less expensive than what we have now because it takes —. Chairman Hair said, but you also might be more familiar with some of us would be so I think if y'all would accept that appointment, I think that would be good. Commissioner Murray said, that's fine. Commissioner Jackel said, okay.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, just for the sake of convenience for those you've selected, on my calendar I've already scheduled the jury assembly room for next Wednesday, the 18th of August, for a meeting with the Tripartite Committee. Commissioner Odell asked, at what time? County Manager Abolt said, it's at three o'clock, sir, in the jury assembly room.

Chairman Hair said, it could be arranged —, Frank [Murray] said that's okay with him. So, it could be —, as a matter of fact, that would be a good start. Commissioner Jackel said, this coming Wednesday. Chairman Hair said, okay, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to accept the six-month budget report with appropriate budget reconciliation and to approve the appointment of Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell to serve as a subcommittee to meet with the Tripartite Committee and to study the County's indigent defense program to determine what can be done to reduce the cost of the program. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

4. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE 1999 CHATHAM COUNTY GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS, SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT, CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM MILLAGE LEVY PURSUANT TO THE ADVERTISEMENT HAVING BEEN PUBLISHED.

Chairman Hair said, I would like to start this discussion out by making several comments. First of all, I'm clearly on record saying that I believe that we need to not follow the staff's recommendation in this case and roll the millage back to offset reappraisals. I think it needs to be done in all areas, not just M&O, and while I clearly understand you can't cut too much, I think at least cutting it back to offset reappraisals is the minimum we can do, and I certainly hope that we have support for that. Two other general comments before we get into discussion of the millage rate. I think this situation that we find ourselves in today sort of begs for two things that need to be looked at in a very, very serious way. First of all, I remember

a couple of years ago we talked about it, but nothing was ever done about it, and that is that it's very difficult to be setting the millage rate in the middle of the year where you've already established a budget, and when I first came in office this was one of the first issues I raised. I think it's ridiculous. None of us run our businesses like that. We don't start a year out and start spending money and then get into the middle of the year and find how much revenue we've got and then make adjustments. That's not the way we do it. I think we need to have staff bring us back a plan to adjust our budget year to the tax year. Otherwise, we're never going to solve this problem of being in the middle of the year and having to set a millage rate, set revenue rates after we've already had six months of expenditures. So I think we need to do —, if I could get support from enough members of the Board to direct staff to do that. I think it's time to make that adjustment. The second thing that bothers me about our process, and since I'm in the process business I know a little bit about this, you don't establish your expenses and then come and say okay this is what we want to spend and then we've got to raise enough revenue to cover those expenses. That would be like me deciding how much money I'm going to spend in one year and go back and take all my clients and divide them into that total and say okay your rate's going to be this because I've got X-number of expenses I've got. You know, my clients would tell me to go jump really fast. You know, what you do is I think it's incumbent upon this Board to set a millage rate that would generate X-number of dollars. If we decide that we're going to generate revenue of \$85 million and we say okay, Mr. Manager, you've got \$85 million next year to run the County, you'd come back to us with a budget of expenses that fits \$85 million. We're doing it just the opposite. We're saying we're sitting here with expenses and we're saying okay now we've got to raise the taxes to meet that expenses [sic]. You don't ever scrutinize expenses the way they should be scrutinized through that methodology. So in addition to rolling the millage back today, which I hope we certainly do, I would also like to see us adjust the budget calendar year to match the tax year so that we don't find ourselves in this situation year after year. Commissioner Rivers and I sat in my office this morning before this meeting started and he and I, you know, we constantly talk about this, but I think it's time for us to do something about it and also to change our system of revenue and expenses and that we put the revenue first and expenses second, not the reverse which is the way we do it now. Now I'll recognize anyone for —, Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, I have to say something about what your first recommendation is, which is to change the budget year. You saw sitting in the tabled section of your agenda for a year or two, and it's something that I brought up when I first got on this Board, to do just that and I know that there's a great amount of resistance to do that because of the headaches required to do it because of the time and effort that it would take to get that done. But you see —, I think we're one of the only counties in the State of Georgia that still does it this way. I mean, I may be wrong, but I know that other government entities do balance their budgets based on the way the digest has to go out, the millage has to be set and everything else, so I am your biggest supporter of that having been that way for quite some time now, and I'll hold my other comments until other Commissioners have had time —. I'm basically wanting to do exactly what your talking about, Billy [Hair], which is let's roll the millage rate back equally to the amount of the increase in the assessments, and that's what my recommendation is in each and every category.

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize Commissioner Odell, but one comment relative to what you just said. One of the excuses we always get is, well, it's going to be painful, we're going to have to make some hard decisions. I understand that. If we roll the millage back today it's going to be painful and we're going to have to make some hard decisions, but delaying the pain is not going to lessen the pain. It's going to be more painful next year to do it, and I think this is the time to bite the bullet knowing that we're going to have to make hard decisions, knowing that it's going to be painful, and we're going to have to do things that none of us want to do, but I think that by doing it now we can prevent this from happening year after year. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, when you say making a hard decision, we've already made hard decisions which will increase our budget. We have approve items where there was no continuous stream of revenue and we have in effect made that decision. I always thought that County government, if we looked at the program and services we should offer, that we as the policymakers, we should make a decision as to the programs offered. If we wanted police, let's have police. How many police do we have? That's staff's decision. If we provide recreational services and we go through all of the litany of services that we, as a policy decision, wanted to make, then staff developed the cost and then we set the millage based upon that. What we do is we set an amount and then we back into it rather than looking at the services programs that we should be providing. That should be our decision. I think it's very wonderful to say on the increase that we roll that back, but on a half a million dollar home the impact of that is \$80, and we've got to make a decision and that decision is not what is politically the most expedient thing to do, but what is —, what is the thing that we need to do to efficiently and effectively run County government. I'll support the staff report, their alternatives. I don't think we could run a business, and I mean business, as tightly as the County Manager is required to run the County, and I think that we add the additional costs and then look at him and say to him, take your magic wand and produce money that no one get upset about. No citizen wants to pay taxes. It's an impossibility. No citizen wants to pay taxes, but that's the same individual that if they call the police and the police says unfortunately we cannot come because you don't want to pay taxes, so you deal with the burglar, the thugs, the muggers on your own, and when you have to go to court or you want to get a divorce or somebody's not paying for services they received and you've got to sue them, we say to them okay here's what we're going to do, we're not having court because we're cutting back the services, and when grass is waist high, and I get calls every week on this, we say to them we can't cut your grass. But we've doubled —, we have in essence set the budget. We've made a lot of decisions and those decisions cost money and they demand a continuous stream of revenue. We gave the Sheriff the increases on the salary adjustment, we gave our employees money, we've got the Wilmington Island thing, we've spent money and it's not Russ's [Abolt] or the staff's fault that we have made decisions to add to our budget. And I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Odell. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with Commissioner Odell that we have, this Commission has made some very hard decisions. Some were very painful. We still have a lot more decisions that we need to make, but the one thing that bothers me the most about rolling the millage back, and I'm not really against rolling it back, what I am against is the fact that the impact that it will have, the true impact. Will our citizens really understand what is going to happen when we roll back the millage? Do they have a true picture of the expectations? And that is my concern. I feel that we need to —, just as Commissioner Rivers has stated over and over and over again, there are certain things that this Commission will have to face, and we're going to have to face it straight up and we have to lay our cards on the table where our citizens will understand exactly where we are and how we're going to get there. So those are my concerns and until I can have a better understanding and a better feel of the impact that this is going to have if we roll back the millage, then right now I don't see where I can support that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I understand there's a lot of them discussed this as some difficult decisions that we've made in the past, but of the decisions that's causing a problem on our budget were not difficult decisions because they were easy to do. For instance, doing the citizens center over at Wilmington Island, that was easy to do. It's one of those feel-good things that we do that's easy to do. We're glad to do them, enjoy doing them, but we spend money then. And then we get to this time of the year and we start talking about the situation as a budget and the idea that we're going to set our money —, we're going to get our revenue and that's all the money we're going to have and all that, well every project that is causing this budget to be over was voted on unanimously or 99% of the time was voted on unanimously to spend the money that we did not have. So anybody up here saying we need to do something different and we've done all this, and all this, remember everyone of these things that's going to cause this situation to come up under budget was voted on unanimously by this Commission, 99% of them. So when it comes up and it rolls out there and you start looking at all these different items that show up —, I can give you a couple that I say that absolutely have to be on the budget, that we've got to spend the money that we do not have the money for right now. We have to spend money on drainage. Commissioner Price said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, we have to spend money on maintenance of those ditches and canals. There's not a citizen here that disagrees with that. We do not have a stream of money that does that this year. That is \$750,000 that it costs to maintain those canals. You don't have the money in your budget. Last year, last year I tried to pass a budget, and I got voted down, that moved the millage back and set the budget at an austere level and everybody hollered and said we do —, we cannot do this, this hurts too bad. So I got voted down because we were cutting the budget too much. Now that's the same budget that is in front of you now and we've added about two and a half million dollars on top of it that we voted —, this crowd up here, you know they can all say they didn't do it, but in fact if we pull the votes and we look at the numbers, you'll find out that we all participated in this and we voted for it. It was nothing to do with revenues and all this. It was a fact that that point in time it was what we felt like we needed to do. So, budget time is going to be the hard time. This time is not hard. We should do what the Stephens-Day Bill says we should do. That was set up. It should be done just like that this time. It's going to be tough, but we need to do that because we, as public officials up here, need to be responsible to you and we need to show that yes we voted to do these different things during the course of the year, and yes now we've got to spend the money, and if we don't have the money, we need to increase the taxes. If we do have the money, we need to decrease the taxes, whatever the case may be, but it should be a vote up here. And that's the situation we're in now. So when budget time comes, that's going to be the wailing and the gnashing of the teeth. So I think we ought to go with the Stephens-Day approach to this thing, we ought to move it back, roll it back, and then take our lumps when the budget comes. That's where I am on that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner DeLoach. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I didn't have my hand up. I'm waiting for everybody else. I've got a long spiel. Chairman Hair asked, how long. Commissioner DeLoach said, it can't be longer than mine. Chairman Hair said, I hope it's not longer. Commissioner Rivers said, because I'm going to tell you guys, we need to tear up this credit card that we've got because we created the bill. Everyone of us is responsible for creating this debt that we have. Now, when you look at it, we voted —, the time to stabilize this budget is when we've got budget time and not project in any income, and then begin to pay off. Not after we done spent this money and '99 is gone and we done spent all the money and we're talking about now we want some pain. Pain —, you've got pain. You created pain last year, that's where the pain was created. Now, Mr. Manager, if we roll back just the reval, what's my shortage going to be? County Manager Abolt said, if you roll back the entire digest as it relates to revaluation, we will have an imbalance in the M&O budget of \$900,000, an imbalance in the SSD budget of \$247,000 and an imbalance in the CAT budget of \$220,000. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, that's 1999. We're not even talking about 2000. That's 1999 that we're going to have a shortfall, and you're talking about some pain and we're already two-thirds of the way through 1999. Now if somebody can adequately tell me how we balance this, how do we make up for that money there without even going into fund balance because you're talking about going out for debt service on your HAC, air conditioning and stuff and all the stuff that we're talking about creating another debt service that's going to mean that we're going to create a debt service to be paid through 2000 which their dollars are going to have to come up with. Now if somebody can adequately tell me how we're going to make up that and how we're going to do the surgery without killing the patient, then I'm willing to do it, I'm willing to cut it every way we can cut it, but somebody's going to have to adequately tell me that and I don't want to go on —, I'm going to back off for just a moment because I just want to know the consequences, and if somebody can help me with that consequence, then I'll understand it better.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Rivers asked, can I get some answers? Chairman Hair said, oh, I thought you were —. Commissioner Rivers said, I mean, I want —. Chairman Hair said, I thought he just gave you the answer: \$900,000 M&O, \$242,000 [sic] SSD —. Commissioner Rivers said, that's the impact. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Rivers said, that's the impact. That's the negative impact that we're going to have. That's pain already inflicted. That's done, we're feeling that. Now how do we alleviate the pain that we already have. That's what I want somebody to tell me because if we can't alleviate the pain, where we going to make up that deficit of \$900,000-plus.

Chairman Hair asked, Russ [Abolt], what's the total M&O '99 budget? Mr. David Persaud said, as amended it's \$107 million and we're talking a cut of \$900,000. Is that not correct? We're talking about a cut of less than one percent, Commissioner Rivers. If we can't cut —, I can cut one percent out of anything and not cut it —, the patient's not going to die. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm not talking —. Chairman Hair said, he might be a little warmer because the air conditioner is not quite as high, but he's not going to die.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman. That's not what I want to hear. That's not what I want to hear. I want to know where are you going to take it from? Just as I'm saying to you when we made the agreement to do the Sheriff's budget and put that 400 and some odd thousand dollars in there, which equates to next year 800 and some odd thousand dollars, where is it coming from? That's what I want —. Chairman Hair said, I wish I had the power to do that. I wish [inaudible] to have the power, I wish I could cut \$900,000. I'd love to be able to do that. I wish I could do that. Commissioner Rivers said, but I want to know where's it coming from. When you have already spent just about all of it, and you're two-thirds of the year ago, where you going to cut it when you already shored up your budget last year from Contingency. Now if you didn't shore up budget from Contingency, you wouldn't have a hole in the budget. You've got holes in this budget that you've got to correct up before you start cutting and being painful. But you've got to make up deficit. We have spent money that —, we have spent non-recurring revenue into things that should have a revenue stream which leaves a hole, and until you plug those holes I don't see where you're going to be able to cut and take away from anything —. Let me ask another question. Scott [Lansing], your budget has —, if we roll back and your budget has a shortfall, what impact is it going to have on your —, on transportation? And you're already short? Mr. Lansing said, we budgeted with a \$90,000 to begin with —. Commissioner Rivers said, you budgeted with a \$90,000 deficit. Mr. Lansing said, so the extra \$220,000 would be about a 300 and some thousand dollar shortfall.

Chairman Hair asked, which means, Mr. Lansing, if this passes today, you'd probably have to cut expenses, wouldn't you? Mr. Lansing said, absolutely, sir. Yes, we would have to cut expenses and it would be painful cutting —. Chairman Hair said, of course, it will be painful. Mr. Lansing said, I don't —.

Commissioner Rivers asked, what will you have to cut? What would you —, would you have to cut services? Mr. Lansing said, yes. It's the only way I could make the budget meet. Ninety percent of the money you gave us —. Commissioner Rivers said, so I'm not going to —. Mr. Lansing said, went into service. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm not going to arbitrarily sit up here and tell this man roll it back and tell him that he got to cut services and I don't know how that's going to impact the citizens out there that ride these buses. I'm not going to do that. I will not do that. Now if somebody can show me what impact it has on it, whether it's positive or whether it's negative and how much bleeding there's going to be, I'm not going to do that. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, you haven't —, you're doing malpractice with this surgery, man. You're going to kill somebody.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, one of my —. I'm intrigued by certain people who throw out conspiracies and they're all through history people have talked about the different conspiracies, and I have found some of them fascinating from Lee Harvey Oswald and President Kennedy and Huey Long in Louisiana and all types of different conspiracy theories, but I never thought that people would accuse me of being involved in a conspiracy until lately I have been on numerous occasions accused of being part of a conspiracy. I'm here to tell you that the rest of my Commissioners have also been accused by numerous folks in the County of being part of a conspiracy with our Tax Assessor and the alleged theory goes that we have conspired so he can raise the property taxes so we would have the funds and we think about how much money we need and we conspire with him and say well go out and raise these property assessments so we will have adequate money. Well, I want to tell you that that conspiracy theory has no truth because I have not communicated with them and I don't think the rest of the Commissioners have and there is no conspiracy there. And I think also by us returning to the taxpayers the amount of the reevaluation, and I understand that's no compensation if your house goes up \$100,000 and you've got to pay \$2,000 more a year in taxes and your millage rate is reduced enough so you get about a reduction of 60 or 70,000 —, \$60 or \$70 on your taxes, that that is not compensation, but —, and I don't expect that if we did that that it would stop the conspiracy. I mean, clearly the conspiracy people say we did this so we would have more money. If we say we don't take that money, I think they'll still accuse of being in the conspiracy. After saying all that, I hope my vote is not influenced by that, but I will say my vote has been influenced by the people who I have heard from who says we have to get control of our spending. We have to start some place. When Commissioner DeLoach was talking about very few of the things were voted on they were unanimous votes, I'd like to think that I had more red votes up there than some of my other Commissioners, and often the vote was eight to one, and you get to know these people up here and I respect them all and respect their honesty, their integrity and their hard work for the public, and when you look up there and you see eight votes

one way and you're the only one vote the other way, you have to say is something wrong with me? I mean, are they right or I'm right and all of them are wrong, and it's often —, it's tough to do. It's not, it's not easy to do, and at times I have done that and probably —, and I would say more than most it's been my red light up there when the others were green. That is not to chastise them in any way because I know how hard they work and how sincere they are. I just feel that from the comments I've heard from our people and the people I represent, the reevaluation has to be rolled back. It's just something that we have to do, we need to do. It will communicate the right message to the people that we represent that our budget is not based on any conspiracy or any rising tide of value in Chatham County. Our budget is based upon the available funds and we're not going to use the money generated by reevaluation. So I'm going to vote to do that, and I would also hope that we can go beyond that and find some way to roll back the millage beyond that amount.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, go ahead.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just want to say one thing. Everybody keeps saying about the millage rate and the rolling it back and trying to give something back. Well, you don't give them back what you already spent. You have spent money. The time to roll back is when you set that original budget. You're dealing with —, we're dealing with the '99 budget. We're not dealing with 2000 budget, we're dealing budget. Last year was the time to say, okay, we're going to act a little prudently and we're not going to bust this budget. If it's not in the budget, we're not going to add to it. Posterity should have been there during '99. We have added things to this budget that has even dissipated the fund balance down to the point that it shouldn't be, and all I'm saying is that if you're looking about doing something for John Q. Citizen, then do it at budget time when you can sense your millage rate. Don't do anything off projection. You authorized all of this when you —, last year when this man presented his budget and said, okay, this budget is projected on a five percent growth in 1999, this budget is projected on fund balance, we're going to balance it off with money that we don't have plus what you did in '98 whatever you added in '98 that wasn't a permanent revenue stream that needed a revenue stream, you already did what you did to the budget to put the budget out of kilter and where it's at, so if you had stopped, ceased doing the things in 1998 and '99, this budget would have been counterbalanced and stable, and this is the only thing that I've been telling you guys all along for the last 15 years to stabilize this budget and bring it in. It ain't the matter of anything, the year or the time that you set the millage, it's what in effect of how you spend and how you project revenue, and there's no guarantee that if Russ [Abolt] comes in here next year and says this budget is predicated on five percent projection that we may even meet five percent. You would be in the same dilemma if the budget fell short by three percent, our fiscal projection fell short by two percent. All I'm saying to you is that you've got to spend money that you have in hand. Stop projecting into this budget, and if we cease firing on that, over a period of time the taxpayers would be well served and you'll spend money and when you come time that they need a project or you need something that has to be done for this community, then they will see it and you will vote on it to increase the millage to do it. The same thing Eddie [DeLoach] was talking about. Knowing that issue and putting that issue out there and determining whether those citizens want to pay for it, and if they don't want to pay for it, they don't get it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I agree with most of what I've heard from most of the Commissioners that have spoke today. We've been knowing when we were going to set the millage rate for some time now. Russ [Abolt] and his staff, Scott [Lansing] and his staff have all known when we were going to set the millage rate. I'm sure that they have had the feeling that the votes were here to reduce the millage rate by a small percentage to offset the reassessment values. So I would think that being the managers that they both are, that they would have some areas in mind already that they would recommend cuts in to offset whatever differences of deficit we might have. If they don't, then they're not the managers that I thought they were. If we cut the millage rate in half, we would not help that much those peoples assessments that have jumped to 100, 200, 300% and the millage is not to me the answer to the problems the property owners are having right now because we do not have a real high millage rate in Chatham County. To me it's the way that it's being done. I think the Stephens-Day bill will certainly help if that's passed next year, but we will go through one more year of reassessments on properties before that goes in effect, and I'm sure that we can look for some more increases in that based on what properties are selling for in Chatham County right now. But that is a start to help the property owners in their primary residence. I will support and will vote to reduce the millage by whatever that percentage comes out to be. I think that we have to do that and, yes, I agree with those that said it's not going to make a big difference to somebody that owns a \$100,000 or \$200,000 home, but it's going to be the perception that people perceive of what we're doing on this Commission and what we aren't doing. And I agree with Commissioner Rivers also that we really need to look at our budgets. We need to look at them a lot closer than we've been looking at them, and I think we look at them fairly close at times, but it's easy to get caught up in a lot of things and vote to approve different things that were not budgeted for the year. The other side of that is a couple of Commissioners have mentioned about the budget for this past year and how it was unanimous. I could be wrong, but I do not believe that was a unanimous vote, but nevertheless we have a budget, the majority does rule. But I will vote to reduce the millage to whatever percentages it takes to do that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, as far as that vote on that budget I think you're correct, Frank [Murray]. I think myself and you were the only ones that voted for rolling back the millage last year. I think it passed and used the money to have the millage, but my situation with this or my feelings on this thing, I think it all ought to take place at the time of, at the time of budget and I think that that will be the place that all these issues come up and at that time I think it will be time for folks to

say yes I did vote for that and yes the budget was too austere to vote for last year when we tried to propose rolling back the millages last year, so what do we need to do, and that question is going to be answered at budget time, and I think it will be a time of deep thought on the part of all the Commissioners up here at that time.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've sat here and listened to I guess both sides of this thing, and it's kind of difficult for me to really determine what is best to do for the citizens of this County, but I think both sides have their points. We are the cause —, this Commission is the cause of this budget and we've got to get a hold of it. People want a lot of things, but if they want them, they've got to pay for them. The citizens of this County have chosen to have certain things. Others have chosen not to have certain things, but by and large we have to look at the whole County as a whole. If we're going to reduce this budget and reduce this millage, then we might have to get rid of some services. There's no other way. I think at this point I am in favor of reducing it back to take care of the reval, but I'm sitting here right now and I want to extract from all of the Commissioners sitting here, if I will, we will definitely look very, very seriously at anything that we might add to any budget. We can't add during the year. We've got to budget it and let that be it unless it's some emergency. I think most of the things that I voted on this year hopefully have been adding to the budget too much. Commissioner DeLoach said, we didn't add dine, David [Saussy], we didn't add a dime. Commissioner Saussy said, I mean, we have added to it. Commissioner DeLoach said, you're right. Commissioner Saussy said, very much so. One of them I remember I tried to cut back and that was the Sheriff's thing. Nobody listened. Commissioner DeLoach said, don't worry about it. Commissioner Saussy said, but anyway that we have got to get a hold of. We've just got to make a promise to the citizens of this County that we are going to be on budget and not keep adding to it during the year. If I can get that commitment from everybody.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy, that's exactly what I said a while ago. Commissioner Rivers remembers in my office earlier this morning, that's exactly what I said. We ought to sit and say, okay, we're going to have \$107 million budget; Mr. Manager, you will bring us back expenses that do not exceed \$107 million, and neither will you nor I or any of the members of this Commission add to the \$107 million for 12 months. I totally agree with that. That's exactly what I said to Joe [Rivers] in my office this morning. Joe [Rivers], you remember that. That's the only way you're ever going to get a handle on it, but again it should be revenue first, expenses second. We should say this is the maximum revenue, don't come to us for 107 and 1 because it won't happen. If we're not going to add one dollar to this, then that the way to do it.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, one thing in response to you. I don't ever remember the Manager and then bringing us back —. Chairman Hair said, oh, I —. Commissioner Rivers said, something that we —. Chairman Hair said, well, I disagree. Every —. Commissioner Rivers said, that we push the budget out. This —, the nine of us —, I'm saying nine of us are here responsible for everything that got into that budget over and beyond. Chairman Hair said, Joe [Rivers], number one on our agenda every meeting is expenses, increases, and changes in budgets. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, but —. Chairman Hair said, it did not originate at this level. Commissioner DeLoach said, no sir. Commissioner Rivers said, it's within the confines of the budget and those things we make a decision on that we don't have to do. Chairman Hair said, I agree. I agree with you. County Manager Abolt said, if I may sir. No sir, those are budget adjustments within the overall amount. Chairman Hair said, but they represent increases in the expenses for certain items that were not approved originally. That's what they're there for. County Manager Abolt said, but you —, but, yes sir. But using your ceiling of 107 million, or whatever it is, the omnibus report, as I refer to it, at each meeting is within the context of that ceiling. Chairman Hair said, I understand, but you make decisions to increase expenses and you come back here and ask us to approve those increases in expenses. County Manager Abolt said, but the expenses would be in the cap. Chairman Hair said, I understand that, but they —, but you —, the point that he was making was that only we make expenses decisions and that's not true. Commissioner Rivers said, what I'm saying is —, let me, let me rephrase that. I'm going to rephrase what I said. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, within the confines of our budget we have operated —. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Rivers said, but unlike my business or your business or anybody else's business, we have the capability of doing things out of Contingency that don't put a permanent revenue stream and we have spent the savings, or we have used that credit card, and when the time comes to pay it, the only mechanism that we have to pay those bills is to have it out of taxes or out of reval. So everybody sees the backdoor and everybody is talking about we're backdooring people, we sit here with those decisions every day and produce things that cause us to go backdoor. If we got —, if we got the reval there, we've already spent doggone near all that reval.

Chairman Hair said, our position today ought not be to try to address blame and point fingers. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm not trying to —. Chairman Hair said, what we ought to do today is solve the problem —. Commissioner Rivers said, no. Chairman Hair said, and if —, we're never going to do that if we don't cap revenue. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I'm not —, I'm not pointing any fingers at anybody or saying —, all of us was a part of whatever was created. I take just as much blame as anybody else, but what I'm saying to you is is that you don't take the credit card and go out and credit and spend and then come back after you have spent and try to make adjustments. That's not the time that you do that. You do it at the budget time when you've got —, have not spent any money at all, you have not done anything and you can begin to say okay we've got to cut here, we've got to do this, we've got to do that, and if that's within bounds, then we do that. Chairman Hair said, you can do that, but you can't —, again, my other suggestion at the outset of this discussion was to change the budget year. You can't be setting revenue at the middle of the year and expenses at the first of the year and ever expect to get a handle on this budget. It won't happen. Commissioner Rivers said, what I —, Mr.

Chairman, Mr. Chairman. I understand your point and you can do it very well that way. I understand your point, I understand your point, but see you —, what you've got blinders on. You can do it that way and that makes it good, but you can do it this way, the same way we're doing it now, and make those adjustments without projecting in revenue and dealing with what you've got in hand. It's the same, it's the same —, the methodology might be different, it's the same result. Okay? You don't have to change it to get the results that you want. That's what I'm saying.

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

Commissioner Odell said, the money from the reevaluation we've already spent that for the most part, so —. County Manager Abolt said, sir, what —. Commissioner Odell said, basically, we'll be giving back something that half of which we've already spent.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may. What Commissioner Rivers says is correct. We've been predicating the budget on certain growth in the digest. We did acknowledge up front that that growth would in part be dependent upon reevaluation. The numbers I gave in response to Commissioner Rivers's question deals with that assumption, which you all approved, and then the imbalance created. The other option you have, which you've alluded to, is look at those dollars that came in over and above the revenue estimates and then the adjustments would be, you know, less expansive.

Commissioner Odell said, you know, I've got to respond to what the Chairman said about setting a ceiling at the beginning of the year and no deviation. That is an ideal world, but that will never happen where you have as many variables as we have here. And our being on the coast, we could have a disaster which would require additional expenditures. That's an impossibility, dreamworld. It's not going to happen. A budget is a dynamic tool that is a working tool. It is not the gospel. We create the gospel. The way we do budgeting —, and it's not Russ Abolt's fault, it's not staff's fault, I think it's the Board's responsibility. What we do is we, as the Chairman said, we want to give him a ceiling and say create a budget from a ceiling, and my problem with that and not [inaudible] is budgets should be based upon what the citizens need and desire. Programs. Programs should be —, should therefore dictate dollars and dollars should dictate what the millage is. Now we're backing into it, and I know that that seems the logical —, and I have very little support for that way of thinking, but we should have a determination as to what programs we need to be providing, those programs will cost X-number of dollars, and that's X-millage. But we've already spent the money. It is a grand gesture to give back a person who has a \$250,000 house \$40 when, in fact, if we are half way through our fiscal year and we need to cut \$900,000, the impact of that is that we're going to have to cut at a rate for the balance of the year \$1.8 million to make up for that. That's a fact. If Scott [Lansing] has to cut an additional \$220,000 and we're half way through the fiscal year, he's going to have to cut for the balance of the year at the rate of \$400,000. I think citizens want —, this is a gesture. It has no substance. It serves no purpose. It looks good. It is politically right, but it's nothing, it's zero, nada. It looks good, but that's kind of like the enemy of the people, and that is we're basically doing something which I think is totally irresponsible. I don't think the County is excessively extravagant as far as its expenditures for the most part. I think that we have commissioned a study to improve our systems, and to do this now I think defeats all of the progress that we've made. And why are we defeating it? We're defeating it because it looks good. You know, I don't think citizens solely put us here just to do that which looks good. I think they put us here to do that which is right and we know is logical that we should do it. We will cripple the County Manager, CAT and everyone else if we make that decision, and I'm not willing to do it just to appease a group of people who's houses went up. They've been taxes at \$150,000. When they sell their house, they want a half a million dollars, but they don't want to pay a half a million dollar taxes on it. Now the flip side of that is that if my house is taxed correctly, then I've been paying then I've been paying the burden all alone. Well, unfortunately everyone must pay their fair share, otherwise we don't have a government, and to go back and give back those reevals has no merit, and I've talked to —, and I understand all the various positions, but it is a needless gesture that will hurt our operation. Commissioner Thomas said, and nothing has changed.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, well, I still think we need to do the Stephens-Day approach to it where we cut the millage, but I don't think we need to take the blame of the situation we're in off of us and point at someone else like it's someone else's problem. Our budget is set by us. Our expenditures —, the only time a dollar is spent, is approved by us, so for us to assume that someone else is causing the problem is asinine. We need to make sure that we're responsible for all the monies that we spent, and as long as we're responsible for them, then I think everything will take care of itself. I apologize for any problems I've caused to the different departments, but I do not think that we should make a —, I do not think we should have a backdoor tax. That's the reason this bill is up here now. So I'm going to vote and I'm going to make a motion at this time that we go ahead and roll back the millage to the point that the reval rolled it back. Chairman Hair asked, that includes M&O, SSD and CAT? Commissioner DeLoach said, all three. Commissioner Price said, second.

Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion of the motion? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I just —. Could you give us a breakdown of the millage decrease of each one of those? Mr. Persaud said, for the General Fund it will be 2.84 million. Commissioner Murray said, no, I'm talking about —. Chairman Hair said, he's talking about the millage rate. Commissioner Price said, .475 —. Mr. Persaud said, .63 in M&O —.

Commissioner Price asked, what is it? Mr. Persaud said, .63 in M&O, .12 in SSD —. Commissioner Odell said, .12. Mr. Persaud said, .05 in CAT. The total of .80. Commissioner Price asked, where does the .475 come from? Commissioner Murray asked, so this total is not but .80 mills, right? Mr. Persaud said, three-tenths of a mill. Commissioner Murray said, yes, .80, less than one mill.

Chairman Hair said, .80. Okay, I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion —. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Ken Earls.

Mr. Earls said, my name is Ken Earls. I do have a question. If you're going to do this, and I don't know if you're going to start cutting services for the rest of the year. There is one thing that I am interested in, which I guess would have nothing to do with this. Last month you gave something like, say, \$160,000 to the Library for employees for the new Library for the rest of the year. Since that's not going to be opened apparently the rest of —, for this year, is that counting this, say, \$900,000 shortfall? Chairman Hair said, I think we —, we're not going to be able to answer specific expense questions because they don't know how much they're going to be —. Mr. Earls said, well, I'm just [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, well —. Mr. Earls said, I mean, if it passes though. I mean, has this been given to them? Chairman Hair said, well —. Commissioner Murray said, he's got a good question. Mr. Earls said, I've got a question. Chairman Hair said, it is a good question, but my point is has —. Commissioner Murray asked, has the money been spent? County Manager Abolt said, well, you're going to very specific —, I'll attempt to answer realizing once you make the decision we'll implement it for the entire County. Our first action will be, if we have this challenge that you're giving us, we'll go through every line expense. Please keep in mind, we've given you our six-months budget report.

Commissioner Murray said, that's not the question. The question was is the \$160,000 that we allocated for the Library for employees to open the Main Library —. Commissioner Price said, as part of the M&O. Commissioner Murray said, out of the M&O. Now since the Library is not open and they're not opening any time soon, has that money been spent. County Manager Abolt said, it's in their budget. You transferred the money into their budget. How much they've actually drawn down I cannot answer that. Chairman Hair said, we'd have to ask Lon [Dickerson] that. County Manager Abolt said, what we will do though, if I may, in fairness to everyone, you know, if this is your direction, obviously we must address the imbalance immediately. We'll come back to you by your next meeting and we'll have specific adjustments.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Earls, that's the way problem [inaudible]. Mr. Earls said, okay. Chairman Hair said, he will come back to us with specific recommended cuts. Mr. Earls said, and secondly, this came up in 1992, Ben [Price] and some of you who were there, here then might remember this. There was going to be an across the board budget cut of five percent. In certain areas, such as the Library, you cannot cut more than a certain amount without losing State and Federal funding. Because at that time it was going to be, like I said, across the board five percent cut. If you would have done that, you would have lost over \$700,000 in State and Federal funding. I think some of you remember that. When I came up about that. Chairman Hair said, it's called [inaudible] effort. Commissioner Price said, yes. Chairman Hair said, yes, you are required by State law to maintain —. It only requires you to maintain last year's level. Mr. Earls said, so just remember that. Commissioner Price said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, we will. Commissioner Price said, good point.

Chairman Hair asked, Scott [Lansing], did you want to say something? Let me get Mr. Pierce first and then I'll get to you. Chairman Hair said, and let us notify the Library Board that if they haven't spent that \$160,000 —. Commissioner Price said, not to spend it yet. Commissioner Odell said, don't spend it yet. Stop the check.

Mr. John Saxon (Piccolo) Pierce said, I'm going to tell you, if you roll back, if you roll back, it's gong to hurt a whole lot of people. People who ain't got no homes and no place to say, how you going to roll back on something when you got a hold of —, how you going to roll back? It's going in the street. The people go in the street, and when you roll taxes, it don't make no sense. If you roll back, it still don't make no sense. Y'all make, you made one [inaudible] when you got into office that you going, you going to keep your plan. Now you going to --, get in office and going to roll back. It don't make no sense because y'all need to get together because if you don't get together, I feel sorry for y'all because y'all, you know why. Mr. Billy Hair has told, he said when took the office he going to do something for the poor people. Well, now he —, now when he got in the office, he don't even —, talk about roll back. This, when you got in the office, what you going to roll back? Tell me what you going to roll back. Chairman Hair said, come to the next meeting and you'll see it. Mr. Pierce said, the next meeting you [inaudible] it's still got a hole in it. It don't make no sense. You tell me what you telling me, you roll back and you make a whole lot of sense. Odell, you —, I mean, Billy Hair, you suppose to lead us. Commissioner Odell said, don't confuse us. Mr. Pierce said, you a leader. The leader supposed to stand on their on, and what he say goes, but it don't make no sense to roll back. Next year when election comes, I'm going to roll back too.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Pierce. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Lansing. Commissioner Rivers said, that makes sense.

Mr. Scott Lansing said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did want to make just a few comments about the millage rate, and I want to make three points to you and I want to make sure you are very aware of three things that this affects with CAT and some things that are going on. Our cash position over the past few years has declined significantly. We lost over \$2 million in fund balance in the space of about six months, one time when the millage was rolled all the way back to .7 and another time when funds were pledged and a million dollars to buy buses. Our cash flow got to the point this year, and remember this, our cash flow problems got to the point this year that when we went out to get a loan from our bank, who we have been doing business with since Christ was a corporal probably, they turned us down for a line of credit and a loan because of

the state of our balance sheet. It was that poor. Without that loan —, and we had to go to another financial institution and thankfully they were able to provide us with those funds. Without that loan we wouldn't have been able to pay our bills at CAT and it would have been a real, real interesting situation to see how we would have handled that problem. That was point number one. Point number two I want to make sure that you're aware of is we budgeted this year with a \$90,000 deficit already built into our budget. Add the 220 or thereabouts to it, it comes to 310. A \$310,000 shortfall that we're looking at if you roll back according to the revaluation. That's almost four percent of our budget. That's a significant cut for us to take two-thirds of the way through the year, and I as a manager, I can respond to that but it's not going to be easily done. There are certainly alternatives, but I think some of the choices are going to be very difficult as a Board to make and for the CAT Board to make when the other three people come in here. And finally the third thing I wanted to mention, we still have a recurring problem with CAT with these old buses and we still haven't found the million dollars in local money that we need to fund these bus replacements. Federal money's going to happen, State money's going to happen. We're going to get 90% of the grant money that we need in here to buy these 30-some buses. Total project: \$10 million. We're going to have \$9 million of it flowing in here over the next two years. We need to come up with the \$1 million somehow, and there's either got to be some kind of revenue source identified or some kind of expenses some way, but we're going to have to come up with that and we haven't done that yet and I don't have the magic wand to make that happen. We can't not replace vehicles. That's an essential piece of infrastructure to our system that we've just got to have, and we're going to have to find those funds somehow. I urge you at a minimum to leave our millage as it is. CAT has been up and down on the millage track for years. At one point we were half of what we used to be. We went from —, all the way from 1.3 to 1 —, down to .7 my first year here, and that's when our fund balance dwindled so badly. As a manager, I've got to say this. I've worked in five different localities and this is one of the strangest budget processes I think I've ever been through because what I'm used to doing is much to what the Chairman said and many others of you have alluded to, you set a budget at the beginning of the year and that's your budget and that's what you live by. And this process of redoing the revenues midway or two-thirds of the way through the year, it doesn't give a manager much of a response —, much of a chance to allow for viable alternatives to some of the cuts you may want to make. So I urge you at any rate to stay with CAT's. It's critical to us. A roll back, a deficit to CAT this year will be devastating. It could be very, very —, it would be very, very devastating to CAT. I urge you to keep your transportation system intact and keep us in a high quality transportation system.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we already have a motion and a second on the floor. I'm going to recognize Commissioner Murray for a quick question.

Commissioner Murray said, David [Persaud] —. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, we ain't going to run through this now. I'm going, I'm going to have a say here. I'm going to take personal privilege as I have to. Chairman Hair asked, have I ever refused to recognize, Commissioner Rivers? Commissioner Rivers said, no, I'm going to raise my hand up —. Chairman Hair asked, well, then why are you saying that? Commissioner Rivers said, you trying to speed —, because —. Chairman Hair asked, why are you saying that? Commissioner Rivers said, because I'm raising my hand and you —. Chairman Hair asked, have I ever failed to recognize you? Commissioner Murray said, I thought I had the floor. Commissioner Rivers said, were not going to get into that, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Price said, okay, guys. Commissioner Rivers said, we can leave that stuff sit.

Commissioner Murray said, David [Persaud], since CAT is —, the millage is not collected countywide, do you have a breakdown of what .05 mills is in dollars? Mr. Persaud said General Fund \$219,220, 2-1-9-2-2-0. Commissioner Murray said, okay, and even though I understand what Mr. Lansing was saying, your department, when we're doing this, to me is no different than any of the rest of the departments, whether it be the legal side over at the other courthouse or whether it be our side over here at this side of the courthouse. As far as I'm concerned, when we do it, it has to be across the board with everybody that we deal with.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay. One: you know, when we —, and I don't think none of, none of you Commissioners were here, with the exception of probably Martin [Jackel], when we instituted CAT and when we looked out for a permanent revenue for CAT and when we set that millage, and that millage if it had stayed would have made this company operate very, very efficiently, even adequately enough that if you even tampered with the millage, you would have had sufficient money in there for depreciation of buses, we would have been able to purchase the equipment and stuff that we need. Now y'all talk about doing the thing like a business. We're not doing things like a business. We talk about it and we're talking, like the Indians say, with a forked tongue. We want to do one thing to please John Q. Public or the few people that are saying things to us about the millage rate when John Q. Public don't totally understand the position that we're in, and I think if they understand the position that we're in, they would gladly say, hey, hold on and make your adjustments some other way.

I think it's very detrimental not only to CAT, it's detrimental to the Manager, it's detrimental to the constitutionally elected officers, it's detrimental to everybody to come in at the middle of the year and tell them to roll back on what they did and they done spent their money two-thirds down the line. I think it, I think it's very —. This is dereliction of duty. That's just what this is, dereliction of duty to stand up and say, hey, we have done things and we have spent this money, now we're willing to pay the piper but, John Q. Citizen, we'll come back and make these adjustments. The time to make adjustments is when we did the budget last year. The time to do the 2000 budget is now, you make those adjustments that we want to do. But you come in —, I come in —, you operating a business and I come in in the middle of the year when you already projected revenue and your revenue may or may not meet that revenue stream, and then you're going to tell me at that point

to cut, I don't know if I would be willing to do that even in my business. And I think we're sitting up here looking at everything and looking out at John Q. Public —, we already, we already decided that we're going to roll back the millage. Mr. Chairman, I want to do this and I want to direct staff to do this. I want to know the impact of this cut. Send it down to every department. I want to know —. Chairman Hair said, I think we've already agreed we would do that next meeting. Commissioner Rivers said, I want to know the results of it. Chairman Hair said, next meeting. Commissioner Rivers said, I know we're going to, I know we're going to do that at the next meeting, but before we go, before we go, when we get ready to call this vote, when we're getting ready to bring to closure, I'll take care of that.

Chairman Hair said, okay, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Everybody needs to vote. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, I move that it be entered into the minutes that we have a reconsideration at the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, that's fine.

Commissioner Murray said, well, what it's going to do is —. Commissioner Rivers said, I wouldn't care what it does. Commissioner Murray said, all right, that's fine, but I'd like to make one comment on what you said about CAT. If CAT had been set up like it was supposed to with a taxing district like it should have been when it was first set up, they wouldn't have near the problems they have today because they wouldn't have to be sending buses out places where they're not warranted just to collect the tax, and it should be countywide, and if our State Legislators don't make it countywide, we're going to continue to have the problems with CAT.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have —, it's in the minutes, Commissioner Rivers. It will be reconsidered at the next meeting. Commissioner Price said, we need a —. We need to ask the Tax Commissioner. Chairman Hair asked, Danny [Powers], have you got with reconsideration? County Manager Abolt said, the issue is the digest, sir. County Attorney Hart said, reconsideration [inaudible] against State law. Chairman Hair said, Jon [Hart], I'm going to need a ruling from you, a legal ruling from you because he does a right, he asked for reconsideration. If we've got a reconsideration of an item that violates State law, I need a legal ruling.

Tax Commissioner Danny Powers said, what you did at the last meeting in delaying it, the digest has not been submitted, and so we've got to go through digest submission and approval and then we have to print bills. Chairman Hair said, okay, I need a —, we need a ruling. Tax Commissioner Powers said, you've got the Assessor in here and then you've got me as collector.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers has made a legitimate motion, but we need to make sure it doesn't violate State law. Commissioner Price said, well, you can vote on the reconsideration today. Tax Commissioner Powers said, what you're going to do is you're going to back-date. Commissioner Price said, you can vote on whether to reconsider today. You don't have to wait until the next meeting.

County Attorney Hart said, we're in a situation that Commissioner Murray Rivers' motion is a good motion, but from a practical standpoint State law requires you to set the millage today, and we will have to go ahead and set the millage today and we're going to have to go ahead and set the millage —. Chairman Hair said, so we have to reconsider now. County Attorney Hart said, and have the document signed and —. Commissioner Rivers asked, what's the consequences? County Attorney Hart said, if you change the millage then, you'd be in violation of State law. Commissioner Rivers asked, what's the consequences? Commissioner Murray said, we can vote on the reconsideration today, whether to allow the reconsideration —. County Attorney Hart said, he's asking to have it entered in the minutes, which under the procedural guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order we'd be taking —. Chairman Hair said, I don't think it violates State law certainly. County Attorney Hart said, we need to go ahead and submit. Commissioner Rivers asked, Jon [Hart], what is the consequences of violating State law? Chairman Hair said, I don't really —. We can't violate the law period. I don't know --.

County Manager Abolt asked, would you want to recess for a moment to allow —? It's too important a discussion to —.

Chairman Hair said, all right, let's —, I'm going to recess for five minutes until we get a legal ruling.

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was recessed at 11:45 a.m., and was reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

Commissioner Rivers said, in light of what my reconsideration would do to the County digest, and will pull us out of kilter legally, with much regret, I very much regret because I know that this is going to devastate our transportation system, which affects all of my citizens, and if there was any way that I could get around this and tie this up, I would keep it balled up. You can guarantee that anything that I find that's going to be detrimental to this budget, and this is only the —, this is the tip of the iceberg here because there's going to be more to come, and whatever I could do to rectify and get this budget straightened out, you can guarantee I'm going to do that. So with that said, I'm going to withdraw my motion for reconsideration.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Rivers. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, we did not address the Board of Education. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. That takes a separate —. Commissioner Price said, I'd like to move that we approve certification of their millage of 19.83 mills. The millage is 17.23 for maintenance and operations and 2.6 for the general obligation bond debt. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second.

Chairman Hair asked, does that include any rollbacks in there? County Manager Abolt said, no, they don't have a rollback. They don't have a rollback. Chairman Hair said, they didn't roll any back, okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Rivers asked, can we —, can we take the School Board separate because I'm going to —. Commissioner Murray said, it was. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm going to vote. Chairman Hair said, the motion is tied. Who has not voted? Commissioner Murray said, this is just the School Board. Commissioner Rivers asked, this is the School Board only? Chairman Hair asked, has everybody voted? Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy was not present.] Commissioner Price said, the motion passes. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Price said, I'd like to at this point follow up on what you had said originally about your desire to see us go to a budget year that coincides —.

Commissioner Rivers said, point of order, Mr. Chairman. County Attorney Hart asked, Mr. Chairman, has the first motion been voted —. Chairman Hair said, the motion to roll back has passed and the motion on the School Board has passed. Both of those have passed. Commissioner Rivers said, no, we didn't vote on —. Commissioner Price asked, on what? Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, we voted the School Board vote. Commissioner Rivers asked, what's the count on the —. Chairman Hair said, the roll back. Commissioner Rivers asked, on the roll back? Chairman Hair said, six/three. The Clerk said, it was seven/two. Yes, it was seven/two. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, then I'm changing my vote. With my withdrawal. Commissioner Murray said, that's fine. Commissioner Rivers asked, okay? Commissioner Price said, that's a six/three. Commissioner Rivers said, so reverse that. Chairman Hair said, so it's six/three.

Commissioner Price asked, Mr. Chairman, may I continue? Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Price said, I agree with your point about changing the budget year, and I'd like to move that we direct staff to bring back to us at their earliest convenience how we can go about to do that. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Price said, passes. Commissioner Rivers said, I abstain. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers abstains. Commissioner Rivers said, no, I can't abstain. Chairman Hair said, sure you can. Commissioner Rivers said, no, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, you can. It's legal. Go ahead. How brave are you? Commissioner Rivers said, no.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved that we go ahead and roll back the millage to offset reappraisals: M&O - 11.01 mills (12.54 less rollback of 1.53), SSD - 3.62 mills (4.47 less rollback of .85), and CAT - .90 mills (.95 less rollback of .5). Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Murray, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.
2. Commissioner Price moved that we approve certification of their millage of 19.83 mills. The millage is 17.23 for maintenance and operations and 2.6 for the general obligation bond debt. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Saussy was not present.]
3. Commissioner Price moved that the Board direct staff to bring back to us at their earliest convenience how we can go about changing the budget year. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

5. BOARD CONSIDERATION FOR INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT CHATHAM COUNTY WILL PAY FOR AUTOPSY FEES AS REQUESTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CORONER.

Chairman Hair said, I can give you a little background on this very quickly. The Commissioner —, the Coroner came to me and said that this fee had not been raised in a number of years and is currently \$400 and he wanted to ask that it be raised to \$600. He gave me our outlying areas like Brunswick are still charging \$800 for autopsies. I asked if it could be done within his budget, and he told me it could be done within his budget if we increased this fee. And, Russ [Abolt], verify, you're going to make sure that David Persaud got with him, and is that true? County Manager Abolt said, in the staff report

in front of you it says no additional funds will be required. Chairman Hair said, it can be done within his budget for this raising the autopsy fee from \$400 to \$600. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. You know, just by way of comment, Russ [Abolt], if you look at the autopsies that are done in some of the institution, they range from \$900 to \$1200, so this is still a great deal. County Manager Abolt said, staff is not arguing with it. Chairman Hair said, yes, he told me that —, he said some even charge \$1500, so this is still a reasonable fee.

Chairman Hair said, all right. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk asked, who was the second on that? I'm sorry. Commissioner Odell said, I was. The Clerk said, thank you. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request made by the Office of the Coroner for an increase in the amount Chatham County will pay for autopsy fees from \$400 to \$600. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE 90-DAY HIRING FREEZE AND AUTHORIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO ADVERTISE POSITIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS MORE COST EFFICIENT TO FILL.**
- **STATE COURT - JUDICIAL CASE MANAGER (ONE POSITION)**
 - **BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN II (ONE PERSON)**
 - **MOSQUITO CONTROL - EQUIPMENT MECHANIC I (ONE POSITION)**

State Court - Judicial Case Manager:

Chairman Hair asked, anyone here from State Court? Commissioner Price said, move for approval. Chairman Hair said, motion to approve. Second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion?

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I think we ought to deny. Chairman Hair said, I do too. I think we've got a policy and the policy says if you're not here to defend it —. Commissioner Murray said, I've been talking about it all year long and —. Chairman Hair said, I think we should deny it too. I think if they're not here to defend it and tell us, I think we ought to deny it. I think we've got to send a message.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Did we have a second?

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, we do have the information in our packet. Chairman Hair said, that's not —, that's not the point. We ought to require everybody —. I think everybody ought to be treated equally. Commissioner Saussy said, we had said we would have everybody here. Commissioner Jackel said, no, no, wait a minute, wait a minute. Commissioner Murray said, we did say that. Yes, we did, we did say it. Commissioner Jackel said, we —, at one of the meetings I looked out there and we had like seven or eight of our staff people sitting around for the whole meeting and I said that is not a productive use of their time to come in here on one position. For Carlton Blair, head of State Court, for Michael Kaigler, for the Chief of Police, for any of these people to come in here and sit here for three, four hours on one position on a 90-day hiring, and we said that if the material was okay at that time, I think, that we would do it. Chairman Hair asked, how would we know? How would we know if we had questions or not? Commissioner Jackel asked, can we afford to have six or seven of our key staff people sit around all morning? That's not productive.

Commissioner Price said, call the question.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second on the floor. This is to approve. All those in favor of approval vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to four. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails.

* * *

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion we reconsider. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Were you on the positive side? Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't know —, yes. Commissioner Odell said, I was. Carlton Blair is here. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, Carlton Blair is here and I want to reconsider. Chairman Hair said, all right, make the motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make the motion that we reconsider. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to reconsider. The Clerk said, you voted against it. Commissioner DeLoach said, I did. Okay. Commissioner Odell said,

I'll ditto what DeLoach said. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion —. The Clerk said, you also voted against it. Commissioner Murray said, yes, but it was the prevailing side. The Clerk said, that's right. I'm sorry. Chairman Hair asked, we don't need to reconsider the motion? County Attorney Hart said, if you don't want to reconsider, you can open the floor for comments from the public. If you want to hear from Mr. Blair, you can open them up. Chairman Hair said, we don't need to reconsider the motion. County Attorney Hart said, yes, you can just open the floor to hear what he has to say. Chairman Hair said, but we have to reconsider to open the motion. County Attorney Hart said, to vote on it, yes, you would.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Blair, come on up and hopefully you understand why it was defeated. Mr. Carlton Blair said, actually, Mr. Chairman, I was in my office working on the budget and I was listening very carefully to all the deliberations about rolling back the millage. I stepped out of my office and I missed the fact that y'all have overruled my request, though I was told, in which case I hightailed it over here. I was waiting for it to come up. Chairman Hair said, but —. Mr. Blair said, so, yes sir, I do understand. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Blair said, but that's why we're here. Chairman Hair said, so we don't have this problem in the future, that's my point. You do understand the process? Mr. Blair said, yes sir.

Commissioner Price said, move for reconsider —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion for reconsideration. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion for reconsideration. Do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Blair said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, that was just to reconsider. You still have to vote to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second to approve. All those —.

Commissioner Murray asked, are there no questions on why —? Commissioner Price said, I understand. Commissioner Rivers said, good point. Chairman Hair asked, does anybody have any questions of him? Commissioner Saussy asked, well, why did we do it? Commissioner Jackel said, well, why did we have to bring him over here for this if we're not going to ask —. Commissioner Price said, because he wasn't here —. Commissioner Saussy asked, why did we need to bring —? Commissioner Price said, the argument [unintelligible comments made when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.]

Commissioner Murray asked, why do you want to fill the position before the 90-hiring freeze thing is over? Mr. Blair said, because it's a lot cheaper for you to pay for an established employee than for me to buy one under the employee pool, temporary pool. The person is the person who processes all the bonds that are called. When a person doesn't come to court and there's a bond against the person, we must process that bond and hopefully to get the money from the bonding company or to get the person in court. If that person is not here to do that, that doesn't happen, and so I've got to fill it. Whether I fill it from the temporary pool, which is more expensive, or from a regular employee, which we buy, those are the choices.

Chairman Hair said, well, that raises a broader question in my mind, Russ [Abolt]. County Manager Abolt said, sir? I'm sorry. Chairman Hair said, maybe I misunderstood what I heard you said. You told me —, what I heard you say was if we didn't approve this you're going to fill it anyway from the temporary pool. Mr. Blair said, I had no choice. Chairman Hair asked, is that what I heard you say? Mr. Blair said, well, here's my choice. I could disregard the fact that there was a person who didn't come to court and didn't —, and has a bond and not process it —. Chairman Hair said, my point is this. Again, not to you, Mr. Blair, on this position, but I've got a bigger problem with this thing. If all we're doing is approving —, if they're going to fill it out of the temporary pool anyway until they get —, until 90 days, you haven't accomplished a thing. County Manager Abolt said, well, that's the choice of the individual department. Chairman Hair asked, but how many departments are doing that? County Manager Abolt said, well, let me please explain. Commissioner Murray said, that and overtime too, so either way —. Commissioner Price said, let him explain it.

County Manager Abolt said, it goes back to budget. The reason why we have had this freeze since I've been Manager is there was a need to create a slow down of expenditure in personnel. Each year, and this is no exception, we budget, and I believe the figure is \$900,000 in the M&O budget based on the freeze. In most situations the departments do comply. In certain situations where they cannot, they do use the temporary pool. We have about, I think, \$174,000 and you replenished it a little bit earlier in temporary pool. It is not necessarily logical, but it saves money.

Chairman Hair said, Russ [Abolt], I'm not interested in that. My —, what percent of the departments fill them anyway? County Manager Abolt said, they can't —. I'm sorry, fill what? Chairman Hair said, fill them out of the temporary pool. What percent? What percent of what —? County Manager Abolt said, I can't answer. I can't answer. Chairman Hair asked, you don't have a ballpark? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. I'd have to refer to Mr. Kaigler. You have a situation —. Chairman Hair said, I'd like to know that. I think otherwise we're just doing an exercise in futility.

Commissioner Murray said, they've got two things. They've got what he's doing on this particular situation and then you've got the others that just pull it in overtime, and either way you do it, it's costing more money. Chairman Hair asked, well, what happens if we fill it? That's my whole point. If that's what's happening, then this is a —, basically, this is a warm and fuzzy and makes you feel good, but it doesn't save a dime. [Unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.]

County Manager Abolt said, whoa, whoa. If you eliminate the 90-day freeze, we're going to have another budget impact, and I realize it is not wise, but all these years when we've tried to balance the budget, we have done so in artificial fashion when it comes to vacancies. The first year it was productive because it required each department before they filled a position to look at it and make sure they needed it. From that year thereon, we had a cash flow problem and when we look at —, well, let's come to you and increase the budget by \$900,000 to avoid the 90-day freeze. It wasn't considered to be a high priority.

Chairman Hair said, Russ [Abolt], if you get —, Joe [Rivers] may very well be right. How difficult would it be for us to know how many of these, say, in the last six months have been filled out of overtime or temporary pool because if 90% of them are, we're just wasting our time. County Manager Abolt said, no sir, there's not. First of all, it would not be difficult to get that to you, but again —. Chairman Hair said, well, get it to us then. I mean, I want to know that. I'd like to know that. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Blair said, it would be difficult to get that information because, as in my case, the things I've got to do, I've got to do, and I'm going to do it one way or the other as part of my responsibilities. Chairman Hair said, so what you're saying is, this doesn't mean anything to you. Mr. Blair said, no, no. What I'm saying is I've got to perform this work, but I also have to perform other work, and so I've got to make choices about what work is done, and ultimately the overtime may appear over here and it's actually supported the task over here. So, if I —, it's not really —, you can't really define which department —, where this has been paid for by overtime or —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, but what we do know is that it has saved that amount of money over the course of the last three budget sessions. Chairman Hair said, well, we really don't know that, Eddie [DeLoach], because if you take that amount of money that is "saved" and you back out all the ones that were filled by the temporary pool or overtime and subtract it from it, you don't know what's been saved. Commissioner Price said, not every department does that do. Chairman Hair said, that's what I'm saying, we don't know though, Ben [Price]. That's my whole point. Commissioner Price said, well, let's find out. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.]

County Manager Abolt said, we can update you. We gave that to you a little bit ago. I do want you to understand, and I'm not picking on any department, please —, but the vast majority of vacancies are held open for 90 days. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, and that's the most important thing. Commissioner Price said, his is a court mandated kind of thing.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, Mr. Blair. We appreciate you coming over. Mr. Blair said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, now you can go back to your budget.

Building Maintenance and Operations - Part-time Custodian II:

Chairman Hair said, next item: Building Maintenance and Operations, Part-time Custodian II, one position. County Manager Abolt said, we're here, Mr. Thompson's here. Chairman Hair said, yes, Fred [Thompson] is here.

Mr. Fred Thompson said, yes sir. The reason for this position is there are two custodians at the pier, both part-time. When you lose one, the other works overtime. So it's to the County's benefit to fill that position as fast as possible.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

Mosquito Control - Equipment Mechanic I:

Chairman Hair said, next item: Mosquito Control, Equipment Mechanic I, one position.

Dr. Henry Lewandowski said, yes sir, this individual is responsible in helping us maintain our spray vehicles to keep them on the road so we can deliver that service to residents.

Commissioner Saussy said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, move for approval —, second.

Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: State Court - Judicial Case Manager (one position). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Price and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Murray, Odell and DeLoach voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to four.

2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to reconsider the vote on the request for waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and to advertise: State Court - Judicial Case Manager. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize Human Resources to advertise: State Court - Judicial Case Manager. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
4. Commissioner Price moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Building Maintenance and Operations - Part-time Custodian II (one position). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
5. Commissioner Saussy moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Mosquito Control - Equipment Mechanic I (one position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

7. PUBLIC HEARING ON BAND SHELL SITE.

Chairman Hair we now —, that takes us to the point on our agenda where we will have —, we're going to have two public hearings today. I'll open the first public hearing. It is —, it's on the band shell site. As part of —, this is a public hearing. We convene that and the purpose of it is to hear from the public, not necessarily us although we certainly have the right to say whatever we want to say. Anyone here —, Dana [Braun], do you want to be the first to —? Anyone else? Chairman Hair said, I think Dana [Braun] is public.

Mr. Dana Braun said, not any more. Chairman Hair said, and now you know why, don't you. And after today you're really glad you aren't. Mr. Braun said, I want to know if I can apply for some of that indigent fund for lawyers for sitting here for three hours? Commissioner Murray asked, are you on the clock? Commissioner Saussy said, that was your choice. Mr. Braun said, no, I'm not on anyone's clock. That's why I'm indigent. Ms. Merry Bodziner said, he's on my clock. I have to pay him. Mr. Braun said, we're here, Merry Bodziner and I are here on behalf of the Leadership Savannah Committee, of which y'all know the history. It's been involved in this band shell project for several years now. I just wanted to speak about what the Leadership Savannah Committee did. Earlier this year we wrote each one of the Commissioners and asked whether they had a special site or preferred site for the band shell, and we heard from —, one of you recommended Forsyth Park. We then made our own list and we reviewed and did a site evaluation, which considered numerous factors: one, the history of the area, the access to the area by both vehicles, by bus service, by walking patrons, the terrain of the area, the ambiance of the area, parking, noise factors to the neighborhood, economic development, if it could add to the area. The areas we reviewed were Battlefield —, were an area of Battlefield Park, and I want to make it clear when we speak of Battlefield, we're really speaking of the property that is presently jointly owned by the Central of Georgia Railroad and the City of Savannah, which is catty-corner to what everyone perceives as Battlefield Park, and it is at the northwest intersection of Louisville and Boundary Road. It's not the Battlefield Park that runs perpendicular to Martin Luther King just north of Louisville Road. We looked at Battlefield Park, Forsyth Park, Daffin Park, Triplett Park, Armstrong State College, Hutchinson Island and Memorial Stadium, and out of these locations, the top two rated and the primary rated, excuse me, was the Battlefield Park, and the reason being there's 20 acres of unimproved land, there's utility access. It will have a tremendous, we think, economic impact, economic development impact on that area, which is rapidly improving. If you look at what has been located over there recently, and this is a way that the County can contribute to it. It has an incredible terrain unlike any other location. It has a bowl-like terrain, which is almost a natural setting for this band shell type facility, and again I want to make sure that you understand the location, and I think Mr. Monahan has a map showing the location. It is the northwest corner of Louisville and Boundary Road. The only —, and parking and noise was a positive factor because there's plenty of space for parking and there's little residential neighborhood in the vicinity that any noise from a musical production in the band shell would disturb any residents. The second choice was Forsyth Park. The reason was the track record of Forsyth Park has had as an entertainment venue. There's Shakespeare in the Park is presented there, the Symphony performs there, the Jazz Festival perform there, Earth Day has taken place, other performances have taken place, SCAD has put on musical venues, and it has a proven history. The only —, and too another complimentary factor or positive factor regarding Forsyth Park is that the City of Savannah is presently planning a major renovation of what's call the Old Fort and a band shell could fit in well with that and compliment that. There is a detriment of Forsyth Park which will cut against it and made it second to the Battlefield area was the parking and noise issues, that there are residents that are concerned about the noise that may be generated from the band shell, and then the parking that is sometimes very lacking or the adequacy of in downtown. We noticed in the minutes or in the reports that were prepared that Mr. Golden is recommending Memorial Stadium and I think Mr. Jackel is recommending Memorial Stadium. We did review Memorial Stadium and it was very, very low on the list of priorities. It was not anywhere —, it was really not even in the top —, it really came in seventh out of the seven that we reviewed. Memorial, one major detriment was the —, the positive aspect of Memorial is the facilities that are there, you have restroom facilities present, which would —, and utilities are there. The detriment was the conflict with the football schedules that Memorial Stadium has in the Fall, Friday night and Saturday night, which we felt a band shell would more likely would be used in the Fall and the Spring than any other time. It would be used

on the weekends probably, and that that presented a problem. Parking would be, we believed, may become a problem when the Truman Parkway comes through the area immediately adjacent to Memorial, and there was an issue of ambiance that we felt that, you know, there are those trees behind Memorial Stadium. The other facilities had a more, for lack of a —, better environment or ambiance that it made it more of an enjoyable type event to attend a —, at one of these band shells. Those are our comments. Those are our comments that we hope that, as we represent the Leadership Savannah Committee, that it be decided either Battlefield Park or Forsyth Park, that they were the two highest rated, or that future studies be authorized of those two locations: Battlefield and Forsyth Park for the location of the band shell. I'll be glad to answer any questions as well as —.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize questions, I'd just like to commend you folks for the work y'all have done. Y'all have put in a tremendous amount of work and effort in this, and you didn't get paid a dime for it and I'm well aware of that, and I think you've performed a great community service, and I'd like to personally give you a personal thank you. Mr. Braun said, well, I'd like —. Commissioner Price and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Price said, I think David's [Saussy] hand up was before mine but, David [Saussy], you go ahead and then —. Chairman Hair said, that's fine.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. On the Battlefield Park area you say we do have some pictures of it where we go —. Mr. Braun said, Mr. Monahan had the —. Commissioner Saussy said, okay, well, the other thing —. Mr. Braun said, aerial photographs of the —. Commissioner Saussy said, the other question there is the ownership. How would that be handled because there's no funds for buying property? Mr. Braun said, right. I think something —, as I was saying, the City is willing to work with the County Commission as to —, I think some type of intergovernmental agreement would have to be reached regarding the saving of Forsyth Park as to how that would be dealt with, and that's a further —. Commissioner Saussy asked, and there again, what about the Coastal Heritage, what are their views on it? Mr. Braun said, they were very positive about Battlefield Park. Commissioner Saussy asked, Scott [Smith], can you tell us something?

Mr. Scott Smith said, the Society in its efforts to master plan for the Battlefield Park area over the last 10 years has sort of initiated the concept of using this amphitheater, almost a natural amphitheater area as a performance area, and we feel that it's a very compatible part of the overall development over there, and on ownership issues there are some that will have to be cleared up. It's possible it could interfere with it, but to have an alternate site explored at the same time I think would make this a decent way to proceed, and look at the top two.

Commissioner Saussy asked, would the City maintain, improve and maintain the ground area that would need to be done? All we're talking about is a band shell. Mr. Braun said, Mr. Shearouse is here from the City. There has been some discussion.

Mr. Joe Shearouse said, what the City would like to do, and hopefully this will make your decision a little bit easier, is we're in agreement that you've got two very acceptable sites, Forsyth and at the band shell [sic], and rather than you choose one or other —, one of the two today since there are decisions involving both sites, we'd like to come back and work with the committee and let's do a little bit more of the infrastructure and a little of the engineering work, and then we can come back and say based on what we found in terms of cost and ownership and et cetera, yes, we can do it at the band shell —, at the Battlefield, or perhaps we'd come back and say the best site is actually Forsyth. But we're in agreement that the band shell probably —, the Battlefield probably ranks number one and Forsyth ranks number two, but rather than back into a corner and say it's got to be or to leave here today saying it's going to be at Battlefield and we find out that financially or whatever else can't be done, to leave it open that it's one of those two sites, and we'll come back with the final analysis to say this is where it will work.

Commissioner Saussy said, my —, we would have plenty of parking at the Battlefield? Mr. Shearouse said, well, that's what we believe, but there's some, some additional work that will have to be done. That's one of the questions that we're —. Commissioner Saussy asked, where's that parking going to be? Mr. Braun said, there's 20 acres —, there's 20 acres at the Battlefield property that intersects, so there is —, and then in the vicinity of —, right across Boundary is the Visitors Center and the Continuing Education Center, which has parking, and then up on MLK there is the Civic Center parking lot, so there's plenty of parking within a few blocks, plus the site itself has 20 acres, is more than adequate space for parking as well as the band shell.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes, I was about to say, there's lot of space there that would be very adequate for parking if you can get the —, if you can get the other thing worked out. Ms. Bodziner said, maybe not coming from the front from Boundary Street —. Commissioner Thomas said, but to the —. Ms. Bodziner said, but from behind there's a lot of space behind. Commissioner Rivers said, Jones Street. Commissioner Thomas said, lots of space back there.

Commissioner Odell asked, what is the third option? Ms. Bodziner said, the third option we were looking at Daffin Park really. After Battlefield, we went —, when we talked to you in June, I believe, we went to six sites and we had —, we showed to you, I don't want to waste anybody else's time, but we did have criteria, and we voted. I mean, what was drainage, access, everything else to all these places. I mean, we took a van, there was six of us in the van, and basically we felt like with the natural slope —, well, I'm not going to repeat, but Battlefield and Forsyth Park were really the two, and I don't know if I —, we don't need to spin any more wheels when we feel like that we have done the two best places.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, may I? Your saying, Joe [Shearouse], that the City would go in —, the Leisure Services Department, and look at Battlefield and Forsyth, with Battlefield being primary and you'd look at all the different aspects of what has to be done and expenses and everything. Without being biased as to the Mayor's preference I would hope because, I mean, Floyd [Adams] has come to you already and said he wants it at Forsyth. Mr. Shearouse said, well, I think that —. Commissioner Price said, I don't want to put you on the spot —. Mr. Shearouse said, there's some issues with Forsyth Park, there's some issues with Battlefield, and we have yet to go before the Mayor and Aldermen and show the issues. Commissioner Price said, okay. Mr. Shearouse said, for example, we're talking about parking at Battlefield. There is the potential for parking, but all this space there's costs that are involved with that, and I'm not going to argue the pros and cons of each because, as I told Dana [Braun], give me one and I'll defend the other. Commissioner Price said, right. Mr. Shearouse said, so what we've got to do is go before not only this group, but the Mayor and Aldermen, and say here's the pros and cons of both. They're both very acceptable, now once we put that down, let's see which way it weighs and then we take the one that is the most appropriate based on that information we have.

Ms. Bodziner said, and you should let the professionals, I mean, the engineers, the people that are going to build the thing, you know, and the architects —. Chairman Hair said, yes, I think that's —, that's a good suggestion. That should not be a political decision at this point. Commissioner Price said, well, that was my point, that I don't want it to become a political decision.

Mr. Shearouse said, one other point that I think I have to make about Forsyth. You know, I've received phone calls from the residents of the area. They understand this is going before you today, and what I promised them, that before the City and I'm sure this group will make a final decision, there would be input from the residents of Forsyth before we start planning to build a band shell there. Chairman Hair said, parking would also be a problem at Forsyth. Mr. Shearouse said, that's another issue we've got to have a little bit more community involvement other than just the committee.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have some questions for you. You're telling me your first choice is Battlefield Park and your second choice is Forsyth Park. Mr. Braun said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, and Memorial is down the list. Now what I'm sitting here looking at is we know virtually nothing about Battlefield Park except that there's space there. We don't know whether we can get it, we don't know about parking, we don't know about cost, we don't know about lighting, we don't know about security, we don't know anything about it other than that land's there. All right, now your next choice is Forsyth Park. Well, Forsyth Park has tremendous security problems once that band shell's built. How are you going to protect it from vandals? We have no control over access, who can stand on the periphery. You're going to upset the neighbors with the lights, the noise. You have no lighting. Now how do you reconcile your thinking on these things? If Battlefield's okay, then Memorial's not —, I mean, and Forsyth's not, or vice versa, you're coming at contradictory requirement. Now if you look at the Memorial site, there's a chain link fence and there's barbed wire on top of that, so whatever's put in there is secure. We've had problem with vandalism, we've had no problem with theft there. There's no neighbors affected, lighting's already in place, restrooms is already in place, concessions is already in place, ticket booths are already in place. You can limit the crowd. The police are used to handling the parking and not only can it be used as a band shell for however many concerts we're going to have, and some of my constituents are saying one or two a year, but whatever number you have, we can have because of its location there, we can graduations there once we have a band shell, we can have —, once they have things at the swimming pool, if they want to come over there and do an awards ceremony, we've got that in place. It can be for so many other things than just a band shell when you compare it to the other two sites. Where Forsyth has got so many negatives and the Battlefield is totally unknown, it just seems logical for me for us to move towards Memorial.

Chairman Hair asked, can I make a suggestion? And then I'm going to recognize Commissioner Saussy. I think it's —, this is a public hearing for us to hear from the —, you know, I think this is not the venue for lobbying for a particular position when there are a lot of unanswered questions out there. I would suggest that we would take their suggestions, and they've done a great job, and that's what they are, they're suggestions and that's their recommendations, but then I think we now can give that to the professionals, to the architects and the engineers, and not saying eliminate their other five sites, but first review their work and say we agree with their work and then take the top two sites, if they agree with their work, and if they don't agree with their work, then to come back and bring that to us, but I think none of us are qualified, I don't think, to do the technical analysis and those kinds of things, and I think it's important that we don't turn this into a debate. I mean, these folks are just presenting their recommendations. You're asking questions they can't even answer, and I just think it would probably not be productive for us to continue a dialogue with these folks because they're the people that can't answer the questions. Commissioner DeLoach said, ten four.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I don't think we're talking —, we're not taking specific of engineerings [sic]. We're talking about concepts and what works for Forsyth, and I think very little works there. It obviously doesn't work at Battlefield Park or vice versa.

Chairman Hair said, but the point, Commissioner Jackel, I'm making is you have your ideas and opinions, they have their ideas. This is not the —, y'all obviously disagree, and that's fine, but this is not —, I don't think this is the —, the public hearing, I don't think, is the proper venue for that discussion. I think we've still got a lot of questions that we need to answer.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy first and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I don't know that we should be lobbying, but it seems to me and one of the things I've been interested in for years since I've been to San Antonio is development of the S&O Canal, and that's a perfect place, the Battlefield Park, is this. With the band shell there, to develop that area similar to San Francisco [sic], which brings in a lot of business. Commissioner Thomas said, fantastic. Chairman Hair said, and it's close to that canal site too. Mr. Braun said, the S&O Canal runs right on the edge of the Battlefield.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I'll move that we accept the two recommendations and advise them to proceed and bring back —. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second.

Chairman Hair said, we still have a public hearing open. County Manager Abolt said, I would ask you take full testimony, and also we need a definition from you if you're going to select a couple of sites, we don't want to give the architect an open check here. We want to limit the work. Chairman Hair said, here's what I suggest we do do though. Since the City's going to be our partner here, I don't think we need to move unilaterally here since they're going to be a player here. So I think what we might want to do is maybe have some type of joint presentation, Joe [Shearouse] and Jim [Golden], maybe either staff level or you and Michael [Brown], Russ [Abolt], however —. County Manager Abolt said, I think it should be at your level. Chairman Hair said, okay, but maybe we need to have a joint meeting of the City Council and the County Commission. I don't think we need to go off on our own and I don't think —, we don't want the City Council to think that we're trying to, you know, push a certain site or whatever. I think it needs to be truly a joint partnership, and everybody needs to have the same information at the same time and have the benefit of hearing what everybody else is asking. So I would think that, I would suggest that what we do from this point forward, we still give a chance for anybody else —, Scott [Smith], I don't know if you want to speak or not. I'm sure anybody else that wants to talk, we'll allow that, but maybe at this point after everybody has been heard is that maybe the next step is to set a meeting and, Russ [Abolt], if you want me to set the meeting up with the Mayor, I'll be glad to do that and then get us together and the City Council together —.

Commissioner DeLoach said, y'all won't need us. Chairman Hair said, pardon. Commissioner DeLoach said, you don't need us. County Manager Abolt said, I'm con—. Chairman Hair said, why don't we do this. Why don't —. Commissioner DeLoach said, this is politics. Let's get down to whether we want to do it or not and how we're going to do it. Let's let those folks figure out, yes this is a good spot, and then have us come together and then hash it out because —.

Chairman Hair said, let me see if I can merge those two suggestions, Commissioner DeLoach. What —, maybe what we ought to do is have the staff come up with and maybe analyze the work that Leadership Savannah's done and then maybe make a joint presentation to us and the —. Go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, we're —. Chairman Hair said, Russ [Abolt], you're uncomfortable. What are you uncomfortable with, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, well, obviously there's an interest in doing something with the City of Savannah. I think it's real important at your level, before we begin doing an awful lot of work, to get some clear understanding of the joint responsibility. I'll parallel —. Chairman Hair said, may I suggest —. County Manager Abolt said, but I don't want to be unkind, but we know the challenge that we had with the Library. There was certain testimony given and a certain understanding as to how certain things would proceed. I would just encourage you because of the consequence of any type of joint expense and a strong feeling from this Board that the maximum you commit is that amount of money, but the balance must come from others —. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. County Manager Abolt said, and I would not want that to be done unilaterally, I would not want to put the burden on any one of you. I think there should be some gathering of folks to come to some decision, and then we cut loose staff and we cut loose the architects, whatever.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers first and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Rivers said, well, I made a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to hear from Mr. Golden. I'd like to hear from Mr. Golden and also Mr. Mundell is out there and I know wants to speak. Chairman Hair said, well, Commissioner Murray first. I recognize you, Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, you know, I personally think we're going through a lot of things that we don't need to be going through. Chairman Hair said, exactly. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, that's right. Commissioner Murray said, we've committed that we're going to give what —, \$700,000, \$750,000 to this project. If the City's going to be a partner, I'm not opposed to letting them go ahead and make the decision where it's going to be, give them the \$750,000 [sic] and let them do it. We don't need to be sitting here back and forth and back and forth. We committed to a fixed amount of money and the City, I assume, is going to be a player in it. If it's going to be at Battlefield Park and y'all want Battlefield Park, or the other place wherever that is —. Chairman Hair said, I can certainly support that. Commissioner Jackel said, we're going to be in [inaudible].

Mr. Shearouse said, I think what the City would agree to is that you designate one of those two sites, either Battlefield or Forsyth. We don't want to commit to either one now. We'd be willing to do the study and come back and say based on the information we've gathered, this is the site of choice. Commissioner Rivers said, that was my motion to proceed.

Chairman Hair said, we still haven't heard from everyone yet. Commissioner Jackel said, you're limiting it to two sites before we've heard from everybody. Let's hear Mr. Golden talk about the advantages of Memorial Stadium. Chairman Hair said, well, we don't —. We'll do that, Commissioner Jackel. We don't need to lobby for a site. I mean, we know you're on the other side of this issue, but we don't need to take a public hearing and, you know, allow lobbying for a site. There's already seven on the list. I mean, let's just be honest about it. You know, I mean, I'll be glad to hear Mr. Golden, but I don't think this is the venue for this. Okay, I think we —, we don't need to —, unless you really —. What's your position? Do you want to tell us?

Mr. Jim Golden said, the only thing I can say, Mr. Chairman, we're delighted to recommend Memorial Stadium to anticipate as a site. Memorial Stadium is accessible to noise and crowds. It's the hub of the Bacon Park where you have a multitude of sporting ventures. Chairman Hair said, okay. I can tell you and Commissioner Jackel have talked.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, please, if I may. Mr. Golden is a solid professional. He's here at my request. This is one of the issues that came up. We just wanted you to have full advantage of all the options.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Scott [Smith], did you want to participate in this public hearing?

Mr. Smith said, I feel responsible for the lack of knowledge about the Battlefield Park plans. Chairman Hair said, let's get together please. Mr. Smith said, and at some point in the future, if the Commission would like me kind of fill you in on how these have developed over the last 10 years, I'd be happy to do so, including this part of it. Much of what we're looking at obviously are developments in the future. They're not visibly apparent and they're not common knowledge, and there are some problems with acquisition that may or may not be overcome, but at some time in the future if you'd like more information, I'd be happy to give it individually or as a group or whatever.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Scott [Smith]. Anyone else want to participate in the public hearing on the band shell location? Yes sir, come forward and state your name for the record.

Mr. Lee Mundell said, I'm not going to take up much of your time. Just because I'm here and because I think somebody ought to say it, the neighbors are a little concerned about the band shell idea. Chairman Hair asked, at what location? Mr. Mundell said, at Forsyth. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Mundell said, we —, when I first moved there 29 years ago it was mostly dirt in the park, and the nicer it gets the more use that the park is put to, which is great and I understand that and I've raised my children a lot in that park. The concern is, I think, with regard to the prime issues, the parking issue and the traffic issues, the noise issues and all those things I think you're already familiar with. I won't belabor any of those points, just to say that there is concern about that. To that extent, if we can be of any assistance to y'all making that decision, whether it's Memorial or Battlefield or Forsyth Park, I appreciate the opportunity.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. What I would suggest is that —. Commissioner Price said, the motion. Chairman Hair said, we don't have —. Commissioner Price said, there's a motion on the floor. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we need a motion after a public hearing when we still have a —, we haven't discussed it with the City yet. I feel very uncomfortable about us proceeding with a direction. Let me suggest something in lieu of that. Let me meet with the Mayor. I'll set a meeting up with the Mayor and I'll inform the Mayor of what went on in this public hearing and give him the benefit of all the knowledge, and then maybe he and I decide what the next step would be to bring it back as a joint body or that sort of thing? Would y'all object to that? I mean, at least let me inform the Mayor as to where we are and what —, have the benefit of the public hearing comments.

Chairman Hair asked, what do we do when we have a motion and a second? County Attorney Hart said, we need to dispose of the motion. The Clerk said, it will have to be withdrawn or —. Chairman Hair said, restate your motion, Commissioner Rivers. The Clerk said, disposed of in some way. Commissioner Rivers said, all I said, Mr. Chairman, is that we let them proceed with the two sites to evaluate them and bring it back. Chairman Hair asked, you mean staff to do that? Commissioner Rivers said, yes, that's the only thing —. Chairman Hair said, Russ [Abolt] has a problem with that. County Manager Abolt said, the problem is you're not going to get complete costs, you're not going to get some understanding from the get-go of who's going to pay for what. You've already told us, and I'm not trying to be argumentative, you've told us this is the max. We know going into this that these two sites are not going to be fully developed as people envisioned for the amount of money we have in there. To get involved in designing things, expending money is not appropriate in my estimation.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me say, let me say this. Chairman Hair said, go ahead, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, according to what Mr. Braun said that they would go back, and Mr. Shearouse said, they would go back and evaluate the two sites to see what all the details and then they would bring that back. It doesn't curtail that it's going to be this site or that site, they'll come back with a recommendation. They'll go before City Hall to see if City Hall is in agreement —. Commissioner Price said, to see if the City's willing to do this —. If the City's willing to do this and basically I'm hearing other Commissioners say we want to work with the City to get this done, we've got two sites basically, let's let

it —, let that process go about. Commissioner Odell said, call for the question. Commissioner Price asked, what are we afraid of?

Chairman Hair said, all right, I have a call for the question on Commissioner Rivers's motion. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair asked, okay. Anyone else want to speak on the public hearing? Thank you for coming. I will declare the public hearing on the band shell adjourned.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to accept the two recommendations of Leadership Savannah for Battleship Park or Forsyth Park as the site for the permanent band shell, and that they proceed with the analysis of these sites. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

=====

8. PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION ON JULY 10, 1998, TO IMPOSE A WIRELESS ENHANCED 911 CHARGE WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT IS SERVED OR WOULD BE SERVED BY CHATHAM COUNTY. REQUEST ADOPTION OF AMENDED RESOLUTION FOLLOWING HEARING.

Chairman Hair said, now I will open a second public hearing to amend the resolution on July 10, 1998, to impose a wireless enhanced 911 charge within the geographic area that is served or would be served by Chatham County. Request adoption of amended resolution following hearing. Is there anyone here from the public who would like to speak on the resolution to impose a wireless enhanced 911 charge within the geographic area that is served or would be served by Chatham County? Anyone at all? Hearing none, I declare the public hearing adjourned, and I will obtain a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, didn't we just do something like this not long ago? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Well, it wasn't complete. This —. Commissioner Murray asked, you did it on cellular phones? County Manager Abolt said, you did it on cellular phones as it affected the non-city portion of the Special Service District. Chairman Hair said, it's now a geographic area that does —. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. This will handle all of the phones that ring in the 9-1-1 Center that we answer, which means everything except the City of Savannah within the boundaries of Chatham County. Commissioner Murray asked, the City of Savannah —, all the other municipalities will be included in this? County Manager Abolt said, yes. All the phones —. Commissioner Murray asked, the City of Savannah is not? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, it was two public service answering points. Commissioner Murray said, so we still no longer —, we still cannot —. In other words, if I'm on the road in my car and I call 9-1-1 —. Commissioner Saussy said, you're in the City of Savannah's calling zone. Commissioner Murray said, if I come into the City —. County Manager Abolt said, sir, I just don't know how —, when it rings inside the city limits —. Commissioner Murray said, my point is why do we have to have more than —, why can't we just have one 9-1-1, 911 number. Why don't we just have one central —? County Manager Abolt said, we agree with you. It's not his answer. It's something that occurred years ago. There was a decision made by your predecessors and the City Council of Savannah that there be two public service answering firms. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but what happens is if you call from one location, they transfer you to the next one and it's back and forth, and it defeats the purpose of the 911 number system. Commissioner Saussy said, absolutely.

Chief Tom Sprague said, I think I can clarify that a little bit Commissioner Murray. Currently, when a cell phone is used to dial 9-1-1 it goes in on the nearest tower and sends it. It might be our center that's the nearest tower or Savannah's answering point. The purpose —, Savannah now collects that fee for their 911 Center for phones registered in the City of Savannah, I guess. This will take care of all the other municipalities that we dispatch for from our 9-1-1 Center. A certain portion of this money, I believe it's 30% or 30¢ goes into a reserve fund, which in future years, in about three years estimate, the State will mandate that we have the technology available to pinpoint the caller, which we cannot now do with current technology. That's the purpose for the —, well, the user fee actually.

Commissioner Murray said, all right, why do we still have two different 9-1-1 dispatchers? I mean, if we're trying to consolidate Inspections, Recreation and other things with the City of Savannah, why are in the world are we not doing it on a safety thing? County Manager Abolt said, in House Bill 49 legislation, the work of jurisdictions, that was listed as one of the subjects, but in the past there has been some resistance. There's no reason why it could not take place. Chairman Hair said, I agree with you, but that would really [inaudible], but that's all this is, okay.

The Clerk said, I didn't hear who the maker of the motion was. Chairman Hair asked who made the motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, we did. Commissioner Price said, yes, I did.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Saussy moved to adopt the resolution to impose a wireless enhanced 911 charge within the geographic area that is served or would be served by Chatham County. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, that brings us to the Action Calendar. Commissioner Jackel, it is 12:35. Do we have anyone that wants to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner Jackel said, C. Chairman Hair said, C. Commissioner Price asked, does that mean yes in Spanish? [Unintelligible comments made when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Jackel said, Charlie, Echo, Hotel —. Chairman Hair asked, is that it? Commissioner Jackel said, and Juliette. Chairman Hair asked, Charlie, Echo, what? Commissioner Jackel said, Hotel and Juliette. Commissioner Price asked, Hotel and Juliette. Juliette? Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 9-C, 9-E, 9-H and 9-J. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

=====

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 23, 1999, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 23, 1999, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 15 THROUGH AUGUST 4, 1999.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period July 15, 1999, through August 4, 1999, in the amount of \$10,611,807. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 3. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF EARLY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY KEVIN WHITTENDORF AT 9307 WHITFIELD AVENUE, TRUMAN PARKWAY, PHASE IV. [DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request for early acquisition of property owned by Kevin Whittendorf at 9307 Whitfield Avenue, Truman Parkway, Phase IV. Commissioner Thomas # seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 4. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF EARLY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY GWEN RUSH, 1437 WHITNEY ROAD, TRUMAN PARKWAY, PHASE III. [DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request for early acquisition of property owned by Gwen Rush, 1437 Whitney Road, Truman Parkway, Phase III. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 5. **REQUEST BOARD DECLARE SURPLUS A REMNANT PARCEL CONTAINING 2,964 SQUARE FEET OBTAINED AS A PART OF THE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BAY AND GRAHAM STREETS. [DISTRICT 8.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to declare surplus a remnant parcel containing 2,964 square feet obtained as a part of the intersection improvements at Bay and Graham Streets. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR RENEWAL OF THE “STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN” GRANT AND THE “VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT” GRANT FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request to apply for renewal of the “Stop Violence Against Women” Grant and the “Victims of Crime Act” Grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

- 7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE COASTAL INCENTIVE GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT AMENDMENT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Coastal Incentive Grant Award Agreement Amendment granting CleanCoast an extension of time to complete the removal of debris from Ossabaw Island. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

8. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 1999. PETITIONER: DEBORAH S. KEEL, D/B/A DEB'S PUB AND GRUB, LOCATED AT 2130 NORWOOD AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request of petitioner Deborah S. Keel, d/b/a Deb's Pub and Grub, located at 2130 Norwood Avenue, for transfer of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1999. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

9. 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. Mobile command post unit	Police	Farber Specialty	\$86,600	•SSD - Police •Confiscated Funds - Police (pending Board approval of transfer)
B. Change Order No. 5 to the contract for drainage improvements and paving of Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive, for relocation of a water main	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	\$2,375	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Paving of Central, Cherokee, Saussy Avenues and Smith Drive Project
C. Wag differential global positioning system	Mosquito Control	Wag Corporation (sole source)	\$13,120	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
D. One year lease agreement, with option to renew for five additional one year terms, for the area occupied at 415 West Broughton Street (Courthouse Annex)		District Court Administrator	\$3,975	Revenue Producing
E. Terminate annual contract with Phelps Painting Company for attendant services at the Wilmington Island Recycle/drop-off center	Solid Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A
F. Change Order No. 1 to the annual contract to provide high volume paper and chemical products, to recognize a manufacturer-imposed price increase on plastic trash can liners	Various	Coastal Sail Paper (MBE)	\$16.99 per case	•SSD - Various •General Fund/M & O - Various

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
G. Change Order No. 1 to the contract to provide County telephone system with in-coming telephone trunk lines, for the Y2K upgrade of the system	I.C.S.	BellSouth Telecommunications	\$2,200	CIP - Y2K Remediation
H. Annual contract, with the option to renew for two additional one year terms, for travel services	Various	AAA Travel Company, Inc.	N/A	N/A
I. Contract to provide and install audio visual equipment in the Trade Center	SPLOST	Stage Front Presentations	\$808,215.60	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center FF&E
J. Completely reimbursable automotive repair and maintenance service for eight (8) Thunderbolt Police Department vehicles	Central Services (Fleet Operations)	Central Services (Fleet Operations)	Full reimbursement plus \$30 monthly administrative fee	Reimbursement from Thunderbolt

As to Items 9-A through 9-I, except 9-C, 9-E and 9-H:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 9-A through 9-I, except 9-C, 9-E and 9-H. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

As to Item 9-C:

WAG DIFFERENTIAL GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM; DEPARTMENT: MOSQUITO CONTROL; SOURCE: WAG CORPORATION (SOLE SOURCE); AMOUNT: \$13,120; FUNDING: GENERAL FUND/M&O - MOSQUITO CONTROL.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think this is a good thing that we're doing here and I just wanted to bring that out. Everybody knows how we were plagued by mosquitos this past Summer —, even right now somewhat because of the inordinate amount of rain that we had for a period of time, and I think this global positioning thing, as I understand it, is designed to improve our accuracy in spraying and will be a benefit for —, down the road.

Chairman Hair said, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

As to Item 9-E:

TERMINATE ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH PHELPS PAINTING COMPANY FOR ATTENDANT SERVICES AT THE WILMINGTON ISLAND RECYCLE/DROP-OFF CENTER; DEPARTMENT: SOLID WASTE; SOURCE: N/A; AMOUNT: N/A; FUNDING: N/A.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Odell asked, what are you doing on Wilmington Island? Commissioner Price said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, I think he's going to move down there.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, he's getting ready for —. Commissioner Price said, the flyover. He was over there on that flyover too. Chairman Hair asked, what's your question, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, the flyover was Isle of Armstrong. Chairman Hair said, he's getting ready for reapportionment. He's going to cover all those districts.

Commissioner Jackel said, all right. We obviously were having trouble with Phelps Painting Company in failing to perform the work here, and it's important that people know that we have taken the appropriate action and now we're going to get someone who will do the work in an appropriate fashion.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion is approved.

Commissioner Odell asked, can I add yada, yada, yada to that? Chairman Hair said, see what happens when we go after twelve o'clock. See, that's what I'm trying to tell y'all. These meetings needs to end before twelve o'clock.

As to Item 9-H:

ANNUAL CONTRACT, WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR TWO ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR TERMS, FOR TRAVEL SERVICES; DEPARTMENT: VARIOUS; SOURCE: AAA TRAVEL COMPANY, INC.; AMOUNT: N/A; FUNDING: N/A.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, all right, we're switching travel companies to save us some money, and I think that's what we need to do, and we're moving in the right direction. I move for approval. Commissioner Saussy said, second.

Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Price said, I have a question. Commissioner Odell said, is Martin [Jackel] punishing us? Is that your question? Commissioner Price asked, where's —? Well, he's not here. Did we, Russ [Abolt], have we cleared up the frequent flyer miles with the old travel agent, or are we going to be left out in the cold, or —? Commissioner DeLoach said, I always had mine.

County Manager Abolt said, well, Mr. Lynch is helping the best he can in cooperation with the former contractor to have your miles —, individual mileages credited. That goes beyond just the travel agent. It has to do with the carrier. That's the issue. Chairman Hair said, and that computer system too.

Commissioner Saussy said, whenever you go just make sure you've got them. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Price asked, huh? Commissioner Saussy said, that's the point. Whenever you go to the gate, make sure you've got them. Chairman Hair said, I do. I always do that.

As to Item 9-J:

COMPLETELY REIMBURSABLE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR EIGHT (8) THUNDERBOLT POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES; DEPARTMENT: CENTRAL SERVICES (FLEET OPERATIONS); AMOUNT: FULL REIMBURSEMENT PLUS \$30 MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE FEE; FUNDING: REIMBURSEMENT FROM THUNDERBOLT.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just think again that this is something that we're working with Thunderbolt to our advantage and to Thunderbolt's advantage, and I'm glad to see the cooperation between the City and the County for everyone's benefit.

Chairman Hair said, I have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. The Clerk said, I didn't hear a motion and a second. Commissioner Price said, I did. The Clerk said, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, he [Price] moved and I seconded. Chairman Hair said, you need to start listening, Sybil [Tillman]. The Clerk said, no, you just need to speak up. Chairman Hair said, see, twelve o'clock makes you --, see, you get hungry and it affects you too.

Commissioner Price said, when the Chairman wants a motion, I make the motion and he [Odell] seconds it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 9-A through 9-I, except 9-C, 9-E and 9-H. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 9-C. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
3. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 9-E. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
4. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve Items 9-H. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
5. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 9-J. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

XI. FIRST READINGS

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF SEVEN (7) PILOT DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND/OR SITES WHERE "DOG EXERCISE AREAS" WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND AUTHORIZE THE MODIFICATION OF THE CODE OF CHATHAM COUNTY TO REFLECT THE CHANGE IN POLICY.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

=====

2. **A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE FRONT YARD BUILDING SETBACK LINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING REGULATIONS AND TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM LOT WIDTH REQUIREMENT FOR LOTS LOCATED ALONG A PERMANENT TURNAROUND OR ROAD CURVATURE 80 DEGREES OR MORE. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE APPROVED.
MPC FILE NO. 99-12651-C
NO DISTRICT/TEXT AMENDMENT/UNINCORPORATED COUNTY**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

=====

3. **PETITIONER, PHILLIP R. MCCORKLE, AGENT (FOR C. ANTHONY RHODES, OWNER) IS REQUESTING REZONING AN EIGHT (8) ACRES PARCEL LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF GEORGIA HIGHWAY 21 SOUTH OF BOURNE AVENUE, FROM I-H (HEAVY-INDUSTRIAL) TO P-B (PLANNED-BUSINESS) IN ORDER TO CONSTRUCT A SHOPPING CENTER THAT WOULD INCLUDE A GROCERY STORE. MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE DENIED, BUT FURTHER RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY-BUSINESS) ZONING CLASSIFICATION BASED ON THE EMERGING BUSINESS CHARACTER OF THIS SECTION OF HIGHWAY 21.
MPC FILE NO. 99-12659-C
[DISTRICT 8.]**

This item was withdrawn from First Readings by the petitioner.

=====

5. **THE RE-EVALUATION OF THE RECLAMATION PLAN FOR A 296 ACRE PARCEL RECENTLY RECOMMENDED BY MPC TO BE REZONED FROM AN R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) CLASSIFICATION TO A PD-R-SM (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-RECLAMATION-SURFACE MINING) CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF SIX BORROW PITS ON APPROXIMATELY 35 ACRES WITH A FUTURE GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT INSTEAD OF 48 SINGLE FAMILY LOTS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE APPROVED.
MPC FILE NO. 99-12519-C
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

=====

XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

- 3. **STATUS REPORT ON YEAR 2000 REMEDIATION PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

- 4. **STATUS REPORT ON COUNTY MANAGEMENT STUDY.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

- 5. **STATUS REPORT ON SURPLUS PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Report received as information.

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Saussy moved the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Board of Commissioners was recessed at 12:45 p.m.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

=====

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. **CHATHAM COUNTY PENSION BOARD**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to reappoint Mr. John I. Wright to the Chatham County Pension Board to a term which will expire July 1, 2003. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

=====

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

=====

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1999

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK