

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON NOVEMBER 5,1999, 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

Vice Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., Friday, November 5,1999.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Eddie DeLoach gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
David L. Saussy, District One
Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
Martin S. Jackel, District Three
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
Ben Price, District Six
Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven

ABSENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four

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

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'd like to say that Chairman Dr. Hair could not be with us this morning. He's out on another assignment, and Commissioner Frank Murray, he's on Guard duty today. So that's why they're not here.

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'd like to first recognize and say good morning to everyone. I'd like to recognize the Superintendent of our public school system, Mrs. Virginia Edwards, our Board President Mrs. Diane Cantor, other Board

members and all other distinguished guests this morning. We're delighted to have you here with us and hope that our dialogue would be exceptionally good this morning.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Before we get into the proclamations and other items on the agenda, I need to ask the Commissioners if we may move the bond issue up after —, let's see, after Commissioners Items so that we should take care of that early. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Saussy said second. All in favor. Opposes. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENT A "NEWS RELEASE" - CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE HIGHEST AWARD IN PUBLIC BUDGETING FOR THE ELEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR FOR ITS 1999 ANNUAL BUDGET.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Mr. Manager.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, again we're so proud of this. We never take it for granted. Eleven years in a row. As soon as the plaque is here we'll have a special ceremony where we'll recognize Mr. Persaud and his staff and all of those who contributed. But I know you certainly appreciate and hope the community appreciates the stewardship in budgeting each year now for well over a decade. If you look at the [inaudible], Comprehensive Financial Report, it speaks volumes as to the solvency and the excellent management and policy decisions of this Board and previous Board when it comes to allocating precious [inaudible].

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, I would like to congratulate you and keep up the good work.

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RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Vice Chairman Thomas said, let me retrack here. I'd like to recognize Alderman George Zettler, who is with us this morning. Where is he? Okay, there he is. Thank you so much for being here with us.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

2. INTRODUCTION OF THE GRAND MARSHAL FOR THE 1999 VETERANS DAY PARADE.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, gentlemen, please introduce yourselves. Commissioner Odell asked, George [Zettler], are you going to do the talking?

Alderman Zettler said, I'm Alderman George Zettler. I'm also Veteran of the Year for Chatham County. Vice Chairman Thomas said, wonderful. Congratulations. Mr. Tilson said, Richard Tilson, I'm the Grand Marshal for the Veterans Day Parade this year. Mr. Williamson said, Vernon N. Williamson, Parade Marshal for the Veterans Day Parade this year. Mr. Connors said, I'm Joe Connors. I'm the Vice Chairman of the Veterans Council and as soon as these gentlemen introduce themselves I want to invite all of you to the parade on November 11th at 10:00 a.m. Now, Dr. Thomas, since Dr. Hair is not here, I want to present you with this cap. I'll tell you like Harry Deal told Mayor Floyd Adams, wear it to the parade, and I want to give each of you a flag.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much.

Mr. Conners said, please come out on November 11th and see our parade. We appreciate it. Thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, you know, we live in a country that is probably without a doubt the greatest country in the world and perhaps the history of the world. Much of that greatest as it relates to freedom is due to the efforts of men like yourself and others and many young men who lost their lives on the battlefield, and we as the Commission want to thank you and to say that we are indebted to you for your service and the liberties to which we enjoy. God bless each and every one of you.

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

Commissioner Jackel said, gentlemen, as a former infantry officer and as a veteran myself and as a proud Past Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Savannah, Georgia, I salute you.

Commissioner Saussy said, George [Zettler], could you give us an update on the World War II monument? Alderman Zettler said, after almost \$28,000 we've collected up till now, we're really in the process of trying to locate a site, which is —, I've got to have a site in order to get a design made, and it's all —, so seems kind of difficult to go and I've been rather busy doing other things the last three or four months, but I expect to get started back with it in the next couple of months. Probably after the first of the year and hopefully by the end of next year we'll be collected enough money to have something fixed so we can start on the memorial here in Chatham County. Commissioner Saussy said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you all so very much. We're delighted that you were with us this morning and thank you for all the services that you have rendered throughout the years and with dignity. Thank you.

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3. PROCLAMATION FOR LAKE MAYER TREE PLANTING.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I have two proclamations. The first one will be to the Tree Foundation. Is anyone here? On behalf of Chatham County, the Chatham County Commissioners, we're just delighted with the work that you're doing and have done, and we would like to present this proclamation to you, and it states:

WHEREAS, the Savannah Tree Foundation is working with a coalition of representatives from Chatham County and several business and community organizations on a project to plant significant canopy trees at Lake Mayer Park; and

WHEREAS, this project will not only help to beautify and improve the natural cover at this community park, provide shade for future park users, and help cleanse the air and water but will also serve to signify the community's concern for its trees as natural resources; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 13, 1999, one hundred and eight trees will be planted to help focus awareness on this project and symbolize the community's commitment to improve the urban forest; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County does hereby endorse the project from the Savannah Tree Foundation to plant canopy trees at Lake Mayer Park and does hereby applaud its initiative on behalf of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman and Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, commend the Savannah Tree Foundation for organizing a public/private partnership on this worthwhile project with Chatham County, the Georgia Forestry Commission, Savannah Electric and Power Company, Savannah Fire Department, Home Depot, Whelan's Furniture, International Paper, Savannah Garden Club, Spanish Moss Garden Club, Savannah Tree Foundation and the volunteer community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 5th day of November, 1999.

/s/ Priscilla D. Thomas
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST: _____
/s/ Sybil E. Tillman
Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Vice Chairman Thomas said, congratulations and thank you for all the hard work. Ms. Julia S. White, President o the Savannah Tree Foundation, said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. I hope you all will come to our tree planting.

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4. PROCLAMATION FOR GEORGIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, this proclamation goes to the Transit Board and we're delighted to have this opportunity to present this proclamation, and the proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, public transportation is vital to the quality of life and economic well-being of the citizens of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, workers, school children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those unable to afford an automobile use public transportation to gain access to jobs, schools, medical facilities, and other fundamental services; and

WHEREAS, traffic congestion that wastes productive time can be alleviated through the increased availability and use of public transportation and other forms of high-occupancy, shared-ride services; and

WHEREAS, as a non-profit organization dedicated to improving public transportation throughout the State of Georgia, the Georgia Transit Association is involved in a variety of import-ant issues that have an impact on millions of citizens and the transportation serviced provided throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman and Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby proclaim the 10th day of November, 1999 as:

“GEORGIA TRANSIT DAY”

in Chatham County and call upon all citizens to join in a statewide effort to promote transit's benefits.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 5th day of November, 1999.

/s/ Priscilla D. Thomas
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST: /s/ Sybil E. Tillman
Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Ms. Jean Iaderosa said, my name is Jean Idarosa and I am at CAT and I do want to explain just a little bit further. Georgia Transit Association Day is next November 10th and that coincides with a conference, a Georgia Transit Association Annual Conference, which will be held here in Savannah and to which you are of course invited. We are going to have well over 100 attendees at this conference from throughout the State of Georgia, from rural systems to the other transit systems to suppliers of transit services and tropics are going to range from liveable communities to funding strategies. We are as well going to have the Executive Director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority there to speak to us, the President or Director of the Georgia Conservancy, so you can see there's going to be indeed a wide range of topics and it's going to be an exciting time where we can celebrate not only Savannah and all that it has to offer, but also this is a prime opportunity for transit professionals to network and to learn more about what is going on in transportation. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much.

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YOUTH COMMISSION

Vice Chairman Thomas said, at this time I would like to recognize our Youth Commissioner serving for today, Marisa Drexel. She's a senior executive member of St. Vincent's Academy. Welcome, Marisa, and as we deliberate, feel free to ask any questions or to say whatever you'd like to say, and if you'd like to do that, just raise your hand and I will recognize you. Thank you.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item IX-2 taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. LIBRARY BOARD PRESENTATION (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Madam Chairman. The last time we met I don't think that the Library really had time, we didn't give them time to come up with some of the ideas of what they wanted to do, and I think this today would be some of that plus bringing us up to date as to what is happening at the Library.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Mrs. Mary Ellen Sprague.

Ms. Sprague said, gentlemen, Dr. Thomas, I'm here before you today with good news and bad news. Good news, first item, last time I was here I told you that I would have the Bull Street open by December 31st, the year 2000. I am going to make that even sooner, November of 1999 we will have the Library open. That's within the next couple of weeks. This is November, we will have it open this month. Good news: We have money in our budget to pay for staff in the Library not only for —, in the new Library not only for this year but all the way clear to July of the year 2000. We have the money already in our budget. Good news: Even after we pay for that, we will have an additional \$381,000 left over in our budget that we want to return to you, the County, to use as you please. So we are budgeted all the way through and we want to return \$381,000 to you, and these are audited numbers. Bad news: You have a hiring freeze, so even though we have the money in our budget we are not being allowed to spend it on the staff that we desperately need to open up Bull Street Library. Bad news: We need those positions now, as it's going to be very hard to open up the Bull Street without —, in fact, we could not open it up without cutting hours at all the other libraries. We simply don't have the staff. We have to have the staff in order to be able to open one day, even two or three days, we will need extra staff. We have the money, we just need to get out from under the hiring freeze to hire those positions. We have put in for the emergency help. We put in about a week and a half ago. We have not yet heard. Time is of the essence. We need those positions and we need them as soon as you can move on it. Thank you.

Commissioner Price said, two questions. Ms. Sprague said, sure. Commissioner Price said, if I may, Dr. Thomas. The \$381,000, if we were to lift the hiring freeze on those positions you need to open the branch, is that part of the \$381,000? Ms. Sprague said, no. We will —, we have \$900,000. It's all yours. Use it for whatever you want. Commissioner Price said, I wanted to clarify that. Ms. Sprague said, okay. Commissioner Price said, number two, we have a committee set up of Dr. Thomas, Frank Murray and Dr. Hair —. Ms. Sprague said, right. Commissioner Price said, the three of those are the ones empowered by this Commission to waive that. Ms. Sprague said, right. Commissioner Price said, to give a waiver of that. Have you approached that committee? Ms. Sprague said, we have tried. I know that Dr. Murray —, I mean, Frank Murray is out of town until Saturday. We are just kind of encouraging —, well, we felt like because of we'll be cutting hours across the County that all the Commissioners needed to know about it, the urgency of the issue. Commissioner Price said, well, I think there's your answer —, therein lies your answer to go to that committee. I think they will be receptive to get that branch open. Ms. Sprague said, thank you, I appreciate that. Anything else?

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I've got one. Commissioner Rivers said, Madam Chair. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Rivers, Commissioner DeLoach and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Rivers asked, how many key staff persons are you bringing on in higher administration? Ms. Sprague said, we have both part time and full time, so it's kind of a full time equivalent we —.

Mr. Robert Johnson asked, in higher administration, sir? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. Mr. Johnson said, we're bringing on a branch head. That is the highest level. Ms. Sprague said, a branch administrator. That's it. Everybody else is librarians and pages.

Commissioner Rivers said, very frankly, I would like to see a little diversity in your staffing at the upper level, administration. Ms. Sprague said, we are going to take that into consideration. Mr. Johnson said, we are making a sincere effort to do that. Commissioner Odell asked, do you have a sincere goal? I like sincere efforts, but do you have a sincere goal? Ms. Sprague said, I know from what I have heard that it's very hard to a minority librarian. If you ever hear of anybody that is, let us know and we will go after them, but we are trying very hard. We are very —, we are aware of the situation. Mr. Johnson said, we are recruiting at the predominantly minority library schools very actively. There's a shortage of librarians

in general nationwide right now and minority librarians are very scarce. We are making a real effort. Commissioner Rivers said, hope that we would prepare for war in time of peace, so we look ahead. I would appreciate that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner DeLoach and then I'd like to make a comment.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got a question. I got a call from a constituent the other day concerning the Port City Library and it's my understanding that some of the hours have already been cut at Port City Library, and also we're in the process of moving two people that have been there for a number of years and who would like to stay there, but yet are being moved, and if I'm wrong —. I know I'm not wrong. I'm right on this, but if there's any way possible, the folks in my area would love to have those people stay there if there's any way y'all can make that arrangement because they have been there. They opened up —, one of them opened up that library and is —, and the people want her to stay, and if there's any way possible due to the fact that those two are being questioned about being moved to another location, I'd like for those people to stay, and they're willing to stay and want to stay. So please take that into account whenever you start shifting people around.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Odell, I'll yield to you.

Ms. Sprague said, we'll look into that. Commissioner DeLoach said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, to follow up on what Mr. DeLoach said, if there's a substantial change in service, it would be helpful to us if we knew about that before a constituent were to tell us. Ms. Sprague said, I agree. Commissioner Odell said, it puts us in a —. Mr. Johnson said, we have not changed the hours. Commissioner Odell said, I understand, but just for this day forward, if you have those kinds of changes, it would be a sincere accommodation that we were to be notified in advance, i.e., by regular updates —. I know coming here today is good, but if you change something in the Fifth District, I'll hear about it and I'd like to know and understand and be able to intelligently convey your decision. So we'll have that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Jackel and then back to —.

Commissioner Jackel said, in this partial opening of the library, is that going to allow the genealogy section to be opened? Ms. Sprague said, absolutely. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. And when do you anticipate the final opening, the full opening? Ms. Sprague said, full opening. Well, that's whenever we get the punch list completely done. That's hard to say, but hopefully, within —. We're trying very hard to get a lot finished. I don't think they'll make it. Completely open it up to allow the public in, I would give it probably two or three months and we'll have a grand opening party in January, February, somewhere around there.

Commissioner DeLoach said, a point that —, to follow up on Harris' [Odell] comment. Whenever things do change, we hear about it from our constituents or the lady —, the point that I've been told a number of times, the reason there's a number of people, you know, the attendance or participation at the local libraries has fallen off is because the times are —, the hours of operation have fallen off, and they would like to see some additional hours long term, okay. Ms. Sprague said, thank you. Commissioner DeLoach said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, I'd like to piggy-back on a couple of things, about the hours so that we can have better use of the facility and we want to make sure that we get every opportunity —, give every opportunity to those citizens who would like to utilize the library in every way, and not only just the children, but we do have adults who would like to use the library as well. So we hope that you will really be concerned about that when you're cutting back, and I know you have to make some changes and so forth, but if people understand what you're doing as you're doing it, then I think it would be less, you know, friction among the —. Ms. Sprague said, if we do, and I'm hoping that we will get the authorization that we won't have to cut any hours, but if we do it will be across the board. I'm not going to pick on any particular branch. I don't think the rest of the board will. It would be all of Chatham County that would be affected. Vice Chairman Thomas said, and to piggy-back on what Commissioner Rivers has said about diversity, it's very important that we have inclusion. There's no doubt about it. It is my understanding now out of 18 people I think you have about two librarians, two minority librarians, and you're saying this morning that minority librarians are not available. I mean, we just don't have them? Ms. Sprague said, no, they're difficult to find. I'm not saying they're not available, it's just that we have to [inaudible] to find them. There's a shortage of librarians. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you looking locally? How many of these people are local that you have on the staff now? Mr. Johnson asked, how many local people? Vice Chairman Thomas said, minority. Mr. Johnson said, they're both local. Vice Chairman Thomas said, both local. Mr. Johnson said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, and in your hunt for additional ones, are you continuing to look locally? Mr. Johnson said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you looking elsewhere? Mr. Johnson said, we are looking everywhere. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. We just like for you to keep in mind that I think it would make for a more peaceful and a more richer [sic] community if we did that.

Commissioner Price asked, may I ask —, follow up a question on that? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Price said, and I hate to ask this in front of my friends from the Board of Education, but are not the librarians in the school system also eligible? Mr. Johnson said, under state law in Georgia there are two training programs for librarians. Media specialists in the schools is trained in education with a speciality in librarianship. A public librarian is a master's degree

in library science and its not an education program though in some cases we do have some librarians who came out of the schools. We have some librarians who went to the schools, but our basic requirement is a master's in librarianship from a school accredited by the American Library Association, so a media specialist trained, for example at Armstrong would not qualify. Commissioner Price said, but you communicate those positions, I would hope, not just publicly in advertising for the paper, but also directly to the Board of Education. I mean, that's —, that's just another level —, I mean, if there are positions of people who have those degrees that are working in the public schools that would want to take —, be considered, and there are minorities and certainly that's another area to look. That's my point. Mr. Johnson said, we advertise as broadly and as widely as we can.

Youth Commissioner Drexel said, I'm sorry, I don't understand. If you're cutting the hours at the library across the board —. Ms. Sprague said, no, we're hoping. Yes, that's what we're talking about. We're hoping not to. That's why we're here. We're hoping to be able to get the staff so that we will not be able to have to cut hours, but if we don't get the staff for Bull Street, we'd still like to open up the library as promised. If we don't have money for the staff —, well, we actually have the money, we don't have the permission to go out from under the hiring freeze. Youth Commissioner Drexel said, I'm looking forward to the Bull Street Library being open. Ms. Sprague said, good. I can't wait —, there's an area there just for teens. I think you will love it.

Commissioner Odell asked, has a proposal been submitted through the normal channels to lift the hiring freeze? Ms. Sprague said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, listing the positions and projected dates. Would that preclude you from doing advertising? Mr. Johnson said, we had advertised positions, we had interviewed and we were ready to make offers when the hiring freeze was put on. Commissioner Odell said, so we have people that were already —. Mr. Johnson said, we're losing people at this point. We're losing applicants that we would like to hire. Ms. Sprague said, they're finding other jobs in the meantime. Commissioner Odell said, so we need a kind of quick resolution. Ms. Sprague said, that's what we're talking about and it just had a very —, I mean, we're opening very, very soon.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we'd like to thank you so very much. You certainly have made some progress and we look forward to continued working —. Ms. Sprague said, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Oral report received as information.

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2. SCHOOL BOARD PRESENTATION ON INCREASE IN FEES TO COLLECT TAXES (COMMISSIONER PRICE).

Commissioner Price said, I felt a sense of urgency to bring this matter before the Board of Commissioners in that there wasn't a whole lot of discussion or notice given or consultation or even in a spirit of compromise from our staff with the Board of Education about doing this, and in fact I've learned and, Russ [Abolt], when you came out and discussed this in my office with David Saussy and me and I asked you at that point in time whether the Tax Commissioner himself had recommended this increase in the collection fees, that you said no, he hadn't, that it was your idea. And I, you know, I'm glad to hear that and I think that the general public needs to know that because a lot of heat has been placed on the Tax Commissioner in an unwarranted way, but beyond that I'll say this, if you were to bring this recommendation to us and not have consulted with the Tax Commissioner likewise, and he's the one responsible —, the constitutional officer responsible for collecting that fee, I'd have some reservations about why you were bringing this as an alternative to us without having had the opportunity to discuss it with the Tax Commissioner.

County Manager Abolt said, I don't want to be defensive about the whole thing, but yes it's my suggestion. I have a responsibility to present alternatives. I did discuss it with Tax Commissioner Powers at one of the two reviews I had of his budget. I told him at that time that I would recommend it even regardless of how he felt because I felt it was my responsibility to uncover every option you would have in going through a very, very difficult budget process. I don't think it's being premature to give you the highlights of the budgets and certainly that's document's been available for a while, but I can only tell you, because I've worked with you for as long as I have, that I want to do everything I can to get you to preserve the options until you've seen the entire budget and you're ready to make a motion.

Commissioner Price said, well, and that's —, you're right about that, and that's something that we all need to consider today. This is a heated issue right here in front of us, but the bottom line is no decisions will be made today. I do —, I will and, as you probably know, have already voiced to you my opposition to this, but beyond that I hope that whatever the discussion and the information that's provided in dialogue here, that we tone it down with the understanding that this is just an alternative. It's not a solid recommendation even from staff. It's one of many alternatives, and I will say this, Russ [Abolt], I think once we look at those other alternatives and in fact have the good news today that almost \$400,000 is coming back from the library system, so that's got to help. I mean, that's got to help in some respect. But my point is, in the future I would hope that there's a greater level of cooperation between us and the Board of Education in communicating these —.

County Manager Abolt said, I don't want to be defensive, but I want to explain. This is a budget proposal I made. It's a budget proposal that attempts to identify sources of revenue. I did, as you all know, give you summary sheets well before the budget document was available. I also went and talked to those agencies affected, including the Superintendent, and she graciously received me and I explained it. You use the term compromise. I don't view at this stage, we're talking about compromise, you're talking about balancing a very complex budget, a budget that has many implications far beyond even what you've heard today. It's my responsibility not to work out the details with those affected at this level. That's why we have workshops. That's why we, in effect, have several weeks of deliberation, but for me to go out in advance of coming to you would, number one, catch you by surprise and, number two, may not give you a full range of options because this budget will have some very unpopular decisions associated with it.

Commissioner Price said, okay, I understand, Russ [Abolt], and I'm not trying to argue with you, but this is another entity, another government that's being affected by what this would be if it were to be a final decision. That's my point. County Manager Abolt said, thank you. Commissioner Price I would like for us to listen to the presentation that the Board has, Board of Education.

Commissioner Jackel asked, why do you say we should listen if you're mind's made up. Commissioner Price said, well, I mean —. Commissioner Jackel said, I want to listen and my mind's open, but your's is made up. Maybe you need to take a break. Commissioner Price said, well, maybe you'd understand that —, you're understanding of what I understand is different. I mean, it just may be. [Unintelligible comments when both Commissioner Price and Commissioner Jackel were speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Price said, I just want to give them the opportunity for them to make a presentation. That's why I asked it placed on the agenda.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you. Gentlemen, I do think that it's very fair that we give the Board an opportunity to make a statement, or whomever would like to speak, to give them an opportunity to share that information with us, and given that I am going to now call the President, Mrs. Cantor, back to the podium.

Commissioner Odell said, before Mrs. Cantor —, it relates solely to what Ben [Price] said. It does not relate necessarily to their proposal. But I'd like to make just a couple of comments. Vice Chairman Thomas said, could you just —, one moment please. And you wanted to make a comment? Commissioner Rivers said, I need to make a response. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, Russ Abolt's obligation is to the Chatham County Commissioners. His obligation is to provide us alternatives. Russ Abolt does not make the final decision. Commissioner Price said, that's true. Commissioner Odell said, if you look at what's going on in Bibb County, look at what's going on in Muscogee, Clarke, Richmond and Glynn, they have the same, that 2.5 is allotted and that's what they're [inaudible]. I think it was prudent of Russ Abolt to look at that and provide that as an option. I do not think that there is a Commissioner up here who wants to handicap or harm the Board of Education, but it's two separate things. What are our options which he is a professional and very expert in that area. He has an obligation to tell us. I don't want our Commissioner Murray to believe that a potential proposal that should come to us must be cleared by the Board of Education. That is not his obligation and that is not my thought as to procedurally how things should be done. They have a role. This Commission has a separate role. This is an alternative, it is not a decision made. We're just looking at options, and we'll have plenty of opportunity to go through the budgeting process and we might ultimately say that we don't want to do this and not do that, or we might say we need to change it or alter it in some way. Information is chief to decision-making and Russ [Abolt] has provided information, and he's taken a lot of unnecessary heat for it and, you know, I applaud you, Mr. Abolt, for what you've done and I appreciate it in that I need information to make an intelligent decision, and I don't want you to think that you have to have the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Education decision —, approval before you bring something to us. Their roles are separate and distinct from our role, and this is within our role, it's within our bailiwick, and you have fulfilled your obligation. We must fulfill ours by making a decision as to whether this is rational or not rational in light and considerate of the fact that we'd be in the middle of their budget year, which to them would be unfair and which to the citizens might be unfair. No decision needs to be made today. We need to think and review and listen to their proposal and collect information. And I appreciate all of them being here, especially Billy Knight, who's a 22-year [inaudible].

Commissioner Rivers said, I ditto what Commissioner Odell just said. This is a consequence of things that we have done and, as Eddie DeLoach says, it's time to bite the bullet, so we have to look at all the alternatives and then we can decipher those which we want to use. I don't want the Board of Education to panic because this is not D-Day. There will be plenty of time within this budget process that if we come to a conclusion to use those feels, then the time to fight it is when we're about to act on it and put it into the budgetary process. This is just a recommendation and that's it, but this Board here is going to have to deal with what they did in the past. It's coming home to roost and we've got to deal with it, we've got to find money that we're giving away, and hopefully we won't shift it to you, but who knows?

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, now we will recognize the President of the Board.

Mrs. Diane Cantor said, Dr. Thomas, members of the Commission, and I would particularly like to address my remarks to Youth Commissioner, Miss Drexel, because what we're here to talk about today is the future of education for the young people of Chatham County, and I want to thank you all for allowing us to be on the agenda. We did learn about this only very recently, and I'd first like to say that I'm very pleased that we have a unanimous opinion which we will present today. Every single Board member is not here, but most of them are here and I would like to recognize them. We have our officers, our Vice President Billy Knight, our Vice President Pro Tem Jessie Collier DeLoach, Lori Brady, David Wegmann,

Janie Fowles, and of course our Superintendent Virginia Edwards, and we have our Chief Financial Officer Jack Wardlaw and our presentation today you will hear first from me and also from the Superintendent and from Mr. Wardlaw since he has carefully analyzed these figures so that what we would be presenting to you today is not rhetoric, but fact, and I would like to say to you that an increase from a 1% collection fee to a 2.5% collection fee results in about a \$1.5 million loss to public education. You also need to understand that as you sensitively described, Commissioner Odell, we are in the middle of the budget year and our budget is a very tight budget and it's not a matter of —, it really means substantially reducing educational programs and support staff and really significant matters to our current programs. It's not trimming the fat off of anything, there is no fat. We're already on Lean Cuisine. This is a matter of really being —, of taking essential programs out. I would also like to quote back to Joe Murray Rivers' statement wherein he said in a time of peace you need to prepare for war. We realize this is not D-Day and we only learned about this very recently. Actually, October 22nd we heard about this. We devoted an entire session of our informal sessions on Wednesday to the discussion of this matter, and we had State Legislators, because this is an issue about the ceiling on these collections fees is a State issue as well, and we are preparing. I would like to recommend that certainly we realize that the Board of Education does not control the County Commission, we understand that and that our feelings are our opinions; however, as far as open dialogue, I think this is a beginning and I do strongly recommend that if something is going to be put in place that so strongly changes the funding for a major entity in the community that that is something that needs to be discussed. We were informed. Russ Abolt told our Superintendent and then that was transmitted to us, but it was not a matter of discussion, and I firmly think that it needs discussion. We will be glad to respond to your questions today and we do have facts to present, and I would at this point like to recognize the Superintendent who will read our resolution. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

Superintendent Virginia Edwards said, good morning, Dr. Thomas and County Commissioners, Mr. Abolt. I want to thank Mr. Abolt for meeting with me to apprise me of what potentially could be a position that I needed to inform our School Board President of and our Board members. At our Board meeting on Wednesday, November the 3rd, we entered a resolution which reads:

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools are opposed to the proposed increase of the tax collection fees from 1% to 2½% as of January 1, 2000. This represents a 150% increase and is not equitable or commensurate with the services being provided. This is a shifting of costs and a hidden tax increase of .3 mills. This is a mid-year increase that would disrupt the education process caused by a funding decrease, more specifically, the reduction of enrichment programs, and reduction to support services/personnel and supplies would be affected.

Superintendent Edwards said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Mr. Jack Wardlaw.

Mr. Wardlaw said, good morning. Mr. Knight passed out a copy of our presentation. This is really a very simple issue as far as financial. It's more difficult politically. The financial implications for the Board and to the County Commission on an annual basis, the Tax Commissioner's office collects \$100 million for the Board of Education. Currently we are charged 1%. That equals a million dollars and that number has been consistent for the last four to five years. If the way it is changed, then the Board would pay \$2.5 million, an increase of \$1.5 million or a .3 mill shifting of cost or tax to the Board of Education. I'd like to get into the presentation, but the first item I'd like to go over is why are we here. About three years ago there was a House Bill, or a bill that was repealed, and it was Bill 48-5-404. That bill put caps on what the Tax Commissioner's office could charge local Board of Educations [sic]. It had —, the caps were based upon categories of population. Our area was basically 190 through 300,000 in population you paid 1%. Anything below that you paid 2½%, and there's been some discussion about some other counties that are paying 2½%. The reason they're paying 2½% is they fell below that 190 population rate in 1970 census, so they will always be paying that 2½%. We talked about Muscogee earlier. We called Muscogee about a week ago and they have always been paying 2½% because they fell below the level that allowed that to happen, and that's why we're here today because that law has been repealed whereas in some of the counties up in the State of Georgia right now up around Atlanta, and we'll get into that, were capped at 1.9% because you look at the county populations and how they shift around the City of Atlanta, there's multiple counties there, and so that law was kind of built for them, but it was also built for Chatham County. And when the law got changed, this law got repealed, and so we think it was by accident, but it got done and here we are. But basically what we are now under the law and the new law allows a flat 2½%, from zero to 2½%. It is not a mandatory 2½%. It is a zero to 2½% and we'll show you that in just a minute. Now the tax collection fees on the next graph show you that for the last five years and for 1999 the Tax Commissioner's office will collect about a million dollars [sic]. Has been, will be, and I this year I think it's going to be about \$97 million. Next year we're projecting for 2000 to be a little over a hundred million. So the math is real easy. It doesn't take a lot of, you know, a rocket scientist to figure that math out. It's going to be an increase of 150% or \$1.5 million.

Mr. Wardlaw said, the issue is that it's also a mid-term situation because of your —, the Commission's election to go into a stub period for a budget for a six-month period. So that creates a problem for us. If you look at the adjustment that you're proposing, it's about \$565,000 for the stub period. Well, if you hit us in the middle of a year, that's almost like double that number because we only have half a year to work with to make those cuts. So that creates a problem, and what y'all are wrestling with right now is your current year's budget. So, you know, when you make a cut in the middle of the year, it's difficult, very difficult, and especially difficult for the Board of Education when you look at 80% of our costs are salaries, contractual salaries that we have with teachers. We can't get out of those contracts. They are agreements that this Board

has made and we have to live by them. We can't back out of those. So we have other constraints that maybe y'all as a Commission don't have.

Mr. Wardlaw said, the next issue relates to who does the Commissioner collect taxes for, and we've given you that list. Basically it's like four entities, but it breaks down to basically three entities. It basically —, the Commissioner's office collects taxes for the County, for the Board of Education and one municipality. Tax collection fees are a cost of the Commission —, of the Tax Commissioner's office. As you can see, we've given you that data. Basically the office cost has risen from \$1.7 million to a budgeted amount, and I have to stipulate, this is a budgeted amount for 1999 of 2.6. I had a discussion with Danny [Powers] earlier in the week. He says his actual cost will be about 2.3 this year. So those aren't actual numbers, only just, you know, they'll be in the state of limbo until the end of the year. You have a couple more months in your budget.

The next chart, if the fee increase is put into place and you go to 2.5, and if Danny's [Powers] budget is \$2.6 million this year, you can see we would be paying 99% of that budget, of that total office. If his cost is \$2.3 million, then we will be paying 109% of the budget. Now we don't think that's fair nor equitable, but that's the facts. So the next chart that we gave you are other counties and what fees they're being collected on a percentage basis. As you can see, Liberty County they're not even charged —, the Board of Education is not even charged. I mean, they're at zero. Atlanta City, which is a fairly large school district, in the State of Georgia, it's in the top 10, is 1%. Savannah is 1%, Cobb 1.4, DeKalb —, Gwinnett is 1.5, DeKalb is 1.9, Bibb and the rest of these are the ones that fell into that 190 population category so they started out at 2.5, and they've always been 2.5. We give you —, the next chart shows you —, we give you some information on the Tax Assessor's office. That had been a point of discussion. When we talked to some other counties, because that's a service y'all provide. It's a constitutional service that the county is responsible for. That —, and we give you the cost, but we also show you what services or municipalities and other governments that entity provides services for, and it's a much more expansive list. So we really don't consider that to even be a subject of conversation, but we thought —, we wanted to head it —, hit it head on.

In summary, we have some issues here that I want to summarize real quick. Again, this is a middle of the year budget request. Very difficult for us. It creates a great deal of concern because when you extrapolate the cost reduction, you only have six months to absorb it, and that's about a million dollars when you look at it over six months. This is an effective .3 mill shifting or hidden tax increase. The County Commission is providing the services right now. If you don't roll back your millage, then you've pushed that cost to the Board of Education. In effect, we would have to go up by .3 mills to cover the one —, this is only the 1.5 million that we're talking about. So, in essence, if it shifts to us, we would have to go up. There's one problem: we can't go up that much. We're capped at 20 mills. This is a cost transfer from the County to the Board of Education for a function already being provided, and I'd like to also mention that this was a similar situation that happened with the Resource Officers. That was a million dollar transfer that we absorbed two years ago. We came to the Commission —, some of the Board members came to the Commission at that point and had a discussion on that issue. We absorbed those costs because we think those services being provided are vital to the functioning operations of our schools, and I don't believe anybody would disagree with that.

Commissioner Jackel said, I disagree. I disagreed at the time. Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I did too. Commissioner Jackel said, we had the people up here and I asked them what these officers did. We never got an explanation. How can I fund people that I don't know what they do? Mr. Wardlaw said, well, we can bring you the data. Commissioner Jackel said, well, maybe you can now, but nobody could at the time. Mr. Wardlaw said, now that they report to us, we can bring you the data. We have that data and we'll be glad to do that at some —, but now we absorb that cost because they are vital to our operation. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's what we thought would happen was once you were in control, you'd get some work out of them. We couldn't figure out what their mission was or what they were doing. Mr. Wardlaw said, but they are vital. They do help create a safe environment for our kids, and we'll be glad to make a presentation on that issue because our Chief of Police does a great job of tracking those people. We have good rapport with them in the schools. They help the safe environment there. We could bring kids here who could tell you how they help. Commissioner Jackel said, what I —, and I don't want to belabor this issue, but you brought up an issue that we just transferred funds with no reason. We had two officers at each school and that never made any sense to me. Mr. Wardlaw said, that's not —, we had one officer —. Commissioner Jackel said, one officer. Mr. Wardlaw said, one officer at high schools and middle schools, not at any elementary schools.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, that's not a part of the —.

Mr. Wardlaw said, but that's not why we're here today. There's neither a savings nor result of any efficiencies created by the County government. Again, this is just like you said, this is a shifting. That's exactly what you just said, it's a shifting. Will result in the Board of Education funding virtually the entire cost of the Tax Commissioner function for the County. May impact future funding initiatives with the community, Board of Education becomes the government which raises millage rate, not County. Those are our concerns. We are here in a spirit of —, to be fair, but it is an issue that it's very easy to discern the facts. It's not an easy issue to resolve them, and I believe we'll open up for any questions at this time.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, Jack [Wardlaw], do you —, based on what you presented us today, would you —, based on the amount of monies you receive from the Tax Assessor's office, and regardless of what the numbers are and just saying what the percentages, if you collect —, if we collect 50% or if you spent 50% of the tax collected, would you agree to fund the Tax Commissioner's office 50%, or if you collect 60% would you agree to fund the Tax Commissioner's office 60%, or vice versa? In other words, when it —, up until this came up, for instance, in '97 and '98 and questioning the numbers and, you know, everybody's got their own numbers, but with the 1% that was being charged, it was basically looking like you were responsible for 32% of the budget, but only —, you were collecting 66% of the numbers. Do you think we ought to —, is there some way in there we can work towards some kind of compromise there? Mr. Wardlaw said, that's a Board —, you're asking a staff person and I can't answer. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's fine, but I —. Mrs. Cantor said, that certainly is a Board decision and it's something that would have to be discussed with all the Board members, but that's a much more equitable proposition than what's being proposed now. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mrs. Cantor said, as Mr. Wardlaw's proposition showed at this point, we are being basically asked to fund the entire cost of tax collection, and we don't feel that's equitable. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, so we just —, but basically we need to just sit down and hash around this thing and see where we really are. Mrs. Cantor said, we need to have a very candid discussion of that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Mrs. Cantor said, and we do ask you to take very seriously what that means. I think the quote that was made earlier that we're under contract, a huge part of our budget is salaries and we cannot break these contracts with certificated employees, so I think you need to look at the fact that one of the things that means is it puts a real slam on support services, on supplies on our support personnel. Those are the kinds of things that can be very devastating to what the quality is like. I'm glad to see you nodding. I know you've been there, and those are the things that happen on a school by school basis, and it can be very devastating [inaudible]. Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want to point out this is a long process that we're fixing to get into and I'm sure we'll be back to y'all and work out some kind of compromise that's satisfactory not only to y'all but us also, and we'll move down the road long term.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we're going to go in this order: Commissioner Jackel, Commissioner Odell and Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Jackel said, my position on this thing is pretty much that we should not be making any money off the School Board. Whatever our costs are, that's what we should ask you to bear. We're performing this service because the State requires us to perform it, but we shouldn't be in it to make any money. Whatever it costs, this ought to be a pass-through cost, and I'm not sure what that is, but, I mean, that's the philosophy I'm coming from. We shouldn't prepare it —, perform this service at a loss or we shouldn't perform it for free —. Commissioner DeLoach said, right. Commissioner Jackel said, but whatever our true cost is, and Eddie's [DeLoach] idea sounds somewhat reasonable to me, and I'm of the opinion too whatever we do shouldn't be until your budget year comes into effect because you've already committed money and expectations, so I would think if we could move towards that, we would have a chance to work out some numbers that reflect what our real cost is because we don't make a profit off of anything, I don't know why we ought to make it off of y'all. So I think that's a consistent philosophy that I have. If we could work towards that I think we could quickly reach compromise on this thing. Mrs. Cantor said, we're glad to hear that point of view and hope that others on the Commission will also share that point of view. Commissioner DeLoach said, I would think we [inaudible].

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, as the Board of Education would agree, I was conferring with members of the Board of Education. I think first that the presentation that you all presented was an excellent presentation and you're to be complimented on your collection of information and the thoroughness of the collection of information. I think that that's going to be very helpful in our making a studied decision. Mrs. Cantor said, Commissioner Odell, we appreciate that. As we try to tell our children in schools, we try to do our homework. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I wish we all did. Commissioner Odell said, you're kind of speaking to the choir when you think that Dr. Thomas, an educator, Dr. Hair, an educator, and most of us —, Ben Price on the School Board, Eddie [DeLoach] and myself have kids in elementary education, and Eddie's mom is a principal, so you're kind of preaching to the choir. I want to assure you that there's no effort, should be no effort by this Commission to make one dime to shift costs inappropriately to the Board of Education nor to jeopardize your obligations which are already set in stone. Your contracts are in essence set in stone with the teachers and others, and you have projected a certain amount of revenue. I understand that. No decision has been made. As I said earlier, Mr. Abolt's obligation is to provide information. We will make the decision. We will make the decision that we live in the same community that you live in. If this community is to grow and prosper, we must have a viable educational system, competitive. Cutting it in mid-year does not support the thought that you want a viable and competitive educational system. This is information, we go into our process, and we have some decisions to make, and I'm grateful to your providing —, this is really good. I'm really pleased with it. Jack [Wardlaw], did you do this? Mr. Wardlaw said, staff —. Commissioner Odell said, don't be modest now.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, commissioner, are you through? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Commissioner Saussy and then Commissioner Rivers and Tax Commissioner Powers.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. I would agree that you pay your fair share as you should, as Eddie [DeLoach] had brought out. One question that I have, and I guess this has to come from Mr. Abolt or the Tax Commissioner. In your budget is the new building costs in that? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Saussy asked, they're not in there? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. The costs of the building is coming from a source

other than M&O. Remember on the new building we're referring to is the one that will be constructed on the site of the Air National Guard property on Eisenhower. Commissioner Saussy said, right. County Manager Abolt said, there was money set aside when the Administrative Annex was built off of Chatham Parkway to cover the remodeling of the facilities. That has been augmented slightly by, in effect, some SPLOST money and I believe also that we're looking at the possibility of some bond funds, but it is not a part of the operation budget at this time. Commissioner Saussy said, okay. The other thing that may, and it depends on what we do today, I think we've got it on the docket today, is the situation with Freeport. County Manager Abolt said, it will not be on, sir —. Commissioner Saussy asked, it will not be on today? County Manager Abolt said, on the 19th. The 19th, sir. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that might be something to consider there also. I don't know whether that will or not.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I want to thank y'all for the information that you're providing here. Hopefully in the future when we have an issue like this that comes up, I would appreciate it if I could have some dialogue not in an open meeting where we don't have a lot of time to decipher all the things that's here and ask all the questions that we would like to ask. I think it would make it more palatable, you would understand it better, we would understand it better, and we can look at what we've got and we can make a —, hopefully a good decision on this. I don't think, in my opinion, I don't want to overburden you as we have overburdened us with rolling back the taxes in the middle of the year so that we have to scrape around and look for funds, and I know what an encumbrance it is and I know what the Manager's going through. He's searching and feeling for any source that he can find. Rightly, justly or unjustly, he has brought it back to us, and that decision lies with us to make whether we will accept his recommendation or whether we will not. Very frankly, reading this Board right now, I don't see five up here that may go along with that. So dialogue is always good and I hope in the future that we would do this prior to an open meeting.

Mrs. Cantor said, I would just like to say that we certainly do not perceive ourselves to be in an adversarial role with the County Commission, and we want to have that kind of dialogue, and I'll also say that when we talk about being —, thinking and planning during a time of peace for war, we see ourselves working with you to battle for the children of Chatham County for their education.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I believe Commissioner Powers is next. Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I just make a comment? I wanted to just say as far as the dialogue is concerned, I've had some good discussions with a couple of them. I had to call Lori [Brady] back yesterday and make sure she didn't mix me up with my party emblem because we got through the discussion I just wanted to make sure she was okay long term, but it was a good discussion. It was honest, frank, and that's just the way I do it, but there's always room for compromise.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioner Powers and then Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Odell said, we should say that Danny [Powers] is not to blame.

Tax Commissioner Danny Powers said, I just want to kind of make a point here. I've been kind of caught in the crossfire on this issue both by the —, some members of our prestiged School Board and even our newspaper. Commissioner Rivers asked, don't you have thick skin? Tax Commissioner Powers said, some times you do and some times you don't. But I do want to clarify that. I had nothing to do with this issue, folks. Okay? Other than the fact that when it boils down, I'm not sure it's clear what the law says whether I have to sign off on any increase if there is one. I do want to state this. We're in the process now of completing that Tag Office, and it was my hopes in the Spring to go to the School Board to help fund the additional staffing that it's going to take to bring that facility to its —, to the level that it should be, and if this happens and this increase takes effect on this level, then I'm kind of blown out of the waters. I want you to keep that in mind in well, and I think the School Board is receptive of my proposal of coming back. We're going to have a state of the art tag facility out on Eisenhower that has been completely neglected, which you're well aware of, for years and years. Okay? The citizens are owed first-class service and I intend to bring it to them. So I did want to clear those few facts up for you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just want to say thank you so much for coming up here. I know y'all are like me, you have one too many meetings to go to, and I really appreciate the great, terrific turnout, how many people are here, and that you've taken the time to do this. I think that speaks volumes about your dedication to the County and the school system in the County. Thank you for being here.

Mrs. Cantor said, we thank you for our time —, for the time and the suggestion that we would like to make is that perhaps rather than having such a large discussion, that maybe a panel could be put together from the members of the County Commission and members of the School Board to sit down and talk about this with some of our financial people on both sides if that's something you might consider if you wanted to. Commissioner DeLoach said, I would rather —, you know, unfortunately, I would think each individual Commissioner would want the information. I don't think we need to get up a small group and let them disseminate what we think we need to vote. We're going to have to have everybody —, I've got to understand it to vote on it, and I think most of us here would want to hear —, all of us would want to hear that information from y'all. Mrs. Cantor said, maybe some preliminary kind of discussions, not to make a decision obviously, but just to kind

of work out some of the features. That's kind of a working group, but it's just a suggestion. Commissioner DeLoach said, sure, whatever.

Commissioner Price said, Chairman Hair would probably have to make —, help make that decision. In his absence I think we just need to wait and maybe speak with him about it when he gets back. Vice Chairman Thomas said, exactly. I would want to give him that opportunity.

Commissioner Odell said, this isn't a multiple issue. This is just one big bite-size issue and that is that we share one \$1.5 million in cost to you all or not. I mean, it's not a lot of little bite-size issues, but we need to make a determination as to (a) whether or not we're going to go on a cost-sharing and that cost-sharing is that if you're 60%, do you pay 60%, yadda, yadda, yadda [phonetic], or do we leave it as is [inaudible] propose in-kind as it would affect you, as it would affect us, so I agree with Eddie [DeLoach]. I don't think it's little bite-size issues, it's one big major decision and I don't want a subcommittee to think it through for me. I'd like to be able to have all of the information and make a studied decision.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we're going to have one other comment from Commissioner Saussy and then we want to try to wrap this up.

Commissioner Saussy said, I was just going to say that each one of us has a district and we have the same districts, it looks to me like that those elected officials in those districts could get together once in awhile and just discuss what the problems are. We have not done that. Commissioner Price said, we've got our counterparts.

Mrs. Cantor said, well, we are happy to meet in any way that you wish and we thank you for your time and I hope your meetings don't last as long as ours do because we've taken quite a bit of your time.

Commissioner Price said, well, the last thing, if I may. Gentlemen and Dr. Thomas, this is one alternative that we're looking at. Until we have the chance to look at all the other alternatives we don't even know if we have to do any of this, so keep an open mind about that, okay, because this is just one of the major alternatives that the Manager has given. Commissioner DeLoach said, I do think we ought to keep an open mind though.

Commissioner Rivers said, one of you said bite-size, Mrs. Cantor said Lean Cuisine. It looks like they've got a big chicken to pluck.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioner Rivers. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Superintendent and the Board President and all of the Board members and staff for coming to us this morning and sharing your concerns and also some recommendations. I think with the continued open dialogue we can achieve whatever we need to achieve for the boys and girls and also for the citizens of Chatham County, and we look forward to continued working with you. Thank you so very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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3. ADDING CHATHAM PARKWAY TO PROTECTED CORRIDOR PROHIBITING BILLBOARDS (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Commissioner DeLoach said, I brought this up, do want to speak on this, Bill [Saxman]? Are you interested in speaking on that before we get cranked up on it?

Mr. Bill Saxman said, if you've got any questions I'll be glad to try to answer them. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, what I'm doing is the Chatham Parkway. I'm trying to line it up as far as making sure it's part of the area that we will not have billboards protruding out into the roadway, and I wanted to bring it to you attention and ask y'all to support this so that we don't have such a clutter along Chatham Parkway because it does connect into Veteran's Parkway and that is one that we do not have any billboards placed, and I just thought it would be nice to make sure we try to keep that area as uncluttered as possible with these large billboards, and I'd ask for your support on this.

County Manager Abolt said, if y'all agree with this it would be a motion to refer to MPC.

Mr. Saxman said, okay, if I may just make one summary statement. We are in the process of working on a sign ordinance up for both the City and the County. In fact, I have a meeting with the Mayor and Aldermen next Friday and one of the issues is to revise this map which was just handed out to you. I've got an overlay map here that staff is working with and, of course, as you can see from this map, anything that's indicated in red does prohibit billboards at the current time, anything that's green restricts billboards, only three billboards at the intersection. The other roadways basically do not allow billboards, and we are in the process of going back and reevaluating this. The property came up the other day, MPC has zoned these P-D. The Planning Commission has final control of any outdoor signs in a P-D district, so in summary they found that that

billboard was out of character and recommended denial of it. They did also recommend, based on staff's recommendation, that we go back and reclassify that road, so we are in the process of doing that.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, okay, with that in mind I want to make that —, do I need to make a motion? I make that motion. County Manager Abolt said, I'll give you help here, the Board make the motion and refer it to MPC. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, I want to make that motion. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner DeLoach said, call the question.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion was carried unanimously.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

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

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

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

None.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (1993-1998) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$24,000 TO THE NO WAKE ZONE PROJECT; CONFISCATED FUNDS TRANSFERS TOTALING \$4,280 FROM CNT CONTINGENCY TO THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM FOR COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND BUILDING MODIFICATIONS; A SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (1985-1993) CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$30,000 TO POOLER PARKWAY, PHASE I; A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (1998-2003) FUND TO RECOGNIZE \$800,000 IN REVENUE AND TO APPROPRIATE \$400,000 FOR COASTAL GEORGIA GREENWAY - MULTI-USE TRAILS AND \$400,000 FOR TOM TRIPLETT COMMUNITY PARK TRAIL AND OGEECHEE CANAL MASTER PLAN, AND A TRANSFER OF \$17,000 FROM THE 1993-1998 SPLOST UNINCORPORATED ROADS TO THE CENTRAL AVENUE, CHEROKEE AVENUE, SAUSSY AVENUE AND SMITH DRIVE PAVING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS.**

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion let it be know by voting for it. Commissioner Price said, wait a minute, wait a minute. Commissioner Saussy should abstain from voting on that. Commissioner Saussy said, I don't have anything to do with that. Commissioner Price said, Saussy Avenue. Commissioner Saussy said, I didn't really have anything to do with that. Commissioner Price said, all right. Vice Chairman Thomas said, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried unanimously.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (1993-1998) contingency transfer of \$24,000 to the No Wake Zone Project; Confiscated Funds transfers totaling \$4,280 from CNT Contingency to the Counter Narcotics Team for computer software and building modifications; a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (1985-1993) contingency transfer of \$30,000 to Pooler Parkway, Phase I; a budget amendment to the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (1998-2003) fund to recognize \$800,000 in revenue and to appropriate \$400,000 for Coastal Georgia Greenway - Multi-use Trails and \$400,000 for Tom Triplett Community Park Trail and Ogeechee Canal Master Plan, and a transfer of \$17,000 from the 1993-1998 SPLOST Unincorporated roads to the Central Avenue, Cherokee Avenue, Saussy Avenue and Smith Drive Paving and Drainage Improvements Projects. Commissioner Price

seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Murray were not present.]

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2. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT A RESOLUTION THAT AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY AND THE DOWNTOWN SAVANNAH AUTHORITY, APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE HIGHEST BID WITH THE LOWEST INTEREST EXPENSE AND AUTHORIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE OFFICIAL BOND STATEMENT AND OTHER REQUIRED CLOSING DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE \$9.3 MILLION BOND ISSUANCE. (*Bids will be opened on Thursday, the 4th of November with results provided at Friday's meeting.*)

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, it's number two on the Individual Action Calendar. I'd like to have Mr. Persaud come forward. I will introduce it only as very good news to us. The County has retained its double-A bond rating and as a result of that we've had some very competitive proposals on the \$9.3 million in debt. The lowest bid is from First Union, just under 5.6%. There are certain procedures that have to be followed by the number, so I want Mr. Persaud and Ms. McNabb to come forward to ensure the appropriate resolutions are passed so this all can be consummated and, in effect, the taxpayers will benefit from this outstanding proposal.

Mr. David Persaud said, good morning. The action in front of you this morning is to accept the bond resolution, the governmental agreement, as well as the project budget for the construction fund. All of the documentation are in the staff report and we'll be glad to answer any questions you have.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a motion.

Commissioner Price said, I have a question. David [Persaud] or Dianne [McNabb] either one. It looks like rates are continuing to go down. Even this morning we saw unemployment numbers that came out in line and the bond market was rallying and rates were heading lower, the [inaudible] bond looked like it's going to go under six today. It looks like, you know, a lot of strategists and economists are predicting getting back into the five and a half range into the first half of next year, and particularly with this issue the rates that's quoted here, is that the rate we are accepting or is there a better rate that we could expect if the markets improve between now and the time of issue? Ms. McNabb said, if the rates —, the rate that you're accepting today is in fact the rate that will apply to that bond issue. If rates were to decrease, then you would have an opportunity to refund this debt and enter into a lower interest rate debt. Commissioner Price asked, at what time? Ms. McNabb said, whenever interest rates reach the appropriate point to make that a cost effective —. Commissioner Price asked, so basically we're accepting this rate today? Ms. McNabb said, yes. Commissioner Price said, okay. Ms. McNabb said, but we're real lucky because had we done this a week ago or a month ago, rates would have been significantly higher. So we couldn't have timed it better if we had done it intentionally. So —.

Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask this question. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers asked, at what point would we refinance —, if we're coming in at five points today, at what point would you consider refinancing? Ms. McNabb said, I would think that interest rates would probably have to drop maybe a hundred basis points to make refunding cost effective. So if interest rates were to drop to that point —, it's got to generate enough savings to make it cost effective. Just like your home mortgage, when you go to refinance your home mortgage you have certain costs that are associated with that and you naturally would not refinance until interest rates hit a certain level. We're hoping that interest rates will continue to decline into next year, and we will continue as we always do to monitor all of the County's outstanding debts at those opportunities.

Mr. Persaud said, Commissioner Rivers, if I may, to threshold as one responding whenever you can accomplish savings of three to five percent range on the outstanding issue, that's the benchmark where for any advance refunding and until we reach that point, we won't be able to.

Commissioner Price said, call the question.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, all those in favor of the motion please vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's unanimous, the motion passes.

County Manager Abolt said, for the record, may I show that you adopted Alternatives 1 and 2.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt the bond resolution and a resolution that authorizes the execution of the intergovernmental agreement between Chatham County and the Downtown Savannah Authority, approve the acceptance of the highest bid with the lowest interest expense and authorize the distribution of the official bond statement and other required closing documents associated with the \$9.3 million bond issuance, and adopt the Project Budget for the Bond Construction Fund. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM LIBRARY TO RECOGNIZE ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENTS FOR A 4% RAISE FOR STATE-FUNDED POSITIONS AND ADD A LIBRARIAN I IN LIBERTY COUNTY.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it has been moved and seconded. All in favor of the motion, please vote. Opposes? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carries.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, can I ask something on that? When we do that, I understand it's State funded positions, what effect does that have on the local funded? County Manager Abolt said, we do not have any funding at all, but Liberty County picks up the difference. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's a flow through. Commissioner Saussy said, Liberty. County Manager Abolt said, as a three-county budget you are responsible for having those funds come in even though, you know, there's no financial impact on our budget. Commissioner DeLoach said, ten-four.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from the Library to recognize additional reimbursements for a 4% raise for state-funded positions and add a Librarian I in Liberty County. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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4. PRESENT TO THE BOARD THE BEST SOLID WASTE SERVICE PROVISION PROPOSAL FOR RESIDENTS OF CHATHAM COUNTY.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we really don't need any action on this one.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, you'll recall several months ago there was discussions as to new directions in solid waste. I am very pleased to announce that today we'll give you an abbreviated presentation on documentation you're already received earlier this week. It's a new direction and that new direction is emphasizing recycling as early as the middle of next year. It is a major policy departure. No action is requested today, but we wanted to keep you posted on something we feel will have great returns for all concerned in this County and our neighboring Counties. County Manager Abolt recognized Mr. Drewry.

Mr. Robert Drewry said, good morning. You'll recall last June, I believe it was, you asked us to develop a plan for our best proposal for solid waste in Chatham County. With MPC's assistance we have developed such a plan and will present it to you. You have the facts and findings, I believe, in front of you. Right now we're kind of riding on the waves of success for the yard waste program. I think you can probably —, we can prove to you that in the last three or four months we've saved over \$100,000 that we would have been on the hook for for disposal fees, so we're quite proud of that. Commissioner Odell said, that's wonderful. Mr. Drewry said, thank you very much. We also found out that we're actually handling less than eight percent of the solid waste stream in Chatham County, and that forced us to kind of look at this thing globally, if you will, versus just dry trash only. So I'm going to let Virginia [Lamb] come up and give you some of the outline of the plan.

Ms. Virginia Lamb said, Dr. Thomas, Commissioners, this morning I'm really happy to be able to share with you the fact that last month as a result of both our activities at curbside as well as drop-off and, of course, as a result of our brush with Hurricane Floyd that we actually recycled and diverted from the landfills over 3,200 tons of materials from which we would have been on the hook, as Robert [Drewry] said, for \$22.50 a ton. If you did the multiplication there, that's a lot of money, and it brought our overall savings over \$120,000. In just three months time we have been able to cost avoid those tipping charges because, remember, we no longer have any internal capacity. The first thing I would like to tell you is a brief personal story. When I grew up I grew up in a very small town and I was blessed, or cursed as the case may be, with having grandparents near, and one of the things that they always liked to impress upon me was how wonderful back in the good old days and so one day, being the precocious child that I was, decided to skate on really thin ice and ask my grandfather

exactly how he really felt about the good old days, and he looked kind of puzzled by that question and he said, "Well, you know, they really weren't so good, but I like the way it felt." And I'm going to ask you to take that mind set about our solid waste issue here in Chatham County. What's before you right now is a picture of a pie chart of the waste stream of Chatham County. These are the items that we pick up. Actually about 25% of the waste stream is yard waste and bulky items, but out of that Chatham County only picks up the very light purple and the very light green, which indicates that we're only picking a little, around 8%, and for that you're spending \$2 million a year. We have been so mind set myopically focusing on we have to have a truck running up and down the street so that we can provide some kind of service so that everyone feels that they're getting something for their tax dollars that are hard at work. We have been —, it has become so ingrained in us that we have sort of lost sight that there is more to solid waste than merely yard waste and bulky items, and I would point out to you that the entire rest of this, include another 13% of yard waste and bulky items, are what makes up the composite picture of yard waste —, of all municipal solid waste in Chatham County, and we cannot go along any longer myopically viewing two relatively small sections of the waste stream and calling that a solid waste service. You have been provided in your packet for today two tables, one that shows what municipalities in Chatham County provide as far as solid waste services and also one that shows what other counties provide in the coastal area surrounding Chatham County, and I will tell you unfortunately we lag far behind everyone. There is not another county that provides the kind of service and calls it a service that we do, and there is not another municipality within Chatham County that provides such a small level of service. Commissioner Odell asked, we didn't beat anyone? Ms. Lamb said, we beat no one. We are dead last. I want to change that. Commissioner Saussy said, even Vernonburg. Ms. Lamb said, I want to change that from —. Commissioner Rivers asked, including Vernonburg? Commissioner Price said, hey, be nice to Vernonburg now guys. Ms. Lamb said, well, at least Vernonburg has a contract that provides full service and by full service I mean collection of MSW, household waste, I mean a pickup for bulky items, I mean —. Commissioner Rivers said, they're rich folks. Ms. Lamb said, yard waste, those kinds of things, and I might add that other counties also provide some kind of formulated policy on recycling, and Chatham County has been kind of catch as catch can and we came about it by trying to pull things out of the waste stream that either (a) were difficult to incinerate because the incinerator sits there and we've used that as a convenient excuse, which it is not an excuse for anything because if you take a look at Charleston, who was also blessed with an incinerator, they have a wonderful recycling program. We have completely ignored the requirements to reduce and divert 25% of our waste stream as part of the State's goal, and by and large we are not doing a whole lot, but it sure does feel good, doesn't it? Commissioner DeLoach said, amen.

Ms. Lamb said, I am suggesting to you that if we want to provide a feel good service, then let us take a look at, because of the fact that we are providing, we need to provide and we need to find our market niche, and our market niche ought to be directed toward diverting and recycling materials, not collecting for disposal. We have no capacity left. All we are doing is collecting things and we're not processing them through the grinder, and then we are having to dispose of that. You see in front of you about eight items that we're looking to try and move Chatham County from being Chatham County far behind to actually making it a leader, to be a leader in the diversion and recycling efforts rather than collection for disposal. We have the infrastructure, we have the availability of the trucks and other things that we need to get the job done, but we need a consensus from the Commission as to say, yes, this is the new path for Chatham County; even though what we have feels good, we think this will feel better. We're looking at making some really difficult changes because of habits, and we know that we're going to have to do an awful good job at educating people. We have taken a look regionally at Chatham County and we are looking to include some additional drop-off centers for recycling for the communities that don't have them. This should be a Chatham Countywide program, not Chatham County unincorporated area and then maybe as an after thought throw in the cities, but as a total package for all of Chatham County. Every last resident should have the opportunity to divert and recycle as much waste as they possibly can. And finally, we've taken a look at our regional effort. We have had three or four regional meetings. The last one was on Wednesday. We are meeting with people from Hunter and Fort Stewart about the possibility of being able to process together, collect and recyclable, pulling them in from Bryan, Effingham, Liberty, and probably out as far as even looking at Candler and Bulloch Counties. But this won't happen overnight. These are important changes. This comes about not because of the fact that necessarily what we do is broken, but because we can do so much better and we need to be a leader. We don't need to be the last one at the plate. We need to be the first one at the plate, and this will give us the opportunity to be able to do that. Do you have any questions? I be glad to answer them.

Commissioner DeLoach said, tell me what you're going to do.

Ms. Lamb said, okay, what we would like to do is, first of all, we would like to conduct a waste stream study, and we understand that those are very expensive, and the reason we think we need to do that is because of the fact that we need to know how much material because when you're looking at markets, they need to know how much material you can possibly give them, so that's the first thing we'd like to do. Commissioner DeLoach said, question. Market study on that specific study item in Chatham County because if you're going to do a feasibility study for a market driven program, aren't you going to need to take into account the other communities so that you can get a large enough volume to make a difference? Ms. Lamb said, absolutely, absolutely. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Ms. Lamb said, and we're looking at this on a regional basis as well as just for Chatham County. Commissioner DeLoach asked, are we going to look at funding it on a regional basis? Ms. Lamb said, absolutely. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Ms. Lamb said, and we're looking at grants on these to help. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Ms. Lamb said, we want to maintain an existing curbside collection of yard waste only in the unincorporated area and add to that in places, particularly for pilot areas, to try curbside recycling. We want to continue to process all of our yard waste as much as we possibly can and even open it up to lawn services and other municipalities and other counties to share in being able to produce this product. We have

some fine products out there and it's being used, it's being taken away. We don't have huge stockpiles being generated from all that we're grinding. We want to make sure through the curb —, through the —, that everyone in Chatham County had an opportunity to recycle and divert materials, and that's why we're recommending an addition of three other drop-off facilities to service —, to be able to service all of Chatham County, including all the municipalities. We think that's very important. We have to be a leader in this respect because of the fact that so many others, especially our larger municipalities, are going to look at this and say we're not going to climb on the bandwagon until we can see that it can be successful, and we've shown you by demonstrated dollars saved that our yard waste program is a success. This program will be a success too and we will see that these centers actually collect a great deal of material because right now a lot of it's being diverted to Hunter. Yes, sir?

Commissioner Odell asked, what plan do we have to sell the municipalities into coming on board?

Ms. Lamb said, I think that, to answer your question, what we're going to do is as with everything else it works better with voluntary than commandatory. We make the service available, we talk to people about what it means to recycle, what it means to our community, what it means when you're having to go out there and pay \$14, \$18, \$20 a month and have no opportunity to reduce what's going into the landfills, but the long term implications of landfilling is for the community and how much it costs to build new landfills when those landfills are filled. I don't think most people anymore have a problem with the idea of recycling. It's nothing else except to clean up the planet and to reuse those resources that we possibly can. I don't think it's going to be a hard-sell job. Commissioner Odell said, and we'll also sell the community by using our stations —. Ms. Lamb said, drop-off centers. Absolutely, and nothing that we will collect there will be for disposal. You will get some overage, of course, from people who don't recycle correctly, but the majority —, everything that I intend to collect at the drop-off centers, which include the 13 regular items that are normally part of household collection, also waste oil and textiles, would result in a tremendous reduction in the amount of solid waste that's being actually just thrown away in Chatham County. There's no reason why we have been so laid back in our approach except that this has not ever come to the forefront. It's kind of meandered here and there, but it's never been presented as an alternative to disposal. Finally what we're going to do is we're going to establish a processing facility. The map that you have here is also included in your packets. 50-mile feasibility area. When you get past 50 miles, it becomes economically prohibitive to put materials on the road, especially with today's markets in recycling, and we're talking about having to densify the material before it goes on the road. There isn't any other processing facility near us, with the exception of Fort Stewart, which is still a good distance away so we would have to densify. As I've stated earlier, for my regional meeting the other day, we are going to meet with Hunter next week and talk with them about some kind of a joint proposal for increasing their ability to be able to process recyclables. I don't want to go in competition with Hunter. I would like to have a community effort in being able to have a recycling center and drop-off places and the processing so that everyone benefits and that it's not an overriding cost to anyone. The other thing, which will probably cause a lot more discomfort, is the idea of having to go to a franchise area or a non-exclusive franchise area in Chatham County, unincorporated Chatham County for the collection of solid waste. Why this is important is because we need to understand and we need to take the solid waste out of the feel good, fuzzy area and turn it into the same kind of discussion we do about any utility. If you run your electricity at home, you're going to pay for what you run; if you run your water at home, you're going to pay for what you run, but for some reason when we get to solid waste suddenly we lose all consciousness about what we're throwing out our door and what actually we're consuming, which is air space and a landfill or hours at an incinerator, and we pretend like that doesn't exist. It does cost. Solid waste is very expensive for most communities, ours included at the county level. It is the second largest line item of cost you have in your budget and it's not going to get any smaller unless we do something about it. And even though we have managed to kind of work it out for the cost by splitting our provision of service to make other people in the unincorporated area contract for private garbage hauling rather than providing a competitive comprehensive service, it doesn't mean that we haven't got that material to have to deal with. It still exists out there whether we provide the collection through our own auspices or whether we do it through private haulers. That stuff doesn't go away. It's still there. And the only way to make recycling really work is to make the thing cost like a utility, and there are a number of ways you can do that. You can put it in a unit price, the price of a can, the price of a bag, you can do it by pound, by weight from scales on trucks. There's a number of ways, but you're also going to have to offer recycling as an alternative to disposal, and that's what I'm proposing on this, that we start looking and moving toward franchising in the unincorporated area, either exclusive or non-exclusive, it really doesn't matter. There are two places in Georgia that have done non-exclusive franchises. One of them is looking at moving toward an exclusive franchise, so this is not —, this is not rocket science, this is not new. It's new to here, but it's not new everywhere. Then the other thing that I think we really need to do is we need to pursue economic development zones, and by that I mean to encourage entrepreneurs and those that are in the business of manufacturing who could use portions of our waste stream to develop better jobs, develop other alternatives for us to have some kind of an economic incentive to encourage them to develop methods of using our waste stream close to home. It only makes sense. When you think about the plastics that we will collect, do you know where they're going to go? They're going to go to Auburn, Alabama, for jobs in Auburn, Alabama. Now that's a great place and I think it's wonderful that we're putting jobs there, but I want those jobs in Chatham County. I want the jobs for Chatham County residents. When I take the glass and it goes to GDS and it goes up to Atlanta, there are jobs being made from the glass in Atlanta, but that doesn't help our economy here at home. When I —, or if I choose to take the metals and I ship them to Savannah Steel and then they ship them to Charleston or they ship them to Jacksonville to ship out of the country, that's job leaving Savannah. That's potential jobs that are leaving Savannah if we had someone who was willing to step up to the plate because the price was right and because we were behind them in developing parasitic industries that could use our own waste coming out of our waste stream. This is not a dream. It's being done other places in the world, but we have to step up to the plate and we

have to be advanced in our thinking. Good just isn't good enough any more. We have to be smarter than smart and we have to look for all kinds of opportunities. And that, Commissioners, is my presentation about —. Commissioner Jackel?

Commissioner Jackel said, the three major facilities we have in the County I think are this building, the judicial center on Montgomery Street and the County Jail. How are we doing in those three facilities with recycling and handling our garbage? Ms. Lamb said, there is no recycling that I'm aware of in any of our own County buildings. County Manager Abolt said, that's not —. Their jurisdiction is Central Services. You might recall a number of years ago, I think we bid it out twice and in both cases, though we were willing and employees fully participated, the contractor for economic reasons could not fulfill the obligation and consequently we had to cut it loose. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand it's not in your bailiwick, but do you have some ideas that we could improve what we're doing in any of those facilities or are there standards that we could live up to, or —? Ms. Lamb said, I will say this, there is always an opportunity in-house to take a look at what we can do, particularly with paper issues and, of course, with aluminum cans because they're the easiest two things to get hold of. The problem ends us usually being logistics of getting them from one place to another, but it certainly is worth a look.

Commissioner Murray said, I misspoke. I want to further clarify regarding paper. Fred [Thompson], go to the microphone. Ms. Lamb said, oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Odell said, I saw Fred [Thompson] jump up.

Mr. Fred Thompson said, we are recycling in this building and in the judicial courthouse, office paper of all types. We have collection of a dumpster at least every two weeks full. Vice Chairman Thomas said, very good.

Commissioner Jackel asked, are you aware of anything that they're doing with the food or stuff at the County Jail? Ms. Lamb said, no sir. That is really a very difficult thing to get into because of Health Department regulations. A number of years ago it was okay that you would take the food and give it to pigs, but that's not so any more.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, what's our time frame and all this other stuff? County Manager Abolt said, beginning the first of July it will be part of the budget proposal you'll receive in the year 2000-2001. Commissioner Price said, I move that we approve —. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, Commissioner Saussy, did you want to speak?

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, I just wanted to say, Ms. Lamb, I think this is —, this is something I've been wanting to see —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I second. Commissioner Saussy said, for many, many years. We've been really way behind in recycling and it's the only thing —. People say it's not economical to recycle, but it's not economical not to recycle, and we have got to get out of this mode of thinking that we've got to make money on these products. You've already pointed out many, many ways of bringing in new industries and so forth like that, and I think this is great thinking and we have got to go forward with this.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a motion and a second for approval. Commissioner Price said, one quick question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, discussion.

Commissioner Price asked, Virginia [Lamb], what cooperation or is there real cooperation that you see coming from the private contractors that haul solid waste? I mean, is this something in our effort to do this recycling, is this something that's going to require that the public industries and the Waste Managements and all these type people, that they participate, cooperate and give us, you know, the level that we need to make it work? Ms. Lamb said, I think one of the things that I have really appreciated about being here is the level of cooperation that I have found among the waste haulers. That has not always been so. Are they going to run and embrace this and come up and say that this is the most wonderful thing since sliced bread? No, but do I think that they understand the practicalities and the underlying feeling in the community when they're —. They may not want to provide this service, but I think that they appreciate the fact that most people desire to have the service, and I guess I would like to see the County do a service very well, and I think this is a wonderful niche for the County to fall into because of all the other service providers that are out there providing solid waste service, either by their own fleets or through contract or through some other means, this is one area that no one has touched, and I really think that we could be a stellar leader in this if we put our efforts toward that end. Commissioner Price said, I agree and what I'm suggesting is that —. Ms. Lamb said, they're going to be included. Commissioner Price said, right, and then the Chairman or whomever, the County Manager, is in contact, you know, with the local managers of these outfits and say we expect your cooperation. Ms. Lamb said, absolutely. Commissioner Price said, and nothing less. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Ms. Lamb said, and in fact we have had a meeting with the solid waste vendors about eight months ago and we're going to have several more in the next few months telling them the things that we anticipate seeing and the changes that we anticipate bringing about, so they will be included in this process.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I call for the question. All in favor of the motion, please vote. County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas. Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, as you know, there are number of action items before you. It was proposed as information, and we appreciate the aggressive way in which you are handling it today. I would suggest that again possibly you're expressing strong consensus that we proceed. You've got the franchising issues, some legislative issues. We certainly appreciate your response, but I would suggest that possibly your motion just express strong consensus in all the directions forward. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, okay, do we have agreement —? Commissioner Price said, I agree.

Commissioner Saussy asked, well, can we do something a little bit stronger than that? I mean, we've been here time and time again after this thing. I think what Russ [Abolt] says is fine, but let's add that to the motion, but let's go ahead and get something done.

Commissioner Price said, I'll accept that as part of the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All right, then —. Commissioner Jackel asked, what are we saying then? What is the motion? Let's get something done? Commissioner Saussy said, yes, right. Commissioner Price said, wrong consensus. Commissioner Jackel said, that's what I come up here every other Friday to do is get something done, so I'm in favor of that, but what exactly is it we're doing? Vice Chairman Thomas said, we're —.

County Manager Abolt said, if you would, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, if you look at pages two and three of the staff report, that's just the details that Virginia [Lamb] has given you, and my only caution is because there are some things on there that require a lot more work than you may want to have the luxury at least of contemplating how they might carry out not only in this County but in the adjoining counties. There's nothing wrong with your motion as long as you understand that it's going to require some more refining. Commissioner Saussy said, that's fine. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is that in agreement with the maker of the motion and the second? Commissioner Price said, yes. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, all in favor please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right. Thank you. The motion is carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the concept presented to the Board for the solid waste service provision proposal for residents of Chatham County. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, now we go to the Action Calendar. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion that we approve 1 through 11-N. Vice Chairman Thomas said, 1 through 11-N. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Action Calendar, Items 1 through 11-N, both inclusive. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 22, 1999, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 22, 1999, as mailed. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 14 THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 1999.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against Chatham County for the period October 14 through October 28, 1999, in the amount of \$5,169,295. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM STEPHENSON & PALMER ENGINEERING, AGENT FOR TRIPLE CROWN DEVELOPERS, TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR VILLAGE OF WILD HERON, PHASE 2-A, TO COMBINE THE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT WITH THE EXISTING DISTRICT, TO APPROVE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PHASE 2, AND TO BEGIN THE 12-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD FOR PHASE 2. [DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Stephenson & Palmer Engineering, agent for Triple Crown Developers, to record the final plat for Village of Wild Heron, Phase 2-A, to combine the streetlight assessment district with the existing district, to approve construction of the improvements for Phase 2, and to begin the 12-month warranty period for Phase 2. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN EARLY ACQUISITION REQUEST FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY MR. AND MRS. JACK KLINGEL ON CREEKWOOD ROAD, TRUMAN PARKWAY, PHASE V. [DISTRICT 1.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the early acquisition request for property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Klingel on Creekwood Road, Truman Parkway, Phase V. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CHATHAM COUNTY FOR MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS ON THE SKIDAWAY ROAD PROJECT BETWEEN FERGUSON AVENUE AND MONTGOMERY CROSS ROAD. [DISTRICTS 1 AND 3.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a maintenance agreement between the Georgia Department of Transportation and Chatham County for maintenance of sidewalks on the Skidaway Road Project between Ferguson Avenue and Montgomery Cross Road. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF POOLER INVOLVING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE CITY FOR RECONSTRUCTION

**OF THE IMPACTED PORTION OF ITS WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY FOR
POOLER PARKWAY, PHASE II.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a Termination of Agreement with the City of Pooler involving the reimbursement of the City for reconstruction of the impacted portion of its waste water treatment facility for Pooler Parkway, Phase II. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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**7. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR SALE A PROPERTY HELD
BY TAX DEED AT 0 HOMER STREET IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.
[DISTRICT 8.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a request to declare as surplus and offer for sale a property held by tax deed at 0 Homer Street in the City of Savannah. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE LONG-TERM LEASE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CANEBRAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND
CHATHAM COUNTY THAT WAS EXECUTED ON OCTOBER 8, 1999, AND AUTHORIZE
THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE NEW AGREEMENT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve revisions to the long-term lease agreement between the Canebrake Community Association and Chatham County that was executed on October 8, 1999, and authorize the Chairman to sign the new agreement. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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**9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE APPLICATION TO GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY FOR WOODEN BRIDGES IN COUNTY PARKS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve application to Georgia Department of Forestry for wooden bridges in County parks. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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**10. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR
1999. PETITIONER: JOHN E. CIUCEVICH, III, D/B/A SANDFLY TOWN HALL, LOCATED
AT 7360 SKIDAWAY ROAD, SUITE G-4.
[DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the petition of John E. Ciucevich, III, d/b/a Sandfly Town Hall, located at 7360 Skidaway Road, Suite G-4, for transfer of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 1999. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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11. 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. Annual contract with option to renew for two additional one year terms to provide damaged vehicle claims services	Finance	Mark Services	Varies by service to be provided	Claims and Judgement
B. Change Order No. 1 to the contract to provide drainage improvements at the Village Green subdivision for additional stone backfill and rip rap	SPLOST	Alpha Construction	\$2,279.08	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Village Green Drainage
C. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for construction of the Pooler By-Pass, Phase I, for final payment	SPLOST	Douglas Asphalt Company	\$68,001.96	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Pooler Parkway, Phase I (pending approval of Contingency transfer)
D. Confirmation Change Order No. 3 for the design of East Broad Street Park (Mother Mathilda Beasley Park) for preparation and attendance at additional public meeting	SPLOST	Hinesley-Hickson (WBE)	\$700	SPLOST (1993-1998) - East Broad Street Park (Mother Mathilda Beasley Park)
E. Contract for repair of a bulkhead on Cherokee Avenue	SPLOST	Monty Walker Dock Building Company	\$14,600	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Paving and drainage improvement Central, Cherokee, Saussy, Smith Drive (pending Board approval of transfer)
F. Purchase and installation of various file cabinets	SPLOST	National Office Systems	\$17,549	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E budget)
G. Purchase and installation of various coffee and side tables	SPLOST	Mason's, Inc.	\$11,765	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E budget)
H. Purchase and installation of various desks, workstations and credenzas	SPLOST	Mason's, Inc.	\$62,535.88	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E budget)
I. Purchase and installation of reception desk	SPLOST	Miller's of Savannah	\$2,970	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E budget)
J. Purchase and installation of conference and café tables	SPLOST	•Miller's of Savannah •National Office Systems	•\$2,710.40 •\$8,474	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E budget)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
K. Purchase and installation of various chairs	SPLOST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wesnic •Metropolitan Hospitality •Mason's, Inc. •National Office Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •\$5,520 •\$2,342.52 •\$57,688 •\$14,972 	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E budget)
L. Exterior benches	SPLOST	Contract Connections	\$23,382	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center (FF&E budget)
M. Four (4) Ford Taurus sedans	CNT	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$57,576	Vehicle and Equipment Lease
N. Name change of the contract holder for the purchase and installation of the CAD system	Police	Admit Computer Services, Inc.	N/A	N/A

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve award of bids enumerated in Items 11-A through 11-N, both inclusive. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

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

None.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

1. **PETITIONER, DEBBIE HELMLY, AGENT (FOR JOHN BRUCE, OWNER) IS REQUESTING REZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 0.28 ACRES (12,150 SQ. FT.) FROM AN R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY-BUSINESS) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO OPEN AN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT THAT WOULD INCLUDE A SMALL BAR. THE PARCEL IS LOCATED IN THE SANDFLY COMMUNITY ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SKIDAWAY ROAD, JUST EAST OF ITS INTERSECTION WITH NORWOOD AND FERGUSON AVENUES. MPC RECOMMENDED DENIAL OF A P-B-C CLASSIFICATION, BUT FURTHER RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A P-I-P CLASSIFICATION.
MPC FILE NO. 99-12753-C
[DISTRICT 1.]**

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Odell said, second. Commissioner Saussy said, I don't think that's in District 3, I think it's in District 1. Commissioner DeLoach said, well, we're glad to have it in Chatham County anyway. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I want that corrected then. Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, it has been properly moved and seconded. All —. Commissioner Jackel said, let's hear some discussion of that. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, excuse me? Commissioner Jackel said, let's hear —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, you want to hear before the vote. If it's north of Norwood and east of Skidaway. Commissioner Price said, it's the old Moose Lodge, isn't it. Mr. Bill Saxman said, you've got a map. It's basically right next to the Consignment Shop or south of the Consignment Shop, there's a cemetery and then there's the elderly housing project back in the R-1 District, and it's right there at the intersection of Norwood, right across from what used to be called Newton's Corner.

Commissioner Saussy said, the shopping center is in this northeast corner, right? Mr. Saxman said, right, where the B-N District is. Commissioner Saussy said, you're going out Skidaway towards Isle of Hope. Mr. Saxman said, right. South of —, you're actually sort of southeast of Norwood and Skidaway. Commissioner Saussy said, District 1 has Norwood Avenue southeast, that's District 1. Mr. Saxman said, you're actually —. Commissioner Saussy said, that's in District 1. Commissioner Price said, we have no problem with that. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, District 1.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I have a recommendation. Vice Chairman Thomas said, you have a recommendation. Okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion that we put in the minutes that this is in District 1. Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Saussy said, I appreciate that. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor. Commissioner Jackel said, no, I want —, I'm still —. Commissioner Price said, Martin [Jackel] wants it back. Commissioner Jackel said, no, no. Give us the difference between what they want and what you're recommending. Mr. Saxman said, well, the B-C District is a broader based zoning district that allows a number of heavy commercial activities that we feel would be detrimental to the surrounding properties. If you notice on your map, this is directly across the street from —, even though it's adjoining a B-C District, it's directly across the street from an R-1 District, you have a cemetery to the south of the property and you have a congregate care facility sort of southeast of Petitioner's property. The proposed zoning would allow Petitioners to do what they want to, but it would not give the wider range of land use activities so it would be more protection for the surrounding properties, but it would allow Petitioners to do what they wish to do, establish a restaurant with a small bar.

Commissioner DeLoach said, anything that's more restrictive is better. Commissioner Price said, the Petitioner is fine with it. Mr. Saxman said, right, the Petitioner doesn't have a problem with it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Price said, call the question. Commissioner Saussy said, call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion please vote. Opposes. Commissioner DeLoach said, this is for the seafood place in District 1. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

County Attorney Hart said, Your Honor, we've only voted on entering into the minutes. The Clerk said, no. A motion was already on the floor so that wasn't even a viable motion. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are we all right? Commissioner Price said, the motion wasn't viable. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to **deny** the petition of Debbie Helmly, Agent (for John Bruce, Owner), requesting rezoning of approximately 0.28 acres (12,150 sq. ft.) from an R-1 (One-Family Residential zoning classification to a P-B-C (Planned Community-Business) zoning classification in order to open an seafood restaurant that would include a small bar; but a P-I-P (Planned Institutional-Professional) classification is **approved** with the condition that a site plan be provided by Petitioner and approved by the MPC prior to receiving a building permit, if needed, and certificate of occupancy. Commissioners Odell and Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

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- 2. **PETITIONER, MELISSA ALLEN WITH BROADCAST TOWER LEASING, AGENT (FOR BESSIE MAE SAXON, OWNER) IS REQUESTING THAT 2.13 ACRES OF A LARGER TRACT OF LAND LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF FORT ARGYLE ROAD APPROXIMATELY 5 MILES NORTH OF BUSH ROAD BE REZONED FROM R.-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A B-2 (BUSINESS-GENERAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO ERECT A 1,729 FOOT GUYED DTV COMMUNITY BROADCAST TOWER. MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE DENIED BUT FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT AN ALTERNATIVE R-A-WT (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TOWER OVERLAY DISTRICT) CLASSIFICATION BE APPROVED FOR THE ENTIRE TRACT. MPC FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT THE WT OVERLAY DISTRICT REGULATIONS BE AMENDED TO CLARIFY THAT A DIGITAL TELEVISION TOWER IS ALLOWED IN THE DISTRICT AND TO DEFINE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SUCH TOWERS MAY BE ERECTED. MPC FILE NO. 99-12702-C [DISTRICT 7.]**

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Saussy said, call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion, let us please vote. Opposes?

Commissioner Jackel asked, why does the whole tract have to be approved for that and not just the part —? Mr. Bill Saxman said, well, we require that a minimum of 100 acres be on that tower since it's such a tall tower, and we also don't want these things creeping up on small lots. We want to make sure they have enough land for protection. Commissioner DeLoach said, we're trying to group them. Commissioner Jackel said, okay.

The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carries.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the petition of Melissa Allen with Broadcast Tower Leasing, Agent (for Bessie Mae Saxon, Owner) requesting that 2.13 acres of a larger tract of land located on the west side of Fort Argyle Road approximately 5 miles north of Bush Road be rezoned from R.-A (Residential-Agriculture) to a B-2 (Business-General) zoning classification in order to erect a 1,729 foot guyed DTV community broadcast tower is **denied**; that an alternative R-A-WT (Residential-Agriculture Wireless Communication Tower Overlay District) classification is **approved for the entire tract**; and that the proposed amendment to the WT overlay district regulations to clarify that a Digital Television Tower is allowed in the district and to define the conditions under which such towers may be erected is **approved**. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

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III. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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- 3. PRESENTATION OF INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER 1999.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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- 4. MONTHLY ROADS AND DRAINAGE BRIEFING.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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- 5. INFORMATION ON REVISIONS TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY ENGINEERING POLICY.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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- 6. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES ON THE TRADE CENTER'S CONSTRUCTION.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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7. STATUS OF THE YEAR 2000 REMEDIATION PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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8. STATUS REPORT ON INSPECTIONS CONSOLIDATION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we need a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion we go into Executive Session for purposes of —. County Manager Abolt said, litigation, personnel and land acquisition. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.]

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners recessed at 11:25 a.m.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:44 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE FAIR COMPENSATION FOR A WAREHOUSE ON SEPCO PROPERTY AS PART OF WESTERNMOST CROSSING OF THE UTILITY EXTENSION ON HUTCHINSON ISLAND.
[DISTRICT 8.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize \$75,000 as fair compensation for a warehouse on SEPCO property as part of the westernmost crossing of the utility extension on Hutchinson Island. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to authorize the Vice 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. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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APPOINTMENTS

None.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, Vice Chairman Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1999

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

 SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK