

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2000, 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 9:00 a.m., Friday, April 28, 2000.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Martin Jackel introduced Pastor Dale Dyar, Senior Pastor, Coastal Cathedral Ministries, who gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

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

ABSENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

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

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, Madam Chairman [sic]. Chairman Hair is out of the city for today and I will be presiding. I would like to thank each and every one of you for coming.

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we'd like to acknowledge our Youth Commissioners in attendance today. Lydia Williams, who is a Junior at Savannah Christian Preparatory School; Carvell Allen, who's a Sophomore at Savannah Arts Academy;

and Dwayne Allen, Sophomore, Savannah Arts Academy. Welcome and feel free to just join right in in the discussion today and we will acknowledge you. Thank you very much.

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Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you so very much, too, Pastor Dyar, for those encouraging words. I really had a wonderful time at Coastal Cathedral on Government Day, and we thank you for that recognition.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR CHARLIE SUTLIVE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SAVANNAH MARITIME ASSOCIATION, TO DECLARE MAY MARITIME MONTH IN CHATHAM COUNTY.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a proclamation. Maritime Association. Mr. Sutlive said, good morning. Vice Chairman Thomas said, good morning. Your name? Mr. Sutlive said, Charlie Sutlive, Executive Director, Savannah Maritime Association. Vice Chairman Thomas said, we're delighted to have you here this morning. We really appreciate you. I'd like to read this proclamation, and it says:

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah has enjoyed a long and impressive maritime history as a leader in the international trade arena dating from 1733; and

WHEREAS, National Maritime Day is held to honor the voyage of the S. S. Savannah, the first steamship to cross the Atlantic which sailed from Savannah's waters on May 22, 1819; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the public and private port terminals handled more than 20 million tons of cargo, ranking as the ninth largest container port in the nation and the leading bulk port in the Southeast Atlantic range; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Savannah serves an important role in military operations as one of the nation's twelve strategic locations supporting the nation's rapid deployment missions and readiness exercises.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2000, as:

"MARITIME, TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION MONTH"

in Chatham County and urge all citizens to join as we celebrate this County's continued success as a center for commerce and trade and unite to extend congratulations and best wishes to the Savannah Maritime Trade Center as they celebrate their grand opening.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 28th day of April, 2000.

/s/ Billy B. Hair
Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

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

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. SCIENCE ALLIANCE (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, Madam Chairman, they're not here at this time. I'd like to defer that until later in the meeting, if possible. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay.

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Commissioner Saussy said, Madam Chairman, before we get off of this agenda, the people are here for the Science Alliance. Can we go into that? Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, yes. We can backtrack on that.

Commissioner Saussy said, let me introduce Dale Thorpe and Joyce Murlless here, who are basically the instigators of this Science Alliance. They have worked very, very hard on it. It's my opinion that —, what this will do will bring together all the science organizations in town in a collaborative that will —, really right now I think there's 12 or 13 different science project —, there's Wilderness Southeast and a bunch of the others. I believe y'all have a list there, Coastal Gardens, Gray's Reef, Mighty Air Force —, Eighth Air Force, Oatland Island Education Center, the Ossabaw Island Foundation, and all —, a host of others. It will bring them together in a large project that does two things. It helps educate our youth, since we've been talking about youth, but it also helps in a collaborative manner of bringing together these organizations for the tourism industry here, which as we know is very vital in this part of the country. So I would like for y'all to listen to —, and you have the report in your booklets, and I'd for you to listen to Joyce [Murlless] and Dale [Thorpe] and what they have to say.

Ms. Joyce Murlless said, thank you, Commissioner Saussy, and thank you all for your patience. I'm sorry we were late this morning. This has been a joint project of the Chatham Environmental Forum and Wilderness Southeast. It is a collaborative with those 12 organizations that you have listed in front of you. Our mission is to make science education a regional asset that would educate our populace and compliment our tourism industry. We think that those things will be jointly beneficial to all concerned and that we can do a very good job of that because of the growing trend in trying to make science education taught in context and the growing trend to make tourism visitors do more than have mindless entertainment. They want to engage their minds a little bit while they're having fun, and this can be done. We have some major goals. We want to improve the level and the profile of science education in this county and to demonstrate to those who don't yet know that learning can be fun and exciting. We can provide additional financial sustain ability to these 12 organizations that have served the county so well so long and maximize the use of those valuable resources, and we can enhance the growing push for eco-tourism to satisfy this growing visitor demand for the exciting and native-based learning experience. We can also collaborate with other tourism efforts, and I believe you have a list of accomplishments and among that you'll see that we have been speaking with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade —, I probably got that backwards —, and have been working on the master tourism planning council as well. We would appreciate financial help from the County during our first year of operation to make this dream a reality.

Commissioner Price asked, where is your funding coming from besides the County? Where else would you be getting the money? Ms. Murlless said, so far it has —. Commissioner Price said, on the City it says under negotiation. Ms. Murlless said, ah. Okay. Commissioner Price said, help me understand what's going on there. Ms. Murlless said, yes. The City invited us to submit proposals to the Department of Leisure Services to serve the inner-city youth day camp program that they have and in the Summer of 2001. Because of the timing, we could not do it for this Summer, and the —, they have a senior citizen program all year, and because those proposals have not yet been written, we could not put an amount there, but there will be some administrative money from those —, the proposals will be written by the 12 participating organizations and the funds would go to them and there will be some money from that coming into the Science Alliance as well. Commissioner Price said, well, you —, you've got —, you've balanced out your budget year but without that number in there, and I don't know how you do that.

Ms. Dale Thorpe said, well, because obviously we have not secured all the corporate support contributions and the foundation money, we are working on that and, consequently, it really isn't balanced, but whenever I —, I'm not a financier by any means and whenever I tried to do it, I have it balanced. I've gotten grief, so obviously [inaudible].

Commissioner Price said, I applaud what you're trying to do and I think it's a great effort, but we've had other organizations in the past that have come and asked for money and come back and asked for more money when there's corporate contributions and other things that come through. Also, are you coordinating your efforts with —, I know you've got included in here an idea of taking a group of inner-city kids and putting them into the program, but do you have a direct involvement by the local Board of Education in what you're doing and how they work with schools and how they're going to benefit from this? Ms. Thorpe said, okay, the local schools, as we all know, are going through quite a turmoil, but traditionally they have had field trip programs and have used probably all of these organizations. They have —, it's varied through the years of how they do it. Sometimes it's a pre—, contract for the year, sometimes it's teacher's selection. Now I understand that

it's going to be less contract and more teacher's selection as to where the teachers take their classes on the two field trips they're allowed per year, and in fact just two days ago at the meeting it was suggested the ones with functions in the Science Alliance would be to perhaps have a super museum day or a super field trip day and introduce the teachers to all of these 12 facilities as part of our marketing program. We do have representation from the Board of Education and Marilyn Bass [phonetic] as the Science Coordinator has been at all of these —.

Ms. Murlless said, and one addition, the other thing that we talked about at that meeting just two days ago, and as you know the turmoil is very current, so we haven't had a lot of time, but we are talking about making transportable programs that we can bring into the school system as well.

Commissioner Price asked, so it's very much a part of your form, part of your foundation for what you're trying to do, what you're saying. Ms. Thorpe said, yes. I think we'll find that some of these organizations have worked more closely [inaudible] other ones on here and that is part of the school. Some have worked more closely with the school system than others. Again, we hope that this whole coordination will make the presence of all of these organizations more prominent City and County-wide so that they will be used more. All of the —, I can't say all, but I know a great many of these organizations have had excellent school programs from our school system as well as the County.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I think what you're trying to do is great, but I just really have some concerns about the County funding this. I see the list of the different groups of members of your group and we already fund some of those groups through County funding. To me this is an ideal project that should be presented and have an application filled out to go through our grants-in-aid process. That is one reason we had so much discussion on the last addition that we just talked about. It's the process we go through to do things, and I just —, to me, that is why we have the grants-in-aid process, and to me that's where this needs to be. It needs to be —, you need to apply through that and let that committee address it. Y'all would have the opportunity to meet before that committee and plead your case to that. To me that's where it needs to be. I don't think we can, with the policies we have, and I know we can change policies, but give \$30,000 to this when we have sent everybody else that's come with projects like this to the grants-in-aid and let them go through that process. Now that doesn't say that I or the rest of the Commissioners are not supporting this, but I just don't see how we can come up with \$30,000 even though it's —, you're asking for this in the next year's budget. I do know that we have —, we have another group's that going to probably present something to us at some point and that's giving prescription medication to people that can't afford it at no charge and they're trying to get the City and the County to get involved in that. That has not been presented to us yet though, but we've got a number of different projects and all of them are certainly worthy, but I just —, to me this needs to go through our grants-in-aid process. I certainly appreciate the presentation. I think you're doing a great job with what you've got here, but I just don't think —, well, I can't support it from just outright \$30,000 donation to —, to your project. Ms. Murlless asked, may I address one of your points, which was that the County already puts some money into these organizations, and that is —. Commissioner Murray said, some of the organizations. Ms. Murlless said, some of the organizations. This money that we're asking for today would not go to the organizations. It would go to benefit them in doing things that they have been unable to do for themselves historically, and the goals of the Science Alliance are to assist all of these organizations. They direct the Alliance in terms of what is needed for that. Okay? Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but if the money is not being directly given to them, but you're doing things to benefit them because they can't afford to do those, then they're still getting the funding is what I'm saying, and we're still funding some of their funding. Ms. Murlless said, they have the direct benefit —, indirect or direct benefit. Commissioner Murray said, yes.

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

Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask a question of Shot [Hart] and the Manager. Couldn't we go through —, probably ask the Tourism —, Convention and Tourism to help us with this issue? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, what I suggested as I met with representatives of the Alliance plus Commissioner Saussy, is as you've done in the past that you would designate a match not to exceed. You could make it one time and make it contingent upon funding so you would not have the problem that Commissioner Price spoke to or that you're speaking to, so in effect they can go to other organizations like the City and other potential benefactors and say, okay, if we make a certain target we will have \$30,000, or whatever the figure is, from Chatham County. Period. That's the simplest way to do. We'd have a contract with them for services so it would not be a donation, but again it would be contingent upon they could legitimately go forward and ask for money, but they would not get the funds from the County until they were able to show us that they had in the bank those amounts of money. Commissioner Rivers said, let me —, but what I'm saying is can't we ask Convention and Tourism, the bureau, to look at funding that segment. What I'm afraid of, Russ [Abolt], is that even if we permit dollars if we say we're going to do this in the future, you're looking at a huge deficit in your budget. County Manager Abolt said, huge. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't —, I don't really see no money coming out of there now. If you can show me that we've got money that's there, I don't want to give them a pie in the sky and tell them if we have funding because I don't see it there. I really don't see it. County Manager Abolt said, you're absolutely right. It's huge and that's not even the adequate description. That aside, when talking to Commissioner Saussy, I suggested that the dollars would be set aside this year from the Special Service District because the funds would come from the City of Savannah and there would be no double taxation as far as a match, we could find the \$30,000, but I do not want to diminish what you're saying. What we face in 2001 is beyond description as far as balancing the budget.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I've got a —, where out of the Special Service District? County Manager Abolt said, Contingency. Commissioner Murray said, I don't think so. We need that Contingency for things, Russ [Abolt]. Commissioner Murray said, it's up to you. It's up to y'all. It's up to y'all. Commissioner Murray said, I just can't go along with that coming out of Contingency—. County Manager Abolt said, it's up to y'all. Commissioner Murray said, from the unincorporated area.

Commissioner Rivers said, I would like to consider at the time that we're dealing with our budget to see what funding we have there, what are we going to have in Contingency. I'm just afraid to touch anything that we've got to deal with in the 2001 budget until I see that budget and make some determination that we are possibly going to have some funding there. County Manager Abolt said, the 2001 budget will be terrible. Commissioner Rivers said, we keep saying that, but we keep saying \$30,000. I mean, it's a small amount of money, but the deficit that I'm looking at, ladies and gentlemen, the deficit that I'm looking at I don't know if it's going to take Houdini to even balance our budget. Vice Chairman Thomas said, that's right. Commissioner Rivers said, and it's going to come with some hard decisions on the part of this body here, and I don't think that the will is going to be here to do what is necessary to be done to balance out this budget this year. If it comes through, it's going to be a great blessing, but I don't see it. I just —, people in Chatham County right now don't realize the position that this County is in fiscally. We're in terrible shape and nobody wants to say that, but it needs to be said and it needs to be looked at and, ladies, I support your project. If the funding was there, I would grant it, but I —, with the way this budget year is looking and the way I see the deficit, I can't promise you that. I have to look other ways.

Commissioner Odell asked, is that a motion? Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Jackel, I think Commissioner Jackel wanted to —. Commissioner Jackel, did you still want to say something?

Commissioner Jackel said, yes. It's been my pleasure to work with Joyce Murlless, Wilderness Southeast, and I was formerly on the Board. She's accomplished many great things in this County and it's good to see you again. I'm with the others. I think this is a great concept, but I think it needs to come through our grants-in-aid and that's the way we handle these things, so I think I have to stick with that. I wish it could be otherwise. I know it must be very frustrating to be up there and hear everyone tell you they support it, but —, and it's kind of like that old story, the operation was a success but the patient died. So I'm sorry to say I'm with the, you know, the others up here. This sounds great, it's been long overdue and I'm sure it would really help and do all the things you're saying it can do, but because of our process and the number of people who would be up here, and that's why we have the grants-in-aid and I would recommend that you pursue that process and I'll do what I can to get it through there.

Commissioner Murray said, thank you, ladies. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I just —, I appreciate all this discussion and I can understand where you're coming from, and I guess really the biggest thing we need to do is —, Joyce [Murlless] and Dale [Thorpe] is to get it under the grants-in-aid. Realizing that we need the money now, maybe we can help raise it some other way for right now for a short period of time and then get it under grants-in-aid.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.



2. BUSINESS LICENSES - MR. REEDER (COMMISSIONER DELOACH).

Commissioner DeLoach said, Mr. Reeder has requested that his item be taken off.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, and the second one also has been requested to be taken off at this time. Commissioner DeLoach said, period, take it off. Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, just take it off period. Okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was removed at the request of Mr. Reeder.



3. ADDITIONAL FENCING, BEASLEY PARK (COMMISSIONER RIVERS).

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I don't see any paper work.

County Manager Abolt said, no sir. I can explain it if you like. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, but it's a policy decision initially.

Commissioner Rivers said, ladies and gentlemen, Mother Matilda Beasley Park has been, in the first phase, has been near a completion. I've held up on planting the grass because the students that come from East Broad Elementary cuts [sic] across the grass and they're tearing up the shrubbery and stuff on the front, okay. So we looked at it and we decided that we negated not putting a fence there. A fence is necessary to keep people from cutting through and keep them from messing up the shrubbery out there and the plants, the small plants on the front. So we're advocating putting a wrought iron fence around the front with a chain link fence around the back of it, somewhat similar if you've gone down East Broad Street, the fencing would be somewhat similar to the fencing that they have there at —, what's that? Fred Wessels. So, we're asking that we be allotted funds to do that.

County Manager Abolt said, what would happen on this, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, is that with the conceptual okay, we'll be about securing bids. The funds source is SPLOST. Our estimate, which is very preliminary until we have the bids is approximately \$80,000, which we could cover from SPLOST. When the bids were to come in, we'd bring them back to you for award.

Commissioner Price asked, for \$80,000? County Manager Abolt said, we feel that's our top end, sir. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's a big top end. Commissioner Price asked, what was the total on the project to begin with? Anybody remember? Commissioner DeLoach said, when it started, but I think it up [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, I'll defer to Mr. Golden. The project for the Mother Matilda Park, Phase One, the amount. Mr. Golden asked, pardon me, sir? Commissioner Price asked, what was the project budget to begin with on Mother Matilda? Mr. Golden said, the total was \$720,000, the total with the land purchase and all. Commissioner Price asked, how much? Mr. Golden said, \$720,000 for the total project thus far, you know, from the beginning and developing and purchasing the property and all. Commissioner Rivers said, that's with five hundred and some odd thousand initial acquisition.

County Manager Abolt said, permit me, too, you've received correspondence this week from Mr. Golden with a variety of interest groups for donations. This truly is a massive self-help project in the neighborhood. The amount for fencing is just going to protect that investment, plus Commissioner Rivers has been very successful in dealing with Mr. McClesky of CSX, from CSX Realty, to ask for a donation, a sizeable donation of land and potential improvements from CSX under our [inaudible] program. It's a good deal.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Commissioner Price asked, any motions? Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do we have a motion?

Commissioner Rivers said, I move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second.

Commissioner Jackel asked, this is just a preliminary approval of this? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Without that when we were to come back with a specific purchasing item, you'd say, what's this all about. We want to avoid that question.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Hearing none, let's please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is approved.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to authorize the County to secure bids for placing a fence around Mother Matilda Park. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioner Murray were not present.]

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4. RESOLUTION ENDORSING GARDEN HOMES REVITALIZATION PROJECT (COMMISSIONER RIVERS).

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, this is a project that if you look at Garden Homes in the eastern part of —, just off of Wheaton Street at Wheaton and Bee Road, just before you get to the Truman Parkway, that section of housing is going to probably be —, we are trying to apply for a Hope VI Grant to take that out and to put into mixed-use housing so that you would have low end, middle income and probably some high end kind or whatever, but there'll be a mixed neighborhood rather than the housing development that's presently there. This would extend all the way probably to East Broad Street because what

this project would look at is in-fill in open areas and dilapidated housing that's within that circumference from Wheaton to Henry, Bee Road to East Broad, and we'll be asking for the resolution in support of that and possibly somewhere along the line a commitment down the road of some funding, probably through our SPLOST. We would probably utilize the Wheaton Street project that we've already done, Shuman—. We're trying to put together a lot of funds that we're doing, including Beasley Park as a match in order to —, because there's a four-way match to the Hope Grant so we're trying to make that possible in conjunction with the City of Savannah and the Housing Authority.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm willing to do a resolution, but I'm not willing to commit any funds. Commissioner Rivers asked, huh? Commissioner DeLoach said, I'm willing to do a resolution, but I'm not willing to commit any funds to this. If you want to —. Commissioner Rivers said, well, the funds —, the funds that we're committing, the match that we're committing is the match that we already have on Wheaton Street, the money that we've spent in that project —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, the money on the Linear Park that is out there. Probably in the future, in the future we'll look at some green space, in the future we'll try to look at some SPLOST if we do want, you know, but that's futuristic. Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, again —. All right, then I would agree to the resolution committing past funds that we've already spent on Beasley and others, but I don't want to commit to future funds and a possibility. That possibility could hang us. Commissioner Rivers said, well, it —. Commissioner DeLoach said, let's just go with what we've —, I mean, if it's all right with you, just a resolution and the past funding so that we don't commit ourselves to an unknown because that thing can grow. Can you do that?

Commissioner Rivers said, I—. Russ [Abolt], would that be within the parameters that we can —? County Manager Abolt said, two different things. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Commissioner Rivers asked, so we can —? County Manager Abolt said, the resolution you have in front of you was not drafted by County staff. It was drafted by the consultant employed by the Housing Authority to put this grant together. Commissioner DeLoach on point is looking at the last whereas in that draft document, which is a commitment, and we highlighted that for you. Commissioner Rivers is alluding to something that's already in process and technically does not require your approval. By the end of the day I will have to the consultants of New York for [inaudible] to gain the match identification of a variety of projects, such as the President Street Road Improvements —. The mike is feeding back real bad. I hear an echo. Okay, anyway President Street Road Improvements, Wheaton Street Widening, the Carnegie Library and other expansion services in the general area, Beasley Park, all phases, CSX Railroad a potential donation, Truman Linear Park, Shuman Recreation Center, the Baptist Center, the Boys' and Girls' Club and others. That recognizes commitments already made. What they're asking for is commitments above and beyond. That's your policy issue you must decide.

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. I can't commit to that.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, okay, any further discussion?

Commissioner Rivers said, Madam Chair, I think that in looking at it, I think we could say that if we're going to do a one percent sales tax and if we have —, maybe the wording might need to be made different, and if we have projects within there that have projects that would probably fall under that space. I don't know, I guess it's something that probably, Russ [Abolt], we probably need to discuss.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I want a way out of this Jon [Hart]. How do I get out of it with a resolution that's [inaudible]. County Attorney Hart said, well, the first part —, look to your resolution. It basically —, the County Manager's correctly pointed out that basically above the last whereas you're basically supporting a concept of the project saying that, you know, we think this is a good project, we're behind it. Commissioner DeLoach said, and not only are we —, not only are we committing to that as far as the resolution, we've already committed funds to improve that area too, so it's not like we're just doing a resolution and everybody's happy, we've already committed funds over there and we don't want to add any more. Commissioner Rivers said, well —. Commissioner DeLoach said, not necessarily we don't want to add any more, I don't want to commit to anything.

Commissioner Rivers said, well, you're not —, you've already, we've already done that. What we're trying to do, we're trying to skim on to take these projects that we've already done, gone, we're trying to take those to try to offset the Hope VI match. That's all we're doing. That's a rider. We aren't committing anything there. I'm just hoping that that would be acceptable, and that may not be acceptable with HUD.

County Attorney Hart said, you could delete the last paragraph if you wanted to and still have support, or you could table the matter and work on the language of the last paragraph to try to reach something that everybody feels comfortable with.

Commissioner Rivers said, well, this is on a fast track. Rather than to hold it up, I'd rather delete that last whereas and take it out and then if we have a problem with it, let them come back and present something else to us that would be acceptable to us.

Commissioner Price said, well, somebody move —. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner DeLoach said, I approve. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, with the deletion? Commissioner DeLoach said, to the deletion. Commissioner Jackel asked, have we amended it then? Commissioner Rivers said, yes.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Let us please vote on the —. Commissioner DeLoach said, as amended. Vice Chairman Thomas said, as amended. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the motion's carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach made a motion to amend the proposed resolution endorsing the Garden Homes Revitalization Project by deleting the last "Whereas" clause and approve the resolution as amended. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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5. REPORT FROM YOUTH COMMISSION (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Vice Chairman Thomas said, the next item on the Commissioners' list is a report from the Youth Commission. Last Saturday the Youth Commission had their Annual Youth Rally, and I'd like for someone from the Youth Commission to make that report to us this morning and give us an update to try to keep you updated on their activities and what they're doing. Lydia is —, Lydia Williams is going to make that report.

Miss Lydia Williams said, Dr. Thomas and Commissioners, my name is Lydia Williams and I'm one of the Youth Commissioners that participated in the Youth Rally we sponsored. We had several hundred youth participate. It was a fun, safe event enjoyed by all. We had events such as educational displays, the SHARE project which educates people about AIDS and it spotlighted local talent and we had a three-on-three basketball tournament. The Chatham County Youth Commission would like to thank Dr. Thomas and the Chatham County Commission, [inaudible] Broadcasting, Domino's Pizza, Coca-Cola, Kroger, the Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department, Chatham County Sheriff and Police Departments, the Chatham County Mosquito Control Department and Mr. Pete Nichols, who were helping us to begin the Spring on a positive safe note.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you. We want to continue our young people to explore new avenues and ways of doing positive things in our community, and we're delighted with your progress in terms of the Youth Rally. Each year it seems to get bigger and bigger. We know that last Saturday a lot of things took place and we could have had more people participating, but I think as a whole it turned out very, very well and we congratulate you. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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6. RECONSIDER REQUEST THAT CAT PROVIDE SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE MARCH FOR LIFE AND RALLY IN FORSYTH PARK ON MAY 13, 2000. (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Commissioner Odell said, Dr. Thomas, before we go any further, I have a motion for reconsideration which I faxed to Dr. Hair, and I'd like to make that motion at this point. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, as you recall, on last week we considered the request from Stop the Violence and unfortunately the members who had organized the Stop the Violence March were not here, and I'm going to move that this matter be set down for reconsideration. Commissioner Price asked, at the next meeting or —?

Commissioner Murray said, just for clarification. When did we have this —, when did you ask for reconsideration? Commissioner Odell said, I faxed it Monday. Commissioner Murray said, I think we would have to rescind the action we took and then allow them to speak rather than reconsideration. Is that right, Jon [Hart]?

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is that correct, Jon [Hart]? County Attorney Hart said, you've got to add it to the agenda today, number one. Commissioner Odell said, that would be the first thing.

Commissioner Murray asked, but what we would do, we'd have to rescind the action, is that right? And then reconsider, I mean, then [inaudible].

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, so we need a motion to rescind. Commissioner Price said, we need to add it to the agenda. Commissioner Odell said, yes, procedurally. I will make the motion to add it to this agenda. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

Commissioner Odell said, the second step, Jon [Hart], is to —. Commissioner Rivers said, rescind. Commissioner Odell said, I move to rescind the action taken —, what was the date of the last —. Commissioner Price said, the 14th. Commissioner DeLoach said, April 14th. Commissioner Price said, April 14th. Commissioner Odell said, April 14th regarding the request from Stop the Violence. Commissioner Rivers said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, it's been moved and seconded that we rescind the action taken on the 14th. All in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion's carried.

Commissioner Odell said, now—. County Attorney Hart said, now discuss what you want to discuss. Commissioner Odell said, now I move for a motion for reconsideration. Commissioner Price said, second. County Attorney Hart said, for whatever it is you want to do. Commissioner Murray asked, what would it be a reconsideration of? It just be put it on the agenda. Just put that item on the agenda. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.]

County Attorney Hart said, all you need to do is have —, you're now free to discuss what you want to discuss. Vice Chairman Thomas said, right. Commissioner Odell said, okay. County Attorney Hart said, and you make the motion of the action you wish to take.

Commissioner Odell said, okay. I have Mr. Harrison Grantham here, President of the Brotherhood of Tatemville Neighborhood Association, and I'll ask Harrison [Grantham] to come up, and while he's coming, it's good that we have the Sheriff here, the Chief of Police, and others, we have a serious problem with crime and that problem is that if you look at the death rate per capita, we are extremely high. I've reviewed the President's Report on Crime Prevention and the report from the Justice Department regarding breaking the cycle, predicting and preventing crime, there are a host of things that have to be done and I think one of the things that we have to do is to heighten the awareness, and I think Harrison [Grantham] has some information regarding that.

Mr. Harrison Grantham said, thank you for this opportunity to be before you this morning. Although I stand here by myself, I represent thousands of citizens in Savannah, various groups, various churches, various races. This is a very serious problem that we have here in our City. I believe over the past six days we've had five shootings. Since 1990 there's been 356 murders in our City. We've been requested time and time again as citizens to step forward and take control and do something and be a part of making our cities, our communities a better place and safer place to live for our youth and ourselves, and this is an opportunity for us to do this. On May 13th we would gather as a City, not just one group, not just one organization, not just one race, but we would gather from four different points of the City, North, East, South and West and converge on the Forsyth Park as a massive rally, and this rally would consist of information booths that citizens can take back information to their communities and hopefully make their places, their cities and their communities a better place to live. We have a serious problem, and I don't need to tell you this over and over because I know you know. Once we reach the park we don't have transportation back. That was our first request, that CAT would supply us with four buses. I understand it's about the cost of \$1,000, which is not very much to ask for. Once we reach the park and there's no transportation back, that means the citizens will have to march the same routes back, and one of those particular routes is on Gwinnett Street and it's in front of the Chatham Area Transit Bus Station and they will see those buses there, vacant and not being used, and it will send a serious message to them that when we finally stood up, when we finally took a stance that we didn't have the support from our County Commissioners and Chatham Area Transit that we needed to help us out here, and I'm here today to ask you to reconsider that and help us in transportation in transporting the citizens back to the [inaudible] areas.

Commissioner Odell said, in that this is —, and I'll yield the floor in just a moment. This is primarily going to be in the City of Savannah. I spoke to the Acting Chief of Police Dan Reynolds, and I think I'm authorized to say it and I think that you would agree, that Chief Reynolds had been an active part of the planning. Mr. Grantham said, yes he has. Commissioner Odell said, and I also spoke to two of our Superior Court Judges regarding the viability and received their support. We often have to place cost and value, we have to make a determination as to the cost of an activity and value. If we by this very small expenditure, if we're able to capture one person who's committed a murder or prevent one person from committing a murder, the benefit is substantial and the benefit is not only substantial in the saving of a human life, but it's substantial in the cost that now for the most part is being borne by our institution, Memorial Medical Center, and as we all know that the Indigent Care Trust Fund has from the State of Georgia reimbursed them for indigent care because a lot of the people who are injured do not health care. That has been substantially reduced by —, on Memorial's part. What they receive now as compared to what they received three years ago is less than 10%. So the benefits from a cost value standpoint, the value is enormous and that we might persuade, we might change, we might capture. Beyond the persuading, the changing and the capturing, we have an opportunity —, CAT, or Chatham Area Transit Authority, is an integral part of this community. This is not just an effort done by the Brotherhood. We have included —, the City of Savannah have been in on the planning. I talked to our Mayor, Mayor Adams about it, and you've spoken —.

Mr. Grantham said, yes, Mayor Adams is in support of this as well. I have a letter from him. I also have a letter from County Commissioner Billy Hair and he's also supporting this effort. I was to a meeting recently where they had a young lady who was hired by the County to figure out ways to bring a better relations between CAT and the citizens of Chatham County. This would be a perfect opportunity for Chatham County and CAT to bridge a gap, so to speak. There will be thousands who will be riding a CAT bus who may have never rode a CAT bus. They have an opportunity to see a smiling face, a

friendly driver, and support Chatham Area Transit. It would be great. Scott Lansing and Jean Iadepola have been very helpful and I applaud their efforts in helping us in this effort. I think this is a great opportunity for CAT and the citizens of Chatham County.

Commissioner Odell said, and beyond that it's an opportunity. This is not the solution, and I do not want it to be portrayed as this will solve the violent crime problem in Chatham County. It will not. In order to solve the violent crime problems in Chatham County we're going to have to do some substantial work regarding attitude, the value of life, morality, respect, not only self-respect but respect for others, but this is a part of the puzzle and was identified in the President's Crime Prevention Council of 1997, and this is part of the program that is discussed, reviewed by the National Institute of Justice. The research report was done out of Harvard University, and I think we all dread reading the paper and seeing that another young person between the age of 16 and 24 will never have an opportunity to fulfill their dream, will never have an opportunity to become a viable taxpaying citizen. Beyond that, the grief, the hurt and the pain that's caused their parent, and Harrison [Grantham] and I share a couple of things in that other than we live in the same district, we share the fact that we both have sons in their teenage years, and if you have a son in the teenage years, whether that son be White, Black, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, when that child goes out because crime is prevalent, you have a substantial fear, and I know what my father said about waiting up in the nights. I'd ask you all to consider it and we'll open the floor to discussion, Madam Chair.

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

Commissioner Murray said, yes, just two issues. One, when we were taking the action to rescind and start discussion, I had forgotten that we —, this was an issue that was on the CAT agenda. I realize that all of us sit on the CAT Board, but this is a County Commission meeting and not a CAT meeting, so I question whether the action's right or not. County Manager Abolt said, sir, I believe, though I was not here last time, as in the past, the CAT Board has said they cannot in and of themselves offer service, as the County Commission you'd be allocating \$1,000 —. Commissioner Murray said, that was going to be my next part. My first question was, can we —, we can't rescind the action that was taken by the CAT Board. Commissioner Price said, are we rescinding a CAT motion is what he's saying. Commissioner Murray said, that's what I'm saying. Commissioner Odell said, we're not rescinding a CAT motion. Commissioner Murray said, yes, we did. Commissioner Odell said, no, this would not be rescinding a CAT motion. This was listed on the Chatham County Commission section for the approval of \$1,000. That would be the motion that we'd be rescinding. County Attorney Hart said, dealt with the transfer of funds. Commissioner Murray said, but I thought we discussed it at the CAT meeting. I don't have a problem with the transfer of funds. I have a problem if we, as a CAT Board, grant the request from CAT. County Attorney Hart said, you're not. You're dealing with your Commission —. Commissioner Murray said, but my recommendation would be, first of all, I still think I'm right that we discussed this during the CAT meeting. County Attorney Hart said, you may have. Commissioner Saussy said, we discussed it, but I think we didn't act until —. Commissioner Murray said, because Scott Lansing was sitting there and that's when all the discussion took place. Besides that, the other thing I would recommend that if this is really a joint effort between the City and the County, then I would recommend that the County take out of whatever budget we want to \$500 of that \$1,000 and ask the City to do the same thing with the other part of it. The money's not the issue I don't think. It's —, that was never the issue in what we discussed to begin with. It's the other part of it.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes. I don't have a problem with it. I think Harris [Odell] has spoken eloquently for it and I would speak for it also because I think we definitely do need to do a lot more about crime, and maybe this will just be a beginning in getting some of this crime —, at least somewhat alleviate, and I would, I would, if it's okay, I would like to make a motion that we approve this, this expense to the CAT. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Commissioner Jackel asked, expense to what? Commissioner Saussy said, to the CAT. Commissioner Rivers said, defray the cost of the \$1,000. Commissioner Saussy said, we were going to do that anyway. Commissioner Price said, approve the thousand.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Commissioner Murray said, just one. What budget should we take it out of? Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Jackel, Commissioner Price and then Commissioner DeLoach. Discussion?

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I thought, too, that we did it during CAT and we voted to turn it down and I voted against it, although I'm for what you're doing, but we have a grants-in-aid program where we distribute money, and we have tried to stick very closely to limit our expenditures through our grants-in-aid because this is a very worthy cause, and crime is one of my top priorities, but we also turned down the cancer association when they wanted money from us, and we have turned down other things, and the cancer association is something, a cause that is very near and dear to my heart because my wife had a small bout with it. Certainly I have a lot of friends that are —, that have had bouts with it or struggling with it and have died from it, and we, I thought, had come up with a policy that no matter how good the cause was, we could not do this type of contribution. And even though I support your thing, I think it's important that I stand with that policy because I don't want to —, you know, it's kind of like I have to turn them all down or I have to approve them all, and once I open that Pandora's box I'm scared what's going to come out.

Mr. Grantham said, well, I, too, share your pain and grief pertaining to cancer because I lost my father when I was 11 years old, and there was not a man in my life to teach me, to show me direction, but the point is we're not talking about one

organization here or one group. We're talking about the entire City. This is not just the Brotherhood Association, this is not just a cancer society. We're talking the entire City here. Every organization, every group, every race, every school, every church.

Commissioner Jackel said, I understand that and it's certainly not my point to argue with you or list the merits of it. I'm just trying to explain, you know, that we have turned down others and I'm sure we will have to turn down quite a few others in the future because we do have a process through grants-in-aid and I think it's important that we stick to that process.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the Attorney would like to make a statement.

County Attorney Hart said, yes. I've consulted with the Clerk, and obviously I don't sit on the —, as the attorney for the CAT Board, and I think Commissioner Murray's brought up a good point, and two things occurred, just purposes of clarifying the record, I thought the Commission had taken action in the last Board meeting and, therefore, made recommendations based upon the fact that I assumed y'all had taken action. Technically, what occurred was we had a CAT Board meeting, the CAT Board turned down the funding request, okay, so that took care of it at the CAT Board. However, this amount of money was listed on the action calendar for the Chatham County Commission along with —. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, we took it out. County Attorney Hart said, that's what I'm getting ready to say. Commissioner DeLoach said, we took it out. County Attorney Hart said, with a number of other items, which you took out, okay, and then you voted on the remainder of the items. So there was no funding, okay. So technically you're meeting as the Commission now and, Commissioner Odell, technically there's nothing to reconsider, but Commissioner Odell could make a motion for the Chatham County Commission as a policy matter to add the thousand dollars or whatever the funding amount is that y'all deem appropriate back and then y'all vote on that as a funding matter. Commissioner Price said, Commissioner Saussy has already done that. County Attorney Hart said, okay.

Commissioner Rivers said, in response to what you're saying. Commissioner Price said, Joe [Rivers] seconded it. Commissioner Rivers said, in response to what you're saying, Shot [Hart], is that we've got a motion on the floor that's coming from this body. We also asked for reconsideration and we rescinded whatever we did, whatever was done in conjunction —. Commissioner Price said, we didn't do anything. Commissioner Rivers said, with this particular issue, we rescinded it. County Attorney Hart said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, even if we didn't do anything. Well, I'll even amend the motion to add this thousand dollar issue to the agenda so that it's on our agenda and if we've got two-thirds vote, then we can have that as a part of the discussion now albeit what happened before. County Attorney Hart said, correct. I just wanted to clarify that because I thought, both Commissioners made good points. Commissioner Rivers said, so if it's all right with David [Saussy], who made the motion —. Commissioner Saussy said, all right. Commissioner Rivers said, we'll add the thousand dollars to it and add this to our agenda.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Any further discussion?

Commissioner Price said, I've got another question for the County Attorney to answer with his CAT hat on. County Attorney Hart said, I don't have a CAT hat. Commissioner Price said, the cat in the hat. Jon [Hart], does this then have to go to the CAT Board and be approved at the CAT Board. Commissioner Rivers said, no, no. County Attorney Hart said, you're doing that as your —. Commissioner Murray said, the County Commission. Vice Chairman Thomas said, just the County Commission. Commissioner Price said, we say to the CAT, we say to CAT here's the money [unintelligible when several Commissioners began talking.] County Manager Abolt said, you just cut the check to CAT for the amount of the debt. They could care less —, you're a customer of CAT. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, no further discussion —. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got a concern just like Martin [Jackel] did on that issue with the cancer society. I wish someone would tell me what is the policy going to be based on our discussion in our turning down the cancer society. I don't care if the whole City's marching. If one person dies of cancer, it's no different than if one person dies with a gunshot. It doesn't matter, but the fact of it is, we turned down the cancer society. Sitting up here and we all stood up on our box and said because we don't have a policy we're not going to do this and we're not going to do that and that was our issue. Now, what are we doing here? Tell me, tell me how to reconcile my understanding that I had with the cancer society when we told them and stood up there and every —, I mean, we all did it, stood right there and say, hey, we can't give you the money because we don't fund those things based on the fact that we don't want to fund everybody who comes along and wants to do it. Now if you can give me an understanding on that, I'll —. Commissioner Price asked can I just —? Commissioner DeLoach said, talk to me. I'm listening.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, I thought about this and part of why I'm —, I thought about reporting this was that same argument, and I'll say this, these are desperate times in Savannah and Chatham County. People are getting killed left and right. Desperate times require desperate measures, and if it's just providing the funding to get people to and from to help do that in this situation, I think it's something we've got to consider to do it. You don't —, you don't have somebody who is suffering from cancer that has been maliciously assaulted or has, you know, cause for bodily harm where they would not normally have it. That's something that is an unfortunate natural genetic situation that nobody can control except to try and

detect it early enough to prevent it or treat it. You can't detect early enough someone shooting somebody else unless you intervene, and this is an intervention and this is exactly what you're talking about here is getting everybody on the same page and reading the same verse and say we've got to do something about this, and I think it's too important for us just to turn —, turn our backs to it. So I support it and I think we still ought to do it.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, Commissioner Odell, did you want to —?

Commissioner Odell said, yes. Just very quickly. Commissioner DeLoach said, Harris [Odell], help me through it. Commissioner Odell said, I'll help you, Eddie [DeLoach]. First, let me address just the issue as to whether or not the City of Savannah is partnering —, being in a partnership with the County in this regard. I would answer that question absolutely that the City is. The City would be providing the police services, which would be an additional cost, the clean-up and a whole host of other things. I offer to you as a gentleman and a scholar that I have spoken to Dan Reynolds, Acting Chief of Police for the City of Savannah, and Dan [Reynolds] is in full support of this program. The total cost is not a thousand dollars, so to divide it and to assume that that's the total cost would not take in the actual cost. That's the first point. The second point as to why this is perhaps different, and I support the cancer society. My dad nine years ago passed of cancer. I agree with Ben [Price] that cancer is unfortunately a natural cause. When we have unnatural causes like hurricanes. When we have a hurricane we make exceptions. We even made exceptions for these young people here, the Youth Commission. Beyond those exceptions, what we are seeing, I think, is a very nominal sum of money. Commissioner DeLoach said, it is not the money. Commissioner Odell said, I —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I understand that. Commissioner Odell said, and I'm going to work on the principle with you in just a minute. That we can partnership in an effort with citizens who has [sic] worked with other municipalities and they have determined that this is one piece of a large puzzle that we need to start addressing. Is this going to open the floor doors? I would hope not, but my perception of a budget is that it's a living and breathing animal because we cannot always predict every foreseeable consequence. It is therefore necessary for us to meet as a body to see if an exception is warranted. I have represented individuals —, in fact, last year I represented an individual who was charged with a crime and goes down to the project. His grandfather has been a client of my office for 19 years. He goes down to the project, and I won't mention the project, and he's shot and he had been reared by his grandparents and the devastation that that caused in that family is —, you cannot imagine unless you've lost a child. We all expect that someday that we will unfortunately have to bury our parents. We never expect that we will have to bury a child. If we can, whatever that potential consequence, avert and prevent one child from being gunshot, knifed and going through treatment or death for this minor expenditure, I think we have as a body should consider it. That's the moral rationale, Eddie [DeLoach].

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, Commissioner Murray, did you still want to speak?

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I do, just to put a couple of things into perspective. I know the cancer society has been used as the major focus of turning that down, and I, too, support the cancer society. As a matter of fact, I had cancer five years ago and I'm fortunate that I've gotten through five years clean health, but that's beside the point. We have a policy in this County, and it's for the facilities even down at the Tybee Pier is one of them, where the only entity that we can grant or that we will allow to use that at no charge is another government agency or government sponsored function. To my knowledge, this is not a government sponsored function, and it's not the amount of money, Harris [Odell], and y'all keep talking about the minimal amount of money. I agree with that, but it's not the amount of money. It's the policy we set and I have the same concerns as Martin [Jackel] and with Eddie [DeLoach], once we do this, then what have we done with policies that we now have. I think we all support what we're trying to do. My recommendation at the last meeting when it was denied was to check with the school board. Their buses are larger, and see if they would run the buses over there. I don't know whether they will or not and I don't know if —.

Mr. Grantham said, we checked on them. Commissioner Odell said, we checked with the military because they were —. Commissioner Murray said, no, I said the school. Commissioner Odell said, I know, but we checked with the military and I think the committee [inaudible] to the school board and their representative from the school board participated in the activity.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we're going to go to Commissioner Rivers and I think we need to wrap it up.

Commissioner Rivers said, I know we've had changes in the policy, but this is a participatory type action, and I think that on most things that we participate in —, the City of Savannah is doing —, giving extra offset costs, then it would be valid for them to come and ask us to participate in it and offset the cost. Not as a nonparticipant, but as a participant. I won't go back to what we did for [inaudible] group or the veterans group when we gave him monies outside of the grants-in-aid because we have since then set a policy to kind of tighten this thing up, but as a participant, not as a grantee, but as a participant, I think surely we could give this without hurting the policy.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner DeLoach said, I've got a suggestion. Maybe I —, we won't allow anyone but a government body to use things free or at no charge. I would ask that we approve donating a thousand dollars to the City of Savannah to defray the cost of them sponsoring this event or helping sponsor this event and let that go towards the bus — CAT, if they so choose. Is there any reason that won't fly? Commissioner Odell said, other than the fact that we already have a motion on the floor. Commissioner Saussy said, well, I can amend that. Commissioner DeLoach asked, would you be willing to —. Commissioner Rivers said, we'll accept the

friendly amendment. Commissioner DeLoach asked, would this be a —? I feel like based on the fact that we could do that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we have a friendly —. Commissioner Jackel said, I've heard there are many ways to skin a cat. Commissioner DeLoach said, I just got him, bubba. Vice Chairman Thomas said, we have a friendly amendment on the floor. All in favor of that amendment.

Commissioner Odell said, before we vote on the amendment, because I might be unready. May I just take a moment and whisper something to —. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible] go get it from him now, that's the only thing I can tell you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, while —. Commissioner Rivers said, come on back here. Vice Chairman Thomas said, while Commissioner Odell is having a little short conference here with Mr. Grantham, I'd like to say —. Gentlemen. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, I wanted to take a point of —, Chair privilege just to say that we do have a very, very serious problem in our City and our County, and I hope the day will come when we can all work towards preventive types of situations where we can get our City and our County on track in a positive way. What we are seeing and hearing every day, every day, is not good. We're losing our youth, I mean, just one after another. If we lose one person, that means that we have a lot to do. So I would suggest that not only now, I'm not talking about now, but let's try to make a concerted effort to join forces in a partnership on these issues. It's going to take everybody, everybody, not one entity, not just the County Commissioners, not the School Board, not the City of Savannah, it's going to take every agency, every individual in Savannah, Chatham County, to do the kind of job that is needed to make a difference in our community, and with that —. Commissioner Price said, call for the question.

Commissioner Murray said, before you do that let me just ask Eddie [DeLoach] a question. When Dr. Thomas started talking is when I kind of thought about it. You know, this is —, we're all talking about our youth, and I think that's what this is all about, the shootings, the violent crime, but a lot of it has to do with the youth and the young people. Is that correct? Mr. Grantham said, right, but not necessarily our youth. Not all are targets. Commissioner Murray said, I know not all of it, but I'm trying to get you your money, okay. Mr. Grantham said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, but I'm trying to do it in a different manner. I think, to me, it would be great if we took that money and put it in the Youth Commission budget and let the Youth Commission be the one to sponsor those buses. Mr. Grantham said, that would be a wonderful idea. Commissioner Murray asked, can we do that? County Attorney Hart said, sure. Commissioner Murray asked, would you accept that? Commissioner Jackel said, sounds good to me.

Commissioner Rivers said, we'll accept the motion. We accept the [inaudible]. Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion as amended. Commissioner Jackel said, Madam Chairman, I think that's the way I could support it. I don't think I could support it to the City. Commissioner Saussy said, let's do it then. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, we had this policy come up and we said we were not going to give out money because —, and then we said, okay, if the governmental agency wants to use the Tybee Pier, we will —, that's not giving money, but we wouldn't be charging them money, and we said the same thing with our band shell. If it's a nonprofit group we still have a base price, but if it's a governmental agency, we would waive the charge. We know how many requests we get for the Tybee Pier and the band shell, and so I really thing it would be opening a Pandora's box, but if we were to give extra funds to the Youth Commission and they decided that this was important for them to do, it's still close but I think that's one that I can accept, and I don't —, hopefully we won't be opening —, going down a slippery slope by doing that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Saussy and then we're going to take a vote.

Commissioner Saussy said, I want to get this motion right now since we've amended it three times it looks like. Commissioner Murray said, well, you accepted it, it's supposed to be right. Commissioner Saussy said, well, okay. I just want to make sure we've got it right. We don't have to —, Mr. Attorney, the previous amendments we don't have to withdraw those? County Attorney Hart said, well, you're either going to amend the amendment —. Commissioner Murray said, just withdraw everything. Commissioner DeLoach said, just clear mine. Commissioner Murray said, withdraw all of that. Commissioner Saussy said, I'll just withdraw the motion and make another one. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay, go ahead. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't agree to that. Commissioner Saussy asked, you don't agree with that? Commissioner Rivers said, yes, that's all right. Commissioner Saussy said, I make a motion that we give \$1,000 to the Youth Commission for purposes of —. County Attorney Hart said, no, no purposes. Commissioner Saussy said, no purposes. Okay. Commissioner Rivers said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. No further discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, Madam Chair, if I could just thank Mr. Grantham for volunteering —, acting as our Tatemville Neighborhood Association. Thank you for coming. Mr. Grantham said, thank you for having me.

Commissioner Murray asked, can I make one other comment? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, with the Youth Commission doing this, they could legitimately be a sponsor of that function. Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, yes, and they should. Commissioner Murray said, by doing that. Okay.

Commissioner DeLoach said, make sure you plug —. Commissioner Murray said, the doctor has spoken. Commissioner DeLoach said, the doctor has spoken.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell made a motion to add this item to the agenda. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
2. Commissioner Saussy made a motion that the Commission give \$1,000 to the Chatham County Youth Commission. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

None.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE \$71,790 IN REVENUE FROM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT AND TO APPROPRIATE \$71,790 FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, AND A TRANSFER OF \$200,000 FROM THE 1993-1998 UNINCORPORATED DRAINAGE RESERVE TO FAWCETT CANAL PHASE II.**

Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Please vote. Commissioner Rivers asked, what number? Vice Chairman Thomas said, on number one. Commissioner Price said, number one, Items for Individual Action. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy and Jackel were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the following: a Capital Improvement Program budget amendment to recognize \$71,790 in revenue from Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and to appropriate \$71,790 for purchase of equipment, and a transfer of \$200,000 from the 1993-1998 Unincorporated Drainage Reserve to Fawcett Canal Phase II. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy and Jackel were not present.]

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2. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AMENDED BUDGET CALENDAR FOR FY2001. PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE A BUDGET GOALS SESSION AT NOON ON THURSDAY, MAY 4TH.**

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, this will allow a two week slippage in when I present my budget message to you. Rather than the first of May, it would be the 15th of May. It does, however, go one step further in that when Mr. Persaud and I evaluated the timing, you recall with our experiences on the new fiscal year we'd hope to have a budget adopted by the end of the month of June, which certainly is still doable if you wish to commit to that; however, we are so close based on the sequence of events that begins on the 23rd of June with Mr. Udinsky and the digest that we will

not have accurate digest figures and growth until the 23rd day of June with adoption of your millage rates for this current calendar year set for the 28th of July, so beyond just slipping this two weeks and because of what Commissioner Rivers alluded to as far as the complexity and severity of any budget deliberation and final action for the next year, it might be beneficial for the purpose of continuity to slip your adoption date for your 2001 budget to the 28th day of July. That would be the same day you would adopt your millage. What we would have to do from the standpoint of keeping everything running is to come back to you prior to the end of this fiscal year during the month of June with a continuing resolution which would allow our current expenditures to carry forward until you adopt a new budget, which under this schedule, if you approve, would go forward on the 28th day of July.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? Commissioner Price said, call for the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor. Did anyone make a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, a motion has been properly made and seconded. All in favor, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, with your permission, it is on the agenda there, not as an action item, but for the benefit of the public and the news media, even though notification has gone out, this Board will have a workshop on budget goals for that budget year —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, yes, on the 4th. County Manager Abolt said, and that is now set for Noon, this coming Thursday, the 4th of May in this room.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Thank you. Commissioner Murray asked, could I make a comment on that while we're on that? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes.

Commissioner Murray said, I doubt very seriously that I will be able to make that, and just because I'm not here does not mean I'm not concerned about the budget. Vice Chairman Thomas said, right. Commissioner Murray said, I just wanted to make that statement because I don't think I can be here on the 4th.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the amended budget calendar for FY2001. COMMISSIONER PRICE seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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3. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF LATE PENALTY FOR TARDY BUSINESS TAX RENEWAL AFTER DUE DATE: LYNDA S. WERTZ, D/B/A RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS, LOCATED AT 6813 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, good morning. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Mr. Anderson. The applicant is requesting a waiver of the late penalty for a renewal of business license. The deadline renewal date is March 1st. The transmittal was received by the Inspections Department on the 8th, and as we've noted in the past, the staff has no administrative authority to bring this —, to make a decision on this so it's brought before you today to waive that penalty.

Commissioner Murray asked, is there any reason for the late —? Mr. Anderson said, well, they just said they mailed it and a letter is included your packet. Late delivery of the mail.

County Manager Abolt said, you want to ask for testimony, sir, if the person is here. Commissioner Murray said, I don't think anybody's here.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is anyone here?

Commissioner Murray said, I move we deny it. Commissioner Saussy said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, motion and a second for denial. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to **deny** the request of Lynda S. Wertz, d/b/a Re/Max Professionals, located at 6813 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for waiver of late penalty for tardy business tax renewal after due date. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF FOUR POSITIONS IN MOSQUITO CONTROL FROM SEASONAL TO PERMANENT AND AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER FROM OPERATING LINE ITEMS INTO SALARY AND WAGES.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, this was an item pointed out to us in cooperation with the Management Consultant and Dr. Lewandowski. We are making this recommendation with the understanding that he must selectively review these and that because of the serious nature of the work that they do do, having the capacity of assets to a full-time staff is beneficial to the general community. Commissioner Murray said, keep them [inaudible] the mosquitos getting ready to start. County Manager Abolt said, they've already started.

Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor, please vote. Commissioner Murray said, I don't normally do that. Commissioner Saussy asked, is that because you live on the Island where all the water is? Commissioner Murray said, you're right. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to change the status of four positions in Mosquito Control from seasonal to permanent and authorize a transfer from operating line items into Salary and Wages. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER 15 WITH MTCB FOR UNFORESEEN CONDITIONS AT THE ENTRY ROAD/ENTRY BRIDGE TO THE TRADE CENTER.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, this is not necessarily complex and it's not new information. I'll ask Mr. Monahan come forward. You'll recall in the sometimes endless discussions in this room over the Trade Center budget and different modifications, staff always recognized that there was an issued referred to as unforeseen conditions over and above the guaranteed maximum price that deal with the actual site upon which the Trade Center is now being constructed. We have what amounts to a conceptual request for approval of how we might cover an expenditure of just under \$2.4 million in unforeseen conditions. Mr. Monahan assures me this is the last time we'll come back to the well. The concept though deals with a way in which we choose to raise the money with your approval. It would require the full cooperation of the State Department of Transportation because we would be shifting an eligible project for their funding from SPLOST participation to State participation. That would free up the \$2.4 million. This action, as I said though, is conceptual. It would require the concurrence of GDOT. Mr. Bungard is very quick to remind us all that this is probably our last move of any consequence in our current entitlement of SPLOST so that any project that would come forward after this for which you would use this tried and true strategy of getting the State to pick up projects that they [inaudible] are eligible for State dollars, this is the last of the big ones. County Manager Abolt recognized Mr. Monahan.

Commissioner Odell asked, is this the last last because I thought the last time was the last? Commissioner Price said, that was the last of the last times. County Manager Abolt said, no, no, no, sir. No, really on this, and I defend the issue, Mr. Monahan has always said that the issue of unforeseen conditions was not addressed because they were unforeseen.

Mr. Pat Monahan said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Mr. Monahan said, I think I tried to make that clarification the way the contract documents read. To my knowledge the Commission has not added any additional funds to this project since well over three years. Now we've been up here debating it, and fortunately the Commission's taken a very strong position on that, and I think the Construction Manager has heard that, but this is —, unforeseen conditions represents an exception to the contract. It's very clear in the contract, which the County Attorney has reviewed, and which the architect has also reviewed and concurred that these truly do represent unforeseen conditions. These are a little bit different than the other matters before the Board, and I can go through and explain these in depth if you would like. Probably the best way is to use his drawing, which signifies the problem area. Now, of course, this was done probably four years ago, and at one time the Commission recalls that this slip, this is formerly Slip 2, it extends here, up into this area, formerly Slip 2. This is Slip 3 and of course Slip 1 is on the eastern side of the three slips. You can tell at one time this slip went the entire extent of —, northward to the Island. What we did was, as part of this project, we reclaimed this part for the East Square and then put the entry road along here. The slip actually came all the way to the East. Now what is —, what's happened since we were not able to get a Fish and —, Corps of Engineers permit to hydraulically dredge this material, and you can see the extent of it and this is a pretty picture. It was not that pretty. It was silted, very grey, very ugly. Definitely two or three notches below what we refer to as Pooler gumbo. It's —, I often described it in this project that it is stuff that's not of this earth because when it's wet it's very slippery, but when it gets dry it is very hard and it's —, it's just —, you can't build on it, there's not much you can do with it. We even tried to suggest at one time we sell it to the spa for mud packs and we joked a lot about it, but it was really a difficult problem and a difficult attempt at engineering a solution. So similar to what the State did here, based on recommendations from the engineer, we solidified it. It's a process of using layers of fabric and clean sand to stabilize this entire area. When you go to the grand opening you can see it because it's still settling and it probably will continue to settle for a couple more years and

at some point in the future the Trade Center Authority can then pave it over and use it for additional parking. What we were able to do was substitute this area to get the necessary parking spaces and swap for this area, so we were still able to maintain over 1700 parking spaces on the site, but this —, but you'll notice this area is unusable at this point. The prob—.

Commissioner Price asked, it won't be generating methane in the future will it? Mr. Monahan said, no, no. No methane. There's —, no. No methane. So, I mean, that's the difficulty in it.

Mr. Monahan said, when the County entered into the guaranteed maximum price with the Construction Manager, this whole area was a different concept. As I said, it was supposed to be open, it was supposed to be the marsh park. Then we looked at hydraulically dredging it, and that's the basis for the Construction Manager's guaranteed maximum price, and that's why this would be outside of the scope of that contract.

Commissioner Price asked, what portion of the two point almost four million is that? Mr. Monahan said, all of it. Just about all of it. Commissioner Price said, okay. Mr. Monahan said, it's represented in several things. First of all, the fact that we could not hydraulically dredge it, that we had to use a combination of mechanical excavation and the solidification process that I described. That was a good portion of it. Then within these areas, underground, unknown to anyone, underground foundations, some old piles under there, a lot of concrete structures, areas where because of the past use for industrial purposes, warehouses that, you know, were just buried, old cables and concrete. Because those are conditions that could not be seen at the time of the contract, they were not covered under the contract. Yes, sir?

Commissioner Murray said, not to confuse that area with the walk, but —. Mr. Monahan said, but this has nothing to do with the —. Commissioner Murray said, I know it doesn't, but is the walk going to come back to us, too? Mr. Monahan said, no sir. Commissioner Murray said, so the work going on there, we will not even be asked to pay for that? Mr. Monahan said, the —, I can't say at this point. I don't know what the Construction Manager intends to do. The Construction Manager's only correspondence has been that it has attempted to apply —, to request coverage through the County's builder's risk policy, and that's being discussed with the insurance company that's carrying it. Commissioner Murray asked, but isn't the construction management team 50% or more Beers Construction? Mr. Monahan said, yes sir. Beers Construction is the managing partner, yes sir.

Commissioner Price said, I move for approval. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's been moved and seconded —. Commissioner Jackel said, I have —, we need one person to vote against it.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right, it has been moved and seconded that the request be approved. Commissioner Price said, call the question. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I just did. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy Rivers, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve Change Order 15 with MTCB for unforeseen conditions at the entry road/entry bridge to the Trade Center in the amount of \$2,352,238. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy Rivers, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF PLAN FOR ARTWORK AND HISTORICAL SIGNAGE AT THE TRADE CENTER. NOTE: ITEM WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL A LATER DATE FOR ADDITIONAL WORK.

County Manager Abolt said, that was pulled off the agenda.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff removed this item from the agenda.

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7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE 90-DAY HIRING FREEZE AND AUTHORIZE HUMAN RESOURCES TO ADVERTISE POSITIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS MORE COST EFFICIENT TO FILL.**
- **SHERIFF - CLERICAL ASSISTANT IV (ONE POSITION)**
 - **VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - VICTIM ADVOCATE (ONE POSITION)**
 - **CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - CLERICAL ASSISTANT II (ONE POSITION)**
 - **LIBRARY - PAGE I (ONE POSITION)**
 - **CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT - CLERICAL ASSISTANT III (ONE POSITION); CLERICAL ASSISTANT IV (ONE POSITION)**

Sheriff - Clerical Assistant IV (one position):

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, yes, that's --. Commissioner DeLoach asked, is that a cashier? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Madam Chairman, that's a records room. Cashier and records room. That's all really I ever come up here for. I sat back there 30 minutes trying to figure how I could tie it in the beginning with Mosquito Control season, but I couldn't go it. Commissioner Murray asked, you don't have a mosquito out there? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, we've got mosquitos out there, but —. Commissioner Rivers said, we've got screens to the windows.

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second. Commissioner Murray said, I'll support you on that.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, did we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion carried.

Victim-Witness Assistance Program - Victim Advocate (one position):

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is anyone here? Commissioner DeLoach said, there she is.

Ms. Helen Smith said, good morning. I'm Helen Smith at the Victim-Witness Assistance Program, and we have a retirement in our office, Kate Filson is leaving after 14 years, and she is the Child Victim Advocate who works with all children who've been victims and witnesses, as well as works with the misdemeanor crime victims. I'd appreciate your consideration.

Commissioner Murray asked, when is she retiring. Ms. Smith said, today is her last day. Commissioner Murray said, oh, today.

Commissioner Odell said, I've got just one or two questions. Ms. Smith said, okay. Commissioner Odell asked, how do we compare as far as staffing with other comparable municipalities? Ms. Smith said, well, it's very diverse across the State, but we're pretty compatible in areas our size. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Population wise do we have more or less? Or do you know? Ms. Smith said, I think we're about average. Commissioner Odell said, average. Ms. Smith said, I haven't done a study recently, but I know a few years ago we compared ourselves in South Carolina, Florida and Georgia, and we're about average. Commissioner Odell asked, when positions turn over, as a matter of routine do we make a determination as to the necessity of the continuation of that? Ms. Smith said, yes. It is —, I have submitted the job duties about what this person does and what would happen if the position were not filled. Commissioner Odell asked, and what would happen? Ms. Smith said, then all the folks who are children who are unfortunately crime victims or witnesses, anything from child abuse to witnessing murder, then there would be no one to assist them through the court process, to make referrals, and to help their families. Commissioner Odell asked, so this person is involved with every child who has either been a victim of crime or either witnessed a crime and kind of shepherds them through the court process —? Ms. Smith said, that's correct. Commissioner Odell asked, and we have one person to do that? Ms. Smith said, we have another person who helps her do that but has other duties as well. Commissioner Odell said, I think it's a good program. You also coordinate it with some of the mental health organizations here also? Ms. Smith said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, I think it's a good program. I'll move to approve. Commissioner Price said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any discussion? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried and it's been approved.

Child Support Enforcement - Clerical Assistant II (one position):

Commissioner Odell said, I'll move to approve that. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll move to approve that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Commissioner DeLoach said, we're just glad to have you here. Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Commissioner Price said, a money-making outfit. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

Library - Page I (one position):

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, I apologize for the brevity in the way in which this is entitled on the agenda. The staff report is more expansive. Mr. Kaigler reminded me just before the meeting that it's more than one position, so I would defer to Library staff for a full explanation for your benefit.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay.

Ms. Candy Frawley said, good morning. Our Library Pages are basically students, high school students, college students. We do have some that are looking at career ladders in the Library, but this leads us to a very fast turnover of Pages as their educational needs change and, therefore, in the last year we've experienced a 50% turnover. If I were to have to come to you each time a Library Page left a position, I would be here 19 out of the 26 Board meetings, and I think that's a waste of my time and your time, and we'd very much like for you to exempt the Library Pages from the 90-day hiring freeze so we can fill them as they become vacant.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I'll move for that approval. Commissioner Price said, let's take one at a time. Let's do the item first.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion?

Commissioner Odell said, yes, just a point of clarification. The people that are hired in these positions for the most part are high school or college students? Ms. Frawley said, for the most part. We do have some —, part of our turnover has been people who are interested in a career ladder in the Library, and that leads to —, we had four promotions from Library Pages to Library Assistant positions. Commissioner Odell said, the only reason why I mention that, many years ago we had the dinosaur I was in college and worked as a Page at the local library, and I just wondered if we do this to encourage people to go into the profession, we're going to send the [inaudible]? Ms. Frawley said, we have very many Pages. In fact, a lot of our Librarians started as Pages, so it is something that starts a career, a Library Page working into a Master's of Library Science. We do have some of our employees that started as Library Pages and then followed a career ladder also and are now looking at receiving their Master's of Library Science. Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes. Has the County Attorney left? Commissioner Price said, he's in the hallway I think. Shot [Hart]. Commissioner Odell said, Martin Jackel and I will substitute. Commissioner Murray said, I don't think so. Commissioner Jackel said, between the two of us —. Commissioner Murray said, my question on this is, I know that we are responsible for the budget. When y'all submit your budget to us, we approve that, and I think it's mighty confusing for the general public, and for me sometimes too, why we have to approve certain things that they do when we've already approved their budget, and as long as they operate within their budget, I don't think the personnel should have to come to us. The personnel items. County Attorney Hart said, that is —. Commissioner Murray asked, why is that being done that way? County Attorney Hart said, because that's the way it has always been done, and they're looked at as a quasi department of the County. Commissioner Murray said, but we don't —. Does the personnel work for the Library or do they work for Chatham County? County Attorney Hart said, well, the personnel at the Library are employees of Chatham County under our personnel policy. Technically, they work for the Library Board, but they fall under the policy guidelines of Chatham County. Commissioner Murray said, so in other words we can tell them they can hire people, but we can't say anything else about it is what you're saying.

County Manager Abolt said, each year now for too many years to count we have balanced the budget based on the 90-day hiring freeze. This year I think we averaged —, well, the last full fiscal year we're looking at about \$900,000 in savings. That \$900,000 in savings is fully discretionary. I cannot tell you how much goes to the Library though some does. You have an organization-wide embargo, if you will, on hiring. It applies to everyone and the reason the Library and every organization must come forward is that discretionary money that goes to these departments amasses about \$900,000 in a 12-month period in savings.

Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but my question is if we fund their personnel budget and they stay within that budget, why do they have to come before the County Commission to hire them? County Manager Abolt said, again let me restate. Maybe I was not complete. Commissioner Murray said, I understand the 90-day hiring freeze. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, but what I mean, to balance the entire County budget, the M&O budget, we depend upon saving certain dollars a 12-month period. That's your 90-day hiring freeze. Without the full participation of all department heads we can't hit the mark, and part of that \$900,000, for example, in the last full fiscal year went to all departments, so in effect we're treating all departments equally.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt] —. County Manager Abolt said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Murray said, maybe I'm just not that smart, but I —, what I'm saying is, if we fund their personnel budget for the year, they don't exceed that

budget, so it's not going to affect our 90-day hiring freeze. County Manager Abolt said, yes, it will. Commissioner Rivers said, yes, it will. County Manager Abolt said, yes, it will, sir. We have had almost as long as I've been your manager a policy of saving money, and it says that any time there is a vacancy that vacancy, with the exception of uniformed public safety people, must be held open for 90 days. Everybody does that. Commissioner Murray said, well, I don't know but one or two people that have not been approved. County Manager Abolt said, no sir, no, you have. County Attorney Hart said, but it's the 90 days that —. Commissioner Murray said, I'm talking about the ones that come to us. County Manager Abolt said, you have been able in your last several years to hit the target. Commissioner Price said, by the time they come to us, they're already been frozen for how long. County Manager Abolt said, again, you're only seeing it from [inaudible] percentage of the total freezes. You're only by exception here, and we've been able to hit the target. There's something unusual about the reasons in why they come forward that they cannot comply with the 90-days.

Commissioner Price asked, Russ [Abolt], do you agree with what they're asking? I have not looked at it, sir. I will tell you this that I appreciate the cooperation of all department heads. I know it's a burden for you to have it on your agenda, but, as you can well appreciate, anything we can do to slow down expenditures helps out.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, second. Commissioner Odell said, discussion. That's the —, those positions right now.

Commissioner Odell asked, is this one position or the 19 positions? Ms. Frawley said, we have 38 positions. This is all positions. They pay —, the rate of pay is \$5.64 an hour and they run from 15 to 18 hours a week. They're not 40 hour positions. Commissioner Odell asked, and that Pages only? Ms. Frawley said, Pages only. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, \$5.00 and what? Ms. Frawley said, \$5.64. Commissioner Murray asked, but you aren't going out and hiring 38 of them right now? Ms. Frawley said, no. Mr. Bill Johnson said, this is just when they become vacant. Ms. Frawley said, when they become vacant.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any further discussion? Hearing none, please vote. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but —. The Clerk said, I'm confused as to what the motion is. Is it for just this one position you're voting on now? Commissioner DeLoach said, the item on the agenda. Commissioner Price said, yes, just the item on the agenda. The Clerk said, thank you, I just wanted to make certain. Commissioner Price said, there was another question about continual label or whatever of these Pages —. Commissioner Murray said, so you're just voting for the one page. Commissioner Price said, we're just voting for that one page. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

Ms. Frawley said, our request was for all positions. There was a typo on the agenda that said one position. Commissioner Murray asked, let him clarify what we just did so they will know. Commissioner Price said, it says one position. Commissioner Saussy said, well, that —, but I think that the Manager —, the Manager corrected that. County Manager Abolt said, we acknowledged the error in that. Commissioner Jackel said, that's not what it says. It says freeze all Page I positions, so it's more than one. Commissioner Price said, right. County Manager Abolt said, they're requesting more than one. An error was made in the agenda. Vice Chairman Thomas said, well, we stated that there was an error.

Commissioner DeLoach said, all right. Well, let me just —, can I just withdraw my motion then that —, start all over? Should I need to or do I just amend the motion or —. County Attorney Hart said, y'all voted on the motion. Commissioner Rivers said, Alternative One —. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, my motion was —, it was a wrong motion. That's my —. I mean, do we with —, what do we do? Commissioner Price said, he was not sure what whether you were talking about one position or all positions.

County Attorney Hart said, okay. Well, you've got one position, you could now place a motion to adopt the rest of them. Commissioner Murray said, wait a minute. What did we just approve. Commissioner Rivers asked, did we adopt Alternative One? Alternative One says —. Commissioner Murray said, I want to know so I'll know which way I'm voting on. County Attorney Hart said, that was what the Clerk —. Commissioner Rivers said, Alternative One said, Board approval of exemption of the Library Page positions —, and that's an "S" plural —, from the 90-day hiring freeze. Vice Chairman Thomas said, so it's more than one. County Attorney Hart said, it says positions. Commissioner Rivers said, it says positions. That's plural.

Commissioner Price said, for clarification sake, make another motion. County Attorney Hart said, yes, you could make another motion for purposes of clarification. Commissioner Murray said, yes.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I make a motion to approve the hiring of —. Commissioner Murray said, we just voted on one person. County Attorney Hart said, well, you voted for Library —. If you voted on Alternative One, you voted for Library Page positions. Commissioner DeLoach said, I didn't vote on Alternative One, I voted on one Page that it says right here on the front of these papers. That was wrong. We've got to get rid of that. Okay, cause I made an error. Commissioner Price said, move to rescind, move to rescind it. Commissioner DeLoach said, so I move to rescind that motion. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, have you got a second? Commissioner Price said, let's rescind this motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, somebody second it. Commissioner Price said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All in favor of the motion to rescind. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Let's start all over. Vice Chairman Thomas said, start all over again. Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval of the first alternate or whatever that thing says there. Vice Chairman Thomas said, for the approval of the positions. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. County Attorney Hart said, Library Page positions. Commissioner DeLoach said, of Page. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Price said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All in favor. Commissioner Odell said, discussion. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Discussion?

Commissioner Odell said, I have some problems with that and my problems with that is it's inconvenient for any department head to come here, spend time, but the purpose of that inconvenience is to accrue throughout the departments some level of savings, and my concern that if we unleash them to fill at will, it might just be a minor level of savings, but in the budget —, in the condition our budget is now, all minor savings are necessary. So, therefore, I'm voting against it and Frank [Murray] should go along.

Commissioner Jackel said, Madam Chairman, I would just like to say that we're talking about people who we know we're going to have a turnover with that we're paying \$5.46 an hour —. Ms. Frawley said, \$5.64. Commissioner Jackel said, \$5.64 an hour, and we have senior people that have to spend a couple of hours up here, I think we're losing ground on this thing and we need to give them their exemption. Commissioner DeLoach said, ten-four.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, please vote. Commissioner Rivers said, with something like that, Madam Chair, they don't even have to come, they don't even have to show up. If they need it, all they have to do is ask for it. They don't have to show up. Commissioner DeLoach asked, anybody else want to vote? Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, all right. The motion is carried.

Mr. Johnson said, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

Clerk of Superior Court - Clerical Assistant III (one position); Clerical Assistant IV (one position):

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Kaigler received a call from Ms. Prouse just prior to the meeting. Because of work load and some other very pressing priorities, she is unable to be with us this morning. It's your choice either to consider based on the written request or defer to your next meeting.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll move to approve. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second it. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, all in —, any discussion? All in favor, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's been approved. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Sheriff - Clerical Assistant IV (one position). Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
2. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Victim-Witness Assistance Program - Victim Advocate (one position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
3. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Child Support Enforcement - Clerical Assistant II (one position). Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
4. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of the Library for an exemption of all Library Page positions from the 90-day hiring freeze. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Saussy, Jackel, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
5. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Clerk of Superior Court - Clerical Assistant III (one position) and Clerical Assistant IV (one position). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, now we go to our Action Calendar. Is there anything on there that we need to pull? Commissioner Jackel said, I think we need to pull F and G. Vice Chairman Thomas said, F and G. Commissioner Odell said, and A. Vice Chairman Thomas said, F, G, A. Commissioner DeLoach said, [inaudible]. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm sorry —. Number what? Commissioner DeLoach said, number B. Vice Chairman Thomas said, B, okay. All right, we'll have discussion on B. Okay. The Clerk asked, B as in boy? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes, B as in boy. The Clerk said, thank you.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval on all the items not requested to be held. Commissioner Murray said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion's carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that Items 1 through 6 of the Action Calendar be approved in their entirety with the exception of Items 6-A, 6-B, 6-F and 6-G. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 14, 2000, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 14, 2000, as mailed. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 6 THROUGH APRIL 20, 2000.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 6, 2000, through April 20, 2000, in the amount of \$3,546,876. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, BANKERS FIRST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP., TO RELEASE THE REMAINING FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AT THE END OF THE TWELVE-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD FOR LONG POINT SUBDIVISION, PHASE 9. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Bankers First Community Development Corp., to release the remaining financial guarantee at the end of the 12-month warranty period for Long Point Subdivision, Phase 9. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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4. **REQUEST FROM HALO DEVELOPERS THROUGH THEIR AGENT, EMC ENGINEERING, TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR SUMMERFIELD AT EAGLE'S LANDING (FORMERLY KNOWN AS MARLIN MANOR) AND TO COMBINE THE STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT WITH THE EXISTING DISTRICT.**
[DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request from Halo Developers through their agent, EMC Engineering, to record the final plat for Summerfield at Eagle's Landing (formerly known as Marlin Manor) and to combine the streetlight assessment district with the existing district. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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5. **REQUEST FOR NEW LICENSE FOR BEER AND WINE POURING FOR 2000. PETITIONER: MAHESH A. DEASI, D/B/A QUALITY SUITES HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, LOCATED AT 17 GATEWAY BOULEVARD, EAST.**
[DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request of petitioner Mahesh A. Deasi, d/b/a Quality Suites Hotel & Conference Center, located at 17 Gateway Boulevard East, for a new license for beer and wine pouring for 2000. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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6. **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. 17 in-car video systems	Police	Mobile-Vision, Inc.	\$68,340	CIP - Police (pending Board approval of budget amendment)
B. Thermal imaging device	Police	G.T. Distributors	\$10,750	CIP - Police (pending Board approval of budget amendment)
C. First renewal option to the annual contract for wrecker service	Various	Sapp's Wrecker Service	No charge for County owned vehicles	No funding required
D. Two (2) Ford pick-up trucks	•Sheriff •Police	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$39,074	CIP - Vehicle Replacement
E. Various computer hardware	I.C.S	Entré Computer Center (MBE)	\$105,196.10	•General Fund/M & O - Commissioners •CIP - Y2K Remediation
F. Computer software	Board of Elections	Election Data Services (sole source)	\$37,000	CIP
G. Debit card vending and tracking system	Library	Interface Electronics, Inc.	\$105,089	CIP - Vehicle and Equipment Lease

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
H. Professional services contract to provide instruction to and supervision of youth under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court in a community service work program	Juvenile Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Phillip Thompson •Tina Burnett •Daniel Walker •Cathy Simmons •Scott Brown •Arizona Brown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •\$22 per hour to Work Squad Supervisor •\$12.50 or \$15 per hour to individuals providing direct instruction supervision to individual youth 	Supervision fees collected by Juvenile Court

Items 6-C, 6-D, 6-E and 6-H:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 6-C, 6-D, 6-E and 6-H. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

Item 6-A:

17 IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEMS; DEPARTMENT: POLICE; SOURCE: MOBILE-VISION, INC.; AMOUNT: \$68,340; FUNDING: CIP - POLICE (PENDING BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT)

County Manager Abolt said, on Item A, Dr. Thomas, Mr. Lynch is here as well as Police representatives, but both A and B, just for your background, are the documents that you just —, the items you’ve just received funding for through the Department of Justice through the Special Law Enforcement Block Grant. This was a particular expenditure of 17 in-car video that came about discussion started with Commissioner Odell a number of months ago, were you all asked the Chief and staff to see what we might be able to do to equip many more of our patrol vehicles with these video systems. We are now, based on the memorandum I sent you earlier this week, with this purchase if you approve it, we’ll have a little over 40% of our patrol vehicles that will have this type of video equipment in them.

Commissioner Odell said, Madam Chair, I pulled this so that we could take special note of it, and I strongly support it. I would add to the staff report it indicates to protect the officer as one of the justifications, but it also protects the citizen in that late at night, lonely street, you’re stopped. I think it serves to protect both the officer and the citizen, and it also reduces court expenses. Being one who tries DUI cases and what have you, until you’re looking at a video or the client who swears to you six months later that never had but a few drinks that night and you see a video and he’s slobbering and falling down, it kind of makes a negotiated plea more attractive. And I really think that it really is something that we need to have in 100% of our vehicles and I’m glad that we’ve moved forward on this. Commissioner Price said, second. I take that as a motion. Commissioner Odell said, yes sir, it is. Commissioner DeLoach said, very well stated, sir. Very well stated.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is there any further discussion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the motion is carried.

Item 6-B:

THERMAL IMAGING DEVICE; DEPARTMENT: POLICE; SOURCE: G. T. DISTRIBUTORS; AMOUNT: \$10,750; FUNDING: CIP - POLICE (PENDING BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT)

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, I wish to answer this directly. It came about again that —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, excuse me. He wants me —. Thermal imaging device. Commissioner Price said, it’s 6-B. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Department: Police; Source: G. T. Distributors; Amount: \$10,750; Funding Source: CIP - Police (pending board approval).

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, again I’ll defer to you in a moment, this is an item that Dr. Thomas was most concerned about a number of months ago. We had a very unfortunate experience where we lost one of our citizens. He unfortunately is yet to be found, possibly of Alzheimer’s disease, but wandered off and one of the pieces of equipment that our Police and other agencies used was a thermal imaging device which picks up heat in dense areas. It’s technology that goes back a number of years to the space program. We’re now able to have that equipment, with your permission, today as part of the many things that the Police Department can use in similar situations.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I support what Russ [Abolt] said. We —, I get involved in it a little bit with what I’m doing, and it’s amazing what you can do with thermal imaging, and you can find things and see things that you can’t see otherwise and I just —, I fully support the department having that. As a matter of fact, you might be able to go to some of the military

areas or once they get their scent, I'm sure that they would be glad to give a demonstration on how it works but you can —, I've seen it work where I can put my hand on the back of a helicopter [inaudible] and in daylight they went over and picked up my hand prints off of that tail were I put my whole hand, so it —, it's a heck of a device and it works great. I think it will improve a lot of things with the Police Department.

Commissioner Saussy asked, does this also help you with hot cars? Commissioner Murray said, hot cars. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy asked, does it? County Manager Abolt said, cars that have been chasing, yes sir.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I, too, think it's a very important piece of equipment inasmuch I wish we had this earlier when we were looking for one of our citizens out in the County, Mr. Floyd. He still has not been found, and that disturbs me greatly as well as perhaps some others, and hopefully this will help us in some way. All in favor of the motion. The Clerk asked, did we have a motion on that?

Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Commissioner Price seconded. Commissioner Murray said, yes, we have one now. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, we have. We've got Frank [Murray] and Ben [Price]. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Carried.

Item 6-F:

COMPUTER SOFTWARE; DEPARTMENT: BOARD OF ELECTIONS; SOURCE: ELECTION DATA SERVICES (SOLE SOURCE); AMOUNT: \$37,000; FUNDING: CIP

Commissioner Jackel said, I just was —, I thought we, you know —. Commissioner Murray said, we had this last meeting. Something on that didn't we. What was that we were asked to purchase for them? The \$24,000 —. Commissioner Jackel said, no, it's —. Commissioner Murray said, is in there too and they said they weren't coming back with this. Commissioner Jackel said, I thought we —, we bought the whole computer system to run the elections a year ago and it had everything we needed. Commissioner Murray said, I'm sorry, I'm wrong. I was thinking of the Assessors, the Board of Assessors. Excuse me, I was confusing the two. Commissioner DeLoach said, the money was close though. Commissioner Murray said, the money was close. Commissioner Jackel said, and then we spent money producing a training film, which I still don't understand how you buy a system and the company doesn't already have a training film or some mechanism [inaudible], and now we're spending \$105,000 and I'm just not —. Mr. Lynch said, no, \$37,000. Commissioner Jackel asked, did I pull E instead of F? Commissioner Murray said, you've got F, that's \$37,000. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. I meant to pull E, too. Commissioner Odell said, that's been approved. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. F was the —. Mr. Lynch said, F, sir, is software for the use of the Elections Board. Commissioner Jackel said, Elections Board, okay. All right. Mr. Lynch said, it does not, per se, have any connection whatsoever with the voting systems that we have, that automated one. This one deals with the requirements that they have in the Elections Board to come up with a variety of special reports, fine tuning of precincts so you don't end up with a couple of orphans in them. The Elections Board with good faith and with complete support from the SAGIS staff has worked the heck out of this to try to make a determination whether or not it is possible to use the straight SAGIS system. Boiled down, it's cheaper to have the dedicated system than it is to try to force SAGIS. Kathy [Rogers], would you care to add anything to that? Kathy Rogers, who is the chief staffer for the Elections Board. Mr. Lynch recognized Ms. Rogers.

Ms. Kathy Rogers said, thank you. We have been working really hard to clean up precinct lines in Chatham County and get them ready for reapportionment. This system will enable us to have precinct maps that we can hand out to candidates and to elected officials. It's something that currently we don't have. The maps we have are very old. When we go to hand them out we have to explain that these lines are not exactly correct, so this will give us the opportunity to have it in-house. We've been working with SAGIS now for about five months and still haven't been able to come up with a viable handout that we can give out because what we download from the Reapportionment Office, we hand walk it over to them, we have to hand make adjustments, this will just enable us also to take the various districts, say, the School Board, County Commission, State and Senate and overlay those lines and see where those little areas are we might have to have a split ballot at a precinct.

Commissioner Murray asked, don't you want to account for all your [inaudible]?

Commissioner Rivers said, I move for approval. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, it's been properly moved and seconded. Any discussion? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Thank you.

Item 6-G:

DEBIT CARD VENDING AND TRACKING SYSTEM; DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY; SOURCE: INTERFACE ELECTRONICS, INC.; AMOUNT: \$105,089; FUNDING: CIP - VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT LEASE.

Mr. George Lynch said, ladies and gentlemen, as you recall, when we approved the what I call short-term five-year borrowing package, the Library had come before you and requested appropriation in the amount of about \$752,000 for

technical technology upgrade. You approved that. This represents the procurement of one of the featured portions of that system.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay.

Commissioner Murray asked, so you're saying this is part of that that we've already approved the funding for? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir, and borrowed the money. Commissioner Murray asked, then why do we have it on here? Mr. Lynch said, because, sir, we're now doing a procurement action in an agreement and we need your approval to aware the contract. Commissioner Murray said, so again we have approved the funding for the Library Board but [inaudible] purchased. Mr. Lynch said, we handled the procurement for them.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, all those in favor? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion's carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 6-C, 6-D, 6-E and 6-H. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
2. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Item 6-A. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
3. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 6-B. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
4. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Item 6-F. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]
5. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 6-G. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

1. **A TEXT AMENDMENT TO REVISED SECTIONS 8. NONCONFORMING USES AND SECTION 10. BOARD OF APPEALS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL. MPC FILE NO. 99-12654-C [NO DISTRICT/UNINCORPORATED AREA.]**

Commissioner Murray said, this first reading that we just had. That doesn't have anything to do with two electric meters on one piece of property, does it? You know what I'm talking about? County Attorney Hart said, yes. Commissioner Murray asked, is that being looked at, redoing that ordinance? County Attorney Hart said, yes, it is. Commissioner Murray said, so it defines what we're really trying to do? County Attorney Hart said, the electrical —, the issue that you're talking about is a question of whether that —. Commissioner Murray said, one came up that [inaudible]. Okay. County Attorney Hart said, whether that statute was intended to cover that situation. The statute was —, the ordinance was originally written to keep people from going in their garage apartments —. Commissioner Murray said, I know a percent of them, but it disallowed other things to take place that should have been [inaudible]. County Attorney Hart said, yes, correct, and it's a safety issue there because most people want to tie off to their docks at one central location, three or four docks. Commissioner Murray said, that's being redone then. Okay. County Attorney Hart said, yes, we're going to look at that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

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- 2. **AMENDMENT TO THE LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ORDINANCE (LDAO) TO DELETE THE FEE SCHEDULE FROM THE LDAO. A NEW SCHEDULE FOR FEES TO BE CHARGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING FOR REGULATORY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES, IS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE BY SEPARATE BOARD ACTION.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

At the request of staff this item was pulled from First Readings.

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- 3. **AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE A NEW SCHEDULE FOR FEES FOR REGULATORY ACTIVITIES..**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

At the request of staff this item was pulled from First Readings.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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. **WRITTEN ROAD BRIEFING.**

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, with your permission there's one item on information that's late-breaking as of about 45 minutes ago. It's the written road briefing, but Mr. Bungard has been on top of what I refer as to the eagle route in the alignment of Truman Parkway. We have some good news, so if you would allow Mr. Bungard to come forward briefly and tell you what —.

Commissioner Rivers said, you almost stopped my heart when you said eagle —. Commissioner Saussy said, give it to us.

Commissioner Thomas said, okay, Mr. Bungard.

County Engineer Bungard said, last night I received a fax from the Federal Highway Administration, which essentially —, well, it was the revised record decision returning the route back to the preferred route of several years ago. That saves us several million dollars. This is the one that takes us through the center of the Forest City Gun Club —. Commissioner Murray asked, they did change it? County Engineer Bungard asked, pardon me? Commissioner Murray asked, they did agree? County Manager Abolt said, they agreed. County Engineer Bungard said, they have agreed to it. That's what I received. Commissioner Murray said, good. County Engineer Bungard said, I have a faxed copy signed by the Georgia Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. So that's relatively good news. Commissioner Murray asked, you can start bulldozing then? County Engineer Bungard said, not quite yet, but I do have some issues to deal with the official Wildlife Service in their Endangered Species Act opinion did set the conditions like, you know, if the bird returns, you know, if there are any other endangered species, but those are conditions that apply to any project. I mean, so whether it's stated or not in the exception, you know, multi-million dollar dams are held up if you find, you know, some sort of minnow you didn't know was there, and then the US EPA still has some —, renewed some objections in their letter to environmental mitigation, which I'll deal with, but it has not —, it will not hold up, you know, the project. In other words, they have approved the revised route. Now what I can do is tell Jordon, Jones and Goulding to start design, surveying design of the ultimate route for Phase IV. Commissioner Murray said, well, if they start some activity, the eagles are going to go back because they're over at Vernonburg now. They have two little ones. County Engineer Bungard said, right. Commissioner Murray said, so —. County Engineer Bungard said, and that's what we've been working on for the past three years, monitoring that and documenting, you know, their nesting activity in the other area. Commissioner Murray said, and that's in Ben's [Price] district, not the Fourth District so I just want to keep that separate. County Engineer Bungard said, I think —, I'd like to note particular thanks and congratulations also Mr. Al Black, my assistant, was very instrumental in this process with three people, two ladies from the Fish & Wildlife Service in Atlanta and our local contact at the Federal Highway Administration, Ms. Jennifer Kittle. They personally worked this almost daily sometimes and weekly [inaudible], and we're now successful. Commissioner Murray said, that's good news. County Engineer Bungard said, that's in my mind very good news.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you. Commissioner Murray said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written and oral reports received as information.

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4. STATUS REPORT ON NEW RECYCLING ROLE.

Written report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously approved, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was recessed at 11:00 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel, litigation and land acquisition.

Following adjournment of Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:02 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. 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 Rivers moved to authorize the Vice Chairman, as Presiding Officer, to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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APPOINTMENTS

1. METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to appoint Neill McDonald and reappoint Clifton Kennedy to the Metropolitan Planning Commission with terms to expire April 1, 2003. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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2. GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the following persons be appointed to the Gateway Community Service Board: Carolyn J. Burks (Substance Abuse), Dr. Deanna Cross (Mental Health), Peggy Galetta (Mental Retardation), David F. Richards, Jr. (Mental Health), and Rochelle B. Threlkeld (Mental Health or Substance Abuse). Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Commissioner DeLoach made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present.]

Vice Chairman Thomas declared the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2000

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK